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training is usually limited to the rudiments of the common law, one can hardly recommend a more stimulating account of the greatest advocate for that system of law which forms a part of the American heritage.

*Frank J. Peragine**

FIFTH ANNUAL INSTITUTE ON MINERAL LAW. Edited by Harriet S. Daggett, Professor of Law, Louisiana State University, Published by the Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1957. \$3.00.

For the past five years, the Law School and the General Extension Division of Louisiana State University have cooperated in sponsoring and arranging a full two-day program of papers dealing with carefully selected and timely areas of oil and gas law. The large number of registrants at each of these annual Institutes has included not only attorneys having particular interests in oil and gas matters, but also a sizeable number of company land men, lease brokers, and other non-attorneys from various branches of the oil industry. The continuing interest in the program is a tribute to the vision and skillful planning of Professor Daggett, as the Institute's Director, and the others who have worked with her through the five initial years. Each year the topics selected for presentation have been of important and immediate interest to anyone who devotes any time to the varied and complex problems in Louisiana's most colorful and dynamic industry. The repeated attendance of these annual meetings by most of the oil and gas legal specialists in Louisiana, and also by a great many attorneys whose oil and gas practice is something less than full time has proved the value of the Institute, not only in providing an exchange of information in depth as to the developments and problems of this field of law, but also in presenting a current summary of mineral law sufficient to keep the general practitioner on speaking terms with recent decisions and new ideas.

The report of the proceedings of the Fifth Annual Institute printed by the Louisiana State University Press is supplied to all registrants and is available generally through order. The volume is bound in hard back covers.

The three papers dealing with the year's decisions in the

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federal and state courts of Louisiana probably have the most general interest for members of the Bar. These papers were prepared and presented by Mr. Horace M. Holder of the Shreveport Bar, Mr. Alvin B. Rubin of the Baton Rouge Bar, and Mr. Walter B. Suthon, Jr., of the New Orleans Bar. Of equal interest is the discussion by the Honorable John B. Hussey, Commissioner of Conservation, of conservation developments during the year. The discussion of Louisiana's title in the Gulf of Mexico by Mr. W. Scott Wilkinson, Special Assistant Attorney General and member of the Shreveport Bar, contains excellent yet succinct, for the material covered, information concerning this subject, which is as timely now as when delivered. The active title lawyer could ask for no more valuable a tool for his trade than the paper by Mr. James L. Helm on the application of curative statutes in land title examinations. For those who have a need for detailed briefing in the financing and tax aspects of oil and gas interests, the paper by Mr. A. E. Alexander, Vice President and Manager of the Oil and Gas Department, Hibernia National Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana, on the financing of oil and gas interests, and the paper by Mr. Abner E. Hughes, CPA, of the firm of Barton, Pilie, Hughes and Jones, New Orleans, on the income tax consequences of lease and sale of mineral interests, will be found to be thorough and excellent. Many lawyers who have heard of the now much used "A B C" plan of financing the purchase of oil and gas interests, but have not thoroughly understood the meaning and importance of that alphabetical procedure, will find a clear explanation in each paper. Those in the technical end of the industry, as well as many attorneys, will read with interest the paper on well spacing by Messrs. R. C. Craze and James W. Glanville, from the Production Research Division of the Petroleum Engineering Division, Humble Oil and Refining Company, Houston. This paper obviously represents a great deal of thorough research on the part of the authors. The conclusions of the authors as to the desirability of the continuation of the trend toward wider well spacing in the development of new pools should be carefully studied by all those who have any professional contact with the ever-present underlying tension between company and landowner as to whose economic plans the tempo of development should be most closely geared.

This reviewer has, on several occasions, found in the printed reports of the Mineral Law Institute excellent points

of entry to particular problems involving mineral rights. As either reference material or current reading, these reports of the Mineral Law Institute, of which the Fifth is the latest, represent the most important printed treatment now available of current developments in the oil and gas laws of Louisiana.

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