

## History of Innovation

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- [Home](#)
- [TI interactive timeline](#)
- [Low-bandwidth timeline](#)
- [Founders' biographies](#)
- [Chairmen's biographies](#)
- [About the invention](#)
- [About the inventor](#)
- [Impact of the invention](#)

 [Email this](#)

### Founders' Biographies



#### John Erik Jonsson

Born: Brooklyn, New York, September 6, 1901  
 Married Margaret Fonde (1902-84) February 8, 1923  
 (3 children)  
 Died: Dallas, TX, September 1, 1995

#### Education:

**1918** - Montclair High School, Montclair, NJ

#### Earned Degrees:

**1922** - M.E. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

#### Honorary Degrees:

**1959** - Doctor of Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY  
**1961** - Doctor of Science, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY  
**1963** - Doctor of Science, Austin College, Sherman, TX  
**1964** - Doctor of Laws, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX  
**1968** - Doctor of Civil Laws, University of Dallas, Irving, TX  
**1972** - Doctor of Laws, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA  
**1972** - Doctor of Laws, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY  
**1973** - Doctor of Humane Letters, Oklahoma Christian College, Oklahoma City, OK  
**1981** - Doctor of Science, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA  
**1984** - Doctor of Engineering, Polytechnic University, New York, NY

#### Professional Experience:

**1922-23**

**Aluminum Company of America, (ALCOA)** Tennessee Rolling Mill  
 Apprentice

**1923-27**

**Aluminum Index Company,** New Jersey, an ALCOA subsidiary  
 Manufacturing Superintendent

**1927-29**

**Dumont Motor Car Company, Inc.,** NJ Vice President and the President of  
 Oakland Pontiac Automobile Distributorship

**1929-30**

**Aluminum Company of America,** NJ Sales Engineer

**1930-41**

**Geophysical Service,** Dallas TX (Predecessor company of Texas Instruments  
 Incorporated)

**1930-34**

Superintendent of the Laboratory, Newark, NJ

**1934-39**

Secretary

**1939-42**

Secretary and Treasurer

**1941-51**

**Geophysical Service Inc. (GSI),** Dallas TX

**1942-51**

Vice President and Treasurer

**1951-82**

**Texas Instruments Incorporated,** Dallas, TX

**1951-58**

President

**1958-66**

Chairman of the Board

**1966-77**

Honorary Chairman

**30 April 1981-85**

Member, Advisory Council to Board of Directors

**1977-82**

Honorary Director

#### Educational Affiliations:

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,**

Troy, NY Member and Honorary Chairman, Board of Trustees

**Lamplighter School,**

### TI Founders

**Cecil H. Green**  
 Aug 6, 1900 -  
 Apr 12, 2003

**Patrick E. Haggerty**  
 Mar 17, 1914 -  
 Oct 1, 1980

**John Erik Jonsson**  
 Sept 6, 1901 -  
 Sept 1, 1995

**Eugene McDermott**  
 Feb 12, 1899 -  
 Aug 24, 1973

[A Tribute to Erik Jonsson  
 \(PDF 858KB\)](#)

Dallas, TX Chairman 1967-84 Honorary Chairman of the Board

**Academy for Educational Development,**  
New York, NY Former Director, (and former Chairman of its Educational  
Facilities Laboratories Division)

**University of Dallas,**  
Irving, TX (1971-79) Former Member, Board of Trustees

**Skidmore College,**  
Saratoga Springs, NY (1960-77) Former Member, Board of Trustees

**Tulane University,**  
New Orleans, LA (1962-77) Former Member, Board of Visitors (formerly  
Chairman)

**Austin College,**  
Sherman, TX (1966-77) Former Member, Board of Trustees

**The Hockaday School,**  
Dallas, TX Honorary Member, Board of Trustees (Chairman, 1954-64)

**Foundation for the Callier Center and Communication Disorders,**  
Dallas, TX Trustee Emeritus

**Governor's Committee (Texas) on Education Beyond the High School**  
(1963-64) Member

**Southwest Research Institute,**  
San Antonio, TX (1972) Member, Board of Trustees

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**Professional Affiliations:**

**Republic of Texas Corporation or RepublicBank Dallas,**  
Dallas, TX (now NationsBank) Director 1954-80

**The Equitable Life Assurance Society of America**  
Director 1958-73

**Dallas Power & Light Company,**  
Dallas TX Director 1955-64

**Neiman Marcus Co.,**  
Dallas, TX Director 1956-65

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**Civic Activities:**

**City of Dallas,**  
TX Mayor, 1964-71

**Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport**  
Chairman of the Board (1968-76)

**Goals for Dallas,**  
Dallas, TX; Chairman (1965-76), Chairman Emeritus (1976-1992)

**Excellence in Education Foundation,**  
Dallas, TX President (1961-92)

**United Way of Metropolitan Dallas,**  
Dallas, TX Ex-Officio Member, Board of Directors President (1961-62)

**Southwestern Medical Foundation Board of Trustees,**  
Dallas, TX Honorary Member

**Board of Trustees, Dallas Symphony Orchestra,**  
Dallas, TX Honorary Member

**Board of Trustees, Southwestern Legal Foundation,**  
Dallas, TX Honorary Member

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**Other Affiliations:**

**American Newcomen Society**  
Member

**Philosophical Society of Texas**  
Member

**Society of Exploration Geophysicists**  
Member

**American Management Association**  
Life Member, Vice President, General Management Division (1959-69)  
Member, Board of Directors (1958-64)  
Executive Committee (1962-64)

**The Conference Board,**  
New York, NY Councillor, Former Member, Board of Directors

**Academy of Texas**  
Member

**National Academy of Engineering**  
Member

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**Social Affiliations:**

Dallas Petroleum Club, Dallas, TX  
Brook Hollow Golf Club, Dallas, TX  
City Club, Dallas, TX

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**Honors and Awards:**

**1960** - Linz Award  
**1962** - Dallas Man of the Year  
**1963** - Dallas Press Club Headliner Award  
**1964** - American Society of Metals Advancement of Research Award  
**1965** - Society of Industrial Realtors Industrialist of the Year Award  
**1966** - Bene Merenti Medal  
**1966** - Southwestern Legal Foundation Great Leaders Award  
**1967** - Honorary Member, American Institute of Architects  
**1967** - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Distinguished Service Award  
**1968** - Henry Lawrence Gantt Medal  
 (American Society of Mechanical Engineers and American Management Association)  
**1969** - Horatio Alger Award  
**1970** - Hoover Medal  
 (American Society of Civil Engineers; American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers; American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)  
**1971** - Dallas Junior Bar Association Liberty Bell Award  
**1972** - B'Nai B'Rith Humanitarianism Award  
**1972** - Rose  
 Hulman Institute of Technology Chauncey Rose Medal  
**1972** - Tau Beta Pi, Rose  
 Hulman Institute of Technology Chapter Honorary Member  
**1974** - National Academy of Engineering Founders Medal  
**1975** - Junior Achievement Hall of Fame for Business Leadership Award  
**1977** - University of Texas Santa Rita Award  
**1979** - American Society of Mechanical Engineers Honorary Member  
**1979** - Babson College Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs Award  
**1980** - American Society of Swedish Engineers John Ericsson Award  
**1980** - Swedish Council of America Great Swedish Heritage Award  
**1980** - Texas Library Association Philanthropic Award  
**1983** - Semiconductor Equipment & Material Institute (SEMI) Presidential Citation Award  
**1983** - Swedish American of the Year  
**1983** - Texas Business Hall of Fame  
**1989** - American Institute of Architects, Dallas Chapter, The George Foster Harrell Award  
**1989** - J. C. Penney Lone Star Lifestyle Visionary Award  
**1989** - Rotary Club of Dallas Paul Harris Fellowship Award  
**1990** - UCLA School of Medicine Lifetime Achievement Award  
**1993** - Southwestern Medical Foundation Community Service Award

**Publications:*****"Of Time and The Cities"***

(Gantt Medal Address, 1968), published in 1969 by the Gantt Medal Board of Award

***"Avalanche: The Cities and The Seventies"***

(Henry Robinson Towne Lecture, 1968), published in Mechanical Engineering, June 1969