The Gas Station In America

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the first architect designed gas station a pittsburgh gulf station in 1913 was also the first to offer free road maps the familiar shell name and logo date from 1907 when a british mother of pearl importer expanded its line to include the newly discovered oil of the dutch east indies the first enclosed gas stations were built only after the first enclosed cars made motoring a year round activity and operating a service station was no longer a seasonal job the system of octane rating was introduced by sun oil as a marketing gimmick 74 for premium in 1931 as the number of true gas stations continues its steady decline from 239 000 in 1969 to fewer than 100 000 today the words and images of this book bear witness to an economic and cultural phenomenon that was perhaps more uniquely american than any other of this century jacket

the american gas station is a nostalgic history of the service station and the american car culture it helped create an exceptional chronicle of the birth of roadside architecture the development of gasoline pumps corporate trademarks and gas station memorabilia

in this car culture of ours what could be more american than the gas station from the roadside pit stop in the middle of nowhere to the spit and polish full service city shop this brightly illustrated history of service stations runs the gamut from east to west north to south spotlighting the culture and lore of the gas pumping garage that has kept the united states moving for a century whether it s the last chance texaco or the sinclair dinosaur winking in the distance the beckoning shell or the winged mobil horse it s here in all its small town glory of compact architecture inspired promotions art deco pumps and endless views of the american horizon author tim russell one of the world s foremost collectors and historians of petroliana rolls out the ribbon of highway that takes us to all of those way stations of americas motoring past

presents market share data on over four thousand companies and 2 500 products facilities and brands several entries are usually available under each industry

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