

OBITUARY

William Stengel, PLS 1927 - 2018

William (Bill) Stengel, PLS 4846 of Boulder died on April 26, 2018 at the age of 90. Bill was born in Boulder on August 27, 1927, graduated from Boulder High School in the class of 1945 and lived his entire life there. He started his surveying career in 1951 with the City of Boulder. He obtained his PLS license in 1962 and started his own business in 1963 with Jan, his wife of 56 years. His first survey vehicle was a GSA surplus jeep and his first calculator, a hand crank Ohdner. Bill was a charter member of the PLSC, having attended the inception meeting. In 1982 he met Jim Crain, the legendary Director of the City of Boulder Open Space Program and began a long working relationship surveying open space parcels. He served as Boulder County Surveyor from 1988-2002. He retired from the profession in 2008, after 57 years of surveying, 45 years to the day in business, multiple subdivision plats and over 1000 Land Survey Plats completed.

Retracement surveying was Bill's passion. He often completed retracements at cost, such as the official county survey of 13 miles of the Gilpin and Boulder County line, for which he sand cast special 4" monument caps himself of his own design. And he deposited plats,

such as "Stengel's Map of Eldora", solely for the benefit of future surveyors because of his extensive knowledge and experience in that area.

Bill's other interests included a passion for local history and geology. He coordinated with the University of Colorado to determine that Mud Lake and another nearby depression outside Nederland are the only 2 known meteor craters in Colorado.

After his retirement, Bill often, even at the age of 80+, would accompany fellow surveyors out into the field. His mentorship, gentle guidance, local knowledge and inspiration to his fellow professionals will not soon be forgotten. And his legacy as one of the best known and well-respected surveyors in the Boulder County area and in this profession is assured. He had an attitude and integrity that reflected his love of surveying. And we are a better profession and better people for having had Bill Stengel as a fellow professional.

(Submitted by Earl Henderson, PLS)



*From left:
Bill Stengel in the field; surveying in 1966, encountering a rattlesnake in 1958.*