

Peter George Hansen

9/10/1918 – 11/18/2008

By Rudy Hansen

Thank you for coming. I appreciated especially those who visited my Dad.

I had a hard time putting this together. So if you could bear with me, as I do what my Dad did, tell some of his life and stories (he is a story teller, wonder what story he is telling now).

Since I live in Arizona I was not able to be with him as result I would call him several times a week. Most of the stories I will share are ones that he shared with me.

I will also attempt to convey God's perspective.

As far as the stories I would like to hear your perspective (so afterwards if you would like to mail me or Email your stories I would appreciate it, I'll provide you my address and Email if you need it)

My Dad's name, Peter, means little rock.

He was my rock, my model of a man's man, not encouraged in this day of political correctness.

He was raised in a hard environment. We need rocks that people we can depend on who are strong.

In the old days when they built a house the foundation was often made of many rocks. We need that foundation.

The Bible says though that Christ is the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20) that all the other rocks line up on. My Dad wasn't perfect he had defects as we all do but there were many things that made me proud of him, and I feel fortunate to have had him as a father and to have him this long. I have talked to some who lost their father in childhood or their father died early.

Politicians tell us they will increase government programs to eliminate our trials and challenges. If that actually were the case we would have no story to tell; those trials are what form us and that is the case with my Dad.

Dad had a rough life as a child, in the service with amoebic dysentery, disabling industrial accident, car accidents, several back operations that didn't work, heart trouble, stroke, blindness, etc.

But none these things took God by surprise. Our experience builds our character and is intended to bring us to God and to mold us. God cares for us and provides the circumstances, and puts certain people around us for a reason. This is the case with Dad, none of his circumstances were wasted on him and God gave us kids exactly the right Dad (& Mom) he wanted us to have.

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

He believed in Hard Work

The closest historical thing I could think of the way Dad was raised was similar to the Spartans, very tough life (working hard as a small child)

Dad did carpentry but he said he wasn't a carpenter. For example he taught me how to use a nail so it wouldn't split the wood plus many other things.

Dad's family cleared a lot of land on McKinley Road. They grubbed a lot of stumps. Dug them out, burned them (coal pits) out or pulled them out.

He would work all day and run the trap lines at night

Trapping Story: For trapping bait they used oil of anise, oil of catnip plus some other ingredients. They trapped skunk, muskrat and mink. They put a trap down on an island in the swamp below Jennie Rd. They caught Saxon Barlow's cat, pulled the cat out alive but it was walking funny because of the leg that had been in the trap. When Pete & Al (his trapping partner) were at Lee Barlow's service station they saw the cat walking funny and Al & Pete laughed. Saxon asked what was so funny: they told her it was a dirty joke and they couldn't tell her. The cat got well and leg was alright.

(no animals were reinjured during the telling of this story)

Dad was **use to hard work** by how he was raised, and it held him in good stead.

Army

Because of being use to hard work, what was hard for some was a like a "walk in the park" for him, such as the long marches, and when others faltered he was able to help them by carrying their pack.

Sent to Juvenile Home

Pete and Howard had a conflict with their Dad. Their Dad called the Truant Officer, they were sent to Fraiser Home. When they got there, one of their first jobs was to fill the hopper in the furnace; once they were done they could play. They were done in 15 min. and the Home Leader saw them out

playing and “jumped on” them for not getting the job done; he couldn’t believe they finished it that fast (used to hard work). When they were there swept the floors, and peeled potatoes. After two months in the home they were told they didn’t belong there; they told them they didn’t want to go home, so they waited awhile longer to go home.

Another time Pete (16) & Howard (15) ran away from home. They took long way to Hillsboro going to North Plains Helvetica area, stayed there a year, Dad had \$.40 in his pocket and ate cabbage on the way and slept in the Jackson RR Station (transient had a place where they would build a little fire). In Hillsboro, Carsten lived in a shack with Ed Kesterson. Carsten was doing the cooking and told them that the first to complain would have to cook. So Carsten poured a bunch of salt on Ed’s food hoping Ed would complain. Ed’s said “wow that is salty, but boy is it good.”

The brothers (Larry, Hans, Pete & Howard and Carsten) traveled around to ranches and farms to find work. They went where the work was at.

Love of animals and the outdoors

Dad loved animals and the outdoors. Just a few weeks ago we he brought up questions about a bovine from India called a Gaur, I don’t know whether he saw one when he was in the service, I looked up info for him, the Gaur stands 7’ at the shoulder and weighs up to 3300 lbs.

He liked to discuss animals and learn facts about them. Apparently he affected me since I have the same interests.

When Pete’s family would go visit others, he was left home to feed the animals. One time Howard stayed with him. They had Flemish Giant buck rabbit that weighed 17 lbs. They had a 10-12 lb. cat that would sit and stare at the rabbit apparently he wanted to eat it. So Dad, to see what would happen, threw the cat in with the rabbit. The rabbit kicked and bit the cat until it took chunks of fur out of the cat’s hide. Apparently Dad had to

intervene on behalf of the predator. The cat from then on never came near the rabbit cage.

Horses-Mules

Pete when he was 12 yrs. old led a mule named Slim (stood 6' at the shoulders and weighed 1600 lbs.) through Gresham (might have been Powel) he ran about 7 miles. People on the sides of the street were laughing because as the Mule ran his two ears moved back and forth in the opposite direction. He didn't ride him because of a big bone on his back. He was an old army mule that Pete's Dad traded for a cord & half of wood. Slim had a sore on his right leg so that if he laid down on that side he could not get up. They used him to cultivate and plow. Chuck Hornecker said Pete was the only one who could get any work out of the mules.

When Hank was between 6 to 8 years old he would drive the mules. They had 4-5 acres of potatoes by Mowery's place (north part of Larry's place). Pete was cultivating and Hank was riding the clod masher and was in the corner of the field when the mule heard the Lents whistle. It was the whistle many used to stop work; apparently the farmers used it too. The mule decided it was time to quit so it took off across the field, across the rows. Pete felt bad because Hank got in a lot of trouble for mashing down the potatoes.

When he was 16 yrs. He worked in Hillsboro and was asked to break a horse. So he first plowed the field to cushion his fall plus it slowed the horse down.

When Dad (Pete) plowed with mules they would have gas, and if they ate a lot of oats it would spray on Dad. He would be about 6' back so he would take a stick and touch their hind quarters and they would put their tail down. If you would walk between the Mules they would lean into each other and try to crush you. A mule skinner told Dad to take a "gamble" (a stick 30" long with sharp point on each end-used for butchering) and hold it at chest height when he walked in between them; they leaned into him and the points stuck into them and broke the skin and they never leaned into him again.

Ida bought a horse when my Dad was about 21 and wanted him to break it so he went and picked up at 120th & Foster. As he rode it towards home, it

was bucking and this car comes by and backfires. The horse bolts and ends up with all his legs wrapped around the pole, it is slumped over sitting on his rear. He falls to his side and Dad jumps on him before he gets up and they take off again. They come to the bridge by Barabara Welch Road; the hollow sound of the hoofs on the bridge scared the horse and it headed up the bank about 20' before he started sliding down the hill. Then a motorcycle comes by and down shifts making a popping noise; the horse took off bucking and jumping to the corner of Jenne & Foster Rd. Dad finally got him to their home on McKinley. Ida later sold it because it was hard to ride.

Dad taught me to shoot and hunt. I still have the .22 he used when he was a kid. We went camping at places like Lost lake and to Lincoln City regularly where one time caught a bunch of Perch with kelp worms.

Sense of Humor

Dad had a stroke about a year after his heart attack. He fell over and couldn't get up then Dorothy called 911. In the hospital a speech therapist came in asked him to answer questions. She asked what is 5 times 13 and Pete answered quickly "65.". She said Wow that was fast. Pete said I went over it twice to make sure it was right. I teach Math and if you ask a student today a question like that and they reach for a calculator.

Self sufficient and innovative

As a child, when he was sent to bed w/o dinner he would go to the woods where he kept a frying pan and take some potatoes, onions and eggs and cook them up.

Dad after he injured his back went to Multnomah College. When he was there one guy told Pete that his whiskers were tougher than Pete's. So what does my Dad do? He took their whiskers and tested them on a hardness gage, Who do you think had the hardest whisker? Pete!

He built a “Go Cart” for us kids from spare parts using a steering box from a car and transmission from a wash machine. We and the neighborhood kids coasted it down Mckinley road with it; it was geared so low we took the engine off and coasted it down the hill.

He was always making something. He made a Bed backboard out of oak from pallets. He made a wooden box trap using the figure 4 principle – still have it. He made a trailer that connected to the PTO of my rototiller – still have it. He made things out of the available materials.

Dad had skipped a grade in grade school. The principal knew his situation where his Dad wouldn't let him go to HS so she asked him about it, so she failed him so he could get another year of school. He said it was better than grubbing stumps.

My Dad gave me advice such as: “Son I want you to go to college so you don't have to work like I did BUT don't become an educated idiot and don't use those \$.50 words (\$5 words now)”

At the Multnomah machinist school they brought in a tough project. His teacher Defenbach said if anyone could do it Pete could. He was to make a player piano gear from a couple teeth they brought in. He figured how to cut 93 teeth on a gear using a gear cutter.

Fred, Carsten, Dad & Larry in group would plant potatoes. When they were planting potatoes they would use a shovel & place the potato under the shovel. Pete's Dad said this is the way “we did it in the old country.” He wanted to do things better-faster. Dad would plow the ground and put the potato in the soft ground and then plow the ground over the top of it and harrow the ground to smooth it out.

He built his 18' x 22' house and then added on when he had the money. I remember when Dad put in the bathroom. Prior to that we used the Outhouse and took a bath in a tub with hot water off the stove. When he did things he did a quality job.

I been telling people if they want to go Green they can start they way my parents did – small house, one car, raise a garden, simple life. Would we have the problems we see today with the above approach?

He added onto his house until he had a three bedroom house. He added on when he had enough money to buy the materials. Never had a house payment. He was very conservative, for a long they didn't even have a check book, they used "money orders" to pay bills. Simple cash method kept them out of trouble.

Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

Friends & Family

Were important to him

Family, and friends is what is all about, you can't take it with you. Our priorities God-family-country –work. No one ever said at the end of life "O wish I would have spent more time at work or made more money."

When I was kid we enjoyed sitting around our living room with our relatives such as the Kutchers and listen to the stories the adults told.

We always enjoyed the Annual Hansen Family Picnics.

Jesus in John 15:12-17 (NIV) talks about what a friend is and how He is our friend

12My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13**Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. **14**You are my friends if you do what I command. **15**I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **17**This is my command: Love each other.

Jach Kutcher was Pete's long time friend: They met in the NYA (National Youth Association) working a Dodge Park, cutting firewood and doing other chores such as building barbeques. It was a recreational area with swimming hole. Pete was 19 and Jack 16. They would work there for 2 weeks out of the month.

I am told he called many of you to keep in touch.

Servant

Dad was a dedicated servant to my Mom.

He would not leave her, the worst she got the closer he stayed.

This is a picture of Christ AND my fondest memory of him.

He was very gentle to her.

It is easy to love people when they are healthy but when they are incapacitated that is a real test.

I couldn't even drag him out for fried oysters.....his favorite meal and by the way, mine (think it is genetic?)

To Christians God says in:

Hebrews 13:5 . . . God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Jesus exemplified what a servant was and demonstrated God's Love for us.

My DAD (Pete) said "I could do no less, she (Dorothy) did so much for me."

He demonstrated God's love.

In the New Testament of the Bible there are three words for love:

Agape : God's love, unconditional love, we love somebody when they can give us nothing back

Philia: brotherly love, your nice to me I'll be nice to you

Eros: sexual love

My Dad's unconditional love for my Mom was his greatest example to me.

Christ demonstrated unconditional love when he came and died on the cross for our sins. Because of Christ, by faith, we can accept what He did on the cross and experience eternal life.

My Dad indicated that he was saved in 1951 when Pastor Solee from the Mission Covenant Church came to the house. He never talked much about spiritual things but really enjoyed hymns such as the Old Rugged Cross.

Since my Dad accepted Jesus as his savior by faith he is in heaven with my Mom.

John 14:6 “ I (Christ) am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, but through me.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world He sent His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

Jesus’ servant attitude is expressed in:

Philippians 2:5-11 NIV

5Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6Who, being in very nature ^[a] God,

did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

7but made himself nothing,

taking the very nature ^[b] of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

8And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Pete & Dorothy met through Pete's sister Anna when Anna asked Dad to take her & her friend (Dorothy) to the movies. They were married in 1942 for 65.5 years (until Mom's death in Jan.08). He was right there for her, he tried to provide her anything she needed. He never complained about serving her.

Jesus laid down His life for us, and my Dad laid his life down for his wife...Some of us believe since she passed on, because he finished his mission, to take care of his wife Dorothy, he was ready to go. He told me a month ago he wanted to go, and about month ago is when his health started deteriorating. As far as love stories this is greater than Romeo & Juliet.

God's love was demonstrated when He sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for our sins.

His love is described in I Jn 4:10 "In this is love, not that we first loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be our atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Love Is:

Spontaneous (we didn't do anything to deserve it)

Sacrificial (gave his only Son)

As a result of what Christ did, by faith, WE HAVE A HEAVENLY HOPE

Our Hansen family is important, but there is eternal hope in the bigger family of Christ.

2 Cor 5:1, 2 For we know that if this earthly tent which our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven.

1 Cor 15: 55-57 O' death where is your victory? O' death where is your sting. The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev21:4 And he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes and there shall no longer be any death; there shall be no longer be any mourning, or crying or any pain..

Jn14:1, 2 Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions (dwelling places); if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

Letter from Ruth Tiger, my cousin on Dorothy's side. Several years ago [1/2001] Ruth lost both her parents within a months time.

Rudy, Bernie, and Gwen,

I am very sad to hear about Pete's passing, and empathize with all of you--losing both parents in such a short time is hard. I wish I could come to the service this weekend but I am not able to...my heart will be with you.

Your dad was such a fun and funny guy--as kids we loved being around him, being teased by him, and teasing him back. I know you'll miss him and your mom in the coming weeks, months, and years. I still long to call my folks when something interesting happens, or a new family member is born (which we've had several of the last 2 years), or just to see what they think about something. It's a loss that can't be replaced in our lives and suddenly thrusts us into being the "Old" generation. In the hospice grief group I attended after my folks

passed they talked about changing our relationship to our parents from one of presence to one of memory, and the fact that this is the time in our lives when we now must "parent" ourselves--strange to think about at our ages, but there is an emptiness about not having the covering of the generation above us. How can we be at this stage in life already?

Yet we have the assurance that they are now healthy and

joyful, being together and with other loved ones Christ's presence. I

am imagining our folks chatting together and laughing like they always did when they got together. What a wonderful hope we have!

Ruth

My parents are in heaven, I missed them and someday I know I will be with them.

Roman 5:5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.
