

Greg John flew a B-17 and practiced cardiology

By: LaRAYNE WATTS

Greg John was born in Raymond, March 26, 1924. He says, "I believe I was born in an apartment on the corner of Duryea and First Streets." His parents were George and Mary John; his father was the proprietor of the "Moose Café" on First Street. When he was only two years old (in 1926), his mother died in childbirth, and his father was killed by an irate customer in August of 1931, when L. A. was only seven.

He grew up in Raymond with his uncle (his mother's brother) Howard Jensen, who owned Jensen Furniture Co. on the corner of Second and Duryea Streets, across the street from Bitar's Dracobly's, and The Toggery. *Note: Jensen's is the only one of these four businesses that is still operating, and it is no longer on the corner.*

Greg attended Riverview Elementary School, Raymond Junior High and High School, graduating in 1942. He said that his class had about 50 students in it. Greg says he has some great memories from his school days in Raymond.

Greg lists sports as his main activities in school. "I played basketball in junior high and basketball, football, and tennis in high school." He played center in basketball and center and linebacker in football. He was captain of the basketball team in 1942.

He says, "I had a brief tenure as Yell King, with Vaundie Pilot and Velma Antilla as Yell Queens, before being pressed into football by Coach Louderback."

Greg also lists Skip Louderback as his favorite teacher. "Perhaps because he taught the science class that I favored," he says, "but also because he coached football and basketball."

After graduation Greg enlisted in the Army Air Corps in the fall of 1942 and entered service in February 1943. He graduated from flight school in 1944, finishing up as a B-17 pilot. He and his crew flew to England in 1944. He completed 35 missions over Germany and occupied Europe between September 1944 and February 1945.

When he returned to the United States he became re-acquainted with Vaundie Pilot, and they married in May 1945. He says, "Vaundie and the G. I. Bill of Rights put me through the University of Washington with a bachelor of Science Degree in 1948." He then went to the University of Oregon Medical School, receiving his M. D. in 1952.

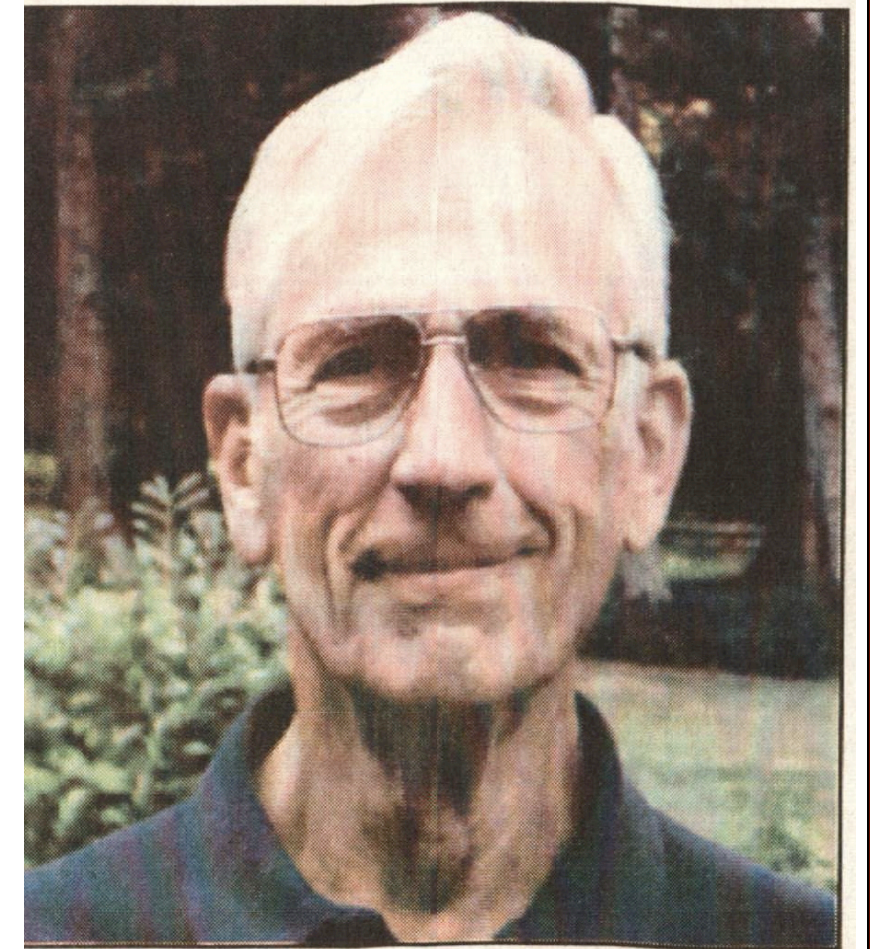
He took further training with an internship at City and County Hospital in San Francisco, a residency at Veteran's Hospital in Seattle for two years, and a cardiac fellowship at University of Washington. He practiced medicine at the Polyclinic in Seattle for 35 years, retiring Dec. 31, 1991.

He and Vaundie have two sons. Their older son is currently a physician at the Polyclinic in Seattle, where Greg had practiced. Their younger son is a scientist for the Environmental Protection Agency in Los Angeles.

After his retirement, they moved to Camano Island, which according to Greg, "... had more sylvan environment." The couple loves to travel. He says, "We have traveled throughout the United States, to Europe, and Hawaii several times, to Canada, Mexico, New Zealand—but especially with the boys throughout Western United States. We backpacked for a number of years, a highlight of family activity."

Both he and his wife keep up with Raymond events and news through friends of residents here. "Although," he says, "their number is becoming smaller and smaller."

Greg's advice to this year's seniors is, "Enjoy! You can't possibly know at this time how lucky you are to grow up to be educated in a small town such as Raymond. Good luck to all!"



RHS Alumnus Greg John, 1942