DRIVING OLD CARS
1940 PACKARD 2-DR- "Third Time's the Charm" Pg. 4 Antique, Classic, Muscle Car Bumpers Page 13 Page 13
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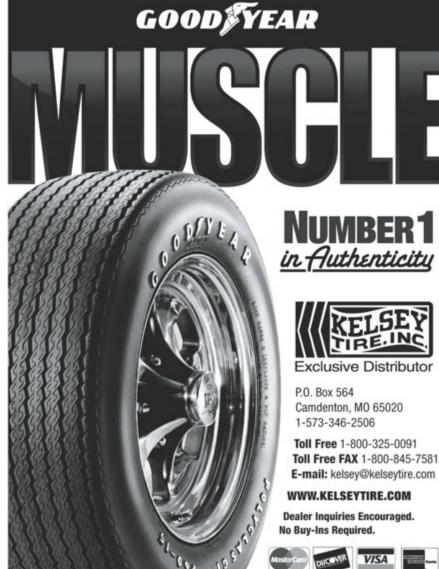
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1940 Packard 2-Dr "Third Time's the Charm"

(Terrible Running Engine)

by Ron Carpenter

We took the 1940 Packard Two door sedan to the mountains for a car show and it was fun but it was a very hot day and we got caught in a lot of traffic coming home and the car overheated. A couple of road side temperature signs, that we saw, showed that it was well over 100 degrees. I tried to keep the car moving but when we got home it just was not running right. I parked the car until I could get a look at it and figure out what was happening. Well, that lead to a LOT of work.

I started by taking a compression test on the car and I came up with number 3 cylinder only reading 50 pounds and all the rest at 90 pounds. I put oil in the cylinder it did not raise the compression, so I put air in the cylinder and I got air out of the exhaust. At this point I figured that it was a exhaust valve problem so I proceeded to take the motor apart and this was only the beginning of my saga.

Blown Head gasket

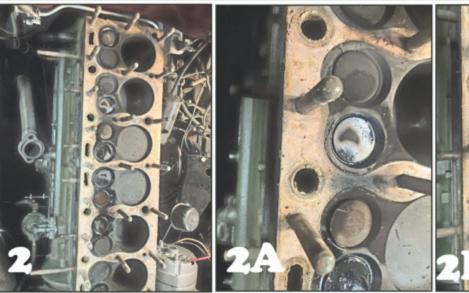
Number 1, 1A

I have removed the cylinder head and the intake and exhaust. I inspected the head and the

manifold looking for cracks or any possible problems. I was inspecting the areas of the head, checking for cracks and such but there were areas where it clearly showed signs that the head gasket was blown. figured at that point that I was just going to need to clean up the head, block and the manifolds and then put everything back together again.









Number 2, 2A, 2B

I inspect the block looking at where it is showing signs that the head gasket failed between the cylinders. There are apparent problems where the dark spots on the block are. Those are areas that the head gasket failed.



Number 3

This picture shows that there are two cylinders that are "blown" between them.

So I started with the idea that #3 cylinder compression was low and then when I put air in the cylinder and that was when I heard air at the exhaust pipe. I thought I was listening to air passing by the valve and that would indicate a bad exhaust valve so at this point I am altering my thoughts that the air got to the next cylinder and then it was coming out the tailpipe.



I have cleaned up the block and have it ready to install a new head gasket and put it back together



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Number 5

I have cleaned the head and I inspected the head and I "magged" it just to be sure that there were no cracks. By magging it I mean that I used the magnetic powder and magnets and made sure that there were no cracks.



Number 6 changed out the water pump

while I had everything apart. The water pump has a pulley and a fan that have to be aligned. I use a 1/4 stud to align the parts and then put the bolts in. I kneraled the end of the stud so I could turn the studs out with my finger tips.

Number 7 have the intake and exhaust manifold ready to reinstall.



Number 8

I have everything back on the motor and the head torqued to 60 pounds (book says 63 but I like to start the motor and while warm go to final 63 pounds) but the motor did not run right! rechecked the compression on number 3 and found it DOWN how could that be? I again put oil in the cylinder and this time the compression came up. Why did it not come up the first time. When compression comes up then that usually means that the rings are a problem.

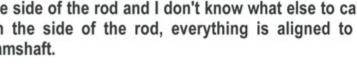


SO I set up to pull the head and manifolds again and get the oil pan off in preparation to pull the piston.

Number 9

I start out by jacking the motor up and putting 1 inch blocks of wood under the front engine support, what I like to refer to as the "horseshoe collar". Be sure to loosen the radiator hose to the water pump and the water inlet housing to radiator hose. You don't want to put stress on the radiator by forcing the hose. Once you get the engine up on the 1 inch blocks you can reach all the pan bolts and move the crank to the right position and the remove the pan.

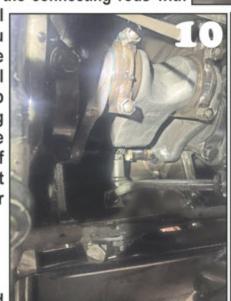
NOTE: On Packard motors everything is aligned to the camshaft. So the slot in the piston, the numbers on the rod (in this case #3) and the oil pisser hole (the hole in the side of the rod and I don't know what else to call it) on the side of the rod, everything is aligned to the camshaft.



Number 10, 10A

I am showing the crank and the connecting rods with

their PAL NUTS on them. Pal nuts are a locking nut that you put on after you torque the connecting rods. You install them by running the pal nut up the to "torqued" connecting rod nut and then turning the Pal nut 1/2 turn to tighten it. Of course I will do this after I get the piston out of the cylinder and reinstall it.





Number 11, 11A

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I removed the piston and

inspected it and there was nothing wrong with the rings, what a waste of time. So installed





new rings on the piston. First I have to check the ring end gap. It should be .003-.004 per inch of piston diameter and I use the piston to 'SQUARE" the rings in the cylinder bore and I use a feeler gage to check end clearance. In my case it was .017 and that was great.





Number 12

I have the new rings on the piston now and I have the dingleberry hone that I used to hone the cylinder and the assembly lube that I use on the connecting rod bearing when I put the rod bearing back on the crank.

Number 13

have installed the ring compressor on the piston and I oil the cylinder and can now install the piston. I always put

rubber hose on the rod bolts so that I don't damage the crankshaft.

Number 14

I reinstall the engine pan and using the jack to lower the engine back off the 1 inch blocks. I will put the bolts thru the engin horseshoe collar but not tighten them yet. Once the motor is running again I "normalize" the motor mounts and then tighten the bolts. On the rear main cap, on the motor, is a stud. There is oil pressure from the main bearing and the stud can leak. SO, I put a copper washer to seal the threads.

When I put the motor back together and had the head on I decided to check to see if I have compression on all the cylinders, basically I put my finger over the spark plug hole and see what I had starting with number 1 cylinder and now number 5 did not have good compression. So I pulled the head back off and started looking at the valves and I found problems. I started doing a valve job and I found that two cylinders had bad /broken valve guides. The tops of the guides were broken and this cause my centering tool to be off. I had to remove the guides first and then do the valve job.

Number 15

I normally do my own valves job and I look at this valve and I see that where the valve was seating was very narrow. More like 1/32 and that is too narrow. On top of that I can not figure out why the valve looks so bad pitted. This is an intake valve.





Number 16

I pulled the valves and I found a lot of problems. The valves were warped as you can see in the picture. I did a clean up on the valve and it shows where the valve had widow marks where it did not run true. This is an exhaust valve.



This is the valve guide that I have taken out of the motor. I drilled and tapped the guide to 7/16 coarse threads and then used a bolt threaded into it to drive the guide out. I break the guide when it is 1/2



out of the bore as it hits the top of the tappet. I machined a brass drift to drive the new guide in. I should mention that I always 'mic' the old guide and the new guide to be sure that they are the same

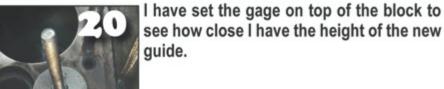
Number 18

I have the guide out of the block and this is what it looks like. Ready to put the new guide in. I always freeze the new guide and sometimes, when it is available, I use Dry ice.

Number 19

I have the new guide shown here along with molykote paste (contains molybdenum disulfide this is high pressure paste to install guides) and a gage. The gage is a quick tool I use to set the height of the new guide or basically how far in to the block to drive the new guide.

Number 20



Number 21

I have the new guide installed and I have grown the seat and I put prussian blue to check the seat. I always cut a 3 angle seat. The first is the top at 15 degrees and the the valve seat such as 30 degrees for the



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intake seat or 45 for the exhaust seat. I finish up with a 60 degrees at the bottom. This allows you to move the seat to put the sealing position where you want it on the valve....just above center for me.

Picture 4875

Number 22

Notice the little colored caps that I put in the valve area holes to make sure nothing went into the oil pan.

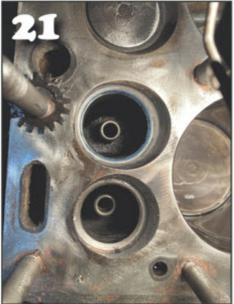
Picture 4876

Number 23

I have included a picture of my friend Jacob and me. recruited him to help me with this project and sure makes it easier with another set of hands. Jacob works at the local Starbucks where my wife and I go for our afternoon coffee. Picture 4947

I finished putting the motor back together and ground all the valves. I found one more cracked valve guide and I replaced that one also. I look back on the motor and all the problems I have had and I thought that I had inspected the motor before I put it in the car. It came to me as a rebuilt motor and I did not pull the valves out of the block to inspect them as I just assumed that they were okay. That was a mistake. I found that the margins on the valves were not good. Instead of about a 3/32" contact they were more like 1/64". The last time I took the head off to fix the low compression on number 4 cylinder it was the broken guide. How do the guides get broken, probably because when the original valve job (when they were building the motor) they did not change the guides and they were worn and they overlooked the guides (cost savings?). I thought that the valve side play was not that bad (read that as worn too bad) but it probably was. The valve stems were in good shape so I just went with the work. I may have to go back into the motor at a later date but three times is enough for now.

I always feel that when you inherit a motor from someone else that if it runs, has oil pressure and does not overheat you're ahead of the game.

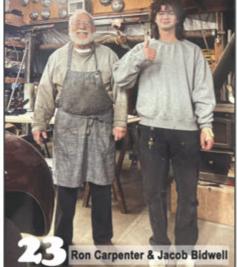












POP'S GARAGE



The century-old oak and pine trees towered over the guys as they sat at the picnic table next to Pop's garage. Pop and Sandy were enjoying slices of Bobbie's famous pound cake and pouring generous mugs of hot coffee. After a few bites, they began swapping stories and Pop started talking about the summer of '59. He asked his grandson Sandy if he remembered the time he and his cousin Tom came to see him and his wife Bobbie.

"Sure, I do!" Sandy replied. "It was one of the best summers of my life. Tom and I were going into the 5th grade, but we thought we were teenagers. I remember that we came down the

alley from summer camp in a 1952 Chevy One-Ton with cattle racks on the back. What a way to be taken back home! You and Bobbie were standing in the driveway by the shop and you had dropped a bolt from your tail pipe bracket and asked Tom and me to look in the gravel for it. I found the bolt and helped you fix it, and I have been working with you on the cars ever since!

"I also remember Tom and me sleeping out on the screened in sleeping porch that you had built in 1946 for Uncle Jack after he returned from the Philippines after WWII. It helped him to adjust back to civilian life and I could see how it must have helped-it was so open and cool on summer nights. In fact, maybe a little too open! Tom and I used to sneak out at night about 10-11 PM and walk down McCallie Avenue to a teenage hangout drive-in restaurant. Even though we were just kids, they treated us great. Maybe it was because I loved cars and wanted to know all about the '50 Merc, chopped Model B and a '49 Chevy fastback that were regulars there. We would sit at the counter and get a bottled Coke and play the juke box using the remote control unit on the counter-five plays for a quarter! We played Dion and the Belmonts' 'Teenager in Love, 'Bobby Darin's 'Dream Lover,' and 'Poison Ivy' by the Coasters. Those were some great songs and great times! It's like trying to tell somebody that didn't experience those times about why we rebuild old cars. If you have to explain it, you just don't get it!"

"You still need to keep the stories alive," Pop told him. "There are a lot of people who still would like to keep that kind of life alive."

"That's right, Pop," Sandy agreed. "What's coming in to the shop today?"

"A 1954 Chevy Belair 2 door hardtop Sport Coupe," Pop said. "Ît's Jack's and he's really got him a nice

Just then Jack drove down the alley, parked the car outside the shop and got out.

Dave said, "I've never seen a '54 in that color scheme before. I really like it!"

"They are factory colors; Onyx Black and Surf Green," Jack replied. "In '54, Chevrolet was going for a 'Lighter, Brighter' look, so most two tone jobs had the lighter color on the top and the darker color on the bottom, but the gentleman I got the car from ordered this color scheme with a color-keyed interior from the factory color chip book. It was actually listed for the 1500 Series Pickup and Sedan Delivery."

"The Black top gives it a lower profile and the 'jadish' Mist Green gives it an upscale look," said Jack. "I agree with you. The right colors can really bring out the owner's personality and show off the car's best design features," Jim said.

"Where did you find it?" asked Sandy.

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"In South Georgia-Savannah. It's beautiful down there; very old South with the antebellum homes and Spanish moss. The owner had this car and a '63 Buick Riviera that he bought new, and had always kept in his garage. In '54, the main options were power steering, power brakes, power windows (front only-the rear were roll-down)."

Jack walked them to the front of the car and showed the new front end treatment. "Chevy wanted a new "wider" look, so they implemented a new horizontal bar grill with long oval park lights, a heavier bumper that was curved at each end to contour with the car's body, a new winged "bird" hood ornament with a narrower bowtie badge on the hood's front to give the illusion of a wider front end. The new-for-'53 one-piece curved windshield was back and this car has the

optional green tint band that runs horizontally across the top." (Continued on Page 23)

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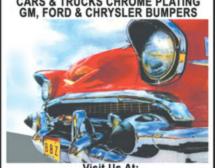
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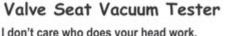
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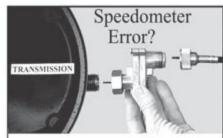


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