

A. G. GULBRANSEN'S JUBILEE CELEBRATION

President and Founder of the Gulbransen Company, Chicago, Receives Felicitations of Admiring Friends at Home and Abroad at Dinner This Week Given at Midwest Club by Board of Directors

Upwards of seventy-five guests attended the Golden Jubilee Dinner at the Midwest Athletic Club, 6 North Hamlin avenue, given by the directors of the Gulbransen Company, Chicago, to A. G. Gulbransen, to commemorate his fifty years of achievement in the music industry. The guests represented the arts and science, as well as numerous phases of industry and commerce, and an international character was given to the occasion by the presence of Olaf Bernts, Norwegian consul in Chicago, who gave a felicitous talk.

A great many admirers of Mr. Gulbransen, who intimated they were present in spirit, got in touch with the assemblage by letter or by well-timed telegrams or cable messages. Sales Manager J. S. Gorman read about two hundred congratulatory messages from dealers at home and abroad; from piano travelers and from friends and acquaintances in the piano and other industries. Mr. Gorman took the opportunity of voicing his own felicitations and spoke impressively of Mr. Gulbransen as an inspiring chief.

In his introductory Mr. Healy as toastmaster said, "We may well congratulate ourselves upon the pleasure afforded us in being present at this Golden Jubilee Dinner given in honor of A. G. Gulbransen's fifty years of achievement in the music industry. Twenty years of close association with him has given me the greatest pleasure, as well as a clear vision of his many virtues and a knowledge of the high ideals which guide him in his relations with his fellow men. What are his personal qualities? He possesses the humor of an Irishman, the practicability of a Norwegian, the efficiency of an American and the soul of a true musician. These qualities among others have no doubt enabled him to reach the high position in the business world that he now enjoys. To meet him is to like him."

W. E. Guylee, vice-president of The Cable Co., Chicago, in one of his incisive talks, conveyed his own congratulations, those of his company, and also of the National Piano Manufacturers' Association.

Max de Rochmont, speaking for the Piano Promotion Committee of the National Piano Manufacturers' Association, paid an eloquent tribute to Mr. Gulbransen's helpful and effective efforts for the elevation of the piano business and the promotion of sales by a sensible and businesslike method of piano presentation.

Representatives of civic and commercial interests in the West Side of Chicago praised Mr. Gulbransen's active part in all movements for the public good and the leading part he took in the creation of the new Midwest Club, in which the dinner was being held.

Others Who Spoke.

Mr. Healy called on A. H. Boettcher, a patent attorney who has had a great deal to do with the Gulbransen patents and who is a director of the Gulbransen Company. The next one to be introduced

was C. H. Wood, president of the Wood & Brooks Company, Buffalo, one of the leading supply sources of the Gulbransen Company. Birger Oslund, a man ranking high in financial, civic and Norwegian-American circles, a close friend of Mr. Gulbransen, made a wonderful talk based on what Mr. Gulbransen has achieved and emphasizing the qualities which are required to carry a man to the top. J. H. Wibly and Warren B. Thayer of the Thayer Action Company of Rockford, Ill., made short addresses.

Another speaker was A. H. Smith, president of the Madison and Kedzie State Bank and a man who has

was introduced as the first authorized Gulbransen dealer on the company's books.

Other speakers were Arnold Trautvetter, of the house of A. Wagner & Levien, the most prominent music dealers of Mexico City and the Republic of Mexico; Mr. Wood, of Wood & Brooks, Buffalo; W. B. Thayer, of the Thayer Piano Action Co., Rockford, Ill.; Mr. Wickham of the Wickham Piano Plate Foundry, Springfield, Ohio; Mr. Betcher of Betcher, Brown & Co.; Raymond Bill of the Music Trade Review; Michael Zimmer, superintendent of the Cook County Hospital, and Harry E. Freund.

Mr. Gulbransen spoke feelingly in reply to the expression of friendliness and admiration and said that such a display was a pleasant reward for his work in the music business and said he wished his friends at the table and those unable to be present could fully understand his feelings of appreciation.

Mr. Gorman presented from the directors of the Gulbransen Company a handsome souvenir in the shape of an album of autographic signatures of the persons present at the banquet, and after that a loving cup was presented to Mr. Gulbransen by friends.

The dinner was brightened by appropriate and high class music. Mrs. Lloyd Loar was the shining star of the evening, appearing in two groups of numbers, the first composed of music of fifty years ago, when Mr. Gulbransen made his entry into the music business. Mrs. Loar wore a costume fitting the occasion. She sang "Nellie Gray," "Wait for the Wagon" and "Long, Long Ago." In her second group she appeared in a modern costume and sang "Come to the Fair" in brilliant fashion. For her second number she did a novel thing entitled "Hats," in the course of which she made twenty or thirty changes of hats. Her accompaniments were played on the Gulbransen Spanish model grand by Mr. Loar.

Mr. Loar also appeared as a soloist, playing "Mocking Bird Fantasia," "Silver Threads Among the Gold," "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," the piano accompaniment being played by George L. Simonson, a Gulbransen dealer in Chicago. The assembled men, music men for the most part, gave a very good account of themselves when it came to community singing. Special Golden Jubilee song sheets had been prepared for the occasion.

Following the presentation to Mr. Gulbransen, he made a very gracious, short talk of acceptance, stating he considered it a privilege to have been able to give fifty years of his life to the music business. He also paid a tribute to his associates to his friends and to the old-time employees of the company who have worked with him for so many years.

The Testimony.

The following was engrossed in the book of testimony presented to Mr. Gulbransen:

"Mr. Gulbransen, the world of music has already bestowed upon you its two greatest gifts—success and

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A. G. GULBRANSEN.

worked closely with Mr. Gulbransen in affairs of the Chicago West Side Chamber of Commerce, the Midwest Athletic Club and other similar enterprises.

Mark Shanks, popularly known as the "Mayor of the West Side"—a man who has given liberally of his time to helpful civic enterprises—told of his acquaintance and admiration of Mr. Gulbransen.

E. V. Babcock, of the Babcock Lumber Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., and the former mayor of that city, paid a delightful tribute to Mr. Gulbransen, which was lightened considerably by the humorous way in which he told it. This proved to be immensely interesting to all those present.

A. E. G. Witzel, a Gulbransen dealer of Chicago,



FROM PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT GULBRANSEN JUBILEE DINNER.