

This document came from a binder of notable Elmhurst, IL citizens that was kept by librarians for many years. No further information is available about where the information came from. 2010

Palmer, Robert T.

## Bob Palmer Identified By Contest Powerhouse

by Jean Van Rensselaer  
Yes, it's true. Ray Steben has won again. This time, all it took was the correct identification of the serviceman in the picture and a short phone call to the ex-serviceman's home.

The June 20 contest photo was of a man in military uniform. Steben's entry reads as follows:

The photo published June 20 in the Elmhurst Press is First Lt. Robert T. Palmer at the age of 28 in 1942, in the Corps of Engineers at Traux AFB, Madison, Wis.

After finishing at the Berkeley campus of the University of California, his

career began with the Minnesota Highway Department.

During 1939, he joined the Portland Cement Corp. and also was married. In 1941, he was called up by the U.S. Army, after serving his country and was released in 1946 as major.

He became assistant city engineer of St. Johns, Mich., staying there for six years.

In August 1953, he came to Elmhurst as the community's first city manager.

He served under five mayors: Earl Ogden, 1953-57; Ben Allison, 1957-1961; Charles Weigel, Jr., 1961-73; Ray Fick, Jr., 1973-77; and Abrer Ganet, 1977-1983.

On April 28, 1978, Bob

Palmer received the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award.

On Sept. 16, 1983, he announced his resignation as city manager after three decades, effective Dec. 17, 1983.

The City Council on Oct. 17 voted unanimously to rename the Kenilworth Avenue Underpass to Robert T. Palmer Drive.

(Palmer was described as) a decent, gentlemanly person. A man whose absence will make a difference in everyone's life.

The information in Steben's entry was verified by Palmer. Steben may pick up his prizes at The Press, 112 S. York St., Elmhurst.

Elmhurst Press July 3, 1986, p. 2



## Robert T. Palmer 1915-1989

Robert Palmer's long and distinguished career spanned 30 years as Elmhurst's first city manager. During the period of the City's major expansion 1953 to 1983. — Palmer was responsible for many major projects: the change from a volunteer to a full-time fire department, the development of the sewer separation program, the construction of the Elmhurst underpass, development of the Industrial area and the Schiller Street and North and South York fire stations.

Palmer was also one of the early members of the DuPage Water Commission which campaigned for many years to bring Lake Michigan water to the western suburbs — a project now under construction.

Mr. Palmer died in February 1989.