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I.U. prof named acting law dean

By Susan Duerksen ^{1/21/76}
ids Staff Writer _{IDS}

I.U. President John W. Ryan Tuesday appointed law professor Val Nolan as acting dean of the law school.

The position has been open since former dean Douglass Boshkoff resigned Jan. 15. A search and screen committee is interviewing candidates to fill the permanent dean position.

The appointment of an acting dean was expected Monday but was delayed, sources said, because the law school faculty had not been notified, and out of courtesy, should be notified of the selection before the official appointment.

"I'm looking forward to trying to be of use," Nolan said, but added, "I'm only acting (dean) and that's no kidding."

Nolan said the main function of his new office is to be "everybody's errand boy" and to act as a liaison between the central administration, the faculty and the students.

Nolan, 55, has taught law at I.U. for 27 years — "longer than anyone else here," he said. He also is a professor of zoology.

Nolan is finishing a zoological book which he said he has been working on for 10 years. The book is a population study — "a monograph about a particular species of bird," Nolan said.

Nolan graduated with an A.B. from I.U. in 1941 and became a Deputy U.S.

Marshal for the Southern Indiana U.S. District Court. A marshal is "to a federal court what a sheriff is to a state court," Nolan said.

When war broke out eight months later, Nolan became an agent of the Secret Service, "assigned to the White House detail on presidential protection," he said.

Being a Secret Service agent was a very "interesting" job, Nolan said. He saw Winston Churchill and "anybody who came to Washington and did business with the President." However, he didn't get to know President Franklin D. Roosevelt because "we (Secret Service agents) were essentially like pieces of furniture," he said.

After a year as a Secret Service agent, Nolan joined the U.S. Navy, where he learned Japanese and became a Japanese intelligence officer.

Nolan spent three and a half years in the Navy and then returned to I.U. to attend law school. He said law seemed the natural thing for him because his father had been a U.S. attorney and his brother, who practices law, was just finishing law school.

Nolan has taught law here since he graduated from law school and has worked for a law firm in Indianapolis occasionally during summers, he said.

Except for one zoology course that will now be taught by a graduate student, Nolan said he will not change his teaching schedule or responsibilities now that he is the acting dean.