

ALLEN VOGES

A Lifelong Process of Finding the Right Occupation

Graduate: Class of 1980 Occupation: Carpenter

By Craig Voges, Spring, 2009

“Have you accomplished an honest day's work for an honest day's pay?” This accompanies other thoughts that Allen Voges makes after a tough day's work. He has honed the skills of an honest worker. In 1961, Syl and Ann Voges had a son. As a kid, he grew up in Ferdinand, but he helped work on the extended family farm in Perry County. A graduate from Forest Park, Allen took a slightly different path than some previous students.

By winning sectional in 1979, Allen made FP history as the first wrestler to accomplish this feat, and even today, he remains a known wrestler at Forest Park. Although he received a few C's on his report cards - a long way from becoming valedictorian - he used his combination of high school experiences to continue on a successful path.

After graduating from Forest Park in 1980, Allen attended Wabash Junior Valley College in Mt. Carmel Illinois. This college was far from his top pick in education, but his expenses wouldn't allow anything more. He majored in Agricultural Mechanics with an associate's degree.

Connor Motors gave Allen his first real world work experience as a diesel mechanic. After finding that this was not the job for him, he quit after half a year and went to Best Chairs until he could find another job. Central Concrete provided his next “solid job.” Randy Berg, however, gave Allen a different, unexpected, job offer. In the construction business, Randy had done exceptionally well. Allen accepted his invitation and loved this occupation from day one. He would have stayed there indefinitely, but Randy decided to start Superior Insulation. Knowing what he wanted to do for the rest of his life, Allen had only one clear option: to start his own company.

Never looking back, Allen started Voges Construction in 1990. Without a boss, Allen always gets the job done right. Being on the work site 24-7, gives Allen a little more satisfaction in his job. He can set his own hours and cherish his personal time. Allen has many skills in the area of carpentry - from replacing a simple door to building a new house. He has built two houses, so far, and remodels two to three houses per year, depending on the size and difficulty of the job. Helping the community, he has also worked on baseball and football facilities.

In his off time, he loves going hunting; Al hunts deer, rabbit, squirrel, pheasant, geese, turtles, turkeys, quail, and doves. On the weekend, he works at his cabin in Perry County “keeping things up to date.” Allen loves to spend time in the outdoors and away from all the noise.

Some important information that Allen gives to young people consists of the following: “You should always get the best college education that you can afford. You should earn as high of a degree as you can or need. You should always do what you love most along with a well-rounded education.” Happy with how he helps today's community, Allen tries to make an impact on people's everyday lives.