

CELEBRATING THE STORY— Progress from petroleum

From lamp oil to gasoline,
plastics to pharmaceuticals, the oil
industry has powered progress and
transformed the world. It all began
in the United States in 1859
in northwestern Pennsylvania,
where Edwin Drake drilled the first
successful commercial oil well.

New Sources, New Uses, New Appreciation for Petroleum

It may be a 'non-renewable' natural resource, but better methods of exploring and extracting oil, while learning to conserve it, promise more progress from petroleum for many years to come. Join in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the American-born oil industry and in appreciating oil as one of the world's most precious natural resources. Visit us today at www.Oil150.com.



Plastics from Petroleum

There isn't a car without it. Or a computer. Or likely the furniture and appliances in your home. The process of making plastic starts with petroleum. After it's refined into the petrochemicals of ethane and propane, it is further processed into ethylene and propylene, then into polymers and plastic material, ready for molding.



From 'Snake Oil' to Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics

Even before commercial wells extracted it in volume, oil was used as a medicine for humans and animals. Petrochemicals refined from petroleum are now used to make topical ointments, petroleum jellies, lipsticks, shampoos, body lotions, even mascara.



Driving Progress

Gasoline is today the best known product of oil. Yet for years following the first commercial oil production, gasoline was an unwanted hazardous waste byproduct. Eventually, gasoline powered large stationary engines in industrial applications. The first American gasoline-powered automobile was built in 1893. Fueled by petroleum products, modern aviation began in 1903.



Illuminating the Future

During Drake's time, the most significant product from refined oil was kerosene. Primarily used as an economical, safe, and abundant illuminating oil; kerosene was the source of lamp light in homes and factories. Kerosene also provided heating and powered industrial machinery. In the 1920's and 1930's, farm tractors were commonly run on kerosene. Kerosene brightened the world, fueled the Industrial Revolution and dramatically improved the quality of life.



The Valley that Changed the World

Northwestern Pennsylvania's Oil Region National Heritage Area is the birthplace of the world's oil industry. Edwin L. Drake drilled the world's first commercially successful oil well in Venango County near Titusville, Pennsylvania on August 27, 1859. Oil-related businesses grew quickly afterwards. Explore our heritage. Discover oil and natural gas. Visit www.Oil150.com.



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