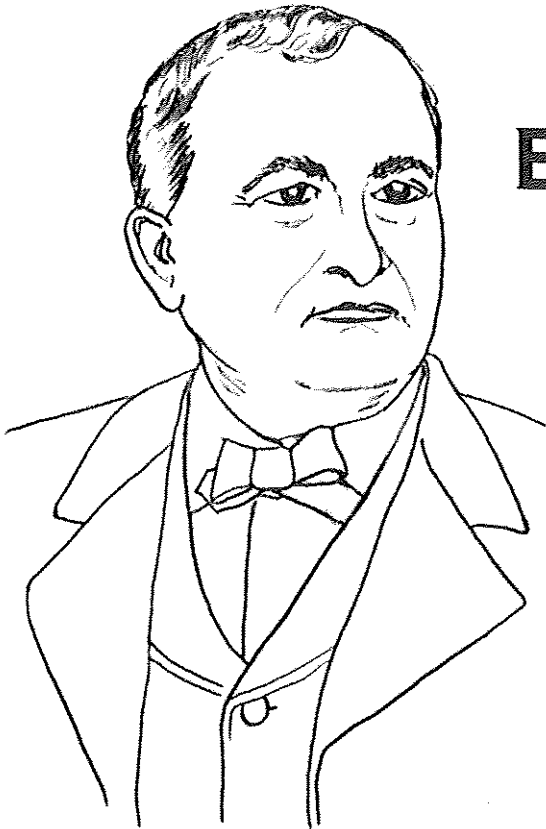


*Pioneering Petroleum...*

## **BYRON D. BENSON**



In early 1865, Byron Benson joined R. E. Hopkins in a lumber business in Enterprise, Pennsylvania. Located in the Oil Region, they gravitated into the oil producing business.

In 1878, with substantial financial financing from the Reading Railroad, Benson in partnership with Hopkins, David McKelvey, Samuel Q. Brown, and Josiah Benton organized the Tide Water Pipe Company, Ltd. The first "Trunk" pipeline out of the Oil Region was built by the firm in the next year.

The 6-inch diameter Tide Water trunk pipeline ran from Coryville to Williamsport, PA where it met the Reading Railroad. The pipeline overcame engineering challenges such as mountainous terrain, high pressure pumping requirements, and large diameter pipe manufacturing process limitations. Constructed above ground, the pipeline was subject to weather related expansion and contraction problems. Burying the trunk line resulted in financial burdens that nearly ruined the company. Accepting financial loans and investments from Standard Oil, Benson assured the company's survival. He extended the trunk line to Tamanend, PA and eventually to Bayonne, NJ.

Byron Benson was President of the Tide Water Pipe Company from its inception until his death in 1888.



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