Oklahoma City resident celebrates 113th birthday

One Holland turned 113 on Dec. 24 at Heritage Assisted Living Center in Oklahoma City. Photo by Chris Landsberger/The Oklahoman

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On Holland grew up viewing her own times when she was in her 90s, but she bought a new car when she was 100.

Now 113, she's the oldest person likely to succeed her lone claiming bridge.

Holland celebrated her birthday on Tuesday with family and friends at her assisted living center in Oklahoma City.

"I don't see or hear like I used to, but I'm getting around," she said.

The centenarian needs a walker or wheelchair to get around, but needs no help eating.

Her two doctors' sons are Leonard Mitchell, the third of 12 children. She has outlived all her siblings. She married Thomas Holland in 1921, and they moved to Oklahoma City in 1923. Holland was born in Texas, and a grandson, T.J. Ervin, who lives in Oklahoma City, said.

Holland's nephew, wrote her at Heritage Assisted Living Center in the northeast Oklahoma City most Tuesday.

They still visit and can answer questions as long as people speak slowly and clearly. Ervin said. "She's a very important person who has seen a lot in her lifetime."

Holland was once a hairstylist and said she started one of the first baby-sitting services in Oklahoma. She also has lived in Dallas, Denver and Tulsa.

Her childhood Christmases and birthdays were far from lavish, Holland recalled.

"We didn't have a lot of extra things to do," she said. "We just had to make our own fun. Christmas presents and things like that."

From a historical perspective, Holland was 5 when the Wright brothers made their first manned flight and 13 when World War I broke out.

According to the Gerontology Research Group, Holland is the oldest living person in the United States. The oldest in Indian Valley of Michigan, who turned 114 on May 29. Misao Okawa, a woman who lives in Japan, is the oldest known person in the world born March 5, 1898.

Home electricity use in US falling to 2001 levels

By JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK — The average amount of electricity used in U.S. homes has fallen to levels last seen more than a decade ago, back when the married device in your home was a VCR and you were talking about a cable box probably an unhackable or a punch list.

Thanks to more energy-efficient housing, appliances and gadgets, power usage is on track to decline in 2013 for the first time since 2001, even though 2001 was, even though not from any more electrified.

Here's a look at what has changed since the last time consumption was so low.

BETTER HOMES

In the early 2000s, as energy prices rose, builders began to make homes more energy-efficient. Insulation is better, and homes are less drafty. Windows are more likely to have double-pane glass, making rebates of existing homes more affordable. In the wake of the financial crisis, billions of dollars in Recovery Act funding was directed toward home-efficiency programs.

BETTER GADGETS

Big appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners have gotten more efficient. Federal rules have required that central air conditioners sold in the U.S. be at least 30 percent more efficient than those sold in 2006.

Even typical rooms air conditioner — one of the biggest power hogs in the home — are 20 percent less electricity per hour of full operation than they were in 2001, according to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers.

Other appliances, like refrigerators, dishwashers, water heaters, washing machines and dryers also have gotten more efficient.

Other devices are using less juice, too. Some 40-inch LED televisions bought today use less than half the electricity that a cathode ray tube television of the same size used 10 years ago. Cable boxes and DVRs consume about 30 percent less electricity over the past decade, according to a study by researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Those incandescent light bulbs are being replaced with compact fluorescent bulbs and LEDs that use 70 to 80 percent less electricity. By 2020, the Energy Department estimates that all LED bulbs could save a product to that of 30 coal-fired power plants.

The move to mobile also is helping. Desktop computers sucking 5 to 10 times more power than laptops. Tablets, smartphones and smart phones, in contrast, are designed to be energy efficient.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

We are using more devices, and that is helping to offset some of the declines in household reductions in power consumption.

TVMs now at all hours of the day, when people are watching more TV, and video game consoles are getting more sophisticated to process better graphics and

In this combination of Associated Press file photos, Apple CEO Steve Jobs, who drove the late Apple Macintosh computer to its resurgence in the 1990s, died Oct. 31, 2013, and Lorraine Mitchell Bell, right, wants to see his stamp... Bell, Jobs, in Palo Alto, Calif., in September with his 1977 Mercedes being replaced with lightning, tablet computers and smart phones. It costs $1.26 to run the car for a year, compared with $28.21 for a gasoline-powered one, according to the Electric Power Research Institute.
AP and file