

### **The Story of Gasoline, 1948**

Narrator: Gasoline is the fuel that powers this modern age on the highway, on the farm, and in the air. This is the inside story of modern gasoline. It's a big story, but it starts with something so small that no man has ever seen one: the carbon atom.

Carbon Atom: Hello folks, I'm a carbon atom, and since I'm an essential part of each of the hydrocarbons in crude oil, I'm here to give you the inside dope on gasoline. I'm the smallest possible particle of carbon. Why I'm so small, a thousand billion atoms like me could dance on the head of a pin. Scientists know I act as though I had four arms, and these fellas, who are the hydrogen members of this combination, have only one arm. We're going to form a molecule. Watch! I grab hold of hydrogens, like this, then another carbon. In doing this, we make a kind of chain. See? When we're together, the combination is a hydro- [...]