



Riggs in the foreground, his gas station and garage in the background. Circa 1940s.

name was largely replaced by the Exxon brand by the 1970s.

This garage was closed by 1950, when Riggs opened a new Sinclair station (now Mander's Automotive) down the street. The old gas station building has been in use over the years as a shop for the Coca-Cola Bottling Company where wooden crates were repaired, an auction house, consignment shop, and antique shops.

5 Riggs Gas Station and Garage

1931

Early gas stations were called filling stations. In the decade starting in 1920, hundreds began to appear across the country and by the 1930s, there were well over 100,000 filling stations. Many included vending machines and water fountains. Service attendants wiped windshields, checked oil and water, and provided curb service. Service bays, such as the one attached to the Riggs Garage, now [Old Town Depot Antiques](#), began to appear by the end of the decade.

Helotes businessman James Riggs (1879-1964) opened the full-service Esso gas station in 1931. He leased the station to the Humble Oil and Refining Company for several years. Humble Oil, later known as Exxon, took its name from the oil fields around Humble, Texas. In the US, the Esso

