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Murphy: CONSERVATION OF OIL AND GAS, A LEGAL HISTORY-1948

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RECENT BOOKS

This department undertakes to note or review briefly current books on law and matters closely related thereto. Periodicals, court reports, and other publications that appear at frequent intervals are not included. The information given in the notes is derived from inspection of the books, publisher's literature, and the ordinary library sources.

BRIEF REVIEWS

CONSERVATION OF OIL AND GAS, A LEGAL HISTORY—1948. Edited by *Blakely M. Murphy*. Published by the Section of Mineral Law, American Bar Association. Chicago. 1948. Pp. vii, 745. \$3.

This comprehensive legal history of oil and gas conservation, written by a panel of experts, is divided into four parts. Part I provides a geological background for the discussion, explaining briefly the nature and operation of oil and gas reservoirs. Part II summarizes the legal aspects of the conservation activities of thirty-six producing (or hopeful) states. A separate chapter is devoted to the law of each state, the authors being attorneys who are thoroughly conversant with their subjects. (The author of the Michigan chapter is Floyd A. Calvert. His advisers were Professor Burke Shartel of the University of Michigan Law School and Virgil W. McClintic. Mearle D. Mason was research assistant.) Each chapter contains an account of state law, including legislative history, statutory provisions, judicial construction and administrative organization and regulation. Part III summarizes the history of the Interstate Compact to Conserve Oil and Gas and describes the present and past activities of its administrative arm, the Interstate Oil Compact Commission. Part IV analyzes the role of the federal government in conserving oil and gas. Some topics discussed in this section are federal control of nationally owned land, interstate and foreign commerce activities (such as antitrust laws, tariff regulation and international agreements), the relation between the oil industry and the national government during two wars, the interrelation of state and federal activities, and United States Supreme Court decisions affecting oil and gas conservation. Because of the unified picture which this book presents of conservation law at all levels of government, it should be of value to all those associated with the oil and gas industry. The excellent discussions of state conservation law will be of particular assistance in solving problems of statutory construction.