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Hercules Engine News

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For the past few years articles have been coming your way about many of the interesting features in regard to the Hercules and related engines. During this time, interest has certainly picked up on these engines. A lot of letters and phone calls (812-867-5266) have been received that had requested information or had information to furnish.

In 1999 there will be a special event that many Hercules, Economy, ARCO, Jaeger and Thermoil and related engine owners will want to be part of. On June 11, 12 and 13, 1999 these engines will be featured at a special event to recognize 85 years since the first engines were built by the Hercules Gas Engine Company of Evansville, Indiana. It will also recognize 90 years since the first Economy engines were built at the Holm Manufacturing Company of Sparta,

Michigan. These latter engines were the Hercules forerunners.

This special event will be held at the Classic Iron Show at Evansville, Indiana, and hosted by Southern Indiana Antique Machine Club, Inc. (SIAM). Even though this event is well over a year away, it is time to start thinking about it and to make exhibit or spectator plans.

Questions continue to come up in regard to proper paint colors to use in the restoration of these engines. No authentic paint color information exists that I know of. From observation and experience, here are the paints and colors that I use. Most are readily available "off the shelf" paints.

For Hercules models D through N, use Rust-O-Leum Hunter Green.

For Hercules models S, X and J, use the current John Deere Green.

For all Economy engines, use Tru Value X-O-Rust International Harvester Red.

For Jaeger engines, use Tru Value X-O-Rust Ford Blue.

For Arco engines, use the Ford Blue and add enough gray to take the edge

off of the bright blue and to give a hint of gray.

For Thermoil models U and UA, use the IHC Red.

For Hercules Oil Engines, use the current John Deere Green.

For Thermoil model T, use Musk Green as used on 1972 to 74 FIAT cars. You'll have to find your own source.

Another of the illusive "Waterloo Economy" engines has shown up, bringing the total to ten that I currently know about. There are six of the 2 HP size, including numbers 7435, 7571, 7798, 7892, 9359 and 9679. There are four of the 4 HP size, including numbers 6874, 7580, 8399, and the newest addition, number 8606. All serial numbers of these engines fall between 6,000 and 10,000. Are there more out there?

The Internet seems to be a growing thing, but I am not part of that crowd yet. There has been a Hercules page developed by Keith Kinney of Evansville, Indiana. I am being of some assistance in providing information that has or will be appearing there. If you haven't found the Hercules page, turn on your search engine and look it up. ○