

# Performing vehicle maintenance is important

The other day I was reading an article in the newspaper about consumers thinking that when their car reached 100,000 miles it was time to replace them. But now consumers are hanging on to them longer than ever. I think the one main reason is because vehicles are built better and perform more efficiently, and on board computers help play a big roll in that department.

I have been working on vehicles since the 70's. I can remember when at one time a lot of repairs were engine repairs. Some of those repairs were camshaft replacements, timing chain and gears, cylinder heads repairs, and on some vehicles we did a lot of engine piston replacements, one of those were the old Chevrolet Citation with the 2.5 4-cylinder engine. And, let's not forget about the automatic transmission. I can remember taking a Chevy transmission in to the late John Minotto's Transmission Garage and have the transmission rebuilt for about \$150.00 It cost more than that today to have a transmission service!

I can remember one time doing a repair on a truck. It had belonged to the late Steve Lloyd. He was the owner of an apple orchard in Coventryville. It was around the early 1980's. I think Mr. Lloyd was around 70 years old. Changing engine oil was not on the top of his "to do list." I had vehicles that never had an oil change and they last for years" was his comment. At that time an oil change only cost around \$12.00 with filter and greasing all the fittings. Yes, but we did not drive as much back then as now. Anyhow, he had this truck and it would lose oil pressure at highway speeds and the culprit was all the sludge in on the oil pan. I know we did not have the quality of oil like we do today, but if he would have changed his oil once in awhile, he might not have had sludge in

his oil pan and caused him problems driving on the highway.

Performing vehicle maintenance was not an important thing to do with most vehicle owners at one time. Vehicle owners in Europe for many years have known the importance of maintenance. It has been a known fact that lack of maintenance can mean costly repairs down the road. I wonder what Mr. Lloyd would think if he was here today and had to pay for an oil change at today's cost. I am sure his comments would be words that I could not put in print.

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