

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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Local Hulbert Man Celebrates 100th Birthday Reflecting on the Day Electricity Transformed His Farmhouse

LREC member, James William Beall celebrates his 100th birthday and remembers the day Lake Region brought electricity to his rural farmhouse in Cherokee County.

James Beall was born in Tulsa in 1923 and is a very patriotic man. He joined the United States Navy the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked, at the age of 18. He served in the Navy from 1941 - 1947. Beall spent the first two years in the Navy in combat operations in the Pacific Ocean. Then he was enlisted in deployments in the Battle of Midway on a Navy ship to help planes refuel and take on more ammo and Aleutian Campaign and Solomon Campaign.

“I was discharged from the Navy in 1947, left California, and came to Hulbert, where my father-in-law lived outside of Hulbert. and we lived with my father-in-law awhile. Around 1950 I was working in Washington D.C. as a streetcar operator and wanted to return to Hulbert with my wife and first daughter, Jill Inez Hayes, when my father-in-law called and said; I bought you some land and a house, and this is how I got my family back to Hulbert,” said James.

James and his family lived in the farmhouse in rural Cherokee County for roughly two years without utilities, water, electricity, or a phone. James and his wife welcomed their second daughter Susan Jane Chaffin while living in Hulbert.

“I believe our house was the oldest house west of Tahlequah. Coming from Maryland (Washington D.C. area) having everything, electricity, water, phone, TV, and then moving to Cherokee County with nothing, was a change,” said James.

“We had a toilet outhouse and a water well, and that was it. Around 1952 it was a big deal when Lake Region



James Beall, posing with this world map showing all his international trips he has taken throughout his life..

Electric Cooperative came this far off the main road to build my house electricity, and I recall it didn't cost me a dime. I remember my bill being around \$13.50 a month. Our family didn't have anything that required electricity. I hired an older man following the co-op around wiring houses. He wired our home with two light bulbs, one in the bedroom and one in the living room, and two plug outlets. The first thing we bought was a sewing machine after the house was wired,” said James.

With a chuckle, he remembers the outdoor security light he set up for his in-laws, lighting the way to the toilet. My in-laws bragged to all the locals about me putting an outdoor light up for them to see the way to the toilet.

“I also recall my first internet connection. If I wanted to download an email or something with a colored image, I might as well go up on the hill, cut a rick of wood, and come back. The internet was so slow before Lake Region brought the good stuff; rural fiber optic internet. I also have my home phone with Lake Region,” added James.

James Beall

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James Beall has a map in his living room showing all the places he has been in the world. He has been on all seven continents and across the globe twice. He has seen places worldwide, from his time in the Navy to Peace Corps to National Geographic international trips. Beall has swam with pink dolphins in the Amazon river, skydived in Australia, and parasailed over Cape Town, South Africa, and a journey in Israel where he experienced religious and natural landmarks.

As we honor James Beall on his 100th birthday, let us also celebrate the progress and growth of Hulbert. From a farmhouse without electricity to a man who has seen and experienced wonders across the globe, his life is a tale of history.



James Beall parasailing over Cape Town, South Africa.

BREAKING BARRIERS IN LINEWORK

Meet Grace Mitchell, LREC's Female Lineman Intern Pursuing Her Passion for High-Voltage Work



LREC offers internships throughout the year, from high-voltage lineworker program to Internet Tech Support, GIS Mapping, and other departments inside the co-op. The LREC internship programs allow men and women from all walks of life to partner with LREC and provide valuable on-the-job training and a paid internship.

Over the past few decades, linework has been male-dominated; the trade has seen a shift in women entering the field, breaking down barriers, and choosing to become lineworkers.

When LREC was asked about bringing on a female lineman intern, LREC proudly supported the opportunity to help train and educate future lineworkers, regardless of gender.

Grace Mitchell of Wisconsin is an OSU IT high voltage intern and is completing a 4-month paid internship with LREC. Grace came to Oklahoma's OSU IT in Okmulgee due to the type of degree they offered; schools up north in her area only offered a 1-year lineman

Grace Mitchell, LREC aspiring lineman intern working a top a power pole.

certificate program. OSU IT provides associate and bachelor degrees.

“My goal is to complete my Associates Degree as a high voltage line technician and my Bachelor’s in high voltage management. I have family in the trade back home, my uncle is a lineman, and my dad is an electrician, and I have always had an interest in this type of work,” said Grace.

“My intent in this industry is to be a great lineman. I do not want to be known as a good lineworker for a woman. My drive is to handle the hard work and the outdoor elements just as well as the men. I want to be held to the same standards as the men on the crews, especially regarding the quality of my work and value as an employee,” added Grace.

Grace is learning about how LREC frames poles and how the co-op builds new lines and poles in the field. Grace is basically getting to do everything a first-year lineman would do, from learning and understanding the basics of electricity and how to size and install wire, transformers, to setting new poles and installing meter loops, as well as everything that happens on a job site. Grace is also on call as needed to help restore outages after hours.

“I like the feeling that comes with physically earning my paycheck; waking up early, hands-on work, and being hot, sweaty, and tired at the end of the day can have its drawbacks, but it is gratifying for me doing this type of work, knowing I am putting in a hard days work, helping the members and the electric cooperative, and this is important essential work,” added Grace.

Grace’s plans for the future are to graduate next spring from OSU IT and persue a career at an electric company, and complete her journeyman lineman apprenticeship by around 2025. LREC wishes Grace a safe and successful career path of becoming a journeyman lineman.

If you 2071602 are interested in what LREC offers in internships, please call the human resources department at 918-772-2526.



Watch Out for **SOLAR SCAMS**

Members Beware: Don’t fall for deceptive solar sales scams. Salespeople and ads are circulating claiming false informations about pricing and rebates in association with LREC. Watch our for:



PUSHY SALES

Don’t let anyone pressure you with deadlines or urgent messaging.



NAME DROPPING

Just because a salesperson says they are working with LREC, it isn’t necessarily so.



TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

If something seems too-good-to-be-true, it probably is. Confirm rebates and tax credits with the state or U.S. Government.



SOCIAL MEDIA ADS

Don’t click on the ad - verify information on ads by researching the company through a third party website.



BEFORE YOU SIGN

Call LREC before you sign a solar contract to make sure we are able to accomodate you and your solar contractor.

QUESTIONS?

Contact your local co-op energy experts before purchasing solar.

918-772-2526 | solarinfo@lrecok.coop

CONCERN FOR *Community*

Lake Region is deeply involved in the communities we serve. Members and the public will see Lake Region Electric Cooperative and Lake Region Technology & Communications sponsorships, as well as vendor booths in local festivals and events throughout the year.

“We love to visit with our members and learn about how we can help them. Our main purpose is to connect our communities with reliable affordable electric and fast internet to help improve the quality of our members lives in rural Oklahoma. We are member owned and member focused, so our members come first,” said Larry Mattes, Communications Specialist.

Be sure to look for Lake Region at one of our next events, Inola Hay Days September 8-9th.



Left to Right: Larry Mattes and James Idell, Lake Region employees visiting with Porter Peach Festival guests about the benefits of Lake Region Fiber Internet.

Cool Down Your Energy Use With These Tips

1 Grill outside: Whether you cook with propane, a charcoal flame or flameless with electric, give the kitchen the night off and grill dinner outside!



3 Be Smart about your thermostat...literally: Switch to a programmable Wi-Fi thermostat to control your temperature settings from anywhere.



2 Prep meals outdoors: Make delicious and nutritious meals outdoors like fruit salad, hummus or guacamole.



4 Become a fan of fans: Set overhead fans to run counter clockwise to create a downward draft to cool people in the room.



Follow these tips to save on your home's energy use! Find more at www.touchstoneenergy.com

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Hidden Account Number

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The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.

