

Vern Albright and his early years at Lake Region State College

“If it wasn’t for this school, I wouldn’t have gotten the job or career that I had,” says Luverne Albright, who attended Lake Region State College from 1963-64.

Albright was raised in Steele, North Dakota and graduated from high school in 1960. He grew up surrounded by a family of farmers, but he knew he wanted

a different career.

After the Manpower Training and Development Act of 1962 was put into place and receiving the encouragement from a military friend who had been to college, Albright decided to pursue a certification in engineering aid and drafting at LRSC. However, those early years of the “junior college”

were far different than what students experience today.

“We would have class in the old Pershing Building that was attached to the Central Middle School, which was the high school at the time” explains Albright. “Then we would head over to the court house for lunch.”

Albright recalls renting a room in a house belonging to Bob Bittner, since the college had no residence halls at the time.

“I had no kitchen, so if I bought something that needed to be refrigerated I had to stick it in the window.”

Always short on funding the college had few fulltime teachers, and used many local technical experts as instructors. Cliff Hanson, the city engineer, and Jim Regan, a local land surveyor,

were two instructors Albright remembered fondly.

“It was great receiving an education from people who had so much experience. We would go out to the property where Lake Region State College is now located and survey it,” says Albright. “Back then the area was just a slough

with electric fences. One student made the mistake of dragging his surveying chain over the fence. He was fine, but it was just one of the many lessons we learned from this kind of hands on experience.”

Albright went on to work for the United States Department of Agriculture for thirty years as a surveyor and cartography

technician. He and wife, Bernice, adopted two children, and now live in Bismarck where he is retired. Luverne and Bernice spent several days in late August camping on campus with the Samboree event.

