



Rufe S. Bynum, Jr.
1915 - 1994
Inducted 2001

Rufe S. Bynum was born April 21, 1915 in San Antonio, Texas to Rufe S. and LaVera Gibson Bynum. He graduated from high school in San Antonio, the first graduating class of Jefferson High School and the last graduating class of Main Avenue High. Bynum attended night school at St. Mary's and then entered Texas A & M in 1934. After graduating in 1938 with a B. S. in Petroleum Engineering, Bynum went to work for Core Laboratories, Inc. in Centraillia, Illinois. In 1939 he was transferred to Shreveport, Louisiana and opened offices in Houston, Corpus Christi and Wichita Falls and later in Lafayette and Houma, Louisiana.

In August 1941, Bynum was called into the U.S. Army, serving as an officer in a tank destroyer battalion for 3 ½ years. He achieved the rank of Major and was awarded the Bronze Star. Bynum returned to Core Lab after his discharge 1946 and was transferred to Midland in 1949 to establish the Mid-Continent Division headquarters for Core Lab. Bynum was instrumental in the development of the "whole core method" (summation of fluids) technique of core analysis. The first diamond core analyzed by the whole core method was completed in 1947 by Core Lab.

Bynum worked to build Core Lab into the largest and most preeminent core analysis company in the world. He was known in West Texas as "Mr. Core Lab" and was appointed Vice-President and elected to the Board of Directors in May of 1950.

In 1957 Core Lab conceived the idea of running a gamma ray over a core, now an important tool of the industry. Bynum helped facilitate these efforts, devising methods to run gamma ray over lengths of oilfield core to match downhole log data. This allowed operators to perforate wells within inches of the desired reservoirs. This technology spread to core analysis and research labs all over the world and made immeasurable contributions to the petroleum industry.

In 1959, Core Lab began its legendary industry seminars. The first course was "The Fundamentals of Core Analysis", a virtually unknown topic then, and was presented in Midland to forty engineers and geologists selected by companies

working in the area. With Bynum teaching the courses, the program continued to grow, with over 1,700 industry professionals attending each year.

In 1984, Bynum retired from Core Lab as a Senior Vice-President and joined his two sons in the formation of Bynum Oil Company, Inc.