



Hiram M. Dow 1969

The legal profession has contributed far more to the orderly development of the oil and gas industry than generally is recognized. One of the finest examples of this happy relationship was Hiram M. Dow, whose mind and energies helped create New Mexico's comprehensive oil conservation acts.

Hiram Dow was born in Cotulla, Texas, April 21, 1885, but lived virtually all his life in Eddy county and Roswell, New Mexico. He received his law degree from Washington and Lee, and later practiced in Roswell. In 1937 and in 1938 he served as Lieutenant Governor of the state.

Hiram Dow's great contributions to the oil and gas industry came through the law-making process. He was instrumental in formulating and having passed by the New Mexico Legislature the 1929 and 1930 laws that permitted the Commissioner of Public Lands to approve prorationing and well spacing agreements. Later, he assisted in obtaining interpretations of those laws by the New Mexico courts. He aided in the formation of the Oil Compact Commission and represented New Mexico on the Commission for a full 22 years, until 1958.

Mr. Dow died in March of 1969.

He contributed notably to the betterment of his home community of Roswell. But we remember him for his leadership in conserving the natural resources of his adopted state.