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FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE MUSEUM EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART.

This Month's Theme: Invention

THOMAS EDISON: THE GREATEST INVENTOR OF ALL TIME

By Norman Cohan
The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum

An invention is something made by humans that did not exist before. Inventions are usually thought of because of human need, or to help do a job more quickly. Some inventions even happen by accident. Inventions can be made by one person or from the work of a team. Similar inventions have even been

made at the same time in different parts of the world. Sometimes an invention, like a drilling tool, can take centuries to develop, and may change with time and new technology.

Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931) is probably the greatest inventor of all time. Edison received 1,093 patents, more than any other person in U.S. history. The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum has Edison's original application for the patent for the

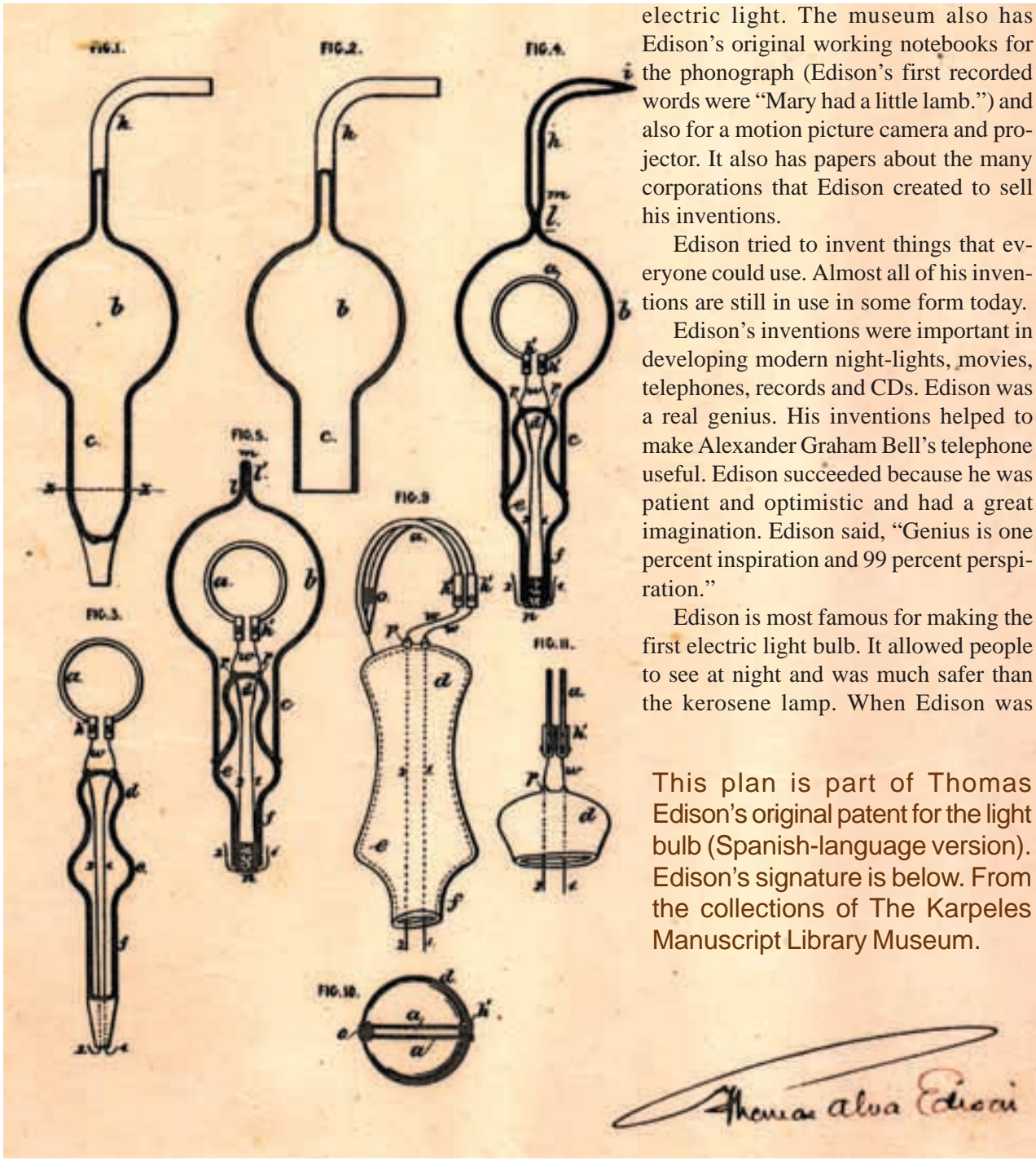
electric light. The museum also has Edison's original working notebooks for the phonograph (Edison's first recorded words were "Mary had a little lamb.") and also for a motion picture camera and projector. It also has papers about the many corporations that Edison created to sell his inventions.

Edison tried to invent things that everyone could use. Almost all of his inventions are still in use in some form today.

Edison's inventions were important in developing modern night-lights, movies, telephones, records and CDs. Edison was a real genius. His inventions helped to make Alexander Graham Bell's telephone useful. Edison succeeded because he was patient and optimistic and had a great imagination. Edison said, "Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration."

Edison is most famous for making the first electric light bulb. It allowed people to see at night and was much safer than the kerosene lamp. When Edison was

This plan is part of Thomas Edison's original patent for the light bulb (Spanish-language version). Edison's signature is below. From the collections of The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum.



born, electricity had not been developed. By the time he died, whole cities had electric lights.

Electricity is used for lights, kitchen appliances, televisions, radios, furnaces, computers, and garage doors. It is hard to imagine today's world without electricity. Look around the room. How many objects, devices, or appliances need electric energy to work? What happens to our daily lives when the power goes out? Electricity has caused many changes in most countries.



GEORGE "FRITZ" MAIERS: GOLETA'S OWN INVENTOR

By JoAnne Treloar
Goleta Valley Historical Society

The walnut farmers of Goleta used to remove the green skins or hulls from walnuts by hand. This process took a very long time. George "Fritz" Maiers, a wagon maker in Goleta, saw that the farmers needed help. In 1901, Maiers, with the aid of Jasper Lane, invented a hand-powered machine that used spinning wire brushes to remove the hulls from walnuts. The new machine did not harm the wooden walnut shells. The huller was tried out for the first time at the Linquist Ranch on Patterson Ave. The George Maiers Walnut Huller was patented in 1903. After Maiers made improvements to the machine, it was able to do the work of 35 men in the same amount of time.

The huller was manufactured in Goleta on the corner of Hollister Ave. and Fairview Ave. and was sold to farmers for \$350. The Maiers Huller was used up until the 1950s when it was replaced by newer, more automated machines.

You can see a few George Maiers Hullers (one is pictured below) in the Sexton Museum at the Goleta Valley Historical Society.



GET connected

GET CONNECTED WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE MUSEUM EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE:

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Ganna Walska Lotusland
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Promoting Plant Conservation, Education, and Preservation

Goleta Valley Historical Society
805-964-4407; www.goletahistory.org

Fiddlers Convention at Stow House on Oct. 13; Lemon Festival is Oct. 20-21.

Santa Barbara Historical Society
805-966-1601

To promote an appreciation and understanding of Santa Barbara regional history and the importance of history in general.

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Register now for fall edZOOcation classes and Theater Gone Wild performances.

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In Paseo Nuevo, 2nd level, Arts Terrace. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 11-5, Sun. 12-5. Admission is free.

South Coast Railroad Museum
805-964-3540; www.goletadepot.org

Open Wed. through Sun. 1 to 4 pm. 300 N. Los Carneros Road, Goleta. Come Ride the Train!

BRIGHT IDEA Match These Inventors To Their Inventions

ANSWERS ARE BELOW.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The Wright Brothers | a. Light bulb |
| 2. Robert Goddard | b. Laser |
| 3. Guglielmo Marconi | c. Television |
| 4. Vladimir Zworykin | d. Airplane |
| 5. Thomas Edison | e. Printing Press |
| 6. George Maiers | f. Rocket |
| 7. Alexander Graham Bell | g. Radio |
| 8. Eli Whitney | h. Walnut Huller |
| 9. Gordon Gould | i. Cotton Gin |
| 10. Johann Gutenberg | j. Telephone |

ANSWERS 1-d, 2-f, 3-g, 4-c, 5-a, 6-h, 7-j, 8-i, 9-b, 10-e

BRIGHT IDEA YOU AND YOUR INVENTION

By Norman Cohan
The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum

The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum has the original patent law that was signed by Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State in 1790. A patent is something that says no one can copy your idea. The government gives you a patent if your invention is new and useful. When a patent is granted, no one can copy that object, pattern or design. Anyone can apply for a patent, as long as his or her idea is new. A lawyer can help you fill out the right papers for a patent. For more information write: Office of Information-US Patent Office-Washington DC-20231.

Do you have a good idea for a new or improved product? Before building something, meet with different people. Talk with them about how they would use your invention. What do they like about it? What don't they like? This will help you decide if your invention is worth building or not.

The Wheel...

is probably the most important mechanical invention of all time. Wheels are found in most machines, in clocks, windmills, steam engines, cars and bicycles.



ART FROM SCRAP
805-884-0459
www.communityenvironmentalcouncil.org/afs
Art From Scrap is an environmental education and art program of the Community Environmental Council.

Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum
805-962-5322
The world's largest private holding of important original documents and manuscripts.

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum
805-962-8404
www.sbmm.org
Museum and Store Hours: Thurs.-Tues. 10am-5pm. Closed: Wednesdays.

Our Next Issue: Oct 28