

The Positive Press

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MONGO'S AUTO REPAIR

Anthony Mongo – 30 Years in Business *“He’s honest, he’s fair and he stands by his repairs.”*

For Anthony Mongo it all started when he was 12-years-old. His uncle Herb (Meissner) had a car out in the backyard and it was throwing flames out the back of the tailpipe. Tony was fascinated. But even Uncle Herb’s patient explanation, in simple terms for a 12-year-old weren’t enough information for young Anthony. He wanted to know *exactly why* the car was making the flames, how the motor kicked. He was hooked and wanted to know everything about how the car ticked. He wanted to be a mechanic just like his Uncle Herb!

Now, after 30 years in the business, he is just as fascinated by how cars work. That fascination, and the character of the man, are why Mongo’s Auto Repair is the success it is today.



Tony at the station on River Road in the 50’s. The same location where Riverton Motors is today, back then Tony also sold cars.

That’s Tony’s business card, from the early 80’s. Taken at his Mobil Station at Church Road and Branch Pike in Cinnaminson, his son Anthony is to



his left, and Jimmy (second from right) still works for Mongo’s.

Anthony’s father, Tony, was a mechanic



That’s Uncle John at the wheel of Anthony’s 1929 Candy Apple Red Model A Ford in front of Mongo’s Auto Repair on Taylors Lane in Cinnaminson.

and over the years he owned gas stations. He purchased his first station in 1953 in Cherry Hill, had a station in Riverton, the Mobil Station in Cinnaminson and later in Delran. When Anthony was in high school, he worked at his Dad’s Mobil station on Chester Avenue (where the Cumberland Farms store is now). He would pump gas and detail cars on the side to make extra cash. As time went on, he learned more about the business and was able to take on some customers of his own. John Williams, from Delran, has been with him ever since those days on Chester Avenue. “Because he’s honest, he’s fair and he stands by his repairs. That’s 41 years ago,” he explained.

In 1967, newly out of the Navy, and now a married man with a brand new son (Lenny, now 41), Anthony felt the pride and weight of his responsibilities.



Anthony as a sailor in his Navy uniform. Greece, 1967.

was back in the day when it was on Marne Highway and Madison Avenue in Mt. Holly.

Eight years later, his father told him about a gas station on Tenby Chase Drive and Route 130 in Delran that was coming up for sale. “It’s your chance to do your own thing instead of working for someone else,” Tony urged. Anthony applied for and was accepted by Mobil Oil Corporation and on September 14, 1978, he opened the doors. Lenny remembers, “I worked with my father at the gas