



Eagles at Home in Oklahoma

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Operation Round Up® Makes an Impact



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Warm, Chili Recipe

USS Theodore Roosevelt Gets Co-op Visitor

IEC Trustee Mike Spradling is Guest on U.S. Aircraft Carrier

While most people may enjoy memories of a vacation to Disneyland or a trip to Europe, Mike Spradling's memories are a little more unique. Instead of visiting Space Mountain or ancient buildings, Mike recently visited one of our country's first lines of defense when he was a guest on the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt.

Mike, who represents members in district 2 on IEC's board of trustees, was a guest of Lt. Curtis Shawn Chance, a pilot for the U.S. Navy. Chance grew up in Sand Springs and is a long-time friend of Mike, his wife Lotsee, and their three daughters.

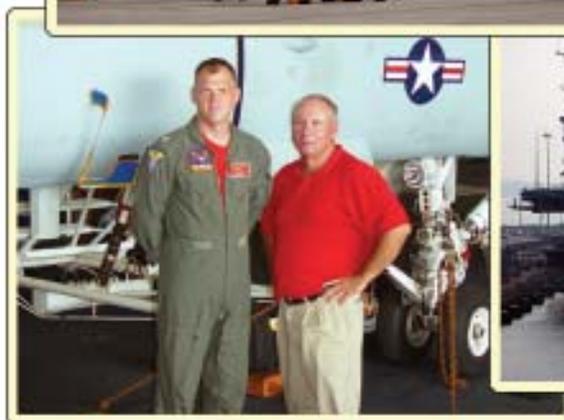
Lt. Chance invited Mike as one of his guests aboard a Tiger Cruise – a time when members of the ship's crew and the pilots assigned to the

ship are allowed to invite a certain number of family and friends to spend three days and nights on the nuclear-powered carrier.

Mike boarded the ship at its home base of Norfolk, VA and then set sail the next day. Lt. Chance's squadron, the Scouts, is based in Florida, and usually flies out to join the ship when it is at sea. But because of the nature of the Tiger Cruise he was already on board. Chance's squadron is normally responsible for re-fueling fighter jets, reconnaissance missions and searching for submarines.

"It was interesting to see the security that accompanies that ship," says Mike. "After the attack on the USS Cole (while in Yemen), security has been increased on all ships, even
Continued on Page 4.

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Cooperative



View Bald Eagles' Winter Home at Two Area Locations

January is a great time to view our national symbol wintering in our area. On Jan. 10 and 18 at the Keystone Reservoir, and on Jan. 17 on Kaw Lake, you can view the Bald Eagle as it makes northeastern and north-central Oklahoma its winter home.

At the Keystone location, members of the Tulsa Audubon Society will be on hand with spotting scopes and field guides to assist you locating the eagles, and also in identifying other bird species you will see.

On Saturday, Jan. 10 and Sunday, Jan. 18, you will need to meet in the parking lot of the Watchable Wildlife Area, east of the Corps of Engineers Office on the north side of the Arkansas River at the Keystone Dam between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 17 you will need to meet at the Kaw City Community Center between 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Kaw City is about 12 miles east of Ponca City on Hwy. 11.

Informational eagle programs will be available throughout the day. A highlight will be a visit from Sequoyah, a captive-reared Bald Eagle from the G. M. Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville. He will make appearances at 11 a.m. and 1

p.m. Eagle viewing bus tours will depart from the Kaw City Community Center at 8 and 10 a.m., and 1 and 2 p.m.

There is no charge for viewing the eagles at either location.

If you would like more information, you

can call the Kaw Lake Association at (580) 762-9494 or toll free at 1-877-671-6985. For the Keystone location you can call Bob Gard at (918) 241-4273, or Dave Edwards at (918) 865-7398.

Co-ops Not Sending Out Questionnaire

If you have received a questionnaire such as this one in the mail recently, please know it did not come from Indian Electric.

An insurance company in Oklahoma City is sending out the questionnaires. The company has no affiliation with IEC or the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"The company is evidently targeting co-op members, but we are not involved in any way," says David Wilson, IEC's manager of member services.

RURAL CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Rural Co-operative Member:

We are currently gathering information to verify interest in a Hospitalization and Surgical Insurance Plan that can also help provide optional coverage for Outpatient Expenses such as Prescription Drugs, Doctor Office Calls, Outpatient Hospital Services, X-rays, ERG's and Chiropractor Office Calls.

To this end we would appreciate your cooperation in filling out the short questionnaire below. A postage paid envelope has been provided for its return.

Thank you very much for your assistance. We hope that the results of this questionnaire will assist in formulating affordable medical coverage.

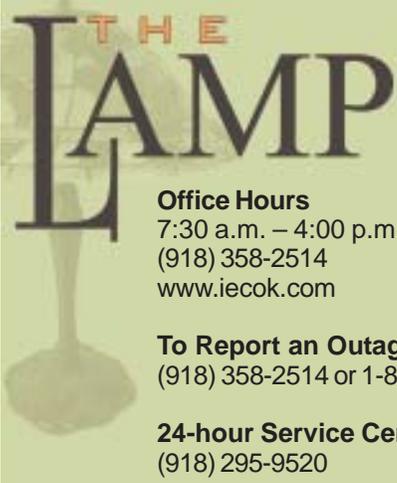
- Are you concerned about the rising cost of doctor and hospital services?
 Yes No
- Are you currently covered under a medical insurance plan?
 Yes No
- In terms of Hospital and Medical coverage, how would you rate your policy?
 Good Moderate Poor
- Does your present policy help pay for Outpatient Expenses such as Doctor Office Calls, X-rays, ERG's, Chiropractor Office Calls, Outpatient Hospital Services and Drug Store Prescriptions?
 Yes No
- If the cost were reasonable would you be interested in a Hospitalization and Surgical Insurance Plan that can also provide optional Outpatient Coverage that is available to Rural CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERS?
 Yes No

Please Number 10-01 with OP-DRUG, ERG, X-RAY, CHIRO, HOSP, SER, DRUG with OP-DRUG or CHIRO-CERT, DRUG with OP-DRUG. Please number and availability may vary by state.

Please No. RAL-018 (04)

Please return this Questionnaire in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Your prompt response is appreciated.	NAME _____	CHECK AGE <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and Over <input type="checkbox"/> Under 65
	ADDRESS _____	STATE RT.# _____
	CITY _____	COUNTY _____
	STATE _____	ZIP _____
	PHONE _____	<small>Please No. RAL-018 (04)</small>

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(918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750

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Operation Round Up® Helps During the Holidays

But Not Enough Funds to Grant All Applications

During its November and December meetings, the IEC Foundation reviewed 23 applications for assistance. Eighteen were able to be granted, but the Foundation was not able to approve as many applications as it would have liked, due to a limited amount of funds.

The Foundation, which reviews applications and disburses funds collected by IEC through the Operation Round Up® program, was able to fund applications for 16 individuals and two organizations, including the Woodland 4-H. Representing the 4-H group, Chris Hadlock indicated the funds would be used to buy livestock grooming, and show equipment.

Operation Round Up® is a copyrighted program in which IEC members voluntarily allow the co-op to 'round up' their monthly electric bills to the next highest dollar.

That amount is then overseen by the IEC Foundation – a board of nine people from throughout the co-op's service territory – who review applications for assistance and determine how best to use Operation Round Up® funds in granting

or denying those applications. IEC's board of trustees appoints persons to serve on the Foundation board, but the Foundation board acts separately and independently of the co-op's governing board.

The program's by-laws prohibit using Operation Round Up® funds to pay utility bills.

"Each month about \$3,450 is collected from Operation Round Up participants," says Clara Eulert, IEC's liaison to the Foundation. "But that isn't very much money when you consider the number of applications and types of requests the Foundation receives.

"The Foundation would like to be able to grant each qualified application, but frequently they can't do so because of a lack of funds. They are forced to table the request until the next monthly contribution from the participating membership."

"Operation Round Up® is a worthwhile program that has made an impact on the lives of the people in IEC's service territory," says Foundation President Gene Perry. "With an increase in funding, we would be able to help more people and more organizations. The need is certainly there."

Participating in Operation Round Up® costs less than \$12 a year. If you would like to begin participating, please contact Eulert, or an IEC service representative, by calling (918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or visit our Web site at www.iecok.com and click on the Operation Round Up® online sign-up form link.

Spreading Christmas Cheer...

With a twinkle in their eyes, IEC employees joined in the Christmas cheer during the Cleveland and Fairfax Christmas parades.

Riding a brightly-lit co-op bucket truck and wearing red Santa caps, were Cleveland employees Clara Eulert, Janice Brown, Teresa Robertson, Doyle Whittenburg, Brian Cox, Sharon Caughlin, Thomas Martinez, Adam Cheek and Damon Lester.

Fairfax employees rode two co-op trucks and a float in their parade. Spreading holiday cheer were Dusty Rice, Troy Gordon, Bill Brumley, Patricia Daley, Travis Burch, his wife Jackie and their three children, Kyle and Brenda Welch, and Ray Johnson and grandson Todd.

The groups tossed out holiday candy to youngsters along the parade routes.



RECIPE



Invest in Energy Efficiency

South-of-the-Border Chili

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 lb. lean boneless top round steak, trimmed | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| Vegetable cooking spray | 1/2 tsp. ground cumin |
| 1/2 cup chopped onion | 1 8-oz. can no-salt-added tomato sauce |
| 1 clove garlic, minced | 2 cups water |
| 2 Tbsps. chili powder | 2 cups hot cooked rice (cooked without salt or fat) |
| 1 Tbsp. cocoa | |
| 1 tsp. dried whole oregano | |

Partially freeze top round steak; cut into 1/2-inch cubes, and set aside. Coat a Dutch oven with cooking spray; place over medium-high heat until hot. Add onion and garlic; saute until tender. Add meat, and cook until meat browns, stirring often. Stir in chili powder and next 6 ingredients; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 1 hour, stirring often. Serve over rice. YIELD: 4 servings.

Spradling Visits Aircraft Carrier...continued from Page 1.

Mike says while on board the Roosevelt, he and the other guests lived in much the same way the crew lives.

"I slept on one of the bunks in a room with about 700 other men, and ate in the mess hall when they ate," he explains. "It was an adjustment for me. My bunk was just a half-inch taller than I am wide," he laughs.

"We got to see almost everything on the ship, but the reactor room, and got to visit with members of the crew about their jobs and the ship's capabilities," he explains, adding that although the crew was good about providing information and answering questions, they were quick to point out some information was classified and could not be shared with the visitors.

Mike says the Roosevelt was commissioned in October 1986, and is 1,092 feet long. The flight deck is 257 feet long with an area of about 4.5 acres. It can carry as many as 85 planes, can travel up to 35 knots, and is home to about 5,000 men and women. "And amazingly, it won't need to re-fuel for another eight years," he says.

"The crew demonstrated the Sea Wasp, an electronically-fired, radar-controlled anti-aircraft gun that fires more than 4,000 rounds per minute; laser-controlled rockets; and 50-caliber machine guns for us," he says.

They also entertained the guests with an air show one afternoon. "You just hold your breath when those planes come in for a landing," he says.

Mike is quick to point out being a guest on the carrier was both educational and fun. But what impressed him the most was the personnel on board.

"Those young people are very capable and very confident," he says. "They are secure and confident about their mission and what their role is in it. They made me very proud of our military."

*"If we had no winter,
the spring would not be so pleasant."*

Spending a little extra this winter on energy efficiency can save you money on heating bills every year – starting now. Here are some suggestions on good investments:

- If you are refinancing your home to get a lower interest rate, consider financing the cost of a few energy-efficient home improvements that will more than pay for themselves in coming years.

- Buy appliances that bear the Energy Star label, the government's symbol for energy efficiency. The label can be found on energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, major kitchen appliances, lighting, windows and home electronics. Energy Star appliances use up to 30 percent less electricity than other devices.

- Call a professional to thoroughly maintain your cooling and heating systems every year. Between "tune-ups," change filters every month.

- If you need new windows, buy double-pane models with low-emissive coatings. They let in less outdoor air to mingle with the conditioned air indoors.

- Install a programmable thermostat that will automatically coordinate your home's temperature with your daily routine. You can stop paying for unneeded heat while nobody's home during the day, and never wake up to a chilly bedroom in the morning.

- Put timers on indoor lights so your house is never dark when it's empty. And install motion detectors on exterior lights to improve home security.



Anne Bradstreet
New England Puritan Poet