Most people understand that Prohibition was about keeping Americans from consuming alcohol, but don’t realize that when Rockefeller gave the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) $4,000,000.00 to lobby congress to help bring about prohibition, he was more interested in stopping cars from drinking alcohol than people. In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s the primary transportation fuel was alcohol. Gasoline was a useless by product of Rockefeller's petroleum industry. Too volatile to be used as lamp oil or other consumer products, gasoline, a then useless by-product of petroleum distillation, was commonly dumped into rivers (at night) to dispose of it.

In the United States, Prohibition was accomplished by means of the Eighteenth Amendment to the national Constitution (ratified January 16, 1919) and the Volstead Act (passed October 28, 1919). Prohibition began on January 16, 1920, when the Eighteenth Amendment went into effect. Federal Prohibition agents (police) were given the task of enforcing the law. The principal impetus for the accomplishment of Prohibition by members of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, and the Prohibition Party, was truly a bi-partisan effort with “progressives” making up a substantial portion of both major political parties.

The model T was one of the first flex-fuel vehicles. The Model T could use gasoline or alcohol as fuel. Engine spark timing adjustment and carburetor adjustment from the driver’s seat allowed the model T to run either fuel or a combination of fuels. Rockefeller realizing the huge profit potential was not going to let alcohol stand in his way. Giving the Women’s Christian Temperance Union four million...
Is GM Fast-Tracking Plug-in Hybrids?

According to Bloomberg News Service, General Motors Corp. (GM) is developing a hybrid-electric vehicle with a battery that recharges at any outlet. Bloomberg issued the report after GM officials announced the plan's details.

The plug-in hybrid would enable a mileage rating of 60 miles per gallon, say unidentified GM sources. The plug-in designs GM is testing may be ready in time for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit this January, but any commercial production is at least a year away. The sources declined to say how much the company is investing.

Bloomberg also reported that Chris Preuss, a GM spokesman, declined to comment on any plans for a plug-in hybrid. The news service also interviewed several financial analysts, including Brian Bruce, who helps manage about $18 billion at Boston-based PanAgora Asset Management in Boston. He told Bloomberg that GM has a hard choice to make between hybrid and fuel-cell research versus current product development: “If they spend too little on current development, there might not be much of a company going forward. If they spend too little on future development, they could arrive in the future with nothing competitive.”

FTC: Magnetic Devices Are Bogus

In a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), International Research and Development Corp. and its principal, Anthony Renda, the manufacturer of magnetic “fuel-saving” and emissions-reduction devices known as FuelMAX and SuperFuelMAX - will pay $4.2 million intended for consumer redress. The company also will submit to a lifetime ban on the sale or manufacture of these types of devices.

The FTC has established a consumer hotline. Consumers who believe they are entitled to a refund should call 877-382-2020 for more information about obtaining a refund.

“Consumers are looking for ways to increase fuel efficiency and save money at the pump,” says Lydia Parnes, director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection. “There are some practical ways to do that, like following the maintenance schedule in your owner’s manual, combining errands and avoiding jack-rabbit starts. The fact is that many products that claim to save fuel don’t work, and worse yet, may damage your car and end up costing you more.”

Remember

Although the technicians have the weekend off, the office is open on Saturdays from 10am to 1pm. We are here to make appointments for service, receive vehicles for work the following week, release vehicles that are completed and answer questions!
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the “National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program” that it says will help cut mercury air emissions by up to 75 tons over the next 15 years. The program is designed to remove mercury-containing light switches from all vehicles, especially before the vehicles are flattened, shredded and melted to make new steel. Together with existing state mercury switch recovery efforts, the Agency says this program will significantly reduce mercury air emissions from the fourth-leading source in the United States: the furnaces used in steel-making.

Automakers phased out the use of mercury-containing switches in 2002, but many of these vehicles are still on the road. Others may be off the road and headed to scrap yards. Overall, EPA estimates approximately 67 million switches are available for recovery.

Let us replace your under-hood mercury light switch with a new one that won’t damage the environment when the vehicle is scrapped or recycled. This service is provided at no charge to you.

While some recyclers sell their oil as bunker fuel for industrial plants and processes (this is what is known as “single pass recycling”), ORRCO’S processes is one of “multiple pass recycling”. They take used oil and make re-refined motor oil, light diesel fuel / kerosene, diesel fuel / 100, neutral base oil, 300 neutral base oil, asphalt flux / for asphalt blend, finished water. These products extend the amount of times the hydrocarbon molecules can be used.

Portland Quick lubes don’t send their oil to ORRCO!

One gallon of used oil can contaminate one hundred thousand gallons of ground water and not all of Portland’s used oil is handled properly. Unfortunately Portland’s largest generators of used oil do not believe in supporting “multiple pass recycling”. Even though the customer is charged an environmental fee for disposal of their vehicle’s used oil it ends up being sold as bunker fuel and flows into the “single pass” system. Even though this is better than not recycling at all, it’s no where near as environmentally effective as ORRCO’S Multiple Pass Recycling.

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services supports ORRCO!

ORRCO recycles more than just oil. They also recycle antifreeze, petroleum filters, oily rags, oil spill clean-up materials, contaminated soils, fats, greases, cutting fluids, oil emulsified water, plastics,

Auto Trivia

The first cars did not have steering wheels. Drivers steered with a lever.

The New York City Police Department used bicycles to pursue speeding motorists in 1898.

The first speeding ticket was issued in 1902.

In 1914, 55 percent of the cars in the world were Model T Fords, a record that has never been beaten.

The first gas gauge appeared in cars in 1922.

In 1923, 173 new inventions by women for cars had been reported. Among these inventions were a carburetor and an electric engine starter.

The first car radio was invented in 1929.

Buick introduced the first electric turn signals in 1938.

The Peanuts characters were first animated in 1957 for a Ford Fairlaine automobile commercial.

FREE SHUTTLE VAN BY APPOINTMENT
A Very Special Thanks go out to all of our clients and friends who have graciously referred our shop to their friends and neighbors. Our business is built based on the positive comments and referrals from people like you. We just couldn’t do it without you!