

## Number Stampings On All Hydraulic Components

There are numbers stamped into the components in various locations. The numbers represent a type of date coding and are easily interpreted. The date represented by the stampings is not the casting date, but rather the date of assembly and testing of that component. It has been my experience that date coding normally falls within a three to four week period before the assembly date, although six to eight weeks before assembly date is not that unusual.

**PUMPS** (Manufactured by Vickers): There are numbers stamped on the side of one of the two mounting ears. (See Photo #3.) There seems to be no consistency as to which ear or which side of the ear. The prefix is always a capital letter J, followed by a series of numbers. The last number represents the last digit in the calendar year (4=1954, 5=1955, etc.). The preceding numbers represent the numerical day within that year as you would count from 1 (the first day of the year) to 365 (the last day of the year). So 01=Jan 1, 32=Feb 1, 121=May 1, etc. Examples: J205 is the 20th day of 1955 (January 20, 1955); J2036 is the 203rd day of 1956 (July 22, 1956). Don't forget that 1956 was a leap year.

**VALVES** (Manufactured by Saginaw): The numbers are stamped on the valve adaptor, where the adaptor and valve body are bolted together. (See Photo #4.) The stamping is deciphered in the same manner as the pumps: a series of two or three numbers represent the numerical day within the year, and the last number represents the last digit in the calendar year. There is no letter prefix, but the day numbers and the year number are separated by the Saginaw "S" symbol, a square with two lines drawn within it to make it a stylized "S". "S" and year number were stamped with one stamp, then day number stamped separately, so some stampings, though very few, are in reverse order of day/year. Examples 244S5 is the 244th day of 1955 (September 1, 1955); 86S7 is the 86th day of 1957 (March 27, 1957). Many early 1955 valves had no stampings. Many early 1955 stampings did not include the stylized "S", or had a small version of it.

**CYLINDERS** (Manufactured by Saginaw): The numbers are stamped on one side of the cylinder head, no consistency as to which side. (See Photo #5.) The stamping follows exactly the same pattern as the valves, including the stylized Saginaw "S". Many early cylinders also did not have stampings, or did not include the Saginaw "S".

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank several people without whose help this article would have been nearly impossible to write: Mr. Bill Edmundson, retired Executive Engineer of Delco/Remy, who, along with his colleagues, designed many of the generators used by General Motors in the 40's, 50's, and 60's; Mr. Kenneth Warner, Jr., owner of Classic Generator in Mansfield, Texas, who supplied much original Delco literature, and Mr. Robert Hensel, owner of Chevy Acres in Brillion Wisconsin, publishers of reprints of the original Chevrolet Services News and other GM literature.



Photo #2

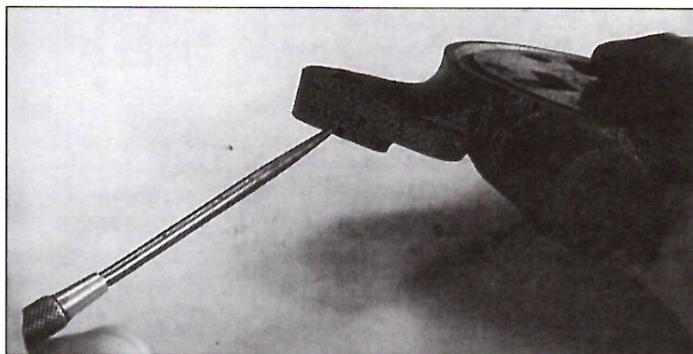


Photo #3

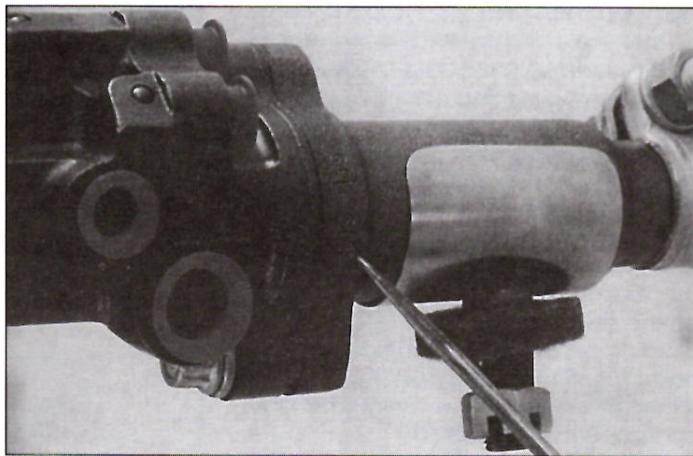


Photo #4

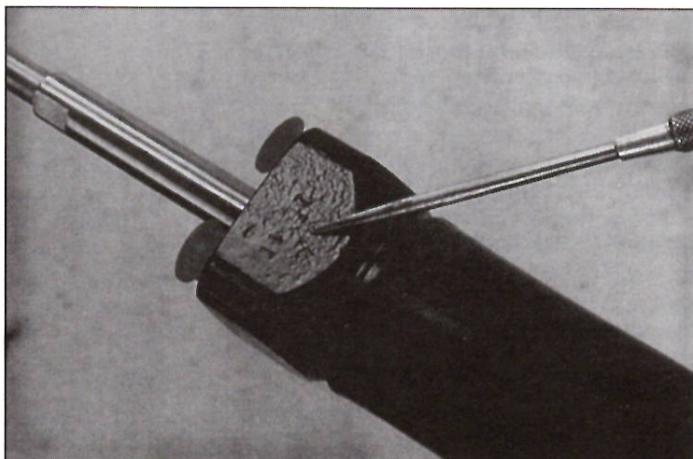


Photo #5