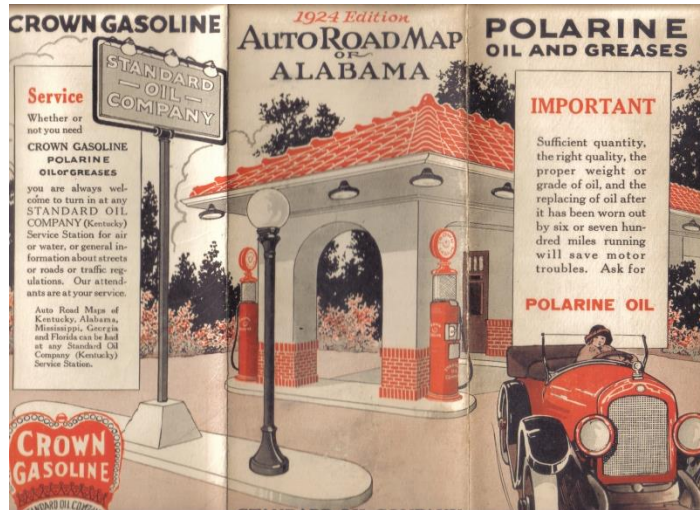


Easy & Easy to Miss Road Map Cover Dates

By Tom Sveum RMCA #308 with generous help of Gary Spaid & Nick Nielsen

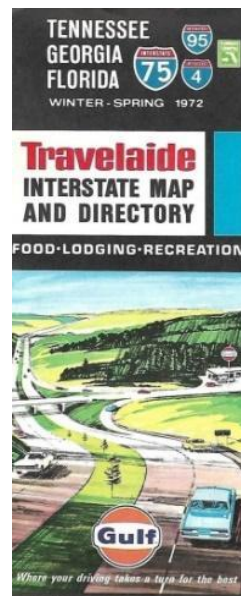
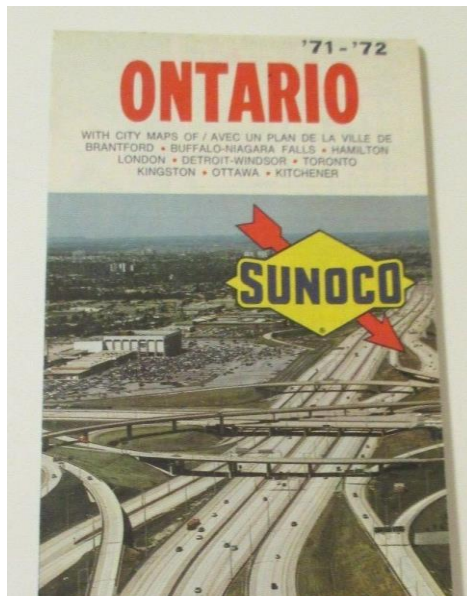


1924 over title



1927 under illustration

Why would oil companies show the year the map was made on the front cover? This started in 1920 and peaked in 1929 and then mostly ended after WW II. They probably wanted to keep up with all the changes being made with new roads and bridges being built. It may also have been to make sure their dealers were displaying the latest maps available.



When Interstate highway construction was in high gear in the 1960s & 70s, Sunoco (US & Canada), American/Standard Oil (IN), and Amoco used open cover dates.

From late 1969 until 1974 3M/Travelaide maps also were front cover dated. ,

Easy front cover open dating in normal font & **tiny or tricky codes shown in bold**. Red printing means that only one or selected titles have cover dating. Purple print means that I have explained how the dating worked. For the rest, see the second (Easy to Miss) section.

Quick reference Table

Company	Easy Front cover Dating	Tiny, hard to find, & back cover dating details under this grid-except purple
	red printing means for one or selected titles	
ABA Independent Oil (Neb)	1924	
Aero Filling Stations (Wy)	1923-26	
Aladdin (Farm Supply)	1932	
Allegheny-Arrow	1931-33	
American	1972-74	American-69-71
Amoco	1974, 75, 75/76	Amoco-41-42, 46-60, 75-76
Anglo-Canadian	1963	
Arrow Oil Co (Oh)	1929	
Ashland	--	Ashland-64-67
Associated (CA)	1933-CA/NV only	Associated-23, 35-37
Atlantic	1927, 39-NYWF	Atlantic-57-61
Autolene Oil	--	Autolene-24-front copyright date
Barberton Oil/Hy-Power (Oh)	1927	
Barnsdall	1928-29, 33-37	
Blackhawk Oil/Red Ball gas (Ia)	1927	
Blue Flash/Pocahontas (OH)	1929, 32, 34	
Boron	--	Boron-68-77
BP	--	BP-70-72
Brilliant/Red Head	1928	
Calpet	--	Calpet-tiny front bottom copyright
Calso	--	Calso-40-41-back corner-Mxxx-40=
		1940
Canfield	1929-32	Canfield-36-front bottom 50th Anniv
Cenex	--	Cenex-94-95
CFN	1997	
Champlin	1927	
Chevron	1962-WA & Seattle, 64-NV, NJ 1964-NYWF-eastern states	Chevron-78-80
Cities Service	1926-27, 32-33, 36-37	Cities Service-53-61
Clark's	1950	
Colonial Beacon	1928, 30-33	Colonial Beacon-some-26-30
Conoco	1929-31, 61-KS , 73-88 1990, 92-93, 95, 97, 99	Conoco-1939-42, 45-63
Cooperative Chain Svc. Assn.	--	Coop Chain Service-30-back bottom (c)
Coryell 70	--	Coryell 70-1936-38, 40

Company	Easy Front cover Dating printing means for one or selected titles	Tiny, hard to find, & back cover dating details under this grid-except purple
Crescent Oil (In)	--	1925 front middle copyright
Deep Rock	1929-32	1939-calendar (39/40) on side panel
Derby	1925	
Diamond	1928-32	
Dixie	36/37, 37/38, 38/39, 39/40 40/41,42/43, 46/47, 47/48	Dixie-1933-Chi Century of Progress Expo
Domestic D (Toronto)	1930/31	
Eason	1930	
East Coast	--	East Coast-97
Eldred Refining (Ny)	1925	
Enco	--	Enco-62-72
Esso/Colonial Beacon	1933-42	
Esso/Std (NJ)	all-1934-41, some-42, some-45	
Esso/Humble Oil & Ref	1960, 61	Esso-late-61-72
Esso/Std. (PA)	1929-42	
Exxon	--	72-91
Fina (Can)	--	Fina (Can)-56, 60, 67-71
Fleet Wing	1932, 34-35	
Freedom	1932-37	
(FUCX) Coop	1936	
Gasoline Alley	1928	
Giant	--	Giant-88
Gilco	--	Gilco-1930-front bottom copyright
Globe	--	Globe-1941-42-bottom left '41, '42
Go-Gas	--	Go Gas-1923-25-tiny front copyright
Gulf	1929-30, 34-35 1953-OH, NYWF-64, SC-70	Gulf-31, 57-74
Hancock	35-San Diego-Cal Pacific Expo	Hancock-55, 57-58, 62-63
Hawkeye	--	Hawkeye-1915
Hi-Speed	1933-36, 38	
Humble (TX)	1933-34, 39-42, 45	Humble (OH)-62-72
Imperial Esso (Can)	1933-35	Imperial Esso-29-32, 62-74
Independent Oil and Gas (Ia)	1930	
Indian Refining	1931-32	Indian-1923-front bottom copyright
Iowa Oil	1924, 27	
Johnson	1929	
Kendall	1929-36	
Keystone	1932	
Laureleaf 70 (Montana)	1939-40	
Leonard	1959	Leonard-60-61, 64

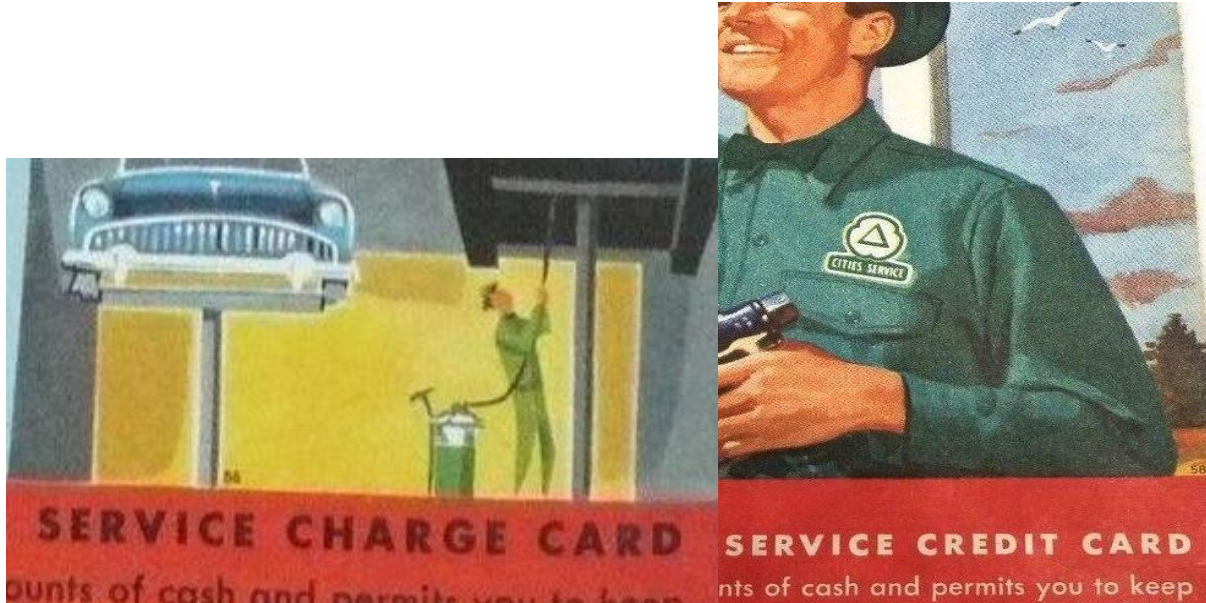
Company	Easy Front cover Dating	Tiny, hard to find, & back cover dating
	red printing means for one or selected titles	details under this grid- except purple
Linco	1928-35	
Lion	--	Lion 46-47, 51-59
Long Oil (Ks)	1930	
Loreco	--	Loreco-1927 on roadsters license plates
Love's	--	Love's-2009-2018
Lubrite	1934	
Magnolia	1930-35	
Manhattan	1920, 22, 24, 27-28	
Marathon	--	Marathon-59-61, 63-66, 69, 71-73
Martin Oil Service	--	Martin Oil Svc-61-62, 65, 69-71
	see page x for more Martin details	
Metro Gas	1924, 25, 26	
Midland Co-op (MN)	early-1933, 37, 39	
Midwest Refining	1929	
Mileage-DS	--	Mileage-DS-59-62
MN Petroleum Marketers	1928-29	
Mobilgas/independent Oil of Pa	1932, 34	
Mobilgas/Lubrite	1932-33	Mobilgas/Lubrite-35-38
Mobilgas/Socony-Vacuum	1933, 34, 35 (39-NYWF only)	Mobilgas-35-37
Mobilgas/White Eagle	1933, 34	Mobilgas/White Eagle-34-38
Mobil	1998-MN only	Mobil-62-79
Moreland	1930	
National Stations	1928	
Nebr. Indep Oil Men's Ass'n	1924-25	
Northland (IA)	1924, 27, 35	
North Star (Canada)	1950-53, 55, 57, 59-61	
Northwestern Oil (Mn)	1926	
Northwood Oil (Ia)	1925	
Old Colony (Mn)	--	Old Colony-1961-front & back copyright
Old Dutch	--	Old Dutch-1940-side panel calendar
OH Petroleum Marketers. Assn.	1927-30	
Pan Am	1926, 30-38	
Paragon	1926-29	
Peerless (Ohio)	1926	
Peerless (Kansas)	1926	
Pemex & Pemex Travel Club	1851-53, 55-56, 58-60, 62, 64, 71	
Pennzip	1933	
Peoples Oil (Mn)	1926	
Phillips 66	1933, 35-36	
Porters 70 up (St Louis)	--	Porters 70 up-1940-side panel calendar

Company	Easy Front cover Dating	Tiny, hard to find, & back cover dating details under this grid-except purple
	red printing means for one or selected titles	
Public Service	1923, 24, 25, 26	
Pure	all-1931-some-32 34-Chi Century Expo	Pure-32-38, 42, 47-69
Red Indian (Can)	1935-41, 46	
Reliance (Can)	1951, 53	
Republic	1936-37	
Refiners	1931-34	
Richfield (CA)	1932, 56-Disneyland	Richfield (CA)-25, 28-32, 61
Richfield (NY)	--	Richfield (NY)-47-63
Rock Island Refining	--	Rock Island-66
Sask. Federated Coop	1946	
Saylor Oil	--	Saylor-1940-side panel calendar
Sears, Roebuck	1929, all-36-Golden Jubilee	Sears-58-61, 63-back lower right 6/63
Shell	1929-31-(east), 35-36	Shell-32, 33, So. Cal-69
Signal	1938	Signal-56-66
Silver Flash	1928-30	
Sinclair	31-33, gold car covers only-1934, 35-early edition	Sinclair-47-65
Skelly	1928-34	Skelly-1970
Socony	1925-35 (see Mobilgas)	
Sohio	1930-37	Sohio-all-38. 63-85 (Ohio-40-48, 52)
Southern Oil (Houston)	--	Southern Oil-1940-side panel calendar
Spread Eagle	some-26, all-27 & 29, some-28	
Sterling	1930, 35-36	
Std Oil (CA)	--	Std Oil (CA)-26, 40, 41, 42, 45
Std Oil (BC)/Std Oil (TX)	--	Std Oil (BC)/Std Oil (TX)-40, 41, 42
Std. Oil (IN)	1929-35, 72-75	Std (IN)-69-71, 75-76
Std. Oil(KY)	1923-42, 45-49, 58-64	
Std Oil (LA)	1928-42 (Esso covers 34-41) some Std (LA)/Esso--1942	
Std. Oil (Nebr)	1922-24	Std (Nebr)-1924-1940
Std. Oil (NJ)	1928-33	
Std Oil (NY)	1924 (see Socony)	
Std Oil (OH)	1924-28 (see Sohio)	
Stoll/Golden Tip	1928, 32, 34, 35/36, 1949/50, 50/51, 51/52	
Sunoco (US)	1929-FL , all-61-68-2 yr. dating	Sunoco-55-60
Sunoco/DX	1969-72-2 yr. dating	
Sunoco (Can)	1970-75-2-yr. dating	
Super-Service (Nova Scotia)	1933, 34	
Super Speed/Citizens-77 (Ga/Fl)	1947	

Company	Easy Front cover Dating	Tiny, hard to find, & back cover dating details under this grid-except purple
	red printing means for one or selected titles	
Supertest (Can)	1933	
Talley Bros/Red Flash (OPMA)	1928-29	
Tesoro	--	Tesoro-78
Texaco	24-NY, 36-TX , 33-early-34	Texaco-28, 34-42, 45-56 Texaco-67-68-E & CW US only , 69-79
Texaco/Indian Ref.	1933	
Travelaides (all brands)	late 1969-1974	
Trojan (Oh)	1936	
Tydol	1922, 1939-NYWF	Tydol (East)-27, 36
Union Certified	1931-32	
Union 76	1927-30, 32, 84-L A Olympics	Union 76--40, 70-73
Valoco/IOMA/Spread Eagle	1931	
Vico	1924, 29; Vico-Pep-1930-33	
Violet Ray (Genl Petr.)	1929/30, 30/31	
Wadhams	1932, 34	
Wal*mart	2001-08, 2010, 12-21-all road atlases	
Wayco	1929	
Warner-Quinlan	1933, 36	
Western-Mileage-DS	--	Western-Mileage-DS-63-69
White Eagle	1928-30, 32	
White Rose (Can)	1958	
White Star (Cleveland)	1928-30	
Wilcox	--	Wilcox-40-side panel calendar
Zephyr-Naph-Sol	--	Zephyr-Naph-Sol-41-side panel calendar

Moving along to the not-so-easy ones, maybe meant for dealers or mapmaker mailrooms.

Easy to Miss codes Tiny or tricky codes are bold. Dates on just 1 or selected titles in red.



^ tiny 56 next to the lift

tiny 58 next to his elbow ^

<u>Company</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>Cover</u>	<u>Top/Bottom</u>	<u>Notes</u>
American	1969-71	Back	Bottom right	Month/year
Amoco	1941	Both	Bottom	AOC followed by month/year code
	1942, 46-51	Front	Bottom right	Right, AOC month/year
	1952-54	Front	Bottom right	AOC year code; 53 Upper left corner
	1955-60	Back	Bottom	some years followed by B (2 nd edition)
	1975-76	Front	Right side	tiny, tiny 1776-1976 inside bicentennial logo
see page 11 below for more Amoco specifics				
Ashland	1964-67	Back	Bottom	5-364 > 8-467 1st digit=5th ed., 8th=Apr 67 next the 44M= 44,000 maps made of that title
Associated	1923	Front	Bottom	tiny 1923 copyright date
	1935-37	Back	middle	Calendars on back covers
Atlantic	1957-61	Back	Bottom	Month/year (11-57) New Engl. to Florida maps
BP	1970-72	Back	Bottom	Month/year (5-70, 10-70=71, 6-72)
Boron	1968-77	Back	Bottom	68A, 72A, 77A 1977 1 st edition
Cenex	1994-95	Back	Bottom right	backwards mo/yr 493=3/94 & 594=4/95.
CFN	1997	Front	Bottom	August 1997
Chevron	1964	Front	Middle	64 (eastern div)-NY World's Fair 64-65
	1978-80	Back	Bottom right	78 & 79-mo-yr-backwards 873=3-78, 971=1-79 80-yr/mo (801=1-80)
Cities Service	1953-61	Back	Bottom	By signpost (53-55), left (56-57), elbow (58-61)
see page 12 below for more Cities Service details with scans				
Conoco	1939-42, 45-63	Back or side panel,	bottom, rear	Mo./yr./edition 10403 Oct-1940-3 rd ed.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>Cover</u>	<u>Top/Bottom</u>	<u>Notes</u>
	1973-99	Front	Interstate shield	under title; No 1985, 89, 91, 94, 96, 98 maps see page 13 below for more Conoco details
Colonial Beacon	1926-30	Front	Various	Hwy numbering-mo/yr-26-29, yr only-1930
	1927, 28	Front	Middle	Better Rds-1927, 28 on roadster license plates
Coryell 70	1936-38, 40	Front	Middle	42 yrs on flags=1936, 44 yrs=1938, 46 yrs=1940 see page 13 below for more Coryell 70 details & a scan
Dixie	1933	Back	Bottom	Dates of Chicago century of Progress
East Coast	1997	Back	Lower right	
Enco	1962	Back	Lower left	Month/year after letter W
	1963-72	Back	Lower right	Month/year after letter W
Esso	1955/56	Back	Top of Legend	Eastern US, NJ, NYC/LI, Wash DC
	Late 1961-62	Back	Lower left	Month/year after letter W
	1963-72	Back	Lower right	Month/year after letter W
(Imperial) Esso	1929-32	Front	Bottom	copyright date in small print
	1962-74	Back	Lower corner	month/year after letters P, R, or AP
Exxon	1972-79	Back	Lower left or right	Month/year after letter W
Exxon	1980-81, 83-91	Back	Lower left or right	Indirect code-A28=1980, A39=91
Exxon	1982	Back	Lower corner	year/month after the letter W
				see page 14 below for more Enco, Esso, Humble & Exxon details
Fina (Canada)	1956	Front	Lower left	65=1956 backwards
	1960	Back	Lower left	0 6 was 1960 backwards
	1967-71	Back	Lower right	67=1967
Giant	1988	Back	Bottom	Month/year (589=5/89)
Gulf	1931	Front	Upper right	1931 in small, easy to miss print
	1957-early 70	Back	Bottom	AD 1234-F 6A 6 was last digit of year; A=1 st ed.
	Late 1970-74	Back	Bottom	0A, 2B, 4A-last digit of year; B=2 nd ed.
				see page 15 below for more Gulf details
Hancock	55, 57-58, 62-63	Back	credit card	55, 57-58, 62-63 cards expiring Dec of that year.
	1964	Back	credit card	1964 maps show credit card that expired Dec 63
Hawkeye	1915		side panel	Jul 1915-Dec 1916 calendar
Humble	1962	Back	Lower left	Month/year after letter W
	1963-72	Back	Lower right	Month/year after letter W
Leonard	1960-61	Front	Upper right	Tiny issue date (July 1, 1960 or June 1, 1961)
	1964	Back	Lower	Form 6490 1216 64=year
Lion	46-47, 51-59	Front	under title	Issued May-1946, May-47, 1951-59-yr-no month
Love's	2009-2018	Back	lower left	copyright date on Location & Solution Guides
Marathon	1959-61	Back	Lower right	2-59, 3-60, 3-61 month/year
	1963-64, 66	Back	Middle under credit card	3-63 3-64, 2-66
	1965	Back	Upper right	2-65
	1969	Back	Middle	69 in corner of yellow block
	1971-73	Back	Lower right	71, 72, 73
Martin Oil Svc.	61-62, 65, 69-71	Back	Bottom right	4-61, 4-62, 9-65, 2-69, 10-69, 2-70, 6-70, 8-71

<u>Company</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>Cover</u>	<u>Top/Bottom</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Mileage-DS	1959-62	Back	Lower right	8-59, 11-59, April 60, 8-60. 4-61, 8-61, 5-62
Mobil	1962-79	Bsvk	Various	Date, sometimes tiny , in Travel Guide ad
	see page 15 below for more Mobil details			
Mobilgas	1934-38	Front	Lower left	4, 5, 6, 7, 8 last digit of year
	1939	Front	Under title	NY World's Fair map
Pure	1932-37	Front	middle	9th edition=1932, 10th=33, 11th=34, 12th=35, 13th=36, and 14th edition=37.
	1938	Front	Bottom	P O 38=Pure Oil 1938
	1942	Back	Lower left	P-42
	1947-51	Front	Lower right	48A, 49B, 51A B means 2 nd edition
	1952-62	Back	Lower right	52A, 62A (1961 was in lower left corner)
	1963-69	Back	Lower left	year without A or B
	see page 15 for more Pure details			
Richfield (CA)	1925	Back	Lower right	1925 edition in small print
	1928-29	Front	Middle	copyright date in small print
	1930-31	Front	Lower right	copyright date in small print
Richfield (CA)	1961	Front	Under title	"with 1960 census"
Richfield (NY)	1947-63	Back	Bottom right	4-62 220M = Apr 1962 & 220,000 were printed.
Rock Island	1966-IN	Front	Lower right	small IN sesquicentennial logo
Shell	1929	Back	Lower left	Western coast maps
Shell	1932, 33	Front	Middle	32 or 33 on each license plate
Shell	1969	Front	Right middle	San Diego/So. Cal--Tiny 1969-200th Anniv.
Signal	1956-66	Back	Lower left	AD B-4 11-59 RM 11-59=Nov-59=60, 66=1966 RM=RMcN, GC, HMG=Gousha city & state map
	1961	Front	Under title	"with 1960 census"
Sinclair	1947	Front	Lower right	7-47 month/year
	1948-50	Front	Lower left	small 2 digit year (48, 50)
Sinclair	1951	Front	Bottom left	51A=1951 1 st edition
	1952-61	Back	Lower left	52A, 56A-lower left corner, the rest lower right
	1962-65	Back	Upper right	63B, 65A B means 2nd edition
Sinclair	1964-65	Front	In green box	all city & states maps have NYWF 64-65 in box
Skelly	1970	Front	Top	The 70's are here
Sohio	1963-85	Back	Bottom right	63B, 85A A-1 st Ed, B-2 nd ed.-on full size maps
Std (CA)	1926	Front	Lower left	small copyright date
	1940-42, 45	Back	Lower left	Mxxx-45 maps are reprints of the 42 maps inside © 1942, 45 covers differ from 42
Std (BC) (TX)	1940, 41, 42	Back	Lower left	Mxxx-40 = 1940
Standard (IN)	1969-71	Back	Bottom right	Month/year-1975-76 Front Right side
	1975-76	Front	Right side	tiny, tiny 1776-1976 inside bicentennial logo
Std Oil (Nebr)	1924-40	Front	Bottom	Editions-4th=1924, 5th=25, 6th=26, 7th=27, 8th=28. . .11th=31. . . 14th=34, 15th=35, 16th=36. . . 19th=39, 20th=1940 (1 ed/yr)

<u>Company</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>Cover</u>	<u>Top/Bottom</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Standard (NJ)	1923 MD map	Front	Right middle	smaller 1923 as date on letter
Std Oil (OH)	1926, 27, 28	Front	various	26-yr at bottom, 27-under car, 28-at the top
Sunoco	1955-60	Back	upper right	A55, B60 A=1st edition, B=2nd
	1961	Front	Top left	2 year code (61-62)
	1962-68	Front	Top right	2 yr code 62/63, 63/64, ... 67/68, 68/69
Sunoco/DX	1969-1972	Front	Top right	2 yr code 69/70, 70/71, 71/72, 72/73
Sunoco (Can)	1970-75	Front	Top right	all 2yrs-70/71, 71/72 ... 74/75, 75/76.
Texaco	1928	Front	Bottom middle	small 1928 copyright
	1934-40	Front	Bottom right	Tiny Month/Year 11-34, 4-40
Texaco	1941-42	Front	Bottom right	Tiny Single letter, then 2 digit year (H41, A42)
Texaco	1945-Feb.48	Front	Bottom right	Tiny Mo/last digit of Yr (3-5 = 3/45, 2-8 = 2-48)
Texaco	Mar.48-Dec.48	Front	Bottom right	Tiny Month/day/last digit of Yr (518 = 5-1-48)
Texaco	1949-56	Front	Bottom right	tiny month and yr 456=4/56)
Texaco	1967-68	Back	Bottom right	67A, 68A on E US & C W US only
Texaco	1969-79	Back	Bottom right	714=1971 4th revision
see page 16 for more Texaco details				
Tesoro	1978	Front	Bottom	tiny copyright
Travelaides	late 1969-74	Front	Under title	Seasons and year(s)
see page 15 for Travelaide details				
Tydol (East div)	1927	Back	Middle	Text mentions 1927 gasoline
Tydol (East div)	1936	Front	Middle	1936 on license plate
Union 76	1940	Front	Bottom	1940-50th year
	1970-73	Back	Bottom right	73=1973
W-ern-Mileage-DS	1963-68	Back	Lower right-7-63, 3-64, 2-65, 9-65, 4-66, 7-18-66, 3-10-67, 2-68	

A cautionary tale The back cover lower left hand corner code on Double Circle Co-op maps What looks like a code, 97-39xx was used on maps between 1973 & 1975. The 9/73 started in 1973 but was unchanged in 1974 & 1975. Unlikely it was ever a date code. Probably just an internal company code. The last 4 digits 3901-3909 was different for every state-3901=MO, 3902=KS/NE, 3903=CO/WY, 3904=AR/LA/MS, 3905=MN, 3907=IL, 3908=IA, and 3909=ND/SD.

Q: Date Code or not a Date Code A:-I don't think it ever was

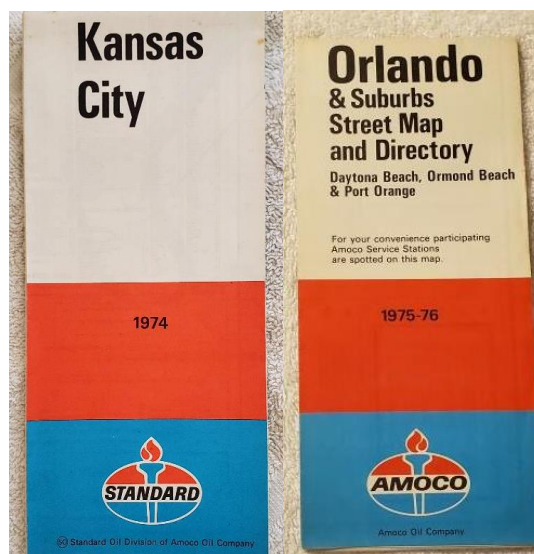
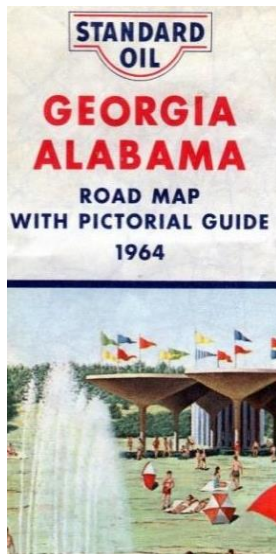
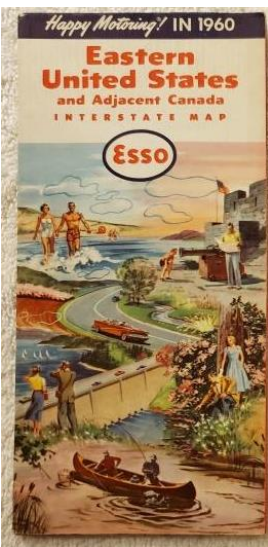
1925 1929 over title 1930 1930 1931 under title



<'33 dates on license plates



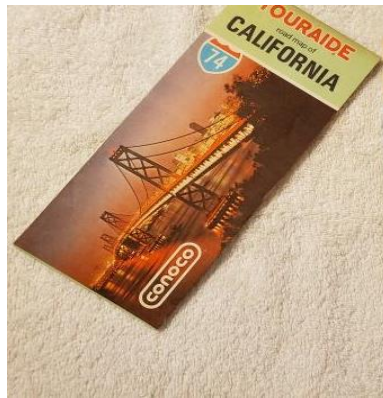
<1933



note backwards flame

It is not always easy to date road maps. Many non-collector sellers of road maps seem to find it difficult to locate even copyright or census dates. Then there are the mapmaker map codes put on by General Drafting, Gousha, Rand McNally, and others.

Walmart and Sam's Club sold dated road atlases from 2001 until 2015. Walmart has continued to issue dated Rand McNally road atlases yearly starting in 2016. All of these listed their gas/fuel stations.



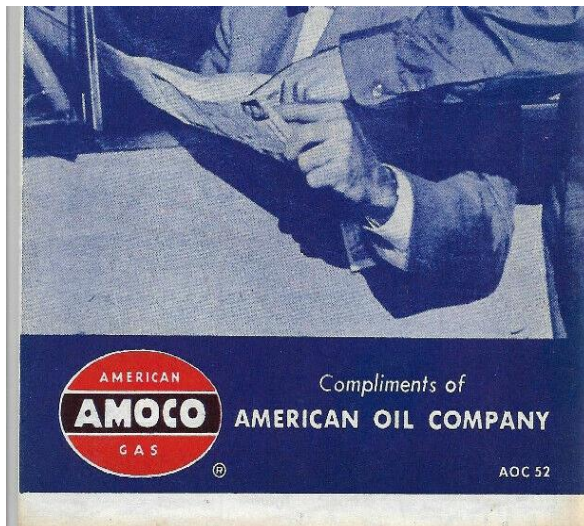
1974 Conoco

The last section lists more complex oil cover dates.

Amoco

Amoco 1941 (AOC 441) three digit code (month/year) at the bottom of front and back cover.

Amoco 1942 and 1946-51 (AOC 542, AOC 351) three digit code (month/year) on bottom right hand corner of the front cover.



1952-60 used the 2 digit year code after AOC. The 1952-54 was on the front bottom corner.

1955-60 (AOC 59B, AOC 60) at the bottom of the back cover. B after the year means 2nd edition.

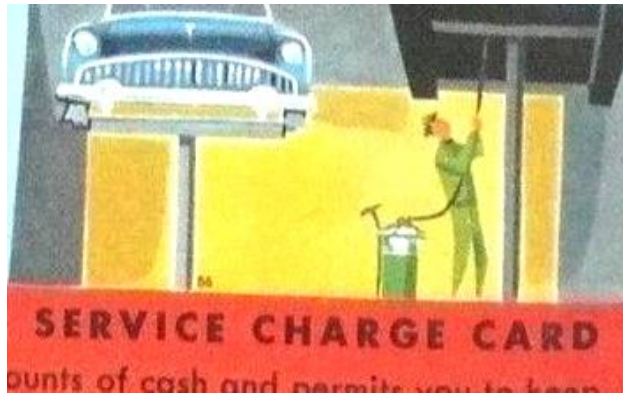
1957 (AOC 57) has transitional cover with both Pan Am & Amoco signs.

1966 Standard Truck Stop has the year at the top of the cover, 1973-74 Standard Truck Stop map has the years 1973-74 under the title.

American & Standard (IN) dates of April 1969, 1970, 1971 & October 1969, 1970 were printed in blue on the back cover lower right hand corner. Some 1970 Diversified maps don't have the year dates (Std (IN)-OH & WI, and American AR/LA/MS, GA, MA/CT/RI, NV/UT, NC/SC, OR, & TX). See PMC for details.

American & Standard (IN) Winter-Spring-Summer-1972, Summer-Fall-1972, Winter-Spring-1973, 1973-74, & 1974 on red strip in the middle of the front cover. Unlike officials the cover date of 1973-74 didn't mean the next map was 1975-76. The earlier date could be distributed for two years, but the next edition would be 1974 or 1974-75.

Cities Service



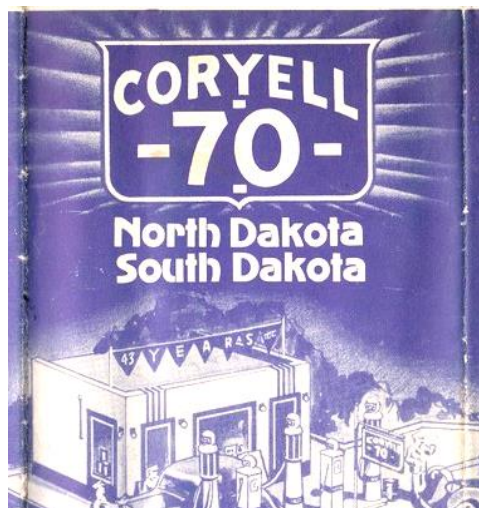
^1956-tiny "56" above CE in Service (1958 scan on page 6 above)

1953-55 have a tiny 2 digit year code (53, 55) on the back cover at the base of the signpost on the right side. The 1956 & 57 maps have the same tiny 2 digit code on the back cover under the car at the base of the hydraulic lift near the bottom right corner. The 1958-61 maps have the 2 digit year on the back cover in the middle on the right side next to the attendant's elbow.

Conoco

1938-42, 45-63 maps used 4 (or 5) digit code at the bottom of the side panel or on the rear cover. 3391 means Mar 1939 first edition, 10403=Oct 1940 third ed. All 1951 maps use a 9521 date code which may have been a typo. 1967-1972 had copyright date on the back cover. This was within a year of the map's date but not an accurate way to date the map. .

In 1973 Conoco started dating maps on the front cover. Conoco used an Interstate shield on the front cover of all folding road maps with the last two digits of each year. This lasted from 1973 until 1999. State (73-84, 86-88, 90, 92, 97, & 99) & Yellowstone (73-82) maps all had the 2 digit year in the upper left corner. Interstate Travel Guides (77-78, 80-84, 86-87, 95, & 97) and Yellowstone Park (83-88, 90, 92-93, 95, 97, 99) had years in the upper right corner.



Coryell -70-

1937 maps says 43 years on a banner hanging over the station door L. L. Coryell and Sons was based in the Nebraska state capital of Lincoln, and operated a network of Coryell 70 stations from Boulder, CO to

Chattanooga-Tn. This map was issued in 1937; note the pennants denoting "43 Years of Service". (42 years=1936, 44 years=1938, & 47 years=1940, thanks to Jon Roma)

Exxon/Enco/Esso/Humble

1928-31 Standard (NJ) state maps had the year just above the Standard name on the front cover. The 1932 had the year just below the red pump on the front cover. The 1933 Standard (NJ) maps had the year near the bottom right corner. The 1934 Esso maps had the year under the Esso sign on the front cover. The 1935 & 36 had the year on the left side of the Esso signs on the front cover. The 1937-42 state maps had the year under the map title on the front cover. 1942 Standard Oil (LA) map had no date.

From 1960 until 1991 almost all Esso, Enco, Humble, & Exxon state and regional maps were made by General Drafting. So the code on the back covers (61-91) was a GD code. The 1960 & 61 Esso maps have the year in the upper right corner of the front covers. 1961 Esso maps, 1962-1972 Esso, Enco, & Humble maps contain the month/year date code almost always preceded by the letter "W". Examples W1060, W868, W1069. In 1961 & 62 these are in the lower left hand corner on the rear cover. All the rest are on the back cover in the lower right hand corner.

1972 -79 Exxon maps contain the same W-month year code W1072, W679. In 1982 Exxon maps reverse year and month and W—example W8207, W8209. 1980, 81, 83-91 Exxon maps use a General Drafting system that does show the year made directly. This uses A28=1980, A29=81, A31=83, A32=84, A33=85, A34=86, A35=87, A36=88, A37=89, A38=90, and A39=91. Exxon switched these often from the bottom left hand corner to the bottom right corner but always on the back cover. The W code used from 1961-1982 meant the map was printed by Western Publishing & Lithography in Poughkeepsie, NY. 1983-1991 The U code meant it was printed by Universal Printing in St Louis, MO. 1992-1994 Exxon maps were done by American Map and do not have a cover date code.

Imperial Esso maps printed in Canada between 1962-1974 contain month/year code but the letter(s) in front are P (61-71), R (71), and AP (72-74). Example P164, P1266, R1271, AP474. I am not sure who printed these maps. Please let me know if you know.

Gulf

All maps 1956 thru 1969 (and early 1970) maps used 8 digit code (example AD 8970-F 6A). AD meant advertising. 8970-F was unique for a single map (any year AL/KY/TN map), 6A was 1966 first edition and B for second edition, and C for third edition of a single year. The 1957 maps used code AD 9070-F 7A, so the digit before the letter is the last digit of the year.

Starting 1970 thru 1974 the code was simplified to 0A, 1A, 2B, 3A, and 4A (again just the last digit of the

Mobil

1962-64, 66-79 Mobil dated their road maps on the back cover. This were ads for Mobil Travel Guides, 62/63, 63/64, 64, 65, 66 have on the back cover. 1966 maps had an ad for Mobil Travel Guides with a large "new 1966" at the top. 1966-79 back cover's had a Mobil Travel Guide with a small year printed on the cover of the Mobil Travel Guide.

1998 Mobil MN Road Construction map has 1998 at the top of the cover.

Pure

1947-51 have 48A, 49B, 51A on the front in the lower right corner. 1952-60 have (52A, 62A) date codes on the back lower right corner. 1961 had the same (61A) but in the lower left hand corner on the back cover. "A" means first edition, "B" means second edition for that year. 1963-69 codes were on the back cover in the lower left corner but no longer had the A or B after the year. They just used the last 2 digits of the year (as 63 or 69).

Sohio/Standard Oil (Ohio)

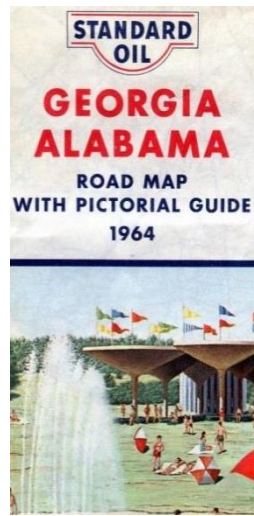
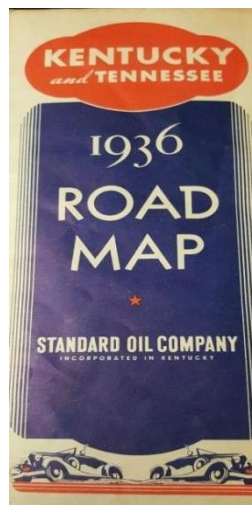
1938 has July 1938 in tiny print in the lower right hand corner of the front cover.
1940-48 OH maps have an edition number in smaller print at the bottom of the front page.
18th & 19th edition=1940, 20th&21st=41, 22nd=42, 23rd=44, 24th & 25th=45, 26=46, 27th=47, 28th=48
32A edition=1952.

Sohio/Boron

The 1975-78 small Ohio Turnpike edition road map does not have a cover date code.

Standard Oil (KY)

1924-29, 32, 33, 36, 38-42, 45-49, 58-64 has year near the top of front cover. 1930, 31, 34, 35, 37, has the date in the middle or bottom of the front cover.



Front covers ^1929 Kyso MS

^1936 KY/TN

^ 1964 GA/AL

Texaco

Texaco Canadian titles (1969-75) printed in the US use the US date coding system. Texaco titles printed in Canada do not have a date coding system except one 1966 ON has "365 M 66" code on the back cover.

Texaco US date coding system ran from 1969 to 79, the 3 digit code 691=1969, 1st edition). 1974, 76-79 only had one edition. 1973 & 75 had two, 1969, 70, & 72 had 3 editions, and 1971 had 4 editions.

Travelaide dates

Late 1969 through 1974 had two seasons and the year(s) on the front of each map.

Complete list of cover dates:

Fall-Winter-69, Winter-Spring-69-70, Winter-Spring-70, Spring-Summer-70, Summer-Fall-70, Fall-Winter-70, Winter-Spring-70/71, Spring, Summer-71, Summer-Fall-71, Winter-Spring-72, Spring-Summer-72, Summer-Fall-72, Fall-Winter-72, Winter-Spring-72/73, Winter-Spring-73, Spring-Summer-73, Summer-Fall-73, Fall-Winter-73, Winter-Spring-73/74, & Summer-Fall-74.

Walmart 2001-08, 2010-21 (Rand McNally) Road Atlases have years on the front cover. Walmart sold dated road atlases (2001-15) that listed stores selling gas. They listed Sam's Clubs that sold gas. Walmart still sells dated Rand McNally road atlases yearly from 2016 onward (they no longer list Sam's gas station locations).

In researching this article I got lots of help from Gary Spaid who added lots of 1920's and 1930's maps. I adapted data and dates from Nick Nielsen's www.oilcompanyroadmaps.com website. It has many front & back covers scans and spreadsheets with great detail on inside and outside ways to date road maps. Extremely comprehensive.

The RMCA has well documented the Rand McNally, Gousha, General Drafting, Diversified date codes. I hope this article shows a few other ways to date maps that may not be widely known.

My friends and I have found a lot of cover dates. I am sure we have not found them all. If you are aware of others please email me at tsveum@aol.com. I will keep the article up-to-date on the RMCA website.

Let me know if the 1999 Conoco Yellowtsone below is the most recent major oil map with a dated cover.

