

The Pete Henry Foundation

The Pete Henry Scholarship was created through the generosity of Pete Henry, a farmer for many years in the Brewster, Kansas, area. Pete had an inquiring mind and knew the value of hard work, thrift and good management.

He was born in 1910 and raised on a farm near Campbell, Nebraska. His mother died when he was 13 and his immediate responsibility was to care for and manage the household for his four younger brothers and sisters while his dad struggled to earn a living. Pete left Nebraska for California when he was 21. Times were hard. He slept in cars, washed dishes for food and eventually rented a garage for \$6 a month to sleep in.

He signed on with the Civilian Conservation Corps forest service to harvest trees and build roads. The forester recognized Pete's innate engineering talent and assigned him the responsibility of being the librarian where Pete immersed himself in a surveying course. Pete became the head of the surveying crew, which built many roads and fire lanes in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Later in the 1930s Pete was hired by Douglas Aircraft Company to work in the engineering department designing and constructing fighter planes. All of this was accomplished with only an 8th grade formal education.

The 1940s found Pete in and out of the Army Air Corps where he was a flight engineer for the B-17, B-24 and B-29 aircraft. He also participated in top-secret training with some of the airmen from his base being the ones that dropped the atomic bomb.

In 1949, Pete rented the ground south of Brewster from former neighbors in Nebraska. Pete, always the keen observer, adapted his Nebraska farming experiences to western Kansas. Pete never farmed prime cultivated land; he saw each acre as unique and managed each type of soil differently to achieve maximum productivity. He watched his neighbors and learned from their successes and mistakes, managed his money frugally, investing in good machinery and income-producing assets but living a spartan life himself. He provided essentially all the labor on the farm until he was 88 years old and continued making the management decisions for the farm.

His dream was to assist local students to further their education. He established a foundation to award academic and technical training scholarships. If you are a self-starter, determined individual with leadership and work experience from Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas or Wallace counties, you are encouraged to apply for a Pete Henry Scholarship.

Pete Henry Scholarship Application Form

Available to residents of Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace counties in Kansas.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Kansas County: _____

Occupation: _____

____ Admitted and enrolled in a Kansas State University Global Campus degree program.

Academic major: _____

Mark level of degree working toward: _____ Undergraduate _____ Graduate

Attach a short essay of no more than 500 words regarding your financial needs and career and educational goals.

Send completed application and essay to:

Pete Henry Foundation
P.O. Box 504
Colby, KS 67701-0504

Applicant signature

Date