

**The Swedish Engineers' Society
of Chicago, Illinois**

MONTHLY BULLETIN

APRIL, 1930



**THIS NUMBER DEALS WITH THE HONOR
BESTOWED ON JOHN S. GULLBORG, WHO
HAS BEEN DECORATED WITH THE ROYAL
ORDER OF VASA, FIRST CLASS, AND THE
BANQUET CELEBRATING THE EVENT.**

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Particulars regarding the reunion of all S. E. S. members attending the Exposition at Stockholm this summer will be published in the Bulletin for May.

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Chicago, Illinois

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SVEN OSCAR YOUNG

Tel. Randolph 2121, Local 328 (Bus.)
Lincoln 9594 (Res.)

WM. E. ANDERSON	AKE BJÖRKMAN
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ERIC T. JERNBERG	A. J. LAWRENCE
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Address all contributions to the Bulletin Editorial Staff, 503 Wrightwood Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the golden autumn of one's life, it is truly a distinction for one to possess the unsolicited acclaim and honor of accumulated credit attained by unselfish, worthwhile deeds, which have gained for him untold numbers of admiring and loyal friends, who delight to do him homage.

It was our privilege and pleasure on the eighth day of March to celebrate in honor of a personage possessing such distinction and virtues, and this personage is no one other than our esteemed friend and member, Mr. John S. Gullborg. The tangible reasons for this celebration were numerous, and it affords us much gratification to make mention of a few of them to acknowledge his successful endeavors.

The years of untiring effort that he has put forth in bringing our Club to its present enviable standard is sincerely appreciated by all those connected with our Society. His work for the general welfare of his countrymen, and his genius in formulating new ideas and processes represent achievement which has prompted further recognition of the Swedish people in America. Our ever watchful and always alert Fatherland is appreciative of such accomplishments, and because of his achievements and in recognition of his noble life, His Majesty, King Gustaf V, has rewarded and honored John S. Gullborg therefor by decorating him with the Order of Vasa.

In behalf of all those affiliated with the Swedish Engineers' Society,

I congratulate our John S. and extend to him our sincere wish that his life be crowned with many more years of happiness, which he has so justly earned. We of the members of this Society, who know him so intimately, cannot help but feel that we share the glory with him, for when he brings honor to himself, he brings honor to our Club. We are unanimous in our conviction that we know of no one who is more deserving or more worthy of carrying this distinguished mark than our dearest friend, John S. Gullborg.

To cherish his worthwhile friendship is the honor and pleasure of each and every one of the Club members.

NELS SHOAN,
President.

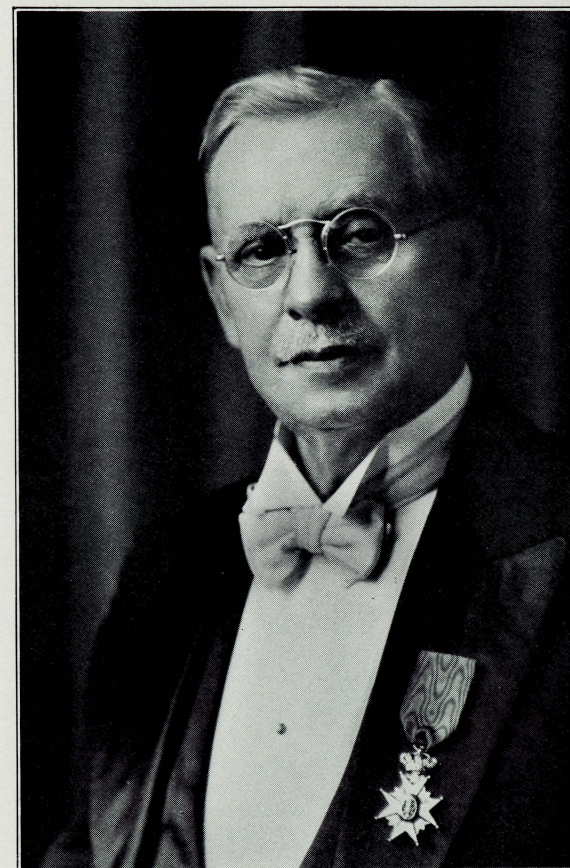
A WELCOME RECOGNITION

When it was announced that His Majesty, Gustav V, King of Sweden, had conferred upon our most beloved fellow member, John S. Gullborg, knighthood in the Royal Order of Vasa, we were all thrilled. It was all so unexpected!

But no one was more astonished than the recipient of the honor; for he has made no conscious bid for royal recognition. Year after year, through a lifetime of patient plodding, he has made his contributions to the progress of the age, unconsciously reflecting honor and glory on the Swedish race. Under his directing genius, mechanical miracles have been performed and administrative problems solved; but to him these have been too obvious to challenge any special recognition.

The announcement came in the form of an invitation to attend a banquet in Mr. Gullborg's honor, which would be made doubly memorable by the presence and introduction of the Royal Swedish Consul, C. Lundquist, newly appointed to this post.

The announcement of the banquet read: "To which yourself and ladies are invited." This clause, whether intentionally or not, had the effect of limiting the attendance to a number within the seating capacity of the ballroom. It also assured a dignified atmosphere, which, it would seem, the occasion demanded.



JOHN S. GULLBORG

BANQUET FOR GULLBORG

On Saturday, March 8th, about 8 o'clock in the evening, the big ball-room of the S. E. S. clubhouse was filled with expectant guests—about an equal number of men and women—and the big celebration was ready to begin.

President Nels Shoan was in the toastmaster's chair, the singers, the Orion Male Quartet, and the musicians were stationed in the curtained anteroom, ready to do their magic. Chairman Sven Eklund, of the house committee, signaled the assembled guests to arise, then in marched, two abreast, four sir knights, all resplendent in their decorations—stars representing recognized achievement.

The Honor Guest and the Royal Consul walked side by side, and were seated to the right and to the left of the Toastmaster; their two knighted escorts, Sir Albin and Sir George, followed and were in turn escorted by the House Committee, to their respective places.

Then a flood of music, the most inspiring national melodies with expert accompaniment, filled the ball-room, while our popular stewardess, Mrs. Thora Jacobson, and her light-footed attendants moved silently around the long rows of tables, dealing out the palatable delicacies that constituted the material feast.

The Program

When the hour arrived for the program to commence, the Toastmaster pounded gently on his glass, arose and addressed the assembly. In a few well chosen sentences, he explained the significance of the occasion, finishing his initial remarks by the reading of a letter from one of Mr. Gullborg's many co-workers and appreciative fellow engineers, in the two Alemite plants, on Belmont Avenue, Chicago, and at Woodstock, Ill. The letter follows, in part: The Swedish Engineers' Society, Chicago, Illinois. Gentlemen:

No one can be said to have truly lived who has not added something to the time in which he lived, and Mr. Gullborg has certainly added much to the sum total of human progress. Furthermore, his thought-

ful consideration for the welfare and happiness of his fellow men has made and continues to make for him abundant room in the world.

The leaders among men are comparatively few. The great majority are content to remain in the paths where circumstances seem to place them, lacking in the initiative, or the energy, or the courage to strike out for themselves, and to plan new enterprises and develop new fields.

Not so with Mr. Gullborg. Stepping forth from the nameless crowd, he took his place in the front ranks, to challenge the admiration of his fellow men, and early became recognized as a well balanced man, possessing that kind of enterprise which leads to great accomplishments.

A Noble Example

It is both interesting and instructive to follow the life history of such a man, and there is no greater incentive today for young men than to study the accomplishments of such lives. Mr. Gullborg's life also lends positive proof to the fact that the strict rules which govern success are not opposed to the rules of an honest life, and the noble impulses of a generous heart.

Aside from Mr. Gullborg's creative genius, and his worthy contribution to the world's mechanical and commercial progress, he has enjoyed a comradeship with the world, rich in friendships and personal acquaintances, which no purely self-seeking person can understand or enjoy.

It is not at all surprising that Mr. Gullborg's accomplishments should have received the recognition of his native country, in the decoration bestowed by the Swedish King, through his duly authorized Swedish Consul, and the worthy precedent thus established might well be followed by the rulers of other lands, where justifiable pride may be had in the accomplishments of native sons in the Western World.

Again thanking your committee very kindly for the very courteous invitation to be present at the decoration, and trusting the stress of other duties will not prevent my attending, I wish to be,

Cordially and sincerely yours,
W. J. Todd.

The Consul's Speech

The Toastmaster introduced the Royal Swedish Consul, C. Lundquist, as the man who occupies the highest place a Swede can hold in this city.

The consul is a man pleasing to behold and even more pleasing to listen to. From his speech and general bearing it became evident to us all that he is a man of great ability and a most charming personality. He spoke briefly, in beautiful Swedish that delighted his hearers. He said, among other things, which we are able to remember, that it was his function to secure for his country an honored place out here—"att skaffa det svenska namnet en ansedd ställning här borta." He expressed the belief that "det goda förhållandet mellan konsulatet och Svenska Ingenjörssöreningen i Chicago må alltid råda." He explained the significance of the favor bestowed upon our guest of honor in the decoration with the star of "Kungliga Vasaordens första klass," and added: "Som redan tillsänts, varför jag, tyvärr, berövs nöjet att överlämna den."

This was followed with a song, "Sverige," from the Orion Quartet.

The Language of the White Race

Then followed the speech of our Society's official orator, chief engineer of the world's largest steel plant, Albert G. Witting. Mr. Witting, who of course, spoke in Swedish, prefaced his speech with the jocular remark that he regretted that all of those present did not understand "the original language of the white race." Fortunately for the Bulletin readers who were not present, Mr. Witting had his speech in writing at his home (probably for the benefit of future generations) and we are, after much coaxing and persuading, able to reproduce it in part.

Ur Wittings Tal

Vänner till John Gullborg ha samlats i kväll här i Svenska Ingenjörssöreningens festsal för att till honom frambära sina uppriktiga lyckönskningar till den utmärkelse som kommit honom till del från Sveriges konung. En mera lämplig lokal kunde näppeligen väljas, ty detta hus står icke blott som ett monument över Gullborgs betydelsefulla inlägg i det svenska förenings-

livet här i Chicago, det representerar också mer än något annat klubbhus den äkta svenska andan, där kärleken till fädrens land trots allt regerar obestritt. Och därför skulle man kunna säga, att det materialiserar symboliken av denna ordensföräran.

När vi nu framföra våra gratulationer och därvid avgiva vittnesbörd om den siste riddarens förtjänster, kunna dessa skådas från många synpunkter och många vackra ord med fog sägas. Det är alldeles tillbörligt vid ett tillfälle som detta; det är välförtjänt, och vi behöva ej befara, att de skola stiga vårt festföremål åt huvudet. Han vet sitt eget värde, liksom vi veta det — varken mer eller mindre.

Det Svenska Namnet

Vi skulle kunna ha mycket att säga om den framstående uppfinnaren, den framgångsrike industrimannen; vi skulle kunna ha mycket att säga om arbetsgivaren som företrädesvis sökt sin arbetshjälp bland svenskarna och ofta nog skapat platser för att ta hand om landsmän. Vi ha säkerligen än mer att säga om denna vår ingenjörssörenings tre gånger president, vars sanna svenska äventyrssinne var oförfväget nog att göra vår medellösa förening till ägare av detta ganska ståtliga klubbhus. Men jag överlåter åt en annan att orda härom, ty när jag på uppmaning är den förste som framför hans landsmäns lyckönskningar till John Gullborg, tillkommer det mig att uppträda, som taleman för en vidare krets, för Chicagos alla svensk-amerikanare, för de landsmän vilka i kärlek bevara och som sin värdefullaste ägodel betrakta sitt svenska namn och sin svenska härkomst. Ty det är väl icke den amerikanske industrimannen och uppfinnaren eller den svensk-amerikanska ingenjörssöreningens stöttepelare och skyddspatron som den nu undfångna utmärkelsen gäller så mycket som svensken vilken särskilt bidragit till att göra det svenska namnet och Sverige hedrade här i Amerika.

Det finns en vacker fras som lyder: "Sin egen lyckas smed." Men jag tror, att den vilken liksom John Gullborg verkligen gjort sig för-

tjänt av denna hederstitel bäst vet, att det ej är hans egen kraft allena som vunnit åt honom hans segrar, utan att han haft ett mäktigt stöd och ovärderlig hjälp i de hans egenskaper vilka äro ett arv från fädren.

Att dessa egenskaper, redbarhet, arbetsamhet, ihärdighet, med full rätt erkännas vara för svenskarna särskilt betecknande, därpå utgör John Gullborg som så många andra landsmän fastän kanske mer än de flesta ett levande vittnesbörd. Men det är ej alltid nog, att man besitter dessa egenskaper, även om det är i en högre potens, och även om man låter dem komma till sin fulla utveckling. Frestelserna att följa det minsta motståndets linie äro ofta nog nästan överväldigande härute. För att besegra dem fordras något mera — en inre moralisk kraft. Och lycklig den som finner denna kraft i sin nationalkänsla, som i sitt inre har en manande röst vilken ständigt sporrar den personliga ansvarskänslan att vara på sin vakt och göra sitt yttersta: "Du är icke blott amerikansk medborgare, du är dessutom något mera", säger den, "du är också svensk, och du måste visa vad det betyder!"

(Herr Witting, som förestår rörelsen här i Amerika för svenskhetens bevarande, ägnade återstående delen av sitt väljudande tal till tydandet av dessa principer, varav vi endast återgiva slutparagrafen, som följer.)

Det synes mig passande, att jag vid detta tillfälle, då vi också hava nöjet hälsa vårt fäderneslands nye representant välkommen till oss, söka analysera dessa känslor. Ty om de förstås, då förstår man även den dubbla tillfredsställelse, varmed vi hälsat den utmärkelse som vederfarts John Gullborg — både för hans egen personliga skuld och emedan han är en representant för våra strävanden att visa oss värdiga vårt svenska namn. Och som tolk för dessa känslor frambär jag, John Gullborg, Chicago-svenskarnas tack och uppriktiga lyckönskningar till detta ordenstecken vilket väl icke blott är en belöning för utfört arbete utan snarare en uppmuntran och en förpliktelse till fortsatt verksamhet.

This was followed by another song from the quartette—"I Min Hemlands Dal." Next it became the turn for the chief designing engineer for the greatest electric power company on the continent, C. George Axell, to speak. We believe our readers will be pleased to have us print a few extracts also from his speech, which follow:

C. George Axell's speech

It is particularly significant and a happy coincidence that Mr. Gullborg should be and is the **First** one among our prominent Swedish-Americans in Chicago to have such a celebration as this in the presence of Consul Lundquist at his first official greeting in this respect in Chicago and at his first visit to our Club House, the acquisition of which was first instigated by Mr. Gullborg. The combination could not be better and measures up to the scale of recognition.

That Mr. Gullborg has a personality entirely unique, not only in the business world but within the sphere of our organization, is indicated by the fact that he has been elected treasurer, vice president, and three times its president, besides a member of the Board of Directors continuously.

Our Debt to Gullborg

The outstanding feature of his service to the Society is the monument that this building exemplifies. But for his perseverance and foresight, it is doubtful whether the Swedish Engineers' Society would be so strong and command the honor and respect that it now enjoys, not only in Chicago but all over the United States, among the Swedish Americans, and particularly among the Technical Societies, besides the esteem in which we are held in Sweden. That is Mr. Gullborg's work. And how proud we are in having had such a grand leader!

It is with intense pleasure and utmost satisfaction that we wish to extend to you, Sir John, our hearty congratulations and best wishes, health and happiness for continued successful work among your associates and for the glory of the old country as the symbol of the order implies.

Sir John.

The honor guest, the object of the celebration, Sir John, as George Axell addressed him, made the most extraordinary speech of his life. He was reminiscent, recalling incident after incident of his early life in America, some humorous, some pathetic, all testifying to his humble start and early struggles. But we will have to go to the 1927 edition of the Swedish Blue Book (published by the Swedish-American Publishing Co., 365 W. Chicago ave., Chicago) for an account of his latter triumphs and achievements. There we read that—

John S. Gullborg, an engineer and inventor of national fame, was born at Sandhem, Västergötland, Sweden, August 20, 1863. His parents were Carl Gustaf Gullborg, a blacksmith, and Charlotta Larson. From his father's anvil, through public school and technical schools at Jönköping, his path led naturally to the engineer's calling. The practical skill and knowledge necessary for such a calling he received as a machinist at the famous Vulcan Works in Tidaholm and Huskvarna in Jönköping. In the arms factory of the last named plant he made his first invention, an improved method of making guns.

This invention brought him recognition. But four years at Huskvarna convinced him that he must seek larger fields for development and work. On April 22, 1886, we find him in New York. Through a friend he secured a position with the Windsor Locks Machine Co. at Windsor Locks, Conn. The following fall he reached Chicago, where he began his career in the Gormully & Jeffery bicycle factory. In 1889 he accepted a position as foreman in Excelsior Iron Works, where he remained until 1893, when he became general foreman at the John Featherstone & Sons ice machine plant. Two years later he launched his first enterprise, the Gullborg Bicycle Co.

In 1898 he began the manufacture of telephone instruments and thus formed the nucleus of the Swedish-American Telephone Co., to which concern he sold his factory in 1902. At that time he became master mechanic at the Stromberg-Carlson Tel-

ephone Co. As such he invented a large number of new instruments and greatly improved their method of manufacture. He also developed the Stromberg-Carlson cable and wire plant in Rochester, N. Y.

One of his most important inventions, the Stromberg carburetor, he developed in 1906. In the fall of that year he joined Messrs. Stromberg, Carlson and Stiger and organized the Stromberg Motor Devices Co. During six years he remained affiliated with said firm, constantly inventing and improving. His carburetor became famous throughout the motor world.

In the year of 1912 he invented an entirely new automatic die casting machine, wherein perfect castings that need no further machining are made under pressure in steel dies. He organized the Alemite Die Casting & Manufacturing Co., which is operating a constantly growing plant at 2640-54 Belmont Avenue. Mr. Gullborg is president and general manager of this very successful enterprise. He has already to his credit more than half a hundred remarkable patents.

Mr. Gullborg holds membership in the Swedish Engineers' Society of which he is past president; is a Thirty-second Degree Mason; member of Medinah Temple; is a member of the Medinah Athletic Club; member of the Swedish Club, as well as several other organizations.

More to Come.

This does not finish our story. Mr. Gullborg's love for the out-of-doors and the manly sports have not yet been touched upon. Moreover, we intend to devote some attention to his happy family. But our space is exhausted and we will have to continue in our Bulletin for May.

Mr. Axell wished that a book might have been prepared of all that has been written about Mr. Gullborg in the Bulletin, "so that you could read for yourself about a real man's work in a real and worthy Society." We have selected just one phrase, which we believe tells the story:

"The builder of our Society's destiny."

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The regular monthly meeting was held on Monday afternoon, April 7th. After a delicious one o'clock luncheon had been enjoyed by the ladies present, the meeting was called to order and the regular business routine followed. We had the pleasure of welcoming one new member, Mrs. Fred Lindell. It would be very encouraging if many more of the ladies eligible to membership would follow her example.

The Card Party and Dance held on Saturday, March 15th, was fairly well attended, though we should have been pleased to have had many more there. Mrs. Chas. Gustafson and Mrs. Berglund had certainly done justice toward making arrangements. Refreshments, prizes, music, and all were very excellent.

The Pot-Luck Luncheon and Card Party given by the Ladies' Auxiliary on Tuesday, April 1st, was a very successful affair. The table appeared both beautiful and inviting. It was loaded down with a really wonderful variety of the most delect-

able of foods, with nothing lacking to make a most satisfactory luncheon, and that our guests enjoyed it was clearly demonstrated. Many of them expressed a desire to come again on similar occasions.

After luncheon was over, cards and bunco were played. There were dainty, useful table prizes, and two door prizes given out.

OUR NEXT POT-LUCK DINNER.

There has been some misunderstanding about the date for our next Pot-Luck Dinner and Dance. Our intention was to give it on Saturday, April 19th, but on account of the Easter holidays, which had previously been overlooked, and which bring about many other entertainments that would keep our members and friends from being present, we have decided to change the date to Saturday, May 3rd. We hope that this change will prove satisfactory to all.

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY.

On Saturday, May 10th, the Ladies' Auxiliary will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its organization in the form of a Dinner Party for members of the Auxiliary and their families. It is hoped that all the members, old and new, will make it a point to be there. The Committee in charge are trying hard to arrange for entertainment that will please. Be sure to make your reservation early.

The May meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary will be held on the second Monday in May instead of the first, on account of Tag Day. A number of our ladies will be busy tagging, so our next meeting will be on Monday, May 12th.

—Mrs. John S. Gullborg, Sec'y.

CLUB NOTES.

All Club notes are held over for the May issue.

A surprise party that surprised even the surprisers is featured in the Bulletin for May.

Much of the May Bulletin is devoted to the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Look for the May Bulletin!

—Ed.

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