

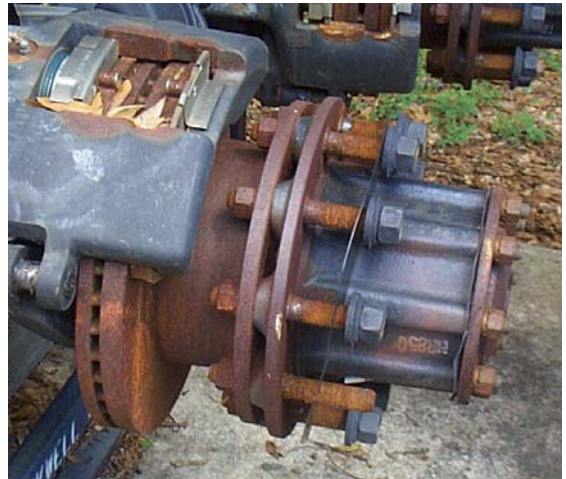
## Kelley's Corner

### "Rust Never Sleeps"

I was having a discussion with an Operational Dispatcher the other day regarding parked equipment. He could not fathom the reasons why a transportation company needs to maintain equipment when it is parked. "It doesn't go anywhere – why should we spend money on it?" was the attitude. His approach is not unique. Although many people have seen the photos of a Model "T" with trees growing through the engine compartment, few non maintenance managers understand the need to service decommissioned equipment.

This point was demonstrated dramatically when I was working with the Vancouver airport and was touring the Eastern United States looking at firefighting equipment.

One of the suppliers retained outside storage for major components in their Florida yard. I was looking at some badly rusted (new) brake rotors (see photo) which were mounted on a subframe. An assembly line person picked up the unit with a forklift and placed it on the assembly line for installation on a chassis. I assumed that the rotors would be removed and the necessary repairs done prior to final assembly. To my horror I realized, a few days later when I returned, that the parts had not been refurbished. The new truck was delivered with the rusted components. This was a good example of equipment which couldn't go anywhere, yet needed proper care.



The next company I visited on the tour had large contracts for the US military. It was just prior to the Gulf war and there were no major conflicts in progress. They had storage for 1200 personal armored carriers waiting to be placed on duty. Every unit was run up to operating temperature, driven 5 miles and had an oil change monthly. Other preventative maintenance items such as fluid/filter changes were done on a regular schedule – this equipment was ready to run!!

The point is that, regardless of utilization, all equipment with book value should be maintained to ensure availability and to retain asset value. Too often I have seen equipment which was parked for extended periods fail in the first duty cycle when placed in service. It was usually the units which were "Going to be sold next month".

Kelley