

Edwin R. Johnston,
The Traveling Ocularist
1933—2014

Edwin R. Johnston, 81, was born April 19, 1933, in Brooklyn, New York, and died November 8, 2014.

He was introduced to Ocularistry when he met and married Eleonore Kohler in 1954. Her father, the late Hugo Kohler, was with Fried & Kohler, formerly of New York City. The Kohlers have a long history of making glass artificial eyes in Germany.

Hugo trained Ed in the art of making glass eyes as his new wife, Eleonore, both assisted and translated for her dad. In the early 50's—before the establishment of the ASO in 1957—Ed found himself intrigued with the process of acrylic resin ocular prosthetics and began an apprenticeship with Mager and Gougelmann of New York. He then became very involved in many of the early ASO committees and writing journal articles. One of his articles, **Peering into the World of Artificial Eyes**, can be found at www.JOPInc.com > News > Article/Publications.

After leaving Mager and Gougelmann in the late '60's, Ed collaborated briefly with Earle Schreiber in Newark, New Jersey, before opening his first practice in Parsippany, New Jersey. To have a central base from which to service his 18 satellite offices along the East Coast – from the New York—Connecticut area all the way to Florida, Ed relocated to Hillsborough, NC, in 1977. Ray Jahrling fondly spoke of Ed as “the most capable and efficient itinerant (traveling) Ocularist”.

Ed's legacy as 'The traveling eye man,' had its foundations in his love and fondness for those patients unable to travel to a larger city to see him. He instilled in all his apprentices the importance of taking a personal interest in the person, not just the face of the dollar.

The kind and generous spirit Ed showed endeared him to many. He attributed his good nature to applying Bible principles in everyday life.

Regarding ocular prosthetics, Ed had a rich history—he was a Board Certified Ocularist, Fellow, and honorary member of the American Society of Ocularists. His daughter, Lisa C. Johnston, BCO, BADO, continues to follow in his foot-steps in North Carolina and is continuing in the family tradition as a known fifth generation Ocularist (most of the Kohler family genealogy was destroyed in 1945).

For over 50 years, Ed and Eleonore were known as the couple who was first on the dance floor and the last to leave at the American Society of Ocularists' semi-annual banquets. He is survived by his dance partner and loving wife of 60 years, Eleonore, and their children, Dawn Hull, Bruce Johnston, and Lisa Johnston, BCO, BADO, along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

For more information about the enduring faith Ed had and answers to questions such as, “What hope do we have for our dead loved ones?” please visit www.jw.org