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Pioneers of the US Automobile Industry Vol 2: The Small Independents (Hardback)

By Michael J. Kollins

SAE International, United States, 2001. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. A hundred years ago a trip by automobile was as much a test of manpower as of horsepower, Men had to be men . In those days, Get out and get under (the song was not composed then) had a direct meaning to the adventuresome, soiled and grease-stained motorist chauffeurs. Happily, these crude, cumbersome, horseless carriages are no more. Here and there a restored one may be found, hidden among the array of glistening new vehicles of modern achievement. Those pioneer vehicles were in fact as naive as the ancient chariots of Egypt and Rome. The early horseless carriages were big, heavy, uncomfortable, noisy, and smelly wagons or carriages, powered by engines having huge cylinders that were gluttons for fuel. Or they were small, fragile, uncomfortable, noisy and smelly buggies, powered by small engines, hardly big enough to propel the buggy. Clanking chains rotated the rear wheels, while noisy engines dripped oil like a sieve. They emitted billowing clouds of smoke, as the drab vehicles trembled on wobbly wheels that seemed ready to collapse. Although the average asking price for one of these headaches on wheels...



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