

Working For A Living

By Hap Hansen

I have had many good and bad jobs over my 84 years of life. Fortunately, I have mostly forgotten the bad jobs and still remember some of the good ones. The worst job I can remember as a kid on the farm was to take a shovel and clean out the manure from the gutters after the cows had been milked. As an adult, the worst job I had was lobbying for the natural gas company in the Wyoming Legislature for more than ten years.

Probably the most fun job I had was being a Disc Jockey and news announcer on radio and TV. I started in 1954 when I was stationed on Guam. They announced an opening on the radio staff when an individual got discharged from service. I took over a program when a serviceman named Hap Mahaffey's service was completed. He did a DJ show called Hap's Hideaway. Of course, I had to become Hap, a nickname that has stayed with me since that time.

My Army job then was as a paymaster for the troops stationed there. As an aside, once each month, I flew to the island of Tinian to pay the few troops remaining there. You may recall that Tinian was the island where bombers took off to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan which began the end of WWII. One month, the troops showed me where the bombs were loaded on the bombers. You may not know that there were four holes where bombs could be placed before being hoisted into the aircraft. Fortunately, only two were needed. I took an entire roll of film there. When the roll was developed, the film was cloudy, probably as a result of remaining radiation. I probably got good dose of radiation, but I assure you, I no longer glow in the dark!

In my later years, I enjoyed traveling with my wife to various parts of Europe and the Far East. But overall, the most satisfying job I ever had was the six years I spent caring for my wife, Carolyn, during her battle with Alzheimer's disease.

I now thoroughly enjoy living in Windsor Gardens. I was fortunate to be elected to the Board of Directors of our HOA several years ago. I still look forward to the few Committees on which I continue to serve. I am pleased to be a member of the Writer's Group. I am always amazed when we are given a single subject to write about, then almost every one of us has a completely different slant, but a fascinating approach to that subject. I look forward to many more Mondays and am hoping to keep up with all of you!