Subject: Gruen Webster

Posted by CincyStevo on Thu, 01 Oct 2020 18:40:27 GMT

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Hello all! New to this forum and hoping for some help. Recently received this watch after my grandmother passed. This was my grandfather's watch, who passed 10 years ago, that he won at a Greater Cincinnati Bowling Association tournament in 1956.

I have been doing some research for the past few weeks but haven't been able to locate much information on the watch. It was in pretty rough shape upon receipt and didn't run. I don't know much about watches so I was unable to get the case open to get additional pictures. The watch is currently with a local repair shop to get cleaned up and running again. I am hoping to get some pictures from them of the case and movement to help with my research.

Being from Cincinnati and the watch being won in Cincinnati with the Gruen history, I have been fascinated with it, to say the least. Any help provided is greatly appreciated!

File Attachments

1) Gruen 2.jpg, downloaded 1797 times

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Vintage Gruen



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Subject: Re: 1956 Gruen Precision Identification

Posted by Barney Green on Thu, 01 Oct 2020 20:08:20 GMT

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Welcomne to this forum!

I am glad to hear that you appreciate the family heirloom and are taking good care of the watch. Yes, this is quite some local history associated with this watch, thanks a lot for sharing.

The model itself looks very much like a watch which has been sold as the "Webster" in the 1956 Bennett catalog:

The only difference appears to be the dial. The Webster had these "numeral-and-stick" markings, whereas yours does not have the numerals. But both dials are so called Panavision dials, which was this slighlty raised circular dial for easy reading. 10k yellow rolled gold plate case, stainless steel back. Unsure if your grandfathers watch came with the matching expansion band or not. Gruens habit had been to change names of the watches with the type of strap it had been equipped with, so the watch will likely have been sold under a different name if it for example had a leather strap. Movement should be a 17 jewel caliber 415.

File Attachments

1) Webster.JPG, downloaded 1466 times



Subject: Re: 1956 Gruen Precision Identification

Posted by CincyStevo on Thu, 01 Oct 2020 20:18:24 GMT

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Thank you for the info and the welcome! I definitely plan on treasuring and taking good care of the watch. Super excited to see it cleaned up and wear it. Unfortunately, the watch did not have a strap with it so I am unsure of the type. I have been looking through old pictures to see if I can spot it in any! I will post updated pictures once I get some of the movement and caliber to confirm. The dial and stick markings match the ad but it's odd it's missing the numerals.

Thanks again, appreciate the feedback.

Subject: Re: 1956 Gruen Precision Identification Posted by Barney Green on Thu, 01 Oct 2020 20:21:46 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

May be on this photo from 1956 he is already wearing the watch?

File Attachments

1) E. Jackson.JPG, downloaded 1422 times

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Vintage Gruen



Eddie Jackson gives four youngsters bowling tips by showing them proper grip on his bowling ball

Subject: Re: 1956 Gruen Precision Identification

Posted by CincyStevo on Fri, 02 Oct 2020 11:43:31 GMT

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That could be it, it's tough to tell! He had several watches that he won that he wore in rotation. In addition to the Gruen I also received a Hamilton, Bulova, and a Timex that are currently getting repaired. I missed out on the Omega but find the Gruen the most interesting of the group for sure.

I will keep digging through pictures to see if I can find a better one.

Thanks for sharing!