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Tri-State Institute on Oil and Gas Law

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TRI-STATE INSTITUTE ON OIL AND GAS LAW

On July 7, 1939, although the mercury at Evansville climbed to 95 degrees, something over a hundred lawyers spent the time from 10:00 A. M. to 9:30 P. M. at the Evansville Country Club going to school again, the occasion being an Institute on Oil and Gas Law conducted by Professor W. L. Summers of the University of Illinois.

The lawyers who were present were from the entire Tri-State territory, about one-third of them being members of the Evansville Bar and the others coming from as far north as Vincennes, as far west as Carmi, Illinois, and as far south as Owensboro, Kentucky.

Professor Summers, in his lectures, traced the development of the law with reference to the powers, rights, duties and liabilities of those interested in and connected with the development of oil and gas lands. At the morning session the emphasis was placed on the law pertaining to the rights of the landowner, while the afternoon session was devoted to questions pertaining to an oil lease.

At the noon luncheon an address was delivered by Allen K. Swann, an attorney who has made a specialty of oil and gas law for over twenty years. His remarks might be classified as "shop talk", being directed entirely to pointing out numerous obscure but vitally important matters of interest to attorneys practicing oil and gas law.

The address following the dinner in the evening was made by Earl Foster, of Oklahoma City, who is the attorney for the State Corporation Commission of Oklahoma, Oil and Gas Conservation Department. He discussed proration and unitization, giving graphic examples derived from experience in the Texas and Oklahoma fields of the effect these plans have on the various and varied interests of those connected with the oil and gas business. Mr. Foster closed with an impassioned plea for conservation and an orderly development of these natural resources, with a resulting increase in revenue to everyone concerned.

The Institute was held under the auspices of the Indiana State Bar Association and the Law Department of Indiana University. The members of the Board of Managers of the state association have before them the question of urging similar institutes in different parts of the state.