

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

HENRY EARL LUMPKIN

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

Michael A. Grayson

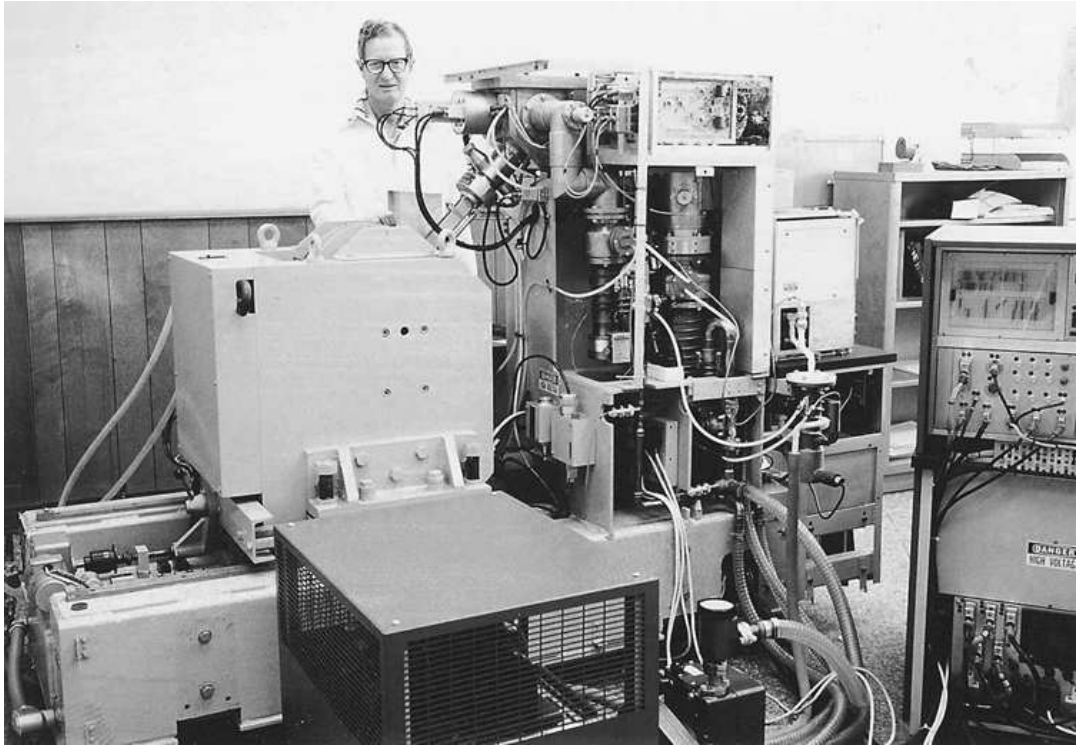
at

Round Rock, Texas

on

2 January 1992

(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)



Henry Earl Lumpkin

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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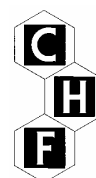
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HENRY EARL LUMPKIN

1920 Born in Ingram, Texas on 1 March

Education

1941 B.S., chemistry, Southwest Texas State University
1942 Graduate work in meteorology, University of California, Los Angeles
1944 Institute of Tropical Meteorology, University of Chicago, San Juan,
Puerto Rico Campus

Professional Experience

United States Army Air Force
1942-1943 Second Lieutenant
1943-1944 First Lieutenant
1944-1945 Captain

Humble Oil and Refining Company
1945-1948 Physicist in Research and Development
1948-1960 Research Chemist
1960-1963 Senior Research Chemist
1963-1965 Research Specialist

Esso Production Research Company
1965-1968 Senior Research Specialist

Exxon Research and Engineering Company
1969-1980 Research Associate

Honors

1938 Freshman scholarship , Southwest Texas University
1963 Secretary & Treasurer, ASTM E-14
1964 Director of Analytical Group, American Chemical Society, Southeast
Texas Section
1967 Principle Speaker on Mass Spectrometry, Seventh World Petroleum
Conference

1972 Chairman, ASTM E-14
1972 Vice President [Data and Standards], American Society for Mass Spectrometry
1982 Organizer and first President, "Young at Heart" Round Rock Social
1985 President, Cedar Park Chapter, American Association for Retired Persons

ABSTRACT

Henry Earl Lumpkin begins the interview by discussing his family background and how he learned to value education. His family had a tradition of attending Southwestern Texas State University and becoming school teachers. Watching his father's career persuaded him not to be a teacher and Lumpkin decided to major in chemistry and minor in physics and mathematics at Southwestern Texas State University. After graduating in three and a half years, Lumpkin joined the US Army Air Corps. In the Air Corps, he took graduate classes in meteorology at the University of California at Los Angeles. During World War II, Lumpkin was promoted to a captain and served as a Base Weather Officer. After the Air Corps, he went to work for Humble Oil and Refining Company as a mass spectrometrist. He then describes the state of instrumentation during his career at Humble and the innovations that were being made in that field. Lumpkin speaks highly of Humble's professional development program. Humble Lectures in Science Series allowed employees to take time away from work and attend classes taught by esteemed professors. Lumpkin also talks about the freedom he was given by the company's administration when submitting publications to research journals. He feels that the company's encouraging attitude towards scientific pursuit was very important. Along with his many achievements in the development of mass spectrometry, Lumpkin also played key roles in the American Society for Testing and Materials [ASTM] and the American Society for Mass Spectrometry [ASMS]. He was chairman of ASTM E-14 and Vice President of ASMS. Lumpkin ends the interview with thoughts on his colleagues and the future of mass spectroscopy.

INTERVIEWER

Michael A. Grayson is a member of the Mass Spectrometry Research Resource at Washington University in St. Louis. He received his B.S. degree in physics from St. Louis University in 1963 and his M.S. in physics from the University of Missouri at Rolla in 1965. He is the author of over forty-five papers in the scientific literature. Before joining the research resource, he was a staff scientist at McDonnell Douglas Research Laboratory. While completing his undergraduate and graduate education, he worked at Monsanto Company in St. Louis, where he learned the art and science of mass spectrometry. Grayson is a member of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry [ASMS], and has served many different positions within that organization. He has served on the Board of Trustees of CHF and is currently a member of CHF's Heritage Council.

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