

4 The Grade "809", in its 23-jewel variation, is one of Illinois' highest quality Grades, comparable to the "Sangamo Special" and "Bunn Special" named Grades. The 23-jewel variety occurs at the very beginning of the serial number range for this Grade and is very scarce. Only one example has been seen (or reported) and it is Private Label-marked for the Montgomery Ward & Co's., Washington Watch Co. It is quite possible that all 23-jewel Grade "809" movements are so-marked. In contrast, the 21-jewel variety begins above serial number 4,809,000 and has been seen with Santa Fe Watch Co. and Illinois Central Private Labels and these typically are adjusted to 3 positions and lack the solid gold train and balance screws of the early movements.

1 (810)--BALL WATCH CO., CLEVELAND, O.--OFFICIAL STANDARD, MOTOR BARREL--23 JEWELS--ADJUSTED 5 POSITIONS--DOUBLE ROLLER

2 "810"--Temperature, 5 positions, isochronism--Ruby jewels in raised gold settings, rounded spoke polished gold center wheel, gold balance screws--Patent regulator--Ball's circular pattern, damaskeened nickel, gold-filled engraving--Polished flat headed plate screws--Sunk seconds glass enamel regular or Montgomery numeral dial marked "Ball, Official RR Standard, Cleveland". Special pierced hands. (B800,001-B803,500)(1927-1935)

3 23RJ-DN11L-T5PI-3,500-RRG"810" (EA 474B)
 (V2 261-4)(Mint Mvt, Dial & Hands).....\$800-900
 Special Pierced Hands.....\$50-75
 Illinois Ball Glass Enamel Dial.....\$100-150
 Illinois Ball Glass Enamel 24 hour Dial.....\$125-175
 Illinois Ball Glass Enamel Montgomery Dial...\$150-200

4 The Grade "810" is tentative, based on limited data which suggests that this number might have been assigned by Illinois to the 16-size movements that it made for the Ball Watch Co. For reasons unknown, Illinois did not identify these watches in its Serial Number-Production Ledger but chose instead to prefix them on the watch movement with a "B" and assign numbers beginning with 800,001. However, it is very likely that the 23-jewel Grade "Bunn Special", which was the only other 23-jewel Grade to be made in Model 11, provided the basis for these Ball watches. Therefore, it is possible that some of the Model 11 "Bunn Specials" listed in the serial number listing actually are Private Label-marked for the Ball Watch Co. These watches differ mechanically from the regular Illinois Model 11 movements in several respects; most noticeable are the different shaped plates and ratchet wheel click and the different type of hairspring stud and lever setting mechanism. These last two differences, which undoubtedly were Ball Watch Co. requirements, may have been responsible for the assignment of a special serial number block to clearly differentiate these watches from regular Illinois production.

1 (?)--ILLINOIS WATCH CO., SPRINGFIELD--25 JEWELS--ADJUSTED

2 "?"--Temperature, 6 positions, isochronism--Jewels in gold settings, gold balance screws, rounded spoke gold train wheels--Patent regulator--Special rayed pattern, damaskeened nickel, black-filled engraving--Double-sunk glass enamel Gothic style Arabic numeral dial marked "Illinois Watch Co." in Old English. (S 731,870)(Probably 1905-1907)

3 25J-HN4L-T6PI-1*-"?"
 (EA 462)(V2 148-6)(V2 back cover).....No estimate

4 This one-of-a-kind movement invites speculation because of its unusual marking and jewelery. The "S" prefix could mean "special" or "sample" or something else. The four extra (beyond 21) jewels are located as cap jewels on the third wheel and internally on the barrel arbor. Therefore, the jewelery resembles that on the 25-jewel "Sangamo" Grade. However, unlike the "Sangamo", this movement has a three-finger train bridge and the upper cap jewels for the escape and third wheel are in large gold plates covering the entire ends of the fingers. The internally jeweled barrel was first introduced on the 26-jewel 18-size "Bunn Special" Grade in 1905 and appeared on the "Sangamo" Grade in 1907. Further, the only other Illinois movement to have been seen with this damaskeening pattern is the 19-jewel Grade "Sangamo", serial number M 1,745,199 made in 1905. (See back cover.) These similarities suggest that this movement also was made about that same time and suggests that its serial number might well be 1,731,870; the "1" having been dropped and the "S" substituted. If this speculation is true then, like the 19-jewel "Sangamo", this movement also was made from an unfinished Grade "172" movement. If "S" does mean "special" then it is possible that this movement was specially made for some Private Label prospect or it could have been a sample design for a new Factory Grade which was rejected. In any event, it is an interesting and (so far) unique example of the company's art about which the true story probably never will be known.

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