



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

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Rufe Bynum graduated from Texas A&M with a B.S. in petroleum engineering, then went to work for Core Laboratories, Inc. in Centralia, Illinois. In 1939, he was transferred to Shreveport, Louisiana and opened Core Lab offices in Houston, Corpus Christi and Wichita Falls and later in Lafayette and Houma, Louisiana. In 1941, Bynum was called into the U.S. Army and served as an officer for three-and-a-half years. He returned to Core Lab after his discharge and was sent to Midland to establish their Mid-Continent Division headquarters. Bynum was instrumental in the development of the “whole core method” technique of core analysis. Core Lab completed the first diamond core analyzed by this method in 1947. Soon, Bynum became known in West Texas as “Mr. Core Lab” and was eventually appointed vice president of the company. In 1957, Core Lab conceived the idea of passing a gamma ray over a core. Bynum helped facilitate that effort, devising methods to run gamma rays over lengths of oilfield core and match the results with down-hole log data. This allowed operators to perforate wells within inches of the desired reservoirs. This new technology spread to core analysis and research labs all over the world. In 1959, Core Lab began its legendary industry seminars with Bynum teaching the courses. Later, Bynum retired from Core Lab and formed Bynum Oil Company with his two sons.