



WHY MOTHERS GET GRAY



WHAT'LL HOLD YOU, BAXTER?

Odds against U.S. inventor getting rich formidable

First of Three
By Harry Furguson
UPI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Every day 350 American inventors apply to the federal government for a patent and automatically become mental millionaires. They have rosy dreams of quick wealth, but as the days, months and years roll by they are driven to the conclusion that roulette and craps shooting may be better bets.

The odds against an inventor getting rich are formidable. There is almost a fifty-fifty chance that somebody thought up the gadget before he did and already has obtained a patent. In any case his application goes to the bottom of a list of 150,000 others which are awaiting a decision in the U. S. Patent Office, and on an average it will be between three and three and a half years before he will know how he stands.

Only The Beginning
But his troubles are only beginning. Once he gets the patent, he has to persuade somebody to manufacture and sell his gadget and here, again, his chances are only a little better than fifty-fifty. Too many people invent things that nobody happens to want at the moment.

The classic example is Johannes Gutenberg, a German who invented movable type in the middle of the 15th century. He made crude block letters and printed a 23-page book in Latin advising people how to make speeches. Then he ran out of money and got a loan from Johann Fust, a banker. Gutenberg then printed some Bibles, but they didn't sell well. The miscalculation in Gutenberg's plan was that very few people knew how to read and there wasn't any market for printed pages. The banker foreclosed on him, seized all of his equipment and Gutenberg wound up working for the archbishop of Mainz at a salary of one new suit of clothes a year.

Has Same Problem
Bartolomeo Cristofori ran into the same problem when he invented the piano in 1709. The Italians didn't like the piano, preferring the dulcimer and the harpsichord, and Cristofori's pianos rotted in the warehouses.

Lang after the inventor's death a German, Gottfried Silbermann, read about Cristofori's pianos and tried to build them. He got rich fast. The Germans happened to like pianos.

American industry is highly competitive and the natural assumption would be that corporations would slug it out with each other in an attempt to get an invention that would improve their product. But sometimes they appear to be completely blind when a new idea—patented and proved—is put before them.

Tells Amazing Story
In 1926 F. W. Davis invented power steering for automobiles. It made a car infinitely easier to handle and obviously was a strong selling point to women drivers. But just the other day Davis, in Boston, told in the Wall Street Journal an amazing story about his invention.

As soon as he had perfected the device he took it to Detroit and demonstrated it to 10 automobile companies. None was interested. In 1928 he stirred some interest in Cadillac Motors, he said, and a tentative licensing agreement was drawn up. But Cadillac decided the cost of tooling the invention was too high and the agreement was allowed to expire.

Davis said he then went to the Bendix Corp., which agreed to experiment but only on pilot models for buses and trucks. Sometime in 1940 Davis said he got the Buick Motor Co. interested in power steering.

"It looked like we were ready to go," he said, "but then came Pearl Harbor and the end of civilian automobile production. "After the war I went back to Cadillac and they told me they didn't need anything new because they were selling all the cars they could make. It was not until 1951 when a buyers' market returned that the automobile makers became interested in power steering. When Chrysler introduced a power steering model, everybody wanted one and I began to make some money."

Constitution the American colonies and states issued patents and the first one went to Samuel Winslow of Massachusetts, who in 1641 devised a new method for manufacturing salt. President George Washington signed the first federal patent law on April 10, 1790, and since then the U.S. Patent Office has granted 3,090,044 applications.

Most of them have been forgotten, and that is the reason few inventors get rich. But when a man comes up with the right thing at the right time, the money rolls in like the tides of the ocean. Take Cyrus H. McCormick, for instance. His father owned four farms in Virginia, two saw mills and a blacksmith shop, and was constantly tinkering with the idea of a machine for harvesting his grain.

Solves Problem
Young McCormick went to work on the problem and in 1831, at the age of 22, submitted his plans to the family blacksmith. What he had done was to solve the problem of how to keep stones and stumps from breaking the sharp edge of the knives which cut the grain. He did it by protecting them with a string of metal fingers which brushed aside the rocks.

Before 1831 a man with a scythe could cut about half an acre of grain a day. Soon McCormick's reaper was cutting 16 acres a day, even though it was horse drawn. McCormick had hit the jackpot and he moved to Chicago, where he put up a factory and sold reapers as fast as he could make them.

One by-product of McCormick's invention was that the Chicago lawyers never had it so good. They went up and down the land suing people who were infringing on McCormick's patents. When an inventor has to spend lots of time in court, he knows he has it made.

Next: How to get a patent and what to do with it.



Member, Audit Bureau of Circulations

In Prineville — Mrs. Gary Stephens — 447-7730

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NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE BY VIRTUE OF an Execution in Force, duly issued out of and under the seal of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, in and for the County of Deschutes, to me directed and dated the 10th day of May, 1963, in a certain action therein, wherein Equitable Savings & Loan Association, a corporation, as plaintiff, recovered judgment against James W. Smith and Muriel Smith, husband and wife, for the sum of \$7,246.62, with interest thereon at the rate of 6 per cent per annum from the 10th day of August, 1961 until paid, with costs and disbursements taxed at \$28.35, the further sum of \$36.00 for title search, and the further sum of \$750.00 attorneys' fees, which judgment was entered and docketed in the Clerk's office of said Court in said County on the 10th day of May, 1963.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the terms of the said Execution, I will, on the 14th day of June, 1963, at 2:30 p.m. on the Courthouse steps in Bend, Deschutes County, Oregon, offer for sale and will sell at public auction for cash to the highest bidder, to satisfy said judgment, together with the costs of this sale, the following described real property:

PARCEL 1: The Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section Twenty-eight (28), Township Seventeen (17) South, Range Fourteen (14) E.W.M., Deschutes County, Oregon;

PARCEL 2: The Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, and that part of the Northeast Quarter of Northeast Quarter and Northeast Quarter of Northwest Quarter lying South of the Alfalfa Market Road, all being in Section Twenty-eight (28), Township Seventeen (17) South, Range Fourteen (14) E.W.M., Deschutes County, Oregon.

sale said to be subject to unpaid real property taxes. DATED this 10th day of May, 1963.

F. C. SHOLES, Sheriff, Deschutes County, Oregon

DATE of first publication: May 13, 1963. 134-140-146-151-C

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of ROBERT PEDERSEN In the District Court of the State of Oregon for Deschutes County.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the undersigned, Grace C. Dick, has been appointed as executrix of the last will and testament of Robert Pedersen, deceased, by the above entitled Court. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified and required to present the same, duly verified, as by law required, to the undersigned at the office of DeArmond, Goodrich, Gray & Fancher, P.O. Box 1151, 1044 Bond Street, Bend, Oregon, within six months from the first publication of his notice in the Daily Bend Bulletin.

Dated and first published May 6, 1963. GRACE C. DICK, Executrix DeArmond, Goodrich, Gray & Fancher, Attorneys for said estate. 128-134-140-146-C

8-Special Notices ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS For information call 382-4780, or Redmond 548-3606.

THE Educational Division of Field Enterprises is interviewing teachers for summer assignment. Must have local teaching credentials. Apply in person at Pilot Butte Inn, Monday, May 27, 1963 from 5-9 p.m. Call 382-3878.

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Legal opinion due on issue

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Do "Christian children have equal rights under the law in the tax-supported schools and if it is unconstitutional to teach of God in the public schools, is it equally unconstitutional to teach of the absence of God?"

The state Board of Education has agreed to ask the state attorney general for a legal opinion on this question, posed by two housewives from Costa Mesa, Calif.

Mrs. Jean E. Sumrall and Mrs. Neil Seagraves told the board Friday that certain school textbooks "teach Darwinism as truth to the exclusion of any religious theory."

Mrs. Sumrall said, "Education has leaned over so far to protect atheist children from being taught religion in school that it is now on the side of the atheists and agnostics."

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