

Wrong oil-filter seal blamed for Rabbit's diesel failures

“My wife and I are now living in the Washington, D.C., area, but I received a copy of your August 16 article about problems experienced with a VW Rabbit diesel engine. Because of our very similar experience, I wanted to write to you, and let you know how my situation developed.”

“We purchased our car, after waiting about 10 months, in early December, 1978. We took the car into the dealer for its first service several days later (1,000-mile service). The dealer replaced the oil and the oil filter along with other standard items on the initial service.”

“My wife picked up the car later that day, drove it home, to work and started home again (total distance to this point, approximately 40 miles). At that time the oil-pressure light came on, the car lost power and the engine stopped within about two miles.”

“Inspection of the engine when it was torn down showed that the block was heavily scored, the pistons were heated and had lost their temper and the main bearings were shot.”

“I was told the part responsible was the oil-filter seal. It had failed and all the oil was pumped out in a short time.”

“My luck with Volkswagen was a little better than D.V.’s (August 16 Troubleshooter). Although it took more than two months to get the right parts, we now have a new short block.”

“I, too, contacted Riviera Volkswagen (Pacific Northwest distributor in Hillsboro, Ore. — Troubleshooter) since we were living in Anacortes at the time, and was told they had NEVER heard of this happening with this engine.”

“They worked with my dealer in replacing the



Richard S. Moody

Times

Troubleshooter

Times staff columnist

engine at VW expense since, it was a VW brand-name part that had failed.

“We, however, were told by the dealer of two other failures, one in the shop and one on the road.”

“I’m told that the part in question is clearly marked, ‘For diesel engines only’ since it is capable of handling the high pressure associated with the engine. The gas-engine VW does not need it. I’m also told that the oil filter from the gas engine will fit the diesel engine — and will fail.”

— S.J., Washington D.C.

Troubleshooter: We have had other reports of oil-filter-seal failures on the diesel Rabbit.

D.R. reports his Volkswagen diesel Rabbit lost its oil at 5,000 miles, and his engine was “shot.” He says it required two months for repairs to be made to his engine, because “some parts had to be ordered from Germany,” but his engine had to be rebuilt.

B.O. reports his Rabbit lost its oil because of an inadequate seal on the oil filter or because the person replacing it failed to provide the very tight seal required. He says he suffered no engine damage.

L.M.C., Bellevue, reports he has owned two

VW “bugs” an one “superbug” and now has a Dasher.

“Any time an engine runs without lubricating oil, no matter how short the period, you may rest assured the life of the engine has been horribly shortened,” he points out.

We, however, drew a denial from Riviera Motors that the Rabbit of D.V. (August 16, Troubleshooter) had been damaged by loss of oil caused by a seal failure. Riviera blamed a “defective part.”

Idling 40 minutes? No

“As I was taking my usual walk along Magnolia Boulevard this morning, I noticed a city truck surrounded by diversion cones. The truck’s yellow lights were flashing. Nearby were two men with hand sickles cutting away at some undergrowth.”

“Inside the truck cab was a man apparently engrossed in some reading material, while the truck motor was running. When I returned 40 minutes later, would you believe the truck’s engine still was running?”

— S.J. M., Seattle.

Troubleshooter: Seattle City Engineer Paul A. Wiatrak explains the driver was “busy with required paperwork, making notes on what the crew was doing . . . and on the foreman’s instruction as to the work to be done at the next location.”

The truck engine was operating to provide electricity for the truck’s revolving light that protects other workers in the vicinity of the truck. Otherwise, the light would tend to drain the truck battery, Wiatrak explains. The truck engine in this

case did not operate during the entire 40 minutes S.J.M. was gone walking; it was turned back on when the crew began loading the truck, just before the time S.J.M. passed by the second time.

Metro bends to meet the load

“I am a resident of the Kingsgate-Totem Lake area near Kirkland. I must take the 6:58 a.m. express bus from 124th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 144th Street on bus route 255 into Seattle. This is the only bus that gets me to work reasonably before 8 a.m.”

“But I have to stand on the bus, along with 25 to 35 other persons. At times, passengers have been passed up by the bus because of no room for them. People who have taken the bus regularly says it has been like this for months. They say they have written letters, passed petitions and notified drivers. Why is this allowed to exist while articulated buses pass by, both before and after this time slot, with a substantial number of available seats?”

— G.F., Kirkland.

Troubleshooter: An articulated bus was put on this route July 18. Metro, of course, knew of the overcrowding, but “had to wait until drivers and equipment were available.”

(Do you have a problem? Write to: Times Troubleshooter, P.O. Box 70, Seattle, WA 98111.)

Ex-officer pleads guilty in '58 killing

MILWAUKEE — (AP) — For the family of Daniel Bell, the news was welcome, though it came 21 years late.

“You hear that Danny, my boy? The truth. Twenty-one years later, they know truth,” Lawrence Bell shouted when informed that a former police officer had pleaded guilty to charges of perjury and homicide by reckless conduct in the 1958 shooting death of Bell’s 22-year-old brother, Daniel.

The former officer, Thomas F. Grady, Jr., 49, now of Pine, Colo., was quoted in a complaint as having told his policeman partner at the time of the shooting that he would lie about the circumstances because “it was just a goddam nigger kid anyway.”

The shooting touched off demonstrations by the black community, but Grady was cleared of wrongdoing. An inquest was told that the victim was “a holdup man” and had lunged at Grady with a knife.

Judgment against firm's top official reinstated

OLYMPIA — (AP) — State consumer-protection laws allow corporate officers or shareholders to be held liable for damages done by their firms if they know and approve of the actions, the Washington Supreme Court held today.

The unanimous opinion upholds a King County Superior Court damage award to Bessie Grayson and her parents, Amos and Evelyn Grayson, from Nordic Construction Co. and its principal stockholder and officer, Arnold Bergstrom.

Bergstrom and his firm contracted with the Graysons to make repairs to their Seattle home, but failed to do so, the court said. The family had to hire another contractor, who was paid more than \$4,000.

The trial court found that Bergstrom and his corporation, which went bankrupt, were one and the same and held Bergstrom personally liable for more than \$3,000 and attorney fees.

The Court of Appeals, in a 2-to-1 opinion, had held there was no evidence to show that Bergstrom hadn’t kept his affairs sufficiently separate from those of the corporation and overruled the lower court.

Burden-of-proof decision supported

OLYMPIA — (AP) — The Washington Supreme Court today sidestepped the issue of whether the state’s criminal code shifts the burden of proving self-defense from the prosecutor to the defense.

The unanimous opinion upholds the Pierce County Superior Court second-degree-murder conviction of Edward Lopez King.

King was convicted of the March, 1977, stabbing death of Larry VanRite in Tacoma.

On appeal, King argued that the lower court should have given certain self-defense instructions. But the Court of Appeals said the 1975 criminal-code wording allows shifting the burden of proof of self-defense to the accused.

The Supreme Court said that the lower court’s instructions were sufficient to require that the prosecution prove lack of justification on King’s part, letting stand the Court of Appeals ruling.

The case was reopened last year, officials said, after Grady’s former partner said that Bell was shot when fleeing from a traffic investigation and that Grady planted a pocketknife in the dead victim’s hand.

District Attorney E. Michael McCann said two superiors who knew the truth and who persuaded the partner, Louis G. Krause, to go along with a doctored report are dead.

A complaint said Krause, now 48, disclosed that Bell was running

with his back to Grady when shot.

Krause “has thought about this matter, and it has haunted him and deeply troubled him for many years,” the complaint said.

It said he told his superiors the truth at the time of the shooting, but that “they convinced him to change his story to match what Grady had told them.”

The complaint said that Krause “observed Grady take out a jackknife, open it and place it in Bell’s hand.”

Grady flew to Milwaukee from

Colorado with an attorney. He pleaded guilty to homicide by reckless conduct and to perjury. Sentencing was scheduled for October 30.

Grady was freed on \$50,000 personal bond.

Grady and Krause left the force a few months after the Bell incident. Krause was dismissed after being involved in a tavern scuffle while off duty. Authorities said Grady left the department when it was investigating charges that he had dated a married woman.

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Home Furnishings

READ EVERY WORD OF THIS AD!

If you love and appreciate true quality home furnishings, you are urged to come to Nerland's Home Furnishings in Parkway Plaza during our Labor Day Weekend Sale. **FOUR DAYS ONLY; Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday you can SAVE on a wide selection of furniture, accessories, lamps and bedding, all specially priced for this event.** With fall soon approaching and children going back to school family attention turns to inside activities at home. There is no better time to select and save on just the right furnishings to add comfort and beauty to your home. We urge you to visit Nerland's now while selections are complete. Many items are in limited supply. Prices include free delivery in the greater Seattle area. Comfortable seating is important in your home, whether you are entertaining or just relaxing as a family. You will find a selection of over fifty quality sofas in print fabrics, textures, velvets and woven covering in a broad selection of colors all specially priced. Examples: **YOU CAN SAVE \$100 to \$213 on sofas** that are sale tagged to sell for \$399 to \$599. If you have room to use a loveseat with a sofa or if space is a problem, a loveseat (mini-sofa) may solve your problem. A group of over twenty love-seats in a selection of coverings offer luxurious seating at **SAVING of \$113 to \$189 sale priced \$459 to \$699.** For more flexibility in your room arrangement you may prefer to use a pair of chairs. You will find over twenty-five matched pairs of chairs shown in our coordinated room displays and when you choose a pair you will save on this selection from \$50 to \$110 when you buy a pair. If you have space in living or family room for over ten feet of seating in a corner area choose our handsome driftwood ribbed velvet corner sectional with comfy loose pillow back styling. **YOU SAVE \$296 on this piece** sale priced at \$999. Leather is truly the most durable of all furniture coverings, whether for home or office use. You will find ten leather sofas which are an investment in comfort sale priced from \$899 to \$1599 to save you from \$96 to \$270. One of the finest offerings during this event is a beautiful suede sofa with soft pillowy cushions in beige color was priced at \$2023 and you can save \$524 when you choose it for \$1499. Modular seating so versatile for modern families offers wide flexibility in your room arrangement. Many modular groupings are shown at Nerland's. For the ultimate in luxury for an office waiting room or family room is this six piece Top Grain Leather covered set, you **SAVE \$900 over regular price** now priced at \$2499. We urge you to come to Nerland's browse through the many displays where you will find many more items specially tagged for this four day event. To bring dining savings you may choose from many table

and chair combinations. Just to name a few for sleek dining, a glass top chrome base 42" round table with four cane and chrome chairs. You **SAVE** on the set \$130 sale priced for \$399. A larger more casual table is an oak trestle that is almost six feet long, has four chairs (extra chairs available) this set regularly sells for \$1282, **NOW SAVE \$383 as the five pieces total \$899.** Or if your dining area needs a square shaped table that will open for extra seating choose from oak or walnut finishes in sets that include four chairs (extra chairs available). Sets are regularly priced from \$765 to \$777, now priced \$599 to \$649. For most elegant dining choose this bronze glass and brass dining table which is six feet long and has six luxurious arm chairs in brown velvet and brass. This complete set was priced at \$3351 now you can save \$552 priced at \$2779. Many more dining room groups and pieces will be specially marked for this sale. If storage in living, dining, or family room is needed select the specially priced wall units in three types, open, storage with doors or drop front desk unit in light fruitwood finish. Save \$56 to \$80 per unit now priced at \$329 to \$469. Bedroom furniture too is included in this sale. A handsome walnut bedroom with large double dresser, mirror, roomy chest, and panel headboard that will fit full or queen beds was priced at \$2032, **NOW SAVE \$433 sale priced at \$1599.** A limited supply of mattresses and box springs of discontinued models are all priced at 25 percent off to clear out. Many lamps are reduced from fifteen to fifty percent, and you will find a selection of wall decor and accessories also specially priced during this event. Summer is about over but if you want to enjoy savings now and have quality summer furniture to use indoors this winter and outdoors for many years to come, select from our remaining selection of chairs, chaises, tables all priced at 1/3 off regular prices. We have already received increased pricing for next season so you will save even more than the 1/3 over what you would pay next year. Come see! In our clearance area we have many additional one of a kind items, sofas priced at just \$297, chairs specially priced, and all looking for a home where they can be enjoyed and appreciated. Look for the tags throughout the store that will spell **SAVINGS** for you. You may handle your purchases on a Nerland's Tailored Credit Account or if you prefer we accept major credit cards. All sales are final and there are no holds, or delayed deliveries possible. We urge you to visit Nerland's and browse through our displays, our capable friendly staff is available to answer questions and serve you. We believe you will enjoy the atmosphere of our store, plan to come in now during this four day Sale event.



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