

The Life Experiences of J. C. Wesson

By Lexi Wesson

My grandfather, J. C. Wesson, has been one of the most influential figures in my life, and I enjoy every moment that I get to spend with him. My grandpa has always enjoyed telling stories and looking back on old memories. He has lived in Mills County for 95 years. During his childhood, he grew up picking cotton, barefoot, and it didn't bother him. He was always outside working or playing with his dogs. Some nights, he would lay out on the porch with his dog and listen to the wolves howl.

In 1941, he was enlisted in the Marines, where he served four years. In those four years, he endured the most painful and stressful times of his life. He did say that the experiences made him the way he is today. When he came back from the war, he started working at Western Auto in Goldthwaite. The Western Auto was the place my grandfather



Lexi and J. C. Wesson

and grandmother met. She came from Germany at a young age and grew up in Priddy. They married in 1946 and bought the Western Auto to run as their own. While he owned the store, every night when he would close he walked to the bank and put the money they earned into the drop box. When he told me about going to the bank drop box, I had never heard of it before. My grandfather served as a Mason for the Masonic Lodge. He always loved being involved in the community, and still does.

My grandfather and grandmother had four kids together and began to teach them a good work ethic, as their parents did for them. All four of their kids grew up in and around Western Auto, whether it was the girls working the register or the boys helping the customers with their cars or appliances. He was always trying to support his kids, but always have them work for their money. I believe that by raising his children around Western Auto, my grandfather taught them values, morals, and life skills throughout their childhood that benefitted them as adults and made them better as people.

To conclude, my grandfather is a wonderful man, filled with an immense amount of knowledge and experiences. During his 95 years of living at Mills County, my grandpa has made an impact on the town and my life. I would listen to him retell his stories while my grandmother would be making us a dessert. I still love listening to him and I love how he gets excited to tell me. My sister and I would sit there and listen for hours upon hours while he would tell us about World War II. It was hard for us to imagine what he went through, it still is. For as long as I can remember, he has always been the person to show me how I need to treat people and act. My grandfather is my role model and I will always cherish the moments we share together. I love him with all my heart and I know he has not only made an impact in my life, but others too.