



Stationary Engine Museum

Coventry Climax with Godiva firewater pump



Photo; Danie Pretorius

This is the Godiva portable water pump powered by the FW (*Feather Weight*) 38 hp 1020 cc straight-four SOHC engine by Coventry Climax. The first of these engines ran in April 1951. The history of the Coventry Climax engines date back to 1903. In 1950 (at the time of the Korean war) the specifications for fire-pumps, that the U.K. Ministry of Defence had set, were changed.

Army fire-pumps had to deliver 35bhp at 3,500rpm. plus they had to be very light-weight.

The FW 38 hp 1020 cc straight-four SOHC was designed by Hassan and Mundy as the motive unit for a portable service fire pump which was supplied to the government under three contracts totalling over 150,000 units.

In April 1951, the first 1020cc FW engine was ready, FW for Feather Weight. When started for the first time, it ran successfully, and easily produced 38bhp.

Follow these links for more information on these pump units, its connection to motor racing and a Lady who rode her horse naked through the city of Coventry to protest against high taxes

<https://www.hagerty.co.uk/articles/engine-room-how-the-coventry-climax-engine-evolved-from-humble-water-pump-to-race-winner/>

<https://www.godiva.co.uk/portable-pumps>

<http://classiccars.brightwells.com/viewdetails.php?id=6369>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Godiva