

Some non-technical information

Rags in the Engine

My advice to you is don't carry any rags inside the engine compartment. Of course I know you will so in that case be sure to secure them well.

I was working on an engine on my stand and was running it up to test it's response to the carburetor I had just rebuilt. There was a rag lying beside the engine on the stand well away from the fan, so I thought. I was watching the tack and adjusting the carburetor as I ran the engine up when a gust of wind picked up one corner of the rag and it caught the draft from the fan and quicker than you could even notice the rag disappeared into the engine top shroud. I really didn't even see it go.

After I shut the engine down and later after it had cooled off, I was looking it over and noticed several fan blades were broken off. I hadn't noticed any broken blades before so I began to investigate. Upon removing the oil cooler cover, I discovered a rag covering the whole top of the cooler. I pulled on the rag but it wouldn't come out. So, I removed the engine top shroud and discovered the large rag covering about half of the left head, rapped around the fan shaft and covering the entire top of the oil cooler.

Running the engine in this condition would have overheated the engine and not activated the overheat light since the switch is located on the right side of the engine. This engine would have been destroyed if this had happened with the engine in the car and not having been detected. And chances are it would not have been noticed till it was too late.

So again I say, don't carry rags in the engine compartment or at least secure them very well. I now carry my oil check rag in my small tool box in the engine compartment. You could also carry one in a Ziploc bag. The draft or suction from the fan would never be able to pick that up.

