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John Theodore Lindquist

Nine Treasures of an Icon in Orthodontics



Dr. John Theodore Lindquist 1925 – 2018

Dr. John T. Lindquist was an internationally renowned orthodontist trained at Indiana University: DDS 1947, Clinical Certificate 1950, MSD 1951. In addition to prominent private practices in Indianapolis and Zionsville, John served as an visionary leader for the entire dental profession: President of the Indianapolis Dental Society, Trustee of the Indiana Dental Association, Fellow of the American College of Dentists, President and Trustee Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists, Director American Board of Orthodontists, and President of the American Association of Orthodontists. Dr. Lindquist attended every session of the AAO House of Delegates from its inception until he retired as President in 1989. In addition, he was an esteemed member and leader of both the Charles H. Tweed Foundation and the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists. **Honors:** Personal

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recognition by Dr. Charles Tweed, Jarabak Scholar in Orthodontics at Indiana University and was one of only 6 individuals to receive the GLAO Dr. David C. Hamilton GLAO Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Lindquist and his beloved wife Evie founded the Orthodontic Supply Corporation and Research (OSCAR), a family business that specialized in unique products and technologies for the orthodontics profession. John was an inventor, manufacturer, esteemed clinician, military officer, author, mentor, teacher, lecturer, expert clinical photographer, and a leader in practical orthodontics technology. There is no precedent for the *breath* of his professional contributions over a career spanning more than 70 years. After such an interesting and productive life, what would Dr. Lindquist consider to be the treasures of his legacy? At his father's funeral, John Lindquist II presented me with a collection of personal items in a special AAO meeting bag that his father wanted me to have. I would like to share these items with the GLAO membership along with my initial assessment of their significance:

1. **Bag for the AAO 109th Session in Boston:** John valued his training at the Boston Navy Yard, and his education at Tufts University, but the real plus for this lovely city was meeting his soul mate for 73 years.
2. **Folder for a Vermont Law Firm:** as a direct descendant of President John Adams, Evelyn May Adams Lindquist (Evie) from Fair Haven, Vermont, was a daughter of the American Revolution (DAR). In contrast, John was the son of Swedish immigrants that settled in Rockford, Illinois.
3. **1947 Dental Graduation Invitation with John's Personal Card:** this is documentation for a DDS earned via a three year, accelerated wartime program sponsored by the US Navy.
4. **Marion County, State of Indiana Dental License:** this 1948 document was issued more than one year after graduation from dental school. I have never seen a county dental license before. Does anyone in the GLAO have an insight?
5. **Photo of Dr. Charles Tweed:** the signature and hand written note "*To John my friend one of the most capable orthodontists I know*" were treasures that hung on his wall for a lifetime.

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6. **1968 Indianapolis Star Newspaper Photo:** the caption reads *“Dr. John Lindquist, president of the Indianapolis District Dental Society, is in the middle of things at Saturday’s ball with Mrs. Morris M. Stoner (left) and Mrs. Lindquist.”* I suspect this clipping is to alert me to John’s leadership in local dentistry, and to focus on the close friendship with Dr. Muary Stoner. I have no photo(s) of Drs. Lindquist and Stoner. If anyone does please share them with me: werobert@iu.edu.
7. **Personal letter from Dr. Lee Graber:** congratulations for the GLAO Dr. David Hamilton Distinguished Service Award.
8. **Letter from Dr. OH (Chip) Rigsbee:** as president of the Indiana Association of Orthodontists Chip congratulated John for the GLAO David Hamilton Distinguished Service Award.
9. **2001 Jarabak Scholar Award Program:** Dr. John Lindquist shared this Indiana University award with his historic competitor Dr. Robert (Rick) Ricketts. These native Indiana orthodontists competed at the 1962 AAO Meeting in Los Angeles. Dr. Cecil Steiner presided over a timed competition for the complete clinical installation of a banded fixed appliance. John used an indirect prefabricated appliance: custom bands with brackets attached. Rick fitted preformed bands to each tooth and attached brackets with an electric spot welder. The elegant but expensive prefabricated appliance prevailed, but since John’s daughter was his patient, Ricketts thought he had been “slam-dunked.” Indeed John won the battle, but as we all know Ricketts won the war! Even some 40 years later, the 2001 reunion of the competitors was cordial, but certainly not warm. John Lindquist considered that 1962 competition to be a pivotal event in orthodontics technology. It was a wonderful experience to relive it.

Vignette: It is a very long story that cannot be recounted here, but John Lindquist was a father figure to me, and over the years we discovered many parallels in our lives: 1. Dentistry was not our preferred career, 2. We trained as combat action dentists for the Navy Fleet Marine Force (amphibious landings), 3. Both of us had

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strong ties to the Swedish immigrant community, 4. There was an abiding love for technology applied to orthodontics, and 5. Each of us married well. The latter was particularly important because our wives got along great while John and I discussed business. As couples we shared a warm personal relationship for over 30 years.

John and Evie Lindquist will be sorely missed.

W. Eugene Roberts, DDS PhD
Professor Emeritus of Orthodontics
Adj. Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Indiana University and Purdue University
Indianapolis, Indiana



Gene Roberts is shown with Evie and John Lindquist at the AAO Meeting in San Diego. They attended as Past-President of the AAO and Proprietors of OSCAR orthodontics.

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Cheri and Gene Roberts are shown with Evie and John Lindquist on the occasion of Evie's 91st birthday.