

THESIS

ENGINE TEST AND STUDY OF THE VALVE ACTION OF A WILLYS-KNIGHT HOTOR 8. T. WELLMAN Q. H. BRIGHAM

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Engine Test

and

Study of the Valve Action

of a

Willys-Knight Motor.

A thesis submitted to

the Faculty of

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Candidates for the Degree of

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INTRODUCTION.

The double-sleeve type of valve for gasoline engines was invented by Charles Y. Knight in Chicago in 1903 and was patented in the United States in 1912. A test car was built in the Garford factory in Elyria, Ohio in 1905, and the motor was used in the cars manufactured by the Daimler Company in England in 1906. Altho it differed radically from all other valve forms that were used up to that time, it has been adopted and has remained in continued use by several automobile manufacturers both in Europe and in this country. While the Knight valve is, in effect, a hollow-piston valve type, it has distinguishing characteristics, in that it is made to surround the main engine liston instead of being located in a selarate valve chest, and in that it is built in two separate cylindrical parts. By using two sleeves, necessary freedom in securing a desired timing of events is secured with the simple use of eccentrics instead of cams. A single sleeve may be used if a cam or other suitable mechanism is designed to operate it. Mr. Knight's first sleevevalve patent, taken out in 1910, was for a single sleeve valve. Several single-sleeve valve engines are now being built both in this country and abroad.

PURPOSE AND EXTENT OF INVESTIGATION.

This analysis of the valve action and the engine test were undertaken in order to determine the advantages of this type of motor and to obtain a comparison with other types.

The motor was a stock four cylinder, four-cycle automobile motor manufactured by the Willys-Overland Co. and used in the Willys-Knight automobile, Model 88-4. It was a 4 1/8" by 4 1/2" motor with double sleeve valves.

This type of valve consists of two sleeves surrounding the engine piston which are moved vertically by connecting rods from a single eccentric shaft. This eccentric shaft is driven thru silent chain drive at half the crankshaft speed and is made with 70 degrees as an angle of advance between the eccentrics of the two sleeves of each cylinder. Forts are cut opposite to each other in each sleeve, one of which serves as an intake port and the other as an exhaust port. The positions and widths of these ports correspond to the determined best valve action. The valve action is obtained by the ports in the sleeves passing each other and the cylinder wall fort at the desired time. The purpose of the study of the valve action is to become acquainted with the original methods of determining these positions and to check the results obtained from the theoretical design.

The engine test was necessarily reduced due to the

fact that the maximum speed that the dynamometer could be driven was about 1400 r.p.m. This resulted in the curves being only partially drawn and deteriorated the extent of the comparison with other types of motors. The test was run to obtain curves between the Brake Horsepower and the Fuel Economy, and the R. P. M., and these were compared with those of motors with other types of valves. Tests were run with four carburetor settings to correspond approximately to 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, and maximum throttle opening at 1200 r. p.m. Tests were run with lower throttle settings but they are invaluable since they could be used at only two or three of the lower speeds. The time for the occurence of the spark was set at the point of maximum advance during all of the tests. Also the frictional horsepower could be obtained at but one point, 700 r. p.m., which was due to the fact that the dynamometer when used as a motor did not have a variable speed. This allowed the Mechanical Efficiency to be computed at but the one speed of the engine.

SPECIFICATIONS.

Name and Model Manufacturer Number of cylinders Bore and Stroke Piston displacement Type of cylinder casting Type of valve Cooling system Pistons Piston rings Connecting rod Crankshaft bearings Valve timing

Carburetor Heating Principle of operation

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Willys-Knight, Model 88-4, #A11146. Willys-Overland Inc., Toledo, Ohio. Four. 4 1/8" -- 4 1/2". 240 cubic inches. Block casting, 3/8" offset. Double sleeve. Thermo syphon. Cast iron. Two, eccentric type. Drop forged, 10" cc Three, plain. Inlet opens 8 degrees after upper dead center. Inlet closes 37 degrees after lower dead center. Exhaust opens 48 degrees before lower deadcenter. Exhaust closes 5 degrees after upper dead center. Tillotson. Air from exhaust stove. Single nozzle with steel

spring air valve in inlet.

Ignition	Conneticut distributor and coil.
Firing order	1-3-4-2.
Type of breaker	Closed.
Spark plugs	Champion, 1/2" regular.
Location	Center of combustion chamber.
Ciling system	Splash-pressure, with plunger pump.

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STUDY OF THE VALVE ACTION.

The value action and the effect of various factors upon the value timing can best be studied by means of timing and sealing diagrams. To construct these diagrams it is first necessary to construct a sinusoidal diagram for each sleeve.

To construct the sinusoidal diagrams, the eccentric radius and the connecting rod length must be known. This was obtained from blue prints laoned by the manufac-Twelve inches was laid off on the caper on which turers. the diagram was to be made and this distance was divided into twenty-four equal parts. Ordinates were erected through these points. The eccentric circle was drawn and placed .4375 inch to the left of the first ordinate as the eccentric shaft or cum shaft is offset this amount from the connecting rod pins in the sleeves. This circle was divided into twenty-four parts and the corresponding positions of the connecting rod and the sleeve found. From these points lines were drawn to the corresponding ordinates and the sinusoidal curve drawn through these points. Each diagram for the two sleeves was constructed by the same method except that the different lengths of the connecting rods made it necessary to find the various positions of the sleeves and the connecting rods in each case.

The sinuscidal curve for each sleeve having been

drawn a piece of tracing cloth was placed over the curve and the curve was traced through the tracing cloth and extended to each side. A duplicate of the curve for the outer pleeve was drawn at a distance on the tracing cloth equal to the port widths in the cuter pleeve. The same was done with the inner pleeve except that due to the exhaust and intake ports being of different widths, a curve had to be constructed for each of these widths.

The following dimensions were obtained from the blue prints:

Cylinder intake fort width ----- .500 inch. Cylinder exhaust fort width -----. .500 Inner sleeve intake port width ----- .391 11 11 Inner sleeve exhaust port width ----- .500 Outer sleeve intake fort width ------. .469 Ħ Outer sleeve exhaust port width -----. . 469 11 Bottom of cylinder head ring to the 11 The travel of each sleeve ----- .9055 11 Angle of advance between the sleeves ----- 70 de rees.

(n a separate sheet of paper, two parallel lines were drawn at a dist noe apart equal to the port width in the cylinder wall. A third parallel line was drawn representing the bottom edge of the cylinder head ring which acts as a sealing surface and an inside cut-off edge. On these lines a length was laid off equal to one wave length of the sinusoidal curves. This was divided into twenty-four parts in the same manner that the curve

was divided. This total length represents two complete revolutions of the crankshaft or 720 degrees and each division would represent 30 degrees. The epcentric arms being set with 70 degrees between them, this 70 degrees is the angle of advance by which the inner eccentric preceeds the outer eccentric. However, on the diagrams this appears as 140 degrees, since the eccentric shaft runs at half the speed of the crankshaft.

This angle of advance being known, together with the distances from the centers of the connecting rod pins in each sleeve to the bottom of each port in each sleeve, the timing diagram can be drawn. By marking these positions on the chart as zero degrees and then placing the two tracings on each other and on the chart, the correct positions of the curves were found. When found, the tracing cloth was fastened and the points marked on the ordinates of the chart. The solid lines represent the positions of the inner sleeve ports and the dotted lines the outer sleeve ports. The cross-sectioned areas show the amount of port opening and the period of the intake and exhaust openings.

From the diagram it is seen that the exhaust begins to open when the lower edge of the port in the inner sleeve, moving downwards, passes the lower edge of the cylinder head ring. The exhaust closes when the top edge of the port in the outer sleeve, moving downwards, passes the lower edge of the port in the cylinder wall. The

exhaust opening extends over 233 degrees of crank motion. The exhaust begins to open 48 degrees ahead of the lower dead wenter and closes 5 degrees past the top dead center.

The intake begins to open when the bottom edge of the port in the outer sleeve, moving downwards, passes the top edge of the port in the inner sleeve, moving in a downward direction. The intake closes when the bottom edge of the inner sleeve port, moving upwards, passes the bottom edge of the cylinder head ring. The intake is open over a period of 209 degrees of crank motion, begins to open 8 degrees after top dead center, and closed 37 degrees after lower dead center.

The timing points for the diagram are as follows: Exhaust opens ------ 132 degrees. Exhaust closes ----- 365 " Intake opens ----- 368 " Intake closes ----- 577 "

The sealing diagram was next to be constructed and is useful in showing the aggregate of the overlapping edges which tend to prevent leakage. The diagram is taken from the timing diagram above it. Any total ordinate included in the cross-sectioned area above the line shows the amount of sealing of the intake port at that crank position. At zero degrees, for example, when the explosion is about to take place, the bottom port edge of the inner sleeve is above the cylinder head ring by the amount that the sinusoidal of the inner sleeve

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intake port is above the line representing the bottom edge of the cylinder head ring in the timing diagram. The same method is used in finding the amount of sealing at each of the other ordinates both for the intake and the exhaust sides. The exhaust seal, however, is shown below the line and it will be seen that the seal at zero degrees crank position is made up of three distinct lappings. First, the amount the lower port edge of the inner sleeve is above the top edge of the outer sleeve; and second, the amount the lower port edge of the inner sleeve is above the edge of the cylinder head ring. It will be noticed that the greatest seal occurs at 640 degrees of crank travel during compression, when there is a triple seal of the exhaust composed of the cylinder, sleeves and the cylinder head ring.

Another was drawn showing the relation between the intake and exhaust port openings and the rate of change of the piston displacement. Where the double sinusoidal curve crosses the horizontal line there is no change in the piston displacement, which would happen at upper and lower dead centers. The other curves give the amount of the valve openings and are the same as the port opening curves shown on the sealing lap diagram. They were obtained by transferring the ordinates of the exhaust and intake openings from the timing diagram.

The exhaust valve opening occurs 48 degrees before lower dead center, and has its maximum opening during

the maximum rate of change in the piston displacement. The amount of opening of the intake valve and the rate of change in the piston displacement are approximately proportional, except that the intake closes 37 degrees after dead center or during a part of the intake stroke the piston is traveling in an upward direction.

ENGINE TEST.

The motor was run with a direct connected cradle dynamometer with a water rheostat to vary the load. Runs were made at 45C, 70O, 95O and 12CO r.p.m. for horsefower and fuel economy. The duration of the runs was the time required to consume five pounds of gasoline. The frictional horsefower tests were run through a feriod of five minutes. The dynamometer allowed only one frictional horsefower test to be run which was at 700 r.p.m.

The horsepower constant of the dynamometer was computed and found to be .0003163. The brake load readings were taken on platform scales every five minutes during the tests. The engine speed was kept constant and the load allowed to vary to obtain this constant speed. Approximate readings on the speed were taken from a tachometer and accurate readings were taken with a speed indicator from the eccentric shaft every five minutes. The load was varied by means of a water rheostat connected with the dynamometer.

The fuel consumption was measured by taking the time, with a stop watch, during the period in which the weight of the gasoline tank decreased five pounds. From this time the number of pounds of fuel used per hour can easily be obtained. The fuel used in pounds per Brake Horsepower per hour can be computed by dividing the number of pounds of fuel used per hour in any test by the Brake Horsepower during that test. The time was taken when a pointer on the scale beam passed a line on the frame of the scales.

The temperature of the air entering the carburetor was taken every five minutes with a 400 degree straight stem thermometer. The temperature of the water was taken at the inlet to the cylinders and at the outlet with thermometers placed in cil wells in the water pipes. The outlet temperature was kept as near as possible to 150 degrees Fahrenheit. The fan was removed during all

the tests.

The frictional horsepower was measured by using the dynamometer as a motor, which made it necessary to measure the torque on the opposite side of the dynamometer. These tests were run immediately after the horsepower tests and the motor was unchanged, except for shutting off the water to prevent cooling.

RULES OF TESTING.

Society of Automotive Engineers

Transactions XII, Part I.

During the complete test, control of the engine shall be by means of throttle and spark only. Engine adjustments shall be made for best horsepower output (that is, carburetor setting, spark plug gaps, etc.,) and in no case are such adjustments to be changed during the complete test. Test runs should not be made until the engine has been run-in sufficiently to show no appreciable difference in friction before and after a run of 30 minutes at the speed of maximum torque with the throttle wide open. Before beginning any run, the engine should be brought to a condition of sustained operation under the conditions of the run and it is imperative that in every case the r.p.m., brake loads, rate of fuel consumption, cooling-water temperatures, oil temperature, etc., remain substantially constant, steady and sustained throughout the run.

In every test, enough runs should be taken throughcut the speed range so that the points therefrom when plotted will indicate clearly the shape and characteristics of the curves. For horse-power and fuel economy tests, it is recommended that runs be made at intervals of approximately 200 r.p.m. A run should be made at the lowest steady operating speed of the engine. The duration of Brake-horsepower tests shall not be less than three minutes. Where • • • •

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fuel consumption is measured, the duration of the tests shall not be less than five minutes. The duration of the frictional horsepower tests shall not be less than one minute. The above stated times are the minima. In most cases it is desirable to make the runs of longer duration, and it is imperative that in every case r.p.m., brake loads, etc., remain substantially constant and steady throughout the run.

Readings for Brake Loads should be taken with accurately calibrated platform or beam scales. During any run, the platform or beam scales are kept balanced, and the loads registered thereby must be substantially constant throughout the run.

Speed in revolutions per minute should be invariably taken from positively friven counters which engage at the beginning of the run and disengage at the end. The difference between the two readings, divided by the duration of the run in minutes, then gives the true average speed. Tachometers, even though carefully calibrated, are not sufficiently reliable for r.p.m. readings. In connection with the speed counters mentioned, however, the tachometer may be used as an approximate check on the average speed, also as an indication of variation in speed before or during the run. It is recommended that the maximum allowable variation is speed during a run be 50 r.p.m.

The method recommended for measuring fuel consumption is by noting the decrease in weight of a tank from

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which the fuel is being fed to the carburetor. The tank should be placed on sensitive platform scales at a proper level above the carburetor, and connected to the fuel supply pipe by s short horizontal length of rubber tubing. This tubing should be very flexible and should not be drawn taut, to avoid interference with the weighing. Weighings should be made as follows: Set the counterpoise so that the scale beam will fall just as the run is started. Note the setting and the time at which the beams fall. Move the counterpoise to some point such that it will fall just before the end of the run, and note carefully the time it falls again. From the difference between the two times and the two weights recorded, the fuel consumption per hour can easily be determined.

All temperatures are to be given in degrees Fahrenheit. A reliable glass straight-stem thermometer should be placed near the carburetor intake in order to measure the temperature of the entering air. This thermometer should be read at least three times during each run. Thermometers should be placed also in suitable wells or sockets, one near the inlet and another as close as possible to the water outlet of the engine. These wells or sockets should be in pipes that run full, so that water continually circulates about them. They should be filled with oil or mercury, and careful readings should be taken atleast three times during each run. It is recommended that the maximum allowable temperature change shall be ten

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degrees Fahrenheit. During the frictional horsepower runs, the test must be made immediately after the corresponding brake-horsecower test, before the engine has cooled, the water should be shut off.

The approximate frictional horsepower of an engine can be measured best by means of an electric dynamometer, preferably of the cradle type. The dynamometer is used to drive the engine usder the test at various speeds, and the torque reaction is measured. This will be in the opposite direction to that obtained while the engine is driving the dynamometer, or else suitable linkage must be provided to change the direction of the pull. The test for frictional horse; ower should be made immediately after the brake horse over test, before the engine has cooled, in order to keep the condition of the lubricating cil and the friction of the parts the same during this test as during the brake horsepower test. Compression-relief cocks should remain closed and all accessories, such as magneto, generator, pumps, etc., used during the brake horsepower test, should remain in operation.

Approximate indicated-horsepower is obtained by adding to the brake horsepower at any given speed the frictional horsepower obtained at the same speed.

LOG SHEETS OF ENGLIE TEST.

1st Carburetor Setting.

Tacho- meter	S _F eed Indic ator	Diff- eren ce	True RPM.	Brake Load	Tem Wat In	perat er Out	ures Carb. Air	Time
150 150 150 150 150 150 150	9886 107 557x 782 1009 1235 1467 1697	221 225 225 227 226 232 224 x-	442 450 454 452 464 448 3	62.0 62.0 62.0 62.0 62.0 62.0 62.0 532	56 56 56 56 56 56	140 142 142 142 143 150 158	161 161 161 162 162 162	35.55
235 240 238 238 238	9628 9950 497x 848 1197 1905	322 357 351 349 354 x-	644 714 702 6^8 708	56.0 56.0 56.0 56.0 56.0 56.0	60 60 60 60	144 132 150 160 146	168 168 168 168 168	23.05
320 318 318 318 318 320	3466 3932 4401 4870 5341 5812	466 469 469 471 471	9 32 938 938 942 942	35.5 35.5 35.5 35.5 35.5 35.5	56 57 57 57 57	143 160 142 128 128	148 150 150 150 150	23 . 43
400 400 400 400 400	1814 2403 4172x 4766 5364 5962	58 9 591 594 598 598	1178 1182 1188 1196 1196	35.5 35.5 35.5 35.5 35.5 35.5	58 58 58 58 58	142 145 143 147 148	176 184 185 186 186	21.5 8

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Tacho- meter	Speed Indic ator	Diff erence	True RFI.	Brake Lcad	Ter: Wat In	perat er Out	ures Carb. Air	T i nne
150 150 150 150 150 150	1691 1912 2136 2356 2798 3019 3240 3464	021 224 220 221 221 221 321 224	442 448 440 442 442 442 442 442	69.0 69.0 69.0 69.0 69.0 69.0	56 56 56 56 56 56 56	138 156 160 158 155 160 144	160 160 160 158 158 160 160	33.65
233 235 232 Only t:	1905 2237 2579 9920 hree pou	332 342 341 ands of g	664 684 682 gasolin	67.0 71.5 68.0 te used 1	60 60 60 In th	168 146 148 is te	170 176 176 st.	13 . 40
320 300 320 320 320	5812 6275 6749 7223 7897 6172	463 474 474 474 475	906 948 948 948 950	49.5 49.5 49.5 49.5 49.5	57 57 57 57 57	140 142 142 142 142	145 148 148 148 148	21.96
400 403 405	5972 6334 7128 7724 8325	572 594 596 601	1164 1188 1192 1202	50.5 50.5 50.0 50.0	58 58 58	148 147 148 149	186 186 184 184	17.77

2nd Carburetor Setting.

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3rd Carburetor Setting.

Tacho- meter	Speed Indic ator	Diff- erence	True - RPM,	Brake Load	Tem Wat In	perat er Cut	ures Carb. Air	T ime
150 150 150 150 150 150 150	6432 6851 6871 7096 7317 7542 7765 7985	219 290 225 201 225 223 220	438 440 450 440 446 440	74.0 74.0 74.0 74.0 74.0 74.0 74.0 74.0	500 500 500 500 500 500	150 146 144 144 144 146	152 150 150 150 150 152 148	32.62
238 239 238 241	4666 5014 3306 5698 6045	246 342 342 24 7	696 884 684 694	80.0 80.5 80.0 80.0	ି ଥ ୧ ଥ ଓ ଓ ଓ ଓ	161 154 148 156	166 162 167 166	18.76
318 320 321 323	8170 8639 9112 9587 64	437 473 475 477	034 946 950 954	78.5 78.5 78.5 78.5 78.5	56 57 57 57	155 160 146 154	144 166 168 170	16.10
405 405 405 405	7325 8922 9520 120 716	507 600 508 594	1104 1200 1196 1188	75.5 75.5 75.5 75.5 75.5	ନ ପ ଅ ପ ପ ଅ ପ	149 148 152 148	180 180 190 190	15.15

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4th Carburetor Setting.

Tacho- meter	Sjeed Indic ator	Diff- erence	True RFII.	Pruke Load	Terr Vate In	erat er Out	ure Carb. Air	Time
160 155 165 160 155	6782 6997 7026 7459 7690 7920 8159	235 239 233 241 230 239	470 458 486 480 480 480 480 478	78.5 80.0 82.0 82.0 80.0 80.0	57 57 57 57 57 57	110 116 123 123 133 136	160 160 156 154 154 154	26.47
238 237 238 136	€045 6386 6719 7069 7409	341 343 340 340	682 686 690 690	ε0.0 ε0.5 ε1.0 ε1.3	62 63 63 3	140 146 150 151	164 164 164 163	18.53
320 324 720 320 320 220	49 513 998 1989 1939 2109	474 475 71 470 470	948 960 940 940 940	85.0 85.0 85.0 85.0 85.0 85.0	57 57 57 57 57	150 152 140 148 148	154 144 165 184 335	13.01
408 408 400	716 1316 1910 2498	6 00 394 586	1200 1188 1178	83.0 83.0 83.0	: 58 59 58	130 142 156	182 170 190	12.35
		Frict	ional J	Sersejo -	er.			
0.0 040	0080 0428 8435 8805	े46 350	े ६६ ७ ००	17.0 17.5		CITE		

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#### SULFLARY.

From the sealing lag diagram constructed in connection with the study of the valve action, it is seen that during compression, explosion, and most of the explosion stroke that the seal of the intake port is composed of a single lap only, which is the distance that the bot+om edge of the inner sleeve intake port is above the lower edge of the cylinder head ring, which at its maximum is only 3/8 inch. It seems doubtful if this would serve as a sufficient retainer for the compression of the gases.

From the results obtained from the engine test, the gasoline used in Founds per Brake Horsepower per Hour seems to be high for this size and type of engine. The lowest result obtained at maximum horsepower out, ut was found to be .779 #/BHP/Hr. as conjured to .61 of a 4 x 6" Moline Knight motor, .62 of a 3 3/4 x 5 1/8" White motor. and .77 of a 4  $3/4 \ge 5 1/2$ " six cylinder Alcc motor. From the curve sheet for maximum horsepower output the following facts can be noted from the curves: The horse over curve increases at approximately the same rate from 450 to 1200 r.p.m. and would undoubtedly increase more with the speed; the torque curve increases slowly until the speed reaches 900 to 1000 r.p.m. at which point it starts to decrease slowly; the rate of fuel consumption in #/BHP/Hr. decreases slowly from the speeds of 450 to 1200;

and the thermal efficiency curve reaches its maximum at approximately 950 r.p.m.

A curve sheet is inserted with horsepower, torque, and the fuel consumption plotted to the r.p.m. as abcissae for a six cylinder Alco motor manufactured by the American Locomotive Co., Providence, R.I., which is 4 3/4" x 5 1/2", T-head type with a high tension magneto, and spark plugs placed over the inlet valves; a four cylinder White motor, 1913. which was L-head type with spark plugs placed over the inlet valves, size 3 3/4" x 5 1/8" and used a magneto for ignition; a four cylinder Moline-Knight motor of a size 4" x 6"; and this Willys-Knight motor which has the cylinder dimensions of  $4 \frac{1}{8}$  x  $4 \frac{1}{2}$ . There is no important difference in the curves except that of position and that the larger Alco motor of the T-head type has its fuel economy curve increasing more rapidly and its toque curve decreasing more rapidly as the speed increases near the maximum speed.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND TECHNICAL REFERENCES.

In our endeavors in this work, we are indebted to Frof. J. A. Folson for his advice and assistance; to "Valves and Valve Gears", Vol. II, Furnam, for the general construction and the study of the valve action; to Transactions XII, Fart I, of the Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc., for rules and methods of testing; and to the "Gasoline Automobile", Heldt, for the history of the the Knight motor.

#### REFERENCE FOR ENGINE DRAWING.

- A --- Cylinder head.
- B --- Cylinder head lacking rings.
- C --- Inner sleeve exhaust port.
- D --- Cylinder exhaust port.
- E --- Outer sleeve exhaust fort.
- F --- Piston rings.
- C --- Cylinder and water jacket walls.
- H --- Cooling water space.
- I --- Outer sleeve connecting rod pin.
- J --- Inner sleeve connecting rol pin.
- K --- Eccentric shaft.
- L --- Crankshaft.
- M --- Imer sleeve intake port.
- N --- Outer sleeve intake port.
- 0 --- Cylinder intake port.
- P --- Piston pin.

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![](_page_42_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_51_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_55_Picture_0.jpeg)

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## Same and Care Care .

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