

Clarence Scharbauer, Sr.
1879 - 1942
Inducted 2015

In the late 1920s, on the eve of the Great Depression, Clarence Scharbauer opened a hotel in Midland, Texas. Financed entirely on profits earned during his early years as a rancher, the Scharbauer Hotel would prove crucial to the development of the petroleum industry in the Permian Basin. It provided first-class living accommodations for business travelers coming to the area, and became the primary meeting venue for ranchers owning mineral rights and oilmen seeking to lease those rights. It was often said that every major deal struck in Midland was made at the Scharbauer Hotel. Clarence was also a proponent of more and better roadways to serve Midland businesses and residents. Between the hotel he built and the extensive road network he championed, Clarence helped make Midland the epicenter of the petroleum industry in the Permian Basin. Scharbauer went on to serve as director and president of the First National Bank and, in 1935, after providing the setting for so many oil deals, oil was discovered on his own land.

PETROLEUM MUSEUM
MIDLAND, TEXAS