

## The Hercules Engine News

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The gas engine hobby is full of challenges and surprises. To find an engine out in the rough is the challenge and what you might find is the surprise. The story today is about three of those surprises. The first engine (top right) is a 7 HP Model E Hercules #53,736 that has an F. Ronstadt Company, Tucson, Arizona, tag on it. Although he was unable to buy it at the time, it was reported by Alexander Black of Douglas, Arizona. The engine has an ignition modification typical of that done by mining or oil field interests. It has a rod apparently attached to a pivot pin added to the cam gear and going up to a rocker to trip a Wico PR magneto, held by what appears to be a homemade or after-market bracket bolted to the side of the water hopper. Originally this was an igniter engine with an Elkhart magneto. The magneto drive gear can just be seen inside of the far side flywheel.

The next engine is a 7 HP Model E hit and miss kerosene Hercules #69,817. Tom Grube of Gallipolis, Ohio, sends this picture (center right). Someone has gone to even more trouble to rig up a different ignition system. The remains of the Webster trip holder are still on the side rod and a Wico trip finger holder has been added and is held in place by two long bolts replacing the normal set screws. A Wico magneto bracket is on the engine with the magneto support sawn off. An arm has been welded to the Wico trip rocker to operate a lever to what appears to be a rotary gear driven high tension magneto somehow attached to the engine head. A lever and spring loaded mechanism is attached to the gear and now the magneto acts as an oscillating high tension magneto to fire the spark plug. Wouldn't you like to see that one work?

The last picture (bottom) was sent to

