

John Theodore Lindquist, 1925-2018

Doctor John T. Lindquist was an internationally renowned clinician, manufacturer, and political leader in orthodontics. He had a remarkably interesting and varied career. Dr Lindquist was the son of Swedish immigrants who settled in Rockford, Illinois; his father was a jeweler. John did not graduate from high school, because he was recruited into the United States Navy for a “special training program” at the age of 17. He was sent to the Boston Navy Yard and Tufts University for officer candidate school. During his undergraduate education, he met premed student Evelyn May (Evie) Adams, a native of Vermont who was directly descended from President John Adams. John Lindquist developed interests in both Evie and a career in heart surgery, but that was not the Navy’s plan. In 1944, he was ordered to Indiana University (IU) for an accelerated 3-year dental program. Evie passed up acceptance to medical school in Boston to marry John in Vermont, on the way to Indiana and an unknown future. After the war they learned that the “special training program” was for active duty as a combat action dentist with the Navy Fleet Marine Force that was being assembled for amphibious invasions of Japan. One can reflect on the battles for Iwo Jima and Okinawa to understand what that meant. The war ended before John could begin his service, and the Navy released him from active duty, but he still had a ready reserve obligation. Because a Navy Reserve billet in Indiana was unlikely, he transferred to the Army National Guard.

What to do now? In 1947, at the age of just 22, John Lindquist graduated with a DDS degree, and he faced a pivotal decision in his career. Should he apply for medical school or could he find an interesting niche in dentistry? In dental school he enjoyed metal-working, wire bending, and soldering, which are jewelry manufacturing skills that he had learned from his father. So orthodontics was the perfect fit, and the specialty was just taking off in Indiana. He was the fourth graduate of the IU program, receiving a Clinical Certificate in 1950 and an MSD in 1951. John also completed a clinical training program with Dr Charles Tweed, who presented him with a signed photograph: “*To John my friend one*



Dr John Theodore Lindquist in 2015, at the age of 90 years

of the most competent orthodontists I know.” This treasure was framed and displayed for a lifetime.

Dr Lindquist’s exceptional technical skills in applied technology were well used in developing the emerging science of orthodontics. State-of-the-art private practices were established in Indianapolis and Zionsville, Indiana. As an IU faculty member, he taught typodont to graduate students, including Drs Charles Burstone and James Baldwin, who subsequently developed the modern concepts of biomechanics, based on Newton’s laws. Collaboration with Dr Morris Stoner resulted in more physiologic multiloop archwire therapy, classic textbook chapters, and patented headgear concepts. With the initial help of Dr Stoner, John and Evie founded and operated Orthodontics Supply Company and Research (OSCAR), a family firm that specialized in unique products and technologies for the orthodontics profession.

After what was well beyond the career achievement for most orthodontists, Dr Lindquist embarked on a remarkable leadership mission. From 1968 to 1989 he served as President of the Indianapolis Dental Society, Trustee of the Indiana Dental Association, Fellow of

the American College of Dentists, President and Trustee of the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists (GLAO), Director of the American Board of Orthodontics, and a member of the Board of Trustees and President of the American Association of Orthodontists. Furthermore, he was an esteemed member and leader of the Charles H. Tweed Foundation and the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists.

In addition to the cherished endorsement by Dr Tweed, Dr Lindquist was awarded the GLAO Dr David Hamilton Distinguished Service Award and was recognized as a Jarabak Scholar in Orthodontics at IU.

John lost his soulmate Evie in June 2017, but is survived by their daughter, Bonnie Roddenberry (and husband Stephen) of Miami, Florida, and son, John II (and wife Veronika) of London, England. There are 7 grandchildren: Thomas (and wife Yana), David, and Samuel Roddenberry; John III, Paul, and James Lindquist; and Julia Ritchie (and husband Nick), who presented John and Evie with 3 great-grandchildren.

Dr John Lindquist was already a legend. The chapter he wrote with Dr Stoner for the original Graber text explained the mysterious details of multiloop archwire therapy. The excellent clinical photography and frequent documentation during treatment were striking. That article ranks as one of the most important teaching publications that I have ever read. In 1987, I was being considered for the Orthodontics Chair at IU. I was reluctant to move, but Dean Gilmore arranged a special reception for my wife and me at the Lilly Mansion. We met many impressive faculty members, university administrators (including President Ehrlich), and other

prominent people from all over the state, but the most memorable couple were John and Evie Lindquist. I was drawn to John immediately because he was big tall Swede with a twinkle in his eye, just like my dad, a Swedish-American from Minnesota. John and I could talk about almost anything because of his broad array of professional interests. At the same time, our wives hit it off because Evie thought Cheri was “a feisty little business woman.” That was quite a compliment from Mrs Evelyn Lindquist, CEO of OSCAR! Cheri and I were won over for IU and were friends of the Lindquists for over 30 years. As they aged, John remained very sharp, but Evie suffered memory lapses, which, however, sometimes added to the fun we had. Evie often mixed-up memories in a funny way, but John never corrected her. He would just wink or nod depending on whether or not he agreed. It was wonderful to observe the tender relationship between these inseparable soulmates.

Our specialty and many smiling patients have greatly benefitted from the wisdom, dedication, and work ethic of John T. Lindquist. With the constant support of Evie, he had an outstanding career as a leader in dentistry and orthodontics, but he was also an inventor, patent assignee, manufacturer, esteemed clinician, military officer, author, mentor, clinical instructor, lecturer, expert clinical photographer, and a leader in practical orthodontics technology. In my opinion, there is no precedent for the breadth of these professional contributions over a career that lasted more than 70 years.

*W. Eugene Roberts
Indianapolis, Ind*