



In the late 1920s, on the eve of the Great Depression, Clarence Scharbauer made a significant contribution to the development of the petroleum industry in the Permian Basin. The Scharbauer Hotel provided first-class living accommodations for business travelers coming to Midland. It became the primary meeting venue for ranchers owning mineral rights and oil men seeking to lease those rights. It was often said that every major deal consummated in Midland was made at the Scharbauer Hotel. The hotel, along with the Hogan Building, positioned Midland to become the epicenter of the petroleum industry in the Permian Basin.

Although not directly involved in the emerging petroleum industry, the individual decisions of both Scharbauer and Hogan had a profound and lasting impact on the Permian Basin. Mr. Scharbauer financed the hotel entirely on profits earned from ranching because oil was not discovered on his land until 1935.

The Scharbauer Hotel was the cornerstone of the family's commitment to the fledgling town of Midland. Over time, the family's commitment to the area included support for hospitals, museums, roadway improvements and the United Way, transforming the quality of life for all those drawn to the Permian Basin.

Clarence Scharbauer served as director and president of the First National Bank, noted for its commitment to both the industry and the community by providing financing and serving as a role model for corporate citizenry. His strength of character was best demonstrated during the Great Depression when bank customers became nervous about their deposits. Scharbauer placed \$250,000 for public display in the bank lobby, stopping a devastating run on the bank.

Scharbauer's character and patriotism was also demonstrated after the attack on Pearl Harbor when he made land available to the U.S. Army to establish an air base to train bombardiers. Not wanting to sell his land, he leased 450 acres to the Army to establish the Midland Army Airfield.

Scharbauer's examples of service to the community and his contributions to the petroleum industry marked him as a "Builder," as well as a true and trusted friend of the industry and the Permian Basin.