



## Indiana Historical Bureau

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# NEWS

For Immediate Release

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## Griffin will dedicate state historical marker

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for April 29, 2006. The state historical marker honoring Griffin Oil Discovery will be dedicated at 3:30 pm CDT, at Main and First Streets, near the site of where oil was first struck in Griffin.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Griffin Oil Discovery”:

On December 14, 1938, at 8:20 p.m. oil was struck north of here at Fitzpatrick and Hayes #1 Cooper well. A gusher, it produced an estimated 1,000 barrels a day and began an oil boom in Griffin and the surrounding area. By 1941, 120 oil wells in this area were producing oil. Annual oil production in Indiana peaked 1956 at over 12 million barrels. Oil brought economic and social change to Griffin and surrounding area. Oilmen and their families moved in, businesses flourished, and land was leased to oil companies. Oil production has continued in the Griffin Oil Field—roughly 25 square miles in Gibson and Posey counties; through 2003, it had produced a cumulative 84,412,739 barrels of oil.

Everyone is invited to attend this dedication recognizing the beginning of the oil boom in Griffin and the surrounding area.

Historical markers commemorate significant Indiana individuals, places, and events, and they help communities throughout Indiana promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. Via the Internet, that history reaches a worldwide audience.

For more than 80 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1947, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are more than 470 of these markers across the state.

For a digital version of this release and further information about this marker, the state Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau Web site at [www.IN.gov/history](http://www.IN.gov/history) or call 317-232-2537.

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