

## They've Got Computers Selling Gas

Next time you go in to fill 'er up you may find your friendly service station attendant has a new helper—a computer. At least that's the case at a service station in Anaheim, CA. The Anaheim station is a fully-automated, computer-controlled self-service station opened by Atlantic Richfield this past year.

The system operates with any Atlantic Richfield credit card—or if you're old-fashioned, it'll take cash. When using a credit card, you simply drive in, leave your car, and insert your card into the control terminal on the pump island. The control panel is connected to the service station computer, *Naked Mini*, which in turn is linked by a telephone circuit to Atlantic Richfield's credit card center in Atlanta.

Once activated, the minicomputer performs a verification check to assure

that the credit card is valid, that the bills have been paid on time, and that the person using the credit card is the person to whom it was issued. A list of bad accounts and stolen credit cards is maintained in ARCO's credit card center in Atlanta and is checked each time a transaction takes place. If a card matches a number on the list, it is captured by the system.

The process of credit checking takes only a few seconds. Once the account has been verified, you push a button to select your fuel, grasp the fuel nozzle, and pump your gas. Along the way you're guided by simple instructions displayed through a window on the control panel. When the transaction is complete, a receipt is issued containing such information as date, time of day, amount of purchase, type of fuel, price per gallon, and number of pump. ■



Automated service station in Anaheim provides for fast, efficient self service. A customer simply inserts his credit card (or cash) in a control panel on the pump island, presses a button to select his fuel, proceeds to the designated pump and pumps his own gas. A detailed receipt is issued once the transaction is complete.