

Homer K. Hansen  
By  
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In this essay I would like to discuss Homer K. Hansen and some important moments in his lifetime. His mom would invite his teacher over and feed them rabbits and pigeons. Homer learned how to work hard when he was a teenager. He earned ten dollars a week. It took 60 hour weeks to earn the ten dollars.

At 20 years old he had earned his civilians pilots license and took his mother for her first airplane ride. One Halloween night Homer and his friends went around town and pushed over outhouses. The next morning Homer and his friends were photographed by the local news paper because they were spotted picking up outhouses around town and putting them back how they originally were.

Homer started his Air Force career in 1939. On his first mission he was dive bombing in Germany. His leader's plane blew up in a ball of fire. One out of every four plane was shot down.

He made the cover of Newsweek because he was the first fighter pilot to fly 100 missions in the Korean War. Homer served in World War II, Korean, and Vietnam wars. He completed 366 combat missions throughout his service in the Air Force.

While flying over England he had to eject from his plane, which was an F-84 Fighter jet. He parachuted to the ground and landed in Sir Raymond Quitter's chicken coop. That began a friendship that lasted the rest of their lifetime. As a gift a few years after the incident, Sir Raymond Quitter fixed up the original ejection chair and mailed it to Homer. It still sits in his office.

Homer's second love in his life (besides his wife Sally) was the 45 acre ranch they owned in Pine Valley. He enjoyed his busy Air Force and business careers, but couldn't hold a candle to the enjoyment he had working 10-12 hour days spent digging ditches, working on fencing, and taking care of the live stock. Over the years many guests and family members have enjoyed their time at the ranch including getting a guided tour from a handmade buggy made in Germany.

I learned that life was hard, difficult, and fun. He is a good example to me of what can happen when you work toward your dreams. I love my great-grandpa and can't wait to write my life story when I am older.