## MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION


"DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF
THE SCIENTIFIC, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE MOJAVE DESERT.''
P.O. BOX 1282 BARSTOW, CA 92312-1282

MUSEUM LOCATED CORNER BARSTOW ROAD AND VIRGINIA WAY

11 June 2010
Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, California 94296-0001
Craig Hoffman, Project Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, California 95814
Applicant: Mojave River Valley Museum Association
Address: 270 E. Virginia Way, Barstow, CA 92311
Directors: Robert Hilburn, President, Gary Clark, Director, Patricia A. Schoffstall, Treasurer

## The Resource name is:

Lockhart General Merchandise Store (P-36-006558)

## The Resource owner is:

Mojave Solar - Abengoa Energy

## The local government with land-use authority is:

The California Energy Commission

## The Statement of Significance:

The Lockhart Ranch was the largest vertically-integrated industry of the Mojave River Basin in the mid $20^{\text {th }}$ Century; integrating alfalfa farming, cattle production, hog and chicken production, processed feed production, and beef marketing. The Lockhart General Merchandise Store is the last remaining structure that represents that Ranch and its importance to the history of the Barstow area.

The application for nomination of the Lockhart Store for the California Historical Registry has been submitted previously, based on incomplete and inaccurate information. In the DPR 523 document submitted in November, 2009, the owner, Mr. L. M. Lockhart, was identified as "Lester" Lockhart, rather than Leslie Marion Lockhart, former owner and past president of the Rio Grande Oil Company. Nowhere in the subsequent research, by Cultural Resource Examiner for the California Energy Commission, is the Barstow Printer-Review newspaper referenced. Since this was the local newspaper of the period, numerous references to the importance of this Ranch to the farming and cattle industries were thus overlooked.

A review of the history of Rio Grande Oil would reveal the extent to which this California based pioneering oil company established Long Beach and Santa Barbara marine terminals and a vertically integrated production and marketing entity of enormous proportion. The geological data alone, under the name L.M. Lockhart, is testimony to the first hand exploration record of this man and the company he represented. The only remaining Rio Grande Gas Station was built in 1929 and is in Goleta, California. He and his brothers made millions in oil discoveries and held enormous land holdings throughout California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Louisiana. There is a park in Deming Springs, Louisiana, named "L.M. Lockhart Park" that acknowledges his importance there. Also, Mr. Lockhart was the occupant and owner of the Getty House for thirty years before Mr. Getty bought the house and donated it as the official Mayor of Los Angeles Residence.

He and his brothers were farmers and ranchers, owning for example, a 500 acre citrus ranch in Pasadena, California. Brother Lynn Lockhart had his ranch in Springerville, Arizona, and raised breeding and range cattle for the Lockhart Ranch in Barstow, which was a finishing and fattening operation. A rail siding was built near Hinkley for Lockhart to load and off-load cattle going to and from the ranch. The capacity of the Ranch was 4,000 head of cattle at any one time. They were marketed mainly in Los Angeles, although some were sent to Chicago as well. The prime beef was also sold in Lockhart, California, in this very store, and was even sold to residents in a bulk food plan in cooperation with Amana Freezers under a low cost financing and payment plan.

Previous examiners have mistakenly observed that the Howard Hughes Air Field on the ranch was to provide transportation to the area, as though it were a commercial airport. In fact, it was a secret airfield used by the US Army and Northrop to develop experimental aircraft such as the $M X-324$ flying wing aircraft. The flight of this aircraft on July 5,1944 , on Harper Lake was the first of the so-called X-planes that were developed during World War II and thereafter.

There are several documents that must be referenced to begin to understand the importance of this building to the Mojave Valley Region. They are included here as attachments.
\#1: A 1920 article on the Rio Grande Oil Company (shown as page 97) which details the extent of Mr. L.M. Lockhart's integral management of the Rio Grande Oil Company.
\#2: The January 11, 1951, edition of the Barstow Printer Review newspaper, headlined "Beef Factory Takes Root in Desert". This article describes the extent of the Lockhart Ranch and the influence on the Barstow Area.
\#3: Graphic images of a Rio Grange Oil Company Station in 1929, 1938, 1942, and the current canopy of the Lockhart Store. The classic designs of gas stations of that period are of enormous importance to everyday California people, the Route 66 culture, and their love affair with the automobile.
\#4: A 1925 Architectural Digest article describing L. N. Lockhart's Los Angeles home, which became The Getty House and the official home of the Mayor of Los Angeles.
\#5. A California Electric Power Company advertisement from the 1950s using the Lockhart Ranch as an example of power usage.
\#6: A 1930 advertisement for Rio Grande Gasoline.
\#7: A 1952 advertisement for Lockhart Ranch beef and Amana freezers.
\#8: A 1954 Barstow Printer Review article about raising cattle at the Lockhart Ranch.
\#9: A 1955 Barstow Printer Review article about shipping Lockhart cattle to Chicago.
\#10: A 1955 Barstow Printer Review article about Lockhart Ranch being a modern pioneer.
\#11: Three 1950s articles from the Barstow Printer Review concerning the Ranch.
\#12: A 1952 Barstow Printer Review article concerning the Lockhart's divorce.
The building in question currently has integrity, includes three levels, potentially 21,000 square feet of interior space, a truck loading bay, a freight elevator and a fueling canopy that can still serve its original intended purpose as part of the proposed solar plant.

We hereby request your assistance to perfect the application documents and correct the errors and oversights made by previous examiners.

Sincerely,


Robert Hilburn, President

## RIO GRANDE OIL COMPANY INCLEASES CAPTTALIZATION \$730,000 IN FOUR YEARS' TIME

Beginning with wholesale plant, L. E. Lockhart develops an El Pass refinery with capacity of 2,000 barrels a day; keeps 200 tank cars in continuous service; and supplies plant from their own oil wells at Desdemona -with prospects of other wells in Homer field -Louisiana field -and the Hueco and Tularosa basins.


L. al LOCEBAAT singer and Secretary

RGANIZED by L. E. Lockhart in 1916; with a capital of $\$ \mathbf{\$ 0 , 0 0 0 . 0 0}$, the Rio Grange Oil Company. now a $\$ 750,000$ concess, opened for business in El Pase at the corner of South Kansays and Seventh Streets, as wholesale oil dealers.
At that time, oil companies were being established everywhere Gasoline, just beginning to be consummed at a rapidly increasing rate, due to the growing popularity of automobiles, was selling. in some places, as low as nine rents per gallon. By the summer of 1916, the rate of consumption was so large that refineries throughout the country found themselves unable to supply the demand for gasoline and kerosene, die to their lack of facilities and to the lack of crude vil, of which there was a marked shortage.

Prices increased by leaps and hounds and at the time the Rio Grade Oil Company began operations, gasoline was retailing at 19c per gallon-a price which seemed out of all reason, as compared with the prevailing price a few months previous. Refineries were, in a sweep, swamped with orders, which they could not fill. The small dealer could secure no supplies with which to carry on his business.
Soon it was a case of begging for an occasional car of that magic' fluid called gasoline. Naturally.: many small concerns failed. literally hanging on by its teeth, the Rio Grand company pulled through these trying times and managed to secure sufficient quantities of kerosene and gasoline to enable it to avert a complete failure of its business

For months, L. E. Lockhart, a pioneer in the oil game, bewailed bis refinery friends in

Texas and Oklahoma for supplies, and it was only by their friendship that he was ever able to secure shipment of a single car of either gasoline or kerosene. it seemed mighty hard, sars Mr. Lockhart, to decline orders that, could the have tiled them, would have put his company on its feet sufficiently to sec the thing through iron week to week without so much "suffering" as he terms it $B ;$ being his own manager, his own bookkeeper, his own stenographer, and, at times, his own warehouseman, and by exercising every known means of economy, he palled bis company through the crisis and in time succeeded in convincing his refinery friends that it would pay them io sell the Rio Grands Oil Company all the supplies it needed.
"What was tine argument?" Mir. Lockhart was asked. "Simply this: that time would come when the refineries would need an outlet for their production." Crude oil production was being encouraged everywhere, and Mr. Lockinart thought, with many others, that in due time the demand produced by the thousands of automobiles that were coming into use, would be amply taken care of by the increased production of crude oil in all fields. Mr. Refiner listened and consented to sell his bares, demanding, however, cash in advance of all shipments made.

By the summer of 1917, conditions became more stable in the oil business and the Rio Grange Oil Company early in 1918 found it necessary to increase its capitalization to $\$ 100,000.00$. With the closing of the war, came the great oil development in North Central Texas and other parts of the southwest and conditions appeared favorable for the building oi a refmery in EI Pasco. Accordingly, the capital stock of the Rio Granide company was increased to $\$ 200,00000$ for the above purpose and a refine :y was built, with an initial capacit of 2,000 barrels per day. The refinery was a success from the very beginning and business began to increase almost unbelievably.

So large did it grow, indeed, that in Octobet of 1919, it was decided to increase the caparity oi the refinery to 2,000 barrels daily. Additional tank cars were secured and today
the company has 200 of them in service. Construction of the new unit has been in progress for two months and already its storage capacity is over one and one half million gallons. The company, realizing the necessity of developing its own sore of crude oil, secured leases in the proven fields of Texas and Louisiana and now has its own pro-
 Sales Manager at Desdemona Saturday, Jan. 10th. Another of its wells was spaded in Jan 13th, in the Homer field and other derricks are being exected to drill in both the Texas and Lomisians fields.

- The Desdemona holdings bid fair to produce even more crude oil than the present capacity of the El Paso plant can accommodate and it is expected that a further increase in its capacity will follow soon.
L. H. Lackhart, secretary, states that his company believes strongly in the Tularosa and Hueco basins and that recently he leased for sections in the former basin, adjoining the well that is being drilled there now.
E1. Pasoans are well acquainted with the products this refinery is turning out, and Mr. Lockhart advises that sales on their famous "Speedway" motor oils, gasoline and greases are most satisfying. The company maintains branches at Las Cruces, Deming and Columbus and has many connections throughout New Mexico and Arizona where their prodiets are shipped.

The Rio Grande Oil Company is strictly a homie industry, all its stockholders being Eli Pasoans.

## Beef Factory


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## BEEF FACTORY

(From page 2)
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custs S102 Further economy is that metal wht last almost indefinitely whili fumber has to he: replaced athut every three gears Mr. Jackhart, While ming limes a millionaire, has a police of raking everyone of $h$ is investmentr pay. He does 1 hls by buying the best brains in the business Walter Coertz of llolly wood is the consulting engincer on water problems: Development of water has not been giucsswork but has been sceicnilfically proven by testy and charts. Norman $\Lambda$. Rothenberw. velerinarian. keeps n shatp eyr peeled for any antmal - stcer, hog ur poulliry. that iowks uncoritenict -- and to take proper remedies. Abhert Webt is the emsulting ongineer on soil. Ievelitic. dralnage and construet on problems.

## -ALKALI WASHED OUT-

Under modern methods alkali is washed out of soll as casily as the housewife washes dirt out of her chotlies Nict the land is leveled and drainage plpes. installed, the land is flooded. AlkaIf hefing soiuble flows through the tand Intio the underground pipes and finto Harper Lilic. Cost of development runs sume 887.50 incr acte. 'The land is cmrichorl unt onily los stoer mametre but also by chicken femilizer. The Lockhar ranch luse for free been cleaning utt jomitiry mincties and replinnlishlog the runways with. friwh shith in exelhange for the fortiliser. 'tones In-linve: it sumat lunsiTo:
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Barnsdall - Rio Grande Station, Goleta, CA The last remaining Rio Grande Station in California 1929


Rio Grande Station Rendering, From Road Map of California 1942


Rio Grande Station 1938


Lockhart General Store and Gas Station 1951, Canopy as it remains today 2010


Residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Lockhart, Los Angeles. © John C. Brasfield, 1923.

## Our Golden Anniversary <br> $\approx$ Reflections on the Past

Remember humming the tunes Avalon and Whispering; reading about Sacco and Vanzetti; seeing The Kid with Chaplin and Coogan? As you fanned away the August heat, did you and the men folk ponder America's survival under the new Nineteenth Amendment? Some will recall these scenes of the Twenties. For John Brasfield, 1920 was a turning point in his life. This was the year he founded Architectural Digest.

At the turn of the century, he was already established with a successful career in the East. However, with a sudden inspiration, he changed his life and uprooted his family to Los Angeles at the age of 40 . It was during several West Coast vacations that curiosity grew to excitement as California lured and chatlenged his instincts. To Mr. Brasfield, the exceptional opportunity, climate and a casual way of life were irresistible.

Mr. Brasfield's particular inspiration centered on this phenomenal mode of living. It was obvious to him that America was curious about the West Coast, not only commercially but because of the romantic fables of a golden California - and, of course, Hollywood. He was not alone. Many Eastern families were similarly tempted, and the building of new vacation homes and estates began announcing their arrival. This migraton became prolific and, in turn, presented California's fledgling architects with rare opportunity. These men - Bakewell \& Brown, Cote, Curet \& Beelman, Johnson, Kaufman. Martin, Neff, Plumber, Polk. Williams (to name 2 few'. responded with vitality and imagination. producing a stol



Cover, circa 1925
builders and retailers. of course, wanted development publicized. Therein lay the nutitat for a publication.

Success was immediate. Mr. Brasfield .... lated California's architectural activity int: 2 handsome pictorial. He joined the foremost: vocates of the California life style - - $0:= \pm \boxed{2}$ venture in a world resisting change. His $\mathrm{zL}^{-}=$ ing tenacity was rooted in fierce pride $\because \geq$ always wore his character in styic. On , tract a determined and singular devotion to Actiontural Digest - mellowed by a gentlemanly: $5 \times \cdots$ en charm and wit - did he succeed.
Now in 1970, the scene has changed. Sufferage for $\%$. is a cause celebre, and the fact that fifty years have passes before a real reaction occurred is significant and somerate disillusioning. During these fifty years, anxieties have toto fied; demands for commitment are more consuming: $2 n=3 \pm$ growing fear of our problem's totality is confusing. The witons seem purposefully complicated. Yes. the decade $=\cdots$ Seventies appears overwhelming. However. We tu retie an encouraging emergence of a modem renaiss ane as senior and technology's fantastic advances 2 impost seen gramme by genius. We take the resulting comions an= 二 veniences for granted. which mas be good. Because 1 , : 0 so obvious, as our material needs become relates sh sa ce






The Getty House, Official Residence of the Mayor of Los Angeles

L.M. Lockhart Boating
L.M. Lockhart Playing Tennis


L.M. Lockhart Frieze Caracature in the Game Room

L.M. Lockhart Fishing


Getty House Game Room Frieze surrounds the room near the ceiling with twelve caracatures of Mr. Lockhart


DEC. 15.195


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We invite you so visi this anch ond see the thousands of White Foce there forts being fed sientificelly, this siock is fed on hard grain for 120 doys he fore lutachering, The resultis very hender, and flavorsome meat. Have a Super Morke in your kitchen.

WHM MMM/S WOLESRLE FOOD PLAM



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MAR. 25.1954


## lockhar Ranch and Sore Serve Modern 'Ploneer' On 'Las Fronitier'




JUL. 24. 1952



## Wife Sues Hinkley Ranch Owner

 For $\$ 10,000$ ADesith Support














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