

Pioneering Petroleum...

EMMA SUMMERS

Emma Summers made a living by teaching piano and investing in and selling local real estate. Soon after the Doheny and Canfield Well success, she bought a half interest in her first oil well in Los Angeles for \$700. Emma purchased interests in other wells before her first well was finished. She hired her own workmen, personally purchased drilling tools and supplies and superintended the daily work and well development. She went into debt and worked at night teaching piano to help pay her workers and the growing stack of bills.

Summers personally found markets for her crude with the big local electric utility and various other industrial concerns, commuter railroads and a local trolley system. She purchased the crude of others and combined that with her own production.

In short order, Emma Summers was selling 50,000 barrels of Los Angeles City crude to her widespread customer base. She

became a California celebrity and was known as the "Oil Queen of California".

Becoming a major investor, she ranked as one the largest independent oil producers. By 1900 she controlled half the production in the Los Angeles Field.

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