



## **FROM THE DESK OF THE MEGALO-MINIAC**

The 1964 Austin Healey 3000 Mk III was ready to get gassed. Simple enough, but not so. My nearest gas stop had changed providers. ESSO had made a deal with select Husky locations to market ESSO fuel, so my favourite Husky is now a Husky convenience mart with ESSO pumps. But what about the ethanol scare? It never bothered me, or my cars with Husky, so I decided to go with ESSO, which may, or may not, have ethanol in their 91 octane premium. What about octane? Well, the Healey runs fine on 91 octane, on ethanol laced gas and on just plain olde gas. It's very reliable - nothing goes wrong with it. Even so, I succumbed to the rumours and gave it a slug of gas stabilizer. Actually, I would rather have ethanol in my gas, which absorbs water that accumulates in the gas tank because of condensation in cold wet freezing weather. I had to replace the gas tank in my 1965 Chrysler 300L because of rust perforation on the bottom.



Remember in the olde days when drivers put methyl hydrate or, (Horrors!) isopropyl alcohol (Called gas-line antifreeze- I've still got a gallon of Isopropyl Alcohol called gas line antifreeze) in our tanks in the winter to prevent gas-line freeze-up? Fuel companies would announce in the Fall that they put ethanol in their winter gas to protect from gas-line freeze-up. The point is, ethanol has been in gas for many decades.

My son Roy, who has a Master of Science degree, told me that the ethanol scare is just BS. (? must be a scientific acronym).

This reminds me of when I worked on the loading racks at the former Texaco refinery on Baseline Road. A Shell tanker rolled in, (oil companies often swap gas when needed). After the trucker finished filling a 6000 gallon compartment with Texaco premium, he wandered over to the side rack to a rusty olde oil drum lying on its side with a tap on it. He grabbed an olde rusty tin can with a twisted rusty wire handle, held it under the tank and glug, glug, glug, poured some unknown amount into the can. Then he walked over to the open hatch on the premium compartment and dumped it in. I asked him, "What's that"? He replied, "Why, that's Shell's mix of additives". Incredulously, I asked, "Does that make any difference?" "Son", he said, "I could urinate in that tank and it wouldn't make any difference."

So, ethanol or no ethanol, additives or not, does it make any difference?

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