



Harvey E. Yates 2005

July 6, 1910 – April 19, 1999

The Yates Brothers, as they are called, could not stay away from the business in which they had been raised. In their own unique style, they continued and expanded Yates Petroleum. Harvey, Martin II, better known as “Bitsy,” Saint Clair Peyton, better known as “S.P.” and John have pioneered their own oil ventures, wildcatting and risk-taking enterprises while working for the collective interests of the parent company started by their father, Martin Yates Jr., in the early 1920’s.

They have developed some of New Mexico’s largest, most significant fields and built a solid reputation for leadership in the petroleum industry. Their discoveries include the Grayburg-Jackson field, Loco Hills, Dagger Daw, Empire Abo, Eagle Creek, Penasco Draw, Pecos Slope Abo and dozens of Morrow gas fields. Their search for oil and gas has taken them into Texas, the Rocky Mountain states, offshore and overseas.

The Brothers individual awards and accomplishments are a testament to their father’s undying spirit and optimism. They and their family members have been the force behind Yates Petroleum and other Yates’ companies, guiding their future beyond Artesia’s city limits and New Mexico’s state boundaries to incorporate a world of opportunities. The Yates’ lives have always been filled with uncommon experiences. From surviving a tornado to hanging on against fierce winds of regulatory adversity, the Yates have stood together. Each son inherited the Yates’ dominant characteristic – persistence mixed with a genetic defect – a love for the oil business.

Harvey Emmons Yates was born in Artesia on July 6, 1910. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Oklahoma and a master’s degree in geology from the University of Texas in Austin. He first worked in the oilfields in the 1920’s as a roustabout and tool dresser. His first discovery, the Travis No. 1 in 1939, opened the West Loco Hills field. He founded HEYCO, a drilling company which had its headquarters in Roswell.

He was a board member of Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) and held offices in Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico (IPANM), the Geological Society, Boy Scouts and Rotary, along with serving on the First National Bank of Artesia board. He was a recognized wildcatter (Wildcatter of the Year, 1990 IPAMS award) who paved the way for many successful independents. He died in April 19, 1999.