Subject: Re: Caliber V7 17" - pocket watch

Posted by Case on Thu, 25 Jun 2020 12:19:18 GMT

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It would be Marc Favre's numbering system on the early ones. This wouldn't be the first pocket movement he'd made for Gruen, nor was it the only pocket movement he was supplying to one of the Gruen factories in '20-'21.

The Gruen #s would not necessarily match (you confirm they don't) nor even be always sequential with the front plate, since they were likely stamped at different steps in the manufacturing. The Gruen numbers could have been stamped when being finished, possibly at the Precision factory (note no stamps on the more fragile train bridges). But more likely some or all of it could've been done at Favre prior to shipment—or even possible that bridge came to Favre pre-stamped—given the strange stamps without gold leaf during transition to Adj Temps. The "pre-stamped" theory would be one more way the Gruen #s could vary so much in shipments/casing.

So we can safely say the V7 was coming from a 3rd party at launch through at least mid-1922. Wouldn't it be interesting if the Gruen serial #s replace the Favre stamps around 607k-610k—whichever coincides with May 1923, when Gruen filed his patent.