

SOONER SPOTLIGHT ● HEMINGWAY

College professors inspired Richard Hemingway's distinguished career in oil and gas law. It was his childhood love of science, however, that launched a variety of hobbies that range from building his own telescopes and stereos to photography and color printing.

OU's first Eugene Kuntz Professor of Oil, Gas and Natural Resources Law, Hemingway is known nationally for his scholarship and research in his legal specialty. His extracurricular interests — in astronomy, high fidelity and photography — also have gained attention among his colleagues.

"I always was a science nut," says Hemingway, who built his first telescope when he was nine years old. "I traded two white mice for an objective (lens) to build a telescope. It was highly distorted; the most spectacular thing I've ever seen is the moon through that telescope!"

At about the same time, Hemingway started taking photographs with a box camera and developing the film in a closet. When he was 14, he received his first kit to build a 4½-inch mirror telescope.

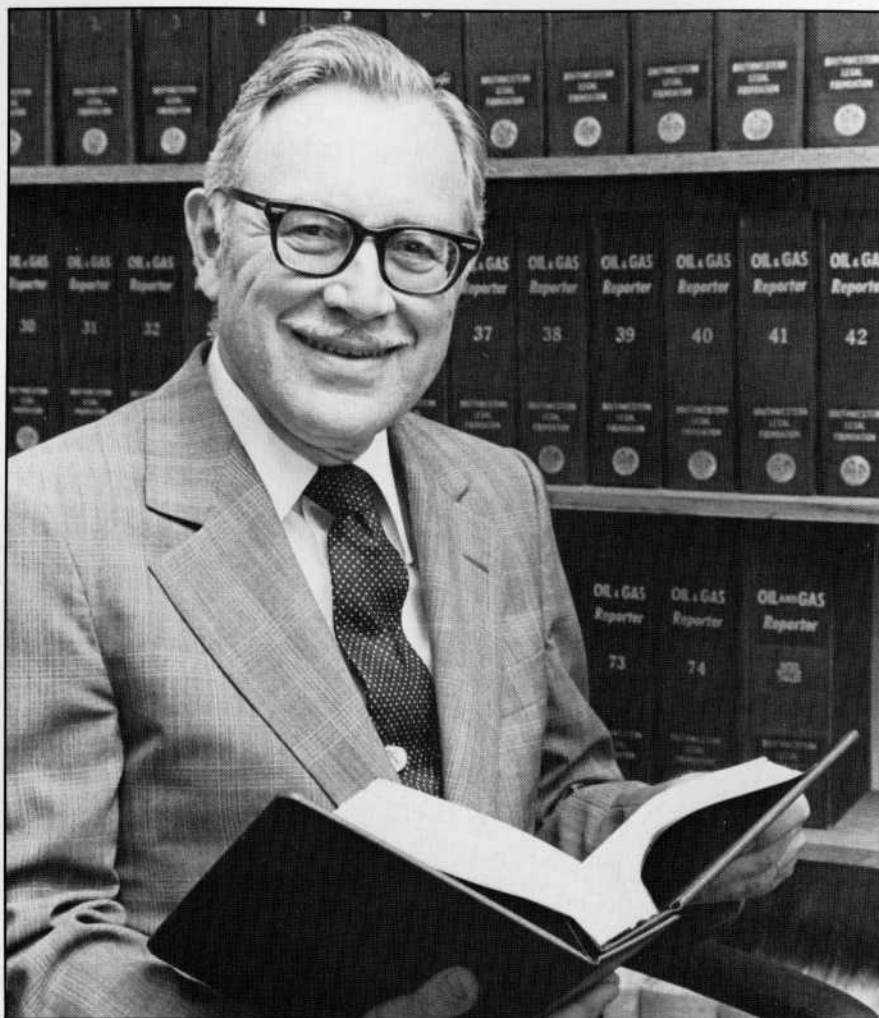
Not surprisingly, science was Hemingway's first career choice. He majored in chemical engineering at the University of Colorado, but a business law professor inspired him to switch his major to business administration.

Later, when his family moved to Dallas, Hemingway worked in accounting and title firms while he attended evening law classes at Southern Methodist University. At SMU he was taught by Wilmer Masterson Jr., an outstanding oil and gas teacher who started *The Oil and Gas Reporter* in 1952.

Graduating first in his class in 1955, Hemingway joined the prestigious Houston law firm of Fulbright and Jaworski, where he specialized in oil and gas and real property law. He also agreed to teach an evening law class at the University of Houston as a way to increase his own knowledge.

"After teaching my first class, I went home and told my wife, Vera, that teaching was what I wanted to do," he says.

Hemingway, who counts the current governor of Texas, the Texas at-



torney general and a Texas Supreme Court justice among his former students, taught from 1960 to 1965 at Baylor University, then at SMU for three years and earned a master of law degree from the University of Michigan.

He joined the new Texas Tech University law school faculty in 1968, was named to a distinguished Horn professorship in 1972 and served as acting and interim dean before coming to OU in 1981 to succeed Eugene Kuntz, a nationally known expert in oil and gas law.

"I have known Gene for more than 20 years through our work together on *The Oil and Gas Reporter*," Hemingway says. "I also knew that OU was a good university with a very good law school that has a history and reputation in oil and gas law."

In May 1983, Hemingway was selected as the first recipient of the Kuntz professorship, which is sup-

ported by income from a privately funded \$300,000 endowment.

In addition to teaching, Hemingway stays active in his field by participating in numerous seminars, researching and writing. The second edition of his hornbook, *The Law of Oil and Gas*, recently was published by West Publishing Company, which also is releasing an expanded version of the first edition for attorneys.

Despite his busy professional schedule, Hemingway still finds time to pursue his hobbies. His color photography continues to produce some spectacular results, and he is building a new 12½-inch telescope. In addition he is readying his den for a gigantic stereo system which he built in the early 1970s. The system features two 300-pound, 16-cubic-foot speakers, but Hemingway isn't worried about the size.

"My wife says she'll love having two refrigerators in the den."

— DIANNE BYSTROM