
HELPFUL HINTS

Ralph Hatke of Detroit (Pinckney, MI) sent in a few tips on Pumping Gas and one on who not to buy from in these times of ballooning prices. (This was written when gas prices were “only” \$3.50 a gallon!)

1. **Buy or fill up your car or truck in the early morning** when the ground temperature is still cold. Remember that all service stations have their storage tanks buried below ground. The colder the ground is the more dense the gasoline. When it gets warmer, gasoline expands, so by buying in the afternoon or evening – your gallon is not exactly a gallon.

2. **When you’re filling up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to a fast mode.** The pump has three speeds but you should always use the slowest speed, thereby minimizing the vapors that are created while you are pumping. All hoses have a vapor return. If you are pumping on the fast rate, some of the liquid that goes into your tank becomes vapors. These vapors are sucked back into the storage tank so you’re getting less worth for your money.

3. **One of the most important tips is to fill up when your gas tank is HALF FULL (OR HALF EMPTY IF YOU WISH).** The reason for this is, the more gas you have in your tank the less air occupying its empty space. Gasoline evaporates faster than you can imagine. (Gasoline storage tanks have an “internal floating roof” that serves to provide “zero clearance” between the gas and the atmosphere, thus minimizing the evaporation.)

4. **Another reminder: if there is a gasoline truck pumping gas into the storage tanks when you stop to buy gas, DO NOT FILL UP** – most likely the gasoline is being stirred up as the gas is being delivered, and you might pick up some of the dirt that normally settles on the bottom.

HOPE THESE TIPS HELP YOU GET THE MOST VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY!

The tip on who not to buy from is to avoid all those energy companies that import oil from the mid-east and buy only from those companies that do not import oil from the mid-east. According to the article Ralph sent me, Shell, Chevron/Texaco, Exxon, Marathon/Speedway and Amoco all import from the mid-east. Companies that do not import Middle Eastern Oil are Sunoco, Conoco, Sinclair, BP/Phillips, Hess and ARCO. This information is available from the Department of Energy. (*Editor’s note: I tried to confirm this at the Department of Energy site but was unable to. What I did learn was that, in 2006, all Persian Gulf (mid-east) countries accounted for 16% of our imports. Saudi Arabia accounted for 10.7% of our imports. The five largest importers of oil to the United States were, in 2006: Canada (17.2%), Mexico (12.4%), Saudi Arabia (10.7%), Venezuela (10.4%), and Nigeria (8.1%).*)

Subject: Half Wit

A man owned a small farm in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin State Wage & Hour Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his help and sent an agent out to interview him.

“I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them,” demanded the agent.

“Well,” replied the farmer, “there’s my farm hand who’s been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$200 a week plus free room and board.

The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$150 per week plus free room and board.

Then there’s the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night. He also sleeps with my wife occasionally.”

“That’s the guy I want to talk to — the half-wit,” says the agent.

“That would be me,” replied the farmer.

Retarded Grandparents

(This was actually reported by a teacher)

After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school. One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. Now they live in a tin house and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bicycles and wear name tags because they don’t know who they are anymore.

They go to a building called a wrecked center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now, and do exercises there, but they don’t do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but in it, they all jump up and down with hats on.

At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out. They go cruising in their golf carts.

Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And they eat the same thing every night – early birds. Some of the people can’t get out past the man in the doll house. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for pot luck.

My Grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too.

When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out so they can visit their grandchildren.

PRICELESS!!
