



INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

Joseph Strauss

ENGINEER OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

Joseph Strauss was born in Ohio in America, on 9th January 1870. He loved poetry and wanted to go into the arts like his pianist mother and painter and writer father. However he studied civil engineering at university, while writing poetry in his spare time.

At university, he had an accident trying out for the football team. He ended up in hospital where his room overlooked Cincinnati's long-span suspension bridge. This was when his fascination with bridges began.

A few years after college he started his own company specialising in movable (bascule) drawbridge-style bridges.

In the 1920's San Francisco city wanted a bridge over the entrance to the bay. Strauss submitted a design with a span of 1,280 metres, more than double that of any bridge at the time.

His design was chosen and he became the chief engineer of the Golden Gate Bridge, completed in 1937. It was the longest suspension bridge in the world until the 1960's and is still one of the most iconic bridges in the world today.

