

National History Day Topic: The Impact of the Automobile on the Environment

Developed by: Patricia Eyer

Date: November 6, 2013

Primary Source #1

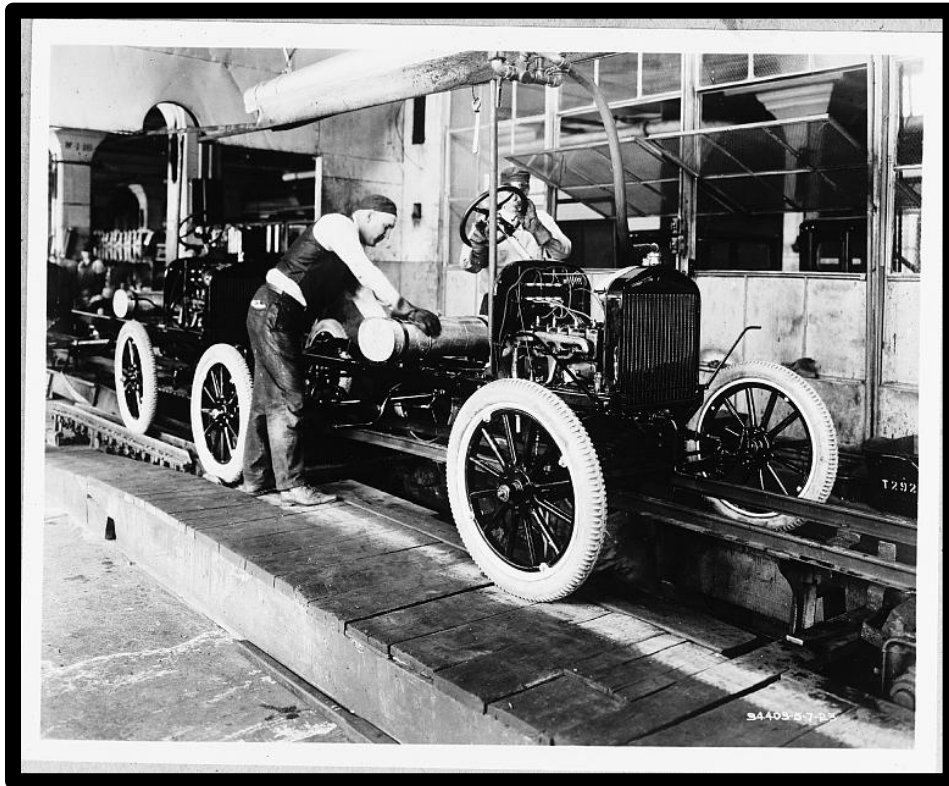


Image Title: Assembly

Author: *Detroit Publishing Company*

Date: May 7, 1923

Persistent URL: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/det1994003109/PP/>

Introduction:

This series of primary resources will explore the impact of the automobile on the environment.

Guiding Historical Question

How are environmental issues related to the impact of industrialization and the automobile?

Additional Sources

Primary Source #2

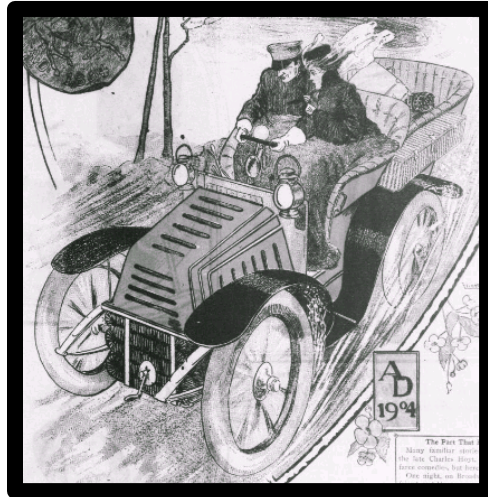


Image Title: Motoring To Matrimony

Author: *The Saint Paul Globe*

Date: February 14, 1904, Image 4

Persistent URL: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn90059523/1904-02-14/ed-1/seq-4/>

Note: Additional articles related to the automobile industry and from Chronicling America are listed in [Topics in Chronicling America - Horseless Carriages and Ford's Model T](#)

Primary Source #3



Image Title: [Harvey Washington Wiley, in his first car, a steam car, third one in Washington, D.C.]

Date: 188?

Persistent URL: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/89707984/>

Primary Source #4

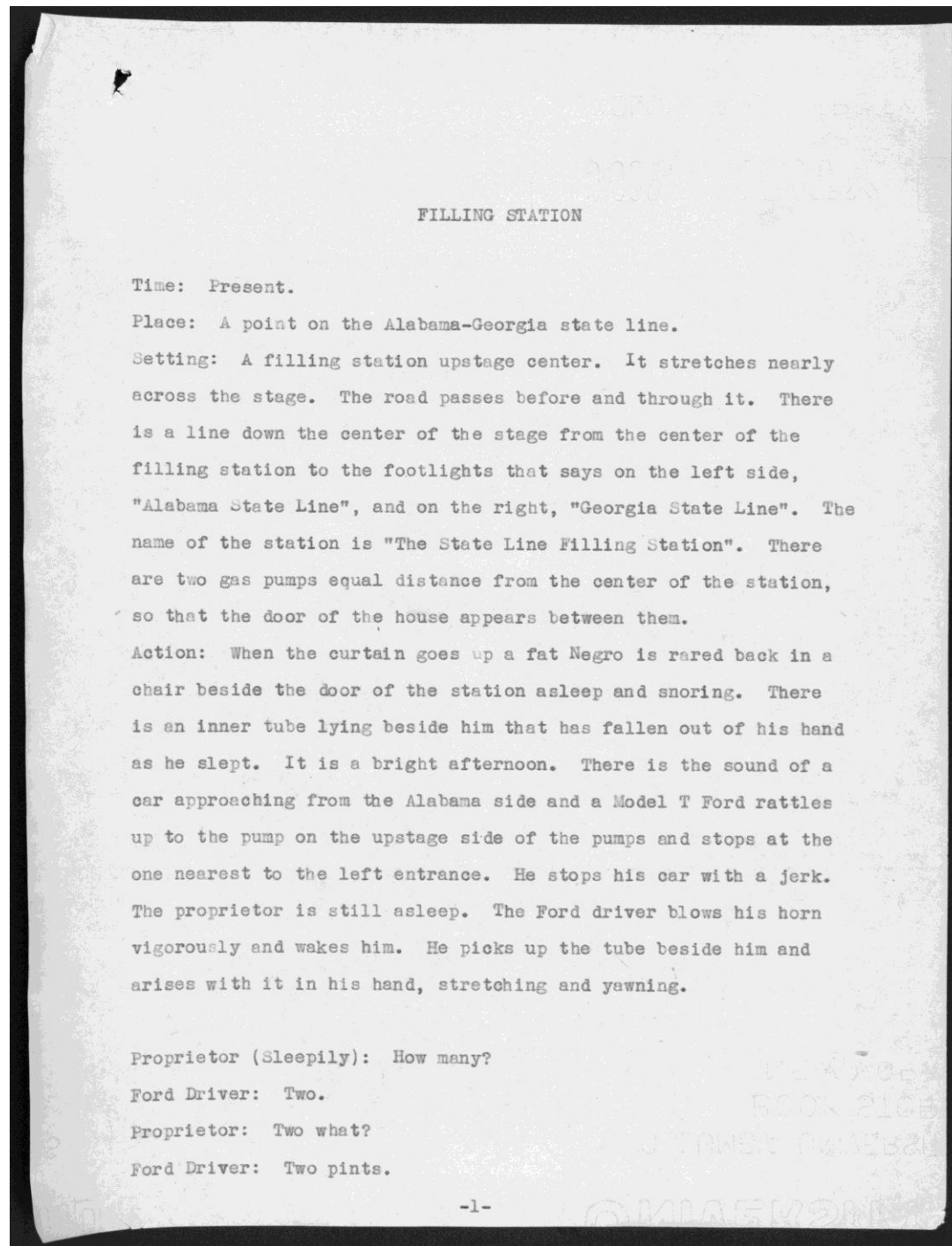


Image Title: *Filling Station Time, A Skit in Cold Keener, A Revue*

Author: Hurston, Zora Neale

Date: 1930

Persistent URL: <http://www.loc.gov/resource/mhurston.0101/seq-3>

Primary Source #5



Image Title: Scene at the Filling Station near Northampton, Massachusetts
Author: Lee Russell, [Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/fsa1997027281/PP/)
Date: October, 1939
Persistent URL: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/fsa1997027281/PP/>

Primary Source #6

Energy Emergency Act - **Title I - Energy Emergency Authorities** - States that the purpose of this Act is to call for proposals for energy emergency conservation measures and to authorize specific temporary emergency actions to be exercised to assure that the essential needs of the United States for fuels will be met in a manner which, to the fullest extent practicable: (1) is consistent with existing national commitments to protect and improve the environment, (2) minimizes any adverse impact on employment, (3) provides for equitable treatment of all sectors of the economy, and (4) maintains vital services necessary to health, safety, and public welfare.

“Directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish within the Department of Transportation an "Office of Carpool Promotion" whose purpose and responsibilities shall include: (1) responding to any and all requests for information and technical assistance on carpooling and carpooling systems from units of State and local governments and private groups and employees; (2) promoting greater participation in carpooling through public information and the preparation of such materials for use by State and local governments; (3) encouraging and promoting private organizations to organize and operate carpool systems for employees; (4) promoting the cooperation and sharing of responsibilities between separate, yet proximately close, units of government in coordinating the operations of carpool systems; and (5) promoting other such measures that the Secretary determines appropriate.”

Image Title: HR.11885 Energy Emergency Act

Author: Rep Eckhardt, Bob

Date: 12/11/1973

Persistent URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.93hr11885>

Primary Source #7

Image Title: The Gray Plague.

With his image of the Grim Reaper coming for those who dared to breathe in America's cities, Herb Block indicated that air pollution had become a major issue by 1967. President Lyndon Johnson asked Congress to authorize federal regulation of air quality to protect the environment. When he signed the Air Quality Act of 1967 into law on November 21, 1967, Johnson quoted Dante's *Inferno*, ". . . dirty water and black snow pour from the dismal air to. . .the putrid slush that waits for them below."

Author: Herb Block

Date: Published in *The Washington Post*, January 29, 1967.

Note: Herblock's Cartoon is copyrighted but may be viewed from the Library of Congress link below.

Persistent URL:

http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/herblock-enduring-outrage/environment/Assets/hb005_enlarge.jpg

Primary Source #8

Image Title: Drums

In this cartoon, Block portrayed the "Grim Reaper" pounding a deadly beat as toxic waste containers spill noxious contents into an ominously streaked river of pollution. His cartoon reflected mounting public concern in 1979 over safe storage of such drums in the wake of news coverage about lawsuits involving illegal dumping of wastes, and instances of health and environmental problems surfacing in the proximity of hazardous waste sites in New Jersey, New York, Kentucky, and elsewhere. The reported problems included higher rates of cancer deaths and seepage of life threatening chemical waste into rivers, water supplies, and homes.

Author: Herb Block

Date: Published in *The Washington Post*, March 21, 1979.

Note: Herblock's Cartoon is copyrighted but may be viewed from the Library of Congress link below.

http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/herblock-enduring-outrage/environment/Assets/hb004_enlarge.jpg

Secondary Sources

1. Automobile in American Life and Society

The Automobile and the Environment in American History

by Martin V. Melosi

http://www.autolife.umd.umich.edu/Environment/E_Overview/E_Overview.htm

2. Zoom into Maps

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/maps/environment.html>

Graphic Organizers:

- SCIM Chart 4 (36 x 36)
- SCIM-C Corroboration Chart 3