

THE IMPACT OF OIL UPON THE
COLMAR-PLYMOUTH, ILLINOIS, AREA

An Abstract of a thesis presented to
the Faculty of the School of Graduate Studies of
Western Illinois University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science
in Education

by
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ABSTRACT

An unusual oil field exists in west-central Illinois. Located in Hancock and McDonough Counties, it is unusual in several different ways. It is isolated from other oil fields; the oil is pumped from a very shallow depth; it utilizes out-dated equipment that is different than most in use today; it is small in size; and it is not served by a major pipeline. Nearly all of the oil is refined and consumed within a local market area.

The presence of the oil field has made the Colmar-Plymouth Area an area of cultural diversity. It is distinct in west-central Illinois. The oil wells, the oil-gathering system, and other associated features of the oil field, make the Colmar-Plymouth Area noticeably different than its surrounding areas.

When the Colmar-Plymouth Oil Field was discovered and developed from 1914 to 1916, a large boom occurred in the vicinity. The presence of oil created a great local impact, especially in the small town of Colmar.

Today the oil field still wields an impact, although much smaller and different than its original impact.

The Colmar-Plymouth Oil Field is not expected to continue production much longer. It is anticipated that a new method of secondary recovery will extract the available

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A THESIS

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Robert E. Gabler
Chairman, Examining Committee

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