Haymon Krupp was only 16 in 1890 when he arrived in the U.S. from Russia. He started out as a clerk in an El Paso dry goods store and six months later he was able to purchase his own retail establishment. Eventually, he branched out into the wholesale clothing business. Always a risk-taker, Krupp entered the oil business with partner Frank Pickrell and, in 1919, they formed the Texon Oil and Land Company, where he served as president. Krupp’s first job for the company was to head to New York to raise money for the permits while Pickrell checked the leases. Unable to raise the funds in New York, Krupp secured a loan to cover fees for permit applications. His financial support helped Texon purchase leases for 431,360 acres of University of Texas land in the Permian Basin. In 1923, he organized the drilling of the Santa Rita No. 1 at Big Lake—the first producing well on University Lands and the second producing well in the Permian Basin—thus propelling Texon into oil industry history. In 1929, Krupp and Pickrell ended their partnership and sold Texon to Marland Production Company.