

HOOSIER SURVEYOR

Quarterly publication of the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors, Inc.

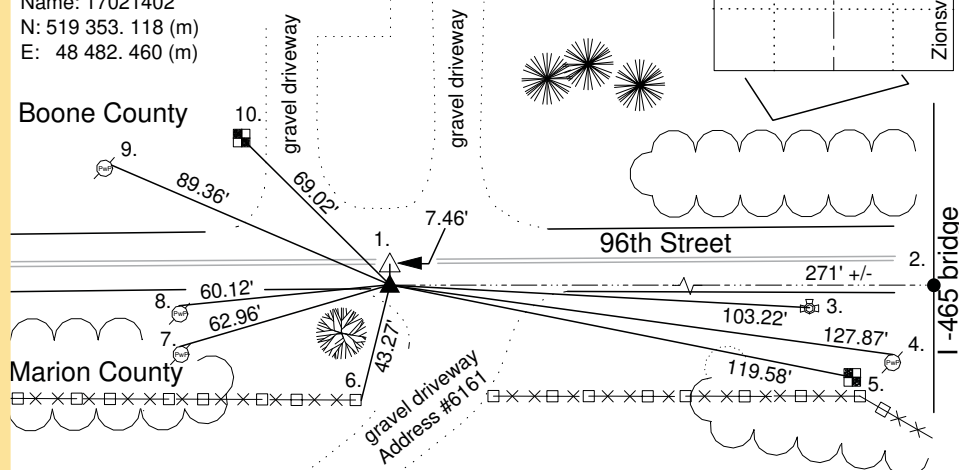
MARION COUNTY SURVEYOR'S OFFICE

DEBRA S. JENKINS
MARION COUNTY SURVEYOR

SECTION CORNER RECORD SEC. 14 TWN. 17_N RNG. 2_E

BRYAN F. CATLIN, PS
TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR

Date: 11/21/2019
Party Chief: Pangelinan
Crew: Wilburn, Lindo, Duncan
Type of Marker: Harrison
Method of Establishment: County: 4/18/2000
IN S.P.C. E Zone, NAD 83 (1986)
Name: 17021402
N: 519 353. 118 (m)
E: 48 482. 460 (m)



Original post set in 1821 by Wm. B. Laughlin with witnesses: 12" Beech N 30°W 15 links, 14" (plat, 10" notes) Lynn S 27°E 21 links (Marion County Atlas pg. 4). Kern 1/31/1963 called Bolt set flush in road. Mose 5/1963 called Stone 4" down. Burres 1/23/1964 called Stone 4" down. McLand 7/31/1973 did not specify marker. Miller 4/9/1975 called RR Spike. Wilcoxon 9/21/1981 excavated, a hole 2 1/2' x 2 1/2' was dug 3' deep, probed 2' further, no stone or other marker was found, set RR Spike. Greene 3/11/1988 called RR Spike. Kiste 8/21/1995 excavated, RR Spike found at surface, Harrison monument set.

10/20/2006 called Harrison 2" down. Wilcoxon / Greene 11/22/2019 found Harrison 4" down, added 2" riser. After the location of the Harrison based on 1965 Highway

Plans for line S-M-6 (ISHC Proj. 4 IND I-465-4(111)135, FY 1965, sheet 55) which called for a Stone, James Swift, Boone County Surveyor's Office, 11/20/2019 (Pangelinan ties dated 11/21 /2019)

Agreeing with an April 14, 1963 Weihe survey of points #66-657) which called for a Bolt, the Stone is 7.46' from the Harrison previously used, set new Harrison over Stone. The ties from 1973 to November 2019 all appear to have been to an incorrect location.

IN THIS ISSUE

The Case of the Errant Corner

COVID-19 Impact on College Programs

'Reminiscences of an Old Surveyor'

Getting the Most Out of Your Insurance

2.	271' +/-	Due E to I -465 bridge
3.	103.22'	N PwP #34-154 8" up
4.	127.87'	E 5"x 5" wooden post 2' up
5.	119.58'	PwP no# 30" up
6.	43.27'	PwP no# 10" up
7.	62.96'	MAG Nail w/ BLN washer NE PwP #56-765 55" up
8.	60.12'	Cut "x" top of concrete R/W marker
9.	89.36'	
10.	69.02'	Cut "x" top of concrete R/W marker

JW



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COVER IMAGE

Tie sheets such as this one, based on field work by the Marion County Surveyor's Office, as well as one prepared by the Boone County Surveyor's Office, locate a stone that marks a quarter corner on the boundary between Boone and Marion counties. The stone was found Nov. 20, 2019, by Jim Swift, PS, of the Boone County Surveyor's Office and Norman Hiselman, PS, of Weihe Engineers, Inc. Hiselman describes the search for the stone on pages 9-10.

FROM THE EDITOR

Deadlines for copy for various planned issues of the Hoosier Surveyor are as follows:

- Winter - February 1
- Spring - May 1
- Summer - September 1
- Fall - November 1

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Articles and columns appearing in this publication do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of ISPLS or the Hoosier Surveyor staff, but are published as a service to its members, the general public and for the betterment of the surveying profession. No responsibility is assumed for errors, misquotes or deletions as to its contents.



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BOB VOLLMER RETIRES AT 102 YEARS OLD

By Brent Brown, Indiana State Personnel Department

Want to live to be 102? Eat a lot of red beets.

Want to work until you're 102? Work hard, follow the Golden Rule and — you guessed it — eat a lot of red beets.

That's the advice of Bob Vollmer, Indiana's oldest (and longest currently-serving) state employee who, after nearly 60 years on the job as an Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveyor, decided in January that it was finally time to "call it a career."

Living Well

Vollmer credits his longevity to the care provided to him in his youth by his parents, who ensured Bob and his siblings always received nutritional meals.

"Eat a lot of red beets," Vollmer's grandmother would say. "That's what makes your blood red."

"I thought, 'What a bunch of baloney,'" Vollmer remarked with a nostalgic look in his eyes and a flippantly dismissive wave of his hand at the happy memory.

But eat those beets he did, along with a litany of other fruits and vegetables. He never once smoked a cigarette, even when it was fashionable to do so ("I always thought [smoking] was so stupid," he said curtly), and he held a job that required him to stay on the move. He was health-conscious long before such a mindset was commonplace, and it's served him well all these years, allowing this man of slight height and build the opportunity to leave an enormous and indelible mark on DNR — and the Hoosier State as a whole.

But reaching 102 might have seemed impossible all those decades ago when World War II raged and Vollmer manned a machine gun as a member of the U.S. Navy. Out

Editor's Note

This article appeared in the February issue of "The Torch," the official newsletter for Indiana state employees. Bob Vollmer retired Feb. 6 and his 103rd birthday is May 20. He is a life member of ISPLS.

to get mail one day while on duty in Alaska, an avalanche nearly took the distinguished Hoosier several decades before his time. To hear him tell the story of his escape from the snow-slide is to be transported to that long ago and far-away place and time, to become an enthralled observer to a vivid scene Vollmer recalls as freshly as if it had happened only moments before.

He used drops of snow to determine which way would be "out" of the avalanche and went about grabbing snowballs from one side of the icy entrapment and placing them on the other, slowly creating an escape route.

"Rob Peter, pay Paul," Vollmer said as he pantomimed the act that certainly saved his life. "I still don't know what happened to that mail," he joked after a moment.

Storied Career

But that harrowing incident is far from the only yarn he is apt to spin. With a long, distinguished life of service to his country and the Hoosier state, Vollmer has accumulated volumes of stories he clearly loves to share as often as the time to do so presents itself.

Whether it's recalling selling his personal airplane to purchase a Lincoln Continental for his first wife, Helen, or managing to balance a heavy class load at Purdue University (he'd been encouraged to attend "one of those Big



Bob Vollmer returned to the ISPLS Annual Convention in Fort Wayne, January 22-24. In these photos, he is seen posing with Indiana's NSPS Director Tony Gregory, addressing attendees at the annual Awards Banquet, and posing with ISPLS Board of Directors member Rich Hudson. (left and right photos provided by Rich Hudson; center photo taken by Evan Hoffmeyer, ISPLS)

10 schools” after growing dissatisfied at the University of California, Berkeley) while working and expecting his first child, Vollmer’s memories are shared with the enthusiasm that can come only from having experienced so many of the joys — and yes, even the more difficult circumstances — life can bring.

As his final day working for the DNR approaches, the Washington, Indiana, native’s passion for life and for his work remains inspiring, and though he never fancied himself a Hoosier legend of any sort, time, dedication, and an infectious spirit all his own have made him just that in the eyes of those who know him.

Consummate Professional

On the job since the Kennedy administration, there isn’t much Vollmer hasn’t encountered, and there’s precious little of it he doesn’t recall. Vollmer, who was in his mid-40s when he joined Indiana’s Department of Conservation at the behest of its then-director, has watched the department grow into an agency stocked with conservation-minded professionals who would do right by Indiana’s treasure trove of natural beauty.

He remembers a time when protecting natural resources in Indiana was far less organized and headed up by people whose expertise might not have meshed with the goal of ensuring Indiana’s bountiful resources were well cared-for. All that began to change when DNR was formed in 1965.

He’s especially proud that DNR has come to embody the agency envisioned by those who wanted to establish a level of professionalism that had been lacking all those years ago.

He said he felt the leadership of the agency’s fledgling days would “be very happy” with today’s DNR.

Vollmer’s role was integral in the agency’s mission as well by making certain that property lines were understood and abided by. Managing often delicate situations involving encroachment cases or other property disputes made up a good chunk of his work throughout his lengthy career, though his encyclopedic memory has proven as valuable to his colleagues as his nearly unmatched level of experience.

Dean Illingworth, assistant director of DNR’s Engineering Division, remarked that Vollmer, in many cases, knows by heart the exact lines where properties diverge; the markers are permanently etched in the veteran surveyor’s memory.

“I asked him, ‘How do you know that?’ and he just said, ‘Because I put it there,’ ” Illingworth recalled with a chuckle that was equal parts astonishment and admiration.

Vollmer’s ability to recollect minute details from days long since passed is yet another reason he’s something of a living marvel. He can recite the preamble to the U.S. Constitution verbatim from memory, and a portion of his

retirement time is set to be dedicated to reading more of that storied document. Indiana’s constitution is also on his retirement reading list. Even at 102, he is eager to learn. He’s stayed up on the incalculable changes in technology that have occurred in more than half a century on the job, and he has regularly attended Indiana surveyor’s conferences to maintain certifications necessary in his work.

Staying Busy

Vollmer’s work is the kind that keeps a mind and body busy.

Marching out into the oft-changing whims (and winds) of Mother Nature in Indiana, Vollmer’s work was anything but a desk job, though in recent years he’s spent an increasing amount of his time operating out of his home office. He also worked one day each week in the DNR offices located on the second floor of Indiana Government Center South in Indianapolis.

No matter where his work took him (90 of Indiana’s 92 counties, for instance), or from where it originated, his unrivaled knowledge and expertise are appreciated and will be missed by his present colleagues, many of whom weren’t even born when he began his surveying career.

The news that the state’s senior workforce member had decided to put down his surveying tools for good attracted



Longtime Indiana DNR surveyor Bob Vollmer officially retired Feb. 6. Vollmer, 102, spent nearly six decades working for the State of Indiana. He said he plans to read and travel during his retirement. (Photo provided by State of Indiana Personnel Department)

the attention of numerous media outlets. Illingworth helped coordinate Vollmer's busy media schedule in the days leading up to his retirement. From Indianapolis TV stations to an Associated Press piece that made it to Time, Vollmer's amazing longevity and lively spirit were profiled across the country and shared with readers throughout the globe.

He's no stranger to popping up in heartwarming stories on the local news, either. With his voluminous knowledge, boundless spirit, and natural inclination not to mince words, it's easy to see why Vollmer's life and work have captured the attention of so many Hoosiers in the twilight days of his career as a public servant.

But accolades also are nothing new for Vollmer.

Then-Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb honored him in 2016 as a Sagamore of the Wabash — one of the state's highest civilian honors. There is also a trail in Brown County named after Vollmer. When he stepped forward to greet Holcomb after his name was called at the 2018 Governor's Long-Term Employee Reception at the Indiana Statehouse, Vollmer received a standing ovation from his colleagues. On that date, he was recognized for more than 55 years of service to his state.

The words of gratitude and appreciation continued for weeks leading up to Vollmer's final day working in his Indianapolis office.

Leaving a Legacy

Ever loquacious but always modest, he believes he owes much of his success in his life and career to his willingness to speak out when necessary.

"I think my biggest accomplishment was opening my big mouth," he said facetiously. "I told people the way that it was, gave credit where credit was due."

He was able to speak up when necessary, and that was a vital skill in his day-to-day work trudging through Indiana's exceptionally diverse "great outdoors." Being able to handle situations where residents are angry or upset over property boundary disputes is no easy task, but he was always up to it.

"I protected Indiana property," he said, summing up decades of important work in as few words as possible.

In many ways, he attempted to emulate one of his favorite politicians, former President Harry Truman, who notably coined the phrase, "the buck stops here." That's Vollmer in a nutshell: no excuses, always professional, never afraid to speak up when the situation calls for it.

As he departs public service planning a possible visit to the family farm on which he lived earlier in his life, perhaps to dig for Native American artifacts as he enjoyed doing many years before, Vollmer leaves a legacy unlikely ever to be eclipsed by another state employee.

Holcomb took notice of the longtime surveyor's retirement decision when it was made public in January.

"Bob Vollmer, our oldest state employee at 102 years old, has been providing great government service at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for decades," the governor wrote on Twitter. "I was honored to present him with a Sagamore in 2016 and wish him the absolute best in his retirement."

CINCINNATI STATE'S NEW LAND SURVEYING BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAM APPROVED

Cincinnati State is currently accepting new students into the Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Land Surveying for the Fall 2020 semester.

Information about the degree can be found on [the school's website](#), including a schedule of virtual information sessions.



(photo provided by Cincinnati State)

For specific questions, please contact Carol Morman at carol.morman@cincinnatiastate.edu.

Students can start in the summer semester by applying to the LS.AAS program. Summer and fall registration are currently open. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all summer courses are being offered entirely online. All surveying courses start June 1 and run through August 8.

