



Arthur Lockhart
1891 - 1984
Inducted 1972

Arthur Lockhart of Long Beach, California was the first petroleum industry marketing professional to be inducted into the Petroleum Hall of Fame. He formed Rio Grande Oil Company with his brother, Lloyd, in 1915. Over the years, four other Lockhart brothers would be part of this business. At first, Rio Grande sold gasoline and kerosene in El Paso and later opened a refinery there. Expansion produced new refineries in Phoenix and Los Angeles, a marketing initiative throughout the southwest and, ultimately, discovery of major fields in California. In 1922, the company opened the first pipeline in the Permian Basin—29 miles long—to move oil from the new wells in Mitchell County. It is believed they took delivery from an even earlier well which had apparently produced briefly there in 1917. If true, Rio Grande shared in the very first commercial production from the Permian Basin. In the years to follow, Arthur Lockhart and his Rio Grande Oil Company provided one of the very few outlets for Permian Basin oil as production levels began to increase, spurring the local industry's growth in a significant way.