



VIGNETTES OF COASTAL PLAIN GEOLOGY

HAROLD VERAL ANDERSEN

(1907-)

Harold V. ("Andy") Andersen's life reads like a Horatio Alger novel. Before he finally completed his Ph.D. degree at Louisiana State University in 1950, he had suffered through the trials of the Great Depression where the need to make a living competed with pursuing an education for his time. He received his B.A. in Geology in 1940 and began Graduate School only to have World War II interrupt his plans. Upon his discharge in 1946 he returned to graduate studies. This time luck smiled upon him and he found himself under the mentorship of Henry V. Howe, completing his dissertation on the foraminiferal fauna of the Mississippi Delta "mudlumps." Dr. Howe recognized his extraordinary abilities as a teacher and insisted that Andy remain at LSU and, with the exception of another brief hiatus with the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, there he remained until his retirement in 1977. During his professional career he authored many publications on the Geology and Micropaleontology of Louisiana but his most long lasting contribution without doubt is the extraordinary number of economic micropaleontologists that he trained. Upon the occasion of his retirement, it was decided that a fitting tribute would be the gift of a research microscope with which he could continue his work. Over 150 former students contributed to the gift, as a small token of their appreciation for this beloved teacher. (From E.B. Picou, Jr., 1986, Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, Transactions, v. 36)