



Halbert P. Bybee, Ph.D.
1888 - 1957
Inducted 1991

Halbert Bybee was born on a farm in Rochester, Indiana. He attended Rochester College and, after earning his undergraduate degree, went on to earn a Master's and a Ph.D., from Indiana University. In 1914, he accepted a teaching position in geology at the University of Texas—his first connection with the university. In the mid-1920s, Bybee left his teaching job to work as a geologist for Dixie Oil Co. in San Angelo, but he soon returned to the university as geologist-in-charge of University Lands, working mainly in West Texas. During his work with that department, Bybee oversaw the successful development of millions of acres of West Texas land. He also organized and established the regulations for leasing and managing university lands. The result was the Permanent University Fund—the chief endowment fund for Texas universities. In 1936, Bybee returned to the faculty of the geology department at UT while continuing to direct the work of the University Lands department. Indeed, Bybee's influence as a teacher overshadows his work with University Lands. Many of Bybee's students attained the highest positions of responsibility in oil companies and other organizations. In the course of his career, Bybee published more than a dozen scientific articles.