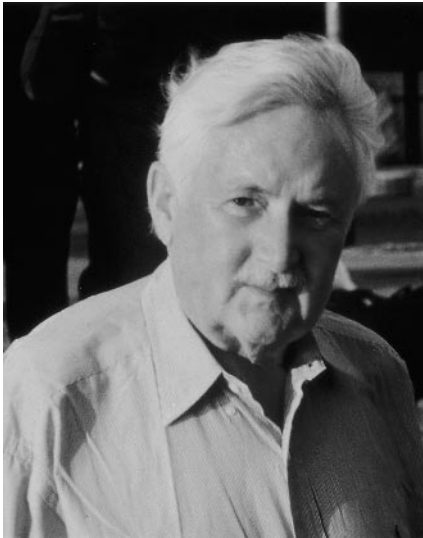


Ejnar Eriksson

Glenn Walter Johnson Jr.



Glenn Walter Johnson Jr. was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 24 May, 1921, and died 24 January, 1997, in Summit, New Jersey, USA. He contributed greatly to the care of patients in knee surgery, sports traumatology and arthroscopy. I am sure that all of our readers are aware of the many products sold by the Aircast, Inc. in Summit, New Jersey. Glenn Johnson was the brain behind all these inventions. We shall miss this great inventor and very fine and friendly gentleman. Glenn Johnson was also a dear personal friend of mine and my family, and I would like to share his fascinating life story with you.

Glenn, like so many other young men in the USA and Europe at that

time, found his college career interrupted by the Second World War. Although he originally was assigned to the cavalry, he managed to get into the Air Corps and became a B-17 pilot. He was sent to Europe. In April 1944, during one of his missions over Germany, one of the four engines of his B-17 was destroyed by German antiaircraft artillery. He managed to fly over the Baltic Sea and perform an emergency landing in the south of Sweden. During the last year of the war, Glenn was interned in a relatively open prison for foreign pilots who had landed in Sweden. The regulations were not that strict: he was allowed to go to Stockholm almost every weekend. Glenn made many good Swedish friends during this time. He actually told me that he even tried to obtain a job in Sweden at the end of the war. However, he had to return to the USA and began working for the Swedish AGA company. In 1972 he happened to fracture his leg while skiing and was treated with closed reduction and a plaster cast. He found the cast extremely unpleasant, and his fracture went on to non-union. His orthopedic surgeon therefore suggested surgery as the next option. Glenn, however, went home and constructed the first prototype of what has since become the 'Aircast'. It worked extremely well, maintaining his fracture in good alignment. Glenn considered it pleasant to wear, and his orthopedic surgeon found it so interesting that he asked Glenn to make him ten more of the same type of brace. These first Aircast braces were made in Glenn Johnson's garage. Out of this original idea grew a large industry with worldwide connections. The Aircast, Inc. has since

marketed a number of products used for both prophylaxis and treatment of sports injuries. Their Air-Stirrup has almost become standard in the treatment of sprained ankles. They have also produced Cryo/Cuff and recently introduced a device to reduce the incidence of deep vein thrombosis and improve peripheral blood circulation. Glenn Johnson was the creative genius behind all these inventions.

We in ESSKA owe Glenn Johnson a lot of gratitude. For many years he has sponsored our exchange fellowships with the USA and Canada as well as with the Far East. Our relationship has always been excellent.

When I arranged a meeting a couple of years ago in Stockholm called 'Sports Medicine 2000' I asked Glenn if he could come to Stockholm because I would be very honored by his participation. He told me that if a meeting with Dr. Lennart Broström, whose Ph. D. thesis from 1966 had deeply inspired him, could be arranged and if I could also bring him together with the son of the owner of the AGA company, Dr. Nils Dahlén, he would attend. I had the opportunity to place Glenn between Dr. Lennart Broström and Dr. Nils Dahlén at a luncheon, and Glenn thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas with them. I have seldom seen Glenn so happy as during this luncheon of Sports Medicine 2000.

For me personally, I have lost a dear friend. We have known each other since the early 1970s. We remained friends for over 25 years, and I have always had the highest respect for this extremely intelligent and very modest person. All of us in knee surgery, sports medicine and arthroscopy shall miss him.

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