

# Today's Auto Repair

## With Chip Stewart

### -Auto Tech Ballad-

Last time I discussed what you can do if you're unhappy with your auto repairs. Sometimes you can be a victim of fraud or incompetence but, more often, you're a victim of Murphy's Law - if something can go wrong, it will. With that in mind, I thought it might be a good time to examine things from the mechanic's point of view. So, with tongue in cheek, and apologies to doctors and plumbers, I offer you "Ballad of an Automobile Technician" (Author Unknown).

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I'm a journeyman technician in an automotive shop - I'm supposed to know the answers from the bottom to the top.  
I should diagnose the problem - with just a single look - and if I fail to fix it - you think that I'm a crook.  
But technology in the auto - is advancing every year - and for the systems I must know - I simply have no peer.  
Electronics now have made the scene - and more are coming yet - most models now far exceed - your television set.  
In hydraulics I have more to learn - than a specialist in pumps - there's brakes and shock absorbers - to help absorb the bumps.  
Torque converters and transmissions - with servos, valves and gears - fuel systems of a hundred kinds - and new ones out each year.  
I'm in welding, I'm in plumbing - I'm in vacuum, oil and fuel - compared to me, a plumber is - a kid in grammar school.  
There's alignment and there's balancing - and God alone knows what; - if I fix it, that's expected - if I don't, I'm on the spot.  
There's models, makes and systems - some seven hundred strong - and new ones coming out each year - to help the scheme along.  
Now compare me to a doctor - whose prices make mine meager - yet folks revere his expertise - ever more impressed and eager.  
The human body hasn't changed - in twenty thousand years - and every model works the same - from the ankles to the ears.  
There's new equipment and new techniques - and medicines for sure - but this is true in my field - as much as, or even more.  
There's lots of books he has to read - his procedures to define - but for every page in his field - there's twenty-five in mine.  
He's got no comebacks and no warranty - you pay for what you get - and then come back and pay again - if he hasn't fixed it yet.  
His mistakes are often buried - while mine come back for free - and he plays golf on Wednesday - while my customers hassle me.  
But you'll go right on complaining - of the way I run my show - with no appreciation - for the things I have to know.  
Well, that's ok with me I guess - I'll fix your car, don't worry - but when you leave your car with me - please don't ask me to hurry.

