

L. E. Herman was born in Alexander County on June 3, 1925, to Effie Crouch Jennings Herman and Lawrence E. Herman, Sr., the youngest son born into the family, having three older half-brothers—Lee, Garfield, and Ray Jennings; one full brother William Herman; and four sisters—Rachel H. Ford, Helen H. White, Edna H. Moose, and Joanna H. McCarroll. He grew up farming with his father and spent much time staying with his grandmother, Mary Alice Herman, who lived close by the family home.

During his ninth-grade year, L.E. developed a bit of wanderlust and hitched a ride from Alexander County bound for Washington, D. C., thinking that living there would hold all that a young boy desired. Of course, it was a mere two weeks until he returned home where he remained until joining the United States Navy on June 22, 1944, eventually serving on the USS Cabot as a gunner's mate in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Having completed his term of service, he was honorably discharged on March 26, 1946. Coincidentally, his grandmother Crouch passed away on the day that he joined the Navy, and his grandmother Herman was laid to rest on the day of his discharge from the Navy. After returning from service, he eventually realized his dream of living in Washington as he returned there and spent six years driving a streetcar for the Capital Transit Company. Although he thoroughly enjoyed his time in Washington, D. C., he returned to Alexander County to take care of his mother when his father passed away. He opened Woodside Grocery and Service which he owned and operated for 38 years all the while nurturing his love of farming on the side raising black Angus cattle.

Politically, the republican tradition runs deep in L.E.'s veins. His first polling location was known as The Academy near the intersection of Little River Church Rd. and Mt. Olive Church Rd. which was long before the days of the Little River Community Building. He recalls attending 4-H meetings and other activities in this location and recalls that most things involved politics at that time. When he married, he influenced his wife Louise B. Herman in a staunch republican mindset and later his children—Patsy, Cindy, and Ann and grandson Jim, as well. Over the years, he has served the party in countless ways from serving as precinct judge, vote counter, and ticket seller. In spite of being a business owner, L. E. not only influenced people to vote for republican candidates but also to run for office in the first place. He knew people in the community and daily engaged them in real-world conversation. He quite simply had his finger on the political pulse of Alexander County.