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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**“FILL ‘ER UP!” EXHIBIT COMMEMORATES PENNSYLVANIA OIL  
ANNIVERSARY AT MERCER MUSEUM**

DOYLESTOWN, PA– To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first successful oil well in Pennsylvania, and the birth of the American Oil Industry in 1859, the Mercer Museum will present an exhibit of vintage photographs of filling and service stations from the 1920s through the 1950s. Entitled, “Fill ‘er Up!” Vintage Gas Stations of Bucks County,” the exhibit opens Saturday, October 10 and runs until December 31.

Many of the images are drawn from the Milton Rutherford Photograph Collection, housed in the Mercer Museum’s Spruance Library. Most of the photos depict early gas stations in the Doylestown and Central Bucks County vicinity. The 15-20 photographic enlargements are supplemented by a selection of service station, petroleum and automotive-related artifacts from the Mercer and local private collections.

From the rural general store with its roadside gas pump, to the sleek, gleaming streamlined box of the 1930s full service station, the images in “Fill ‘er Up!” trace this history of the American gas station as it emerged into its “golden age.” With many of the photographs taken by long-time Doylestown photographer Milton Rutherford, the enlarged images depict with remarkable clarity the small features and details of these now mostly lost temples to our automotive culture – the ubiquitous coca-cola cooler, the pay phone, the carefully stacked merchandise displays, the period advertising signage, and the extraordinarily low price of gas.

**About the Mercer Museum**

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier tourist attractions, offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America as seen through the implements used in everyday life. The Museum's collection includes more than 40,000 objects exhibiting the tools of more than 60 different crafts and trades, providing one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of material culture in America. The museum is raising funds for a \$10 million expansion and renovation program to expand changing exhibition space and visitor services, as well as enliven existing spaces within the museum. The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street in Doylestown and is open for self-guided exploration 7 days a week. For more information, call 215-345-0210, or go to [www.mercermuseum.org](http://www.mercermuseum.org).

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