

## Preface

I was born in Newton, Washington, a small town of about 1,500 located about forty miles north of Spokane in Pend Oreille county. My father, Harold Larson was serving with the Marines at the time. He was a captain with the 3rd Marine Division and was part of the force that retook Guam from the Japanese in July of 1944. All this happened while my mother, Ruby, was expecting me. My two older sister's and the rest of my mother's family were there to help out.

My family was often glued to the big radio in our living room as the evening news reported on the battles in the Marianas Islands in the South Pacific. Mom was so relieved when she got a letter from dad saying he was okay and would be returning stateside in October. He had been assigned to Camp Pendleton near San Diego, California to be part of the training effort for the invasion of Japan.

I was born on September 16, 1944. Dad was able to come home for a few days in early October before his assignment to Camp Pendleton.

While dad was away during the war, my mom's brother George had taken over running the family feed store. When the war was over Dad came home and George went back to working at the local lumber mill. Our family settle back down into small-town life.

I left home after high school to attend Washington State University in Pullman. I graduated in journalism and got a job as a reporter for the Tri-City Herald in Kennewick, Washington. I worked my way up to editor and retired in 2009 at the age of 65.

My wife Pat and I still live in Kennewick. Our two daughters and two sons have given us nine beautiful grandchildren.

I have spent my retirement time doing volunteer work for my community and doing a little writing. These stories are based on actual events that occurred during my youth in Newton.