

# WORK OF EDISON UNCOMPLETED AT TIME OF PASSING

## Noted Inventor Had Plan to Make Rubber From Goldenrod—Wanted Five Years for Experiments

WEST ORANGE, N. J., Oct. 19.—On the afternoon of March 17, 1930, Thomas Alva Edison stood in the Florida sunshine, and, on a tattered piece of paper, addressed a plea to God, asking for five more years of life.

He wanted it, not because he was afraid to die, but because his work, which was his religion as well, was unfinished. In the crowded 83 years of his life he had brought the almost limitless forces of electricity within reach of any child able to push a button; he had instilled voices in wooden boxes and made it possible to preserve the arias of a Caruso; he had cut down time and space, linked hemispheres with the thread of a telephone wire; he had channelled the earth's ether waves and turned night into day.

But his death came in the midst of his most perplexing experiment. Waving aside the laws of the vegetable kingdom, he had sought to make the common goldenrod perform functions for which it was never intended. He wanted to extract from it rubber, a commodity of ever-increasing importance to a motorized world.

Asks for Five Years More. "Give me five more years," he scribbled on that March day, "and the United States will have a rubber crop that can be utilized in 12 months' time."

It was characteristic of Edison that he should die disappointed, because for him yesterday's triumph became insignificant in the excitement of tomorrow's possibilities.

Edison, born in Milan, Ohio, February 11, 1847, violated virtually every canon in the typical American success formula except two—he was a poor boy and he worked hard.

He quit school as soon as possible and was at the foot of the class as long as he remained.

He chewed and smoked. He was careless of his personal appearance.

He was discharged frequently from various jobs.

He turned his inventive talent, in his early years, to cheating his employers of his working time.

He was careless of personal property and frequently endangered lives with his chemical experiments.

He scoffed at persons who insisted on getting the conventional eight hours' sleep a night.

Many Eccentricities. Edison evinced many of the eccentricities and contradictions commonly associated with genius. He was addicted to heavy, black cigars, but would not permit anyone who worked for him to smoke cigars. His knowledge of and interest in rudimentary business transactions were so slight that at 28 he did not know how to cash a check, and when someone showed him how he took \$40,000, obtained for his inventions on a mass-quotations machine, in \$5 and \$10 bills and set up with it all night because he did not know how to open a bank account.

Edison sacrificed thousands of dollars because he was indifferent about protecting his patents. His mind, energetic and brain-like when applied to a scientific problem, was incapable of accurate retention of words and phrases and when he tried to write from memory the verses from Gray's "Wiggy Written in a Country Churchyard," beginning "The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power," he made a mistake in every line.

Often neglecting to buy new suits even when his clothing was threadbare, he insisted on wearing silk nightgowns and carrying India silk handkerchiefs a foot square.

Boastful Recreation. For the scant recreation in which he indulged he preferred things of sweep and breadth: "Les Miserables" and "Tollers of the Sea," in fiction (Hugo was his favorite author); "The Birth of a Nation," and "The Covered Wagon" in motion pictures. He read newspapers three lines at a time instead of up information quickly.

Unsentimental about most things, his only regret concerning his death, was that he could not hear the song "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen," a sentimental ballad. He resented taking motion pictures and shortly before he died, expressed the desire to "see Clara Bow or Mary Pickford in one of the good old silent films."

Edison's humor was designed to be humorous to no one except himself. Two examples:

"When I was a baby I lived on milk and didn't like it. Now I have gone back to milk again. That's funny."

"I've been working two shifts most of my life. Lots of other men work two shifts, too, but devote one of them to poker."

Never a publicity seeker, Edison minimized the importance of his own inventions. He was prepared to accept \$3000 for his stock quotation machine and was speechless when offered \$40,000; he believed the chief benefit of his incandescent lamp was that "it helped keep the world awake." Oversleeping and coarsening, he contended, were the two greatest human vices. Edison's four hours of sleep nightly have become legendary, although his friend,

Harvey Firestone, contended the inventor drowned during the day.

Famous Quotet. Firestone, Henry Ford and Edison were vacation companions for years and spent many evenings around campfires. In October, 1929, Ford, having reconstructed Edison's Menlo Park laboratory at Dearborn, Mich., helped his friend celebrate the 50th anniversary of the invention of the incandescent lamp. President Hoover was there and followed Edison about the grounds while the inventor marvelled at the faithful reproduction of his New Jersey workshop.

"Why Henry ever brought the damned New Jersey clay out here," Edison remarked, and he was right, for Ford had shipped seven carloads of it to Michigan.

Edison was a vulnerable prophet. Some time before the outbreak of hostilities in 1914 he predicted there would never be another war; the talking motion pictures were doomed to failure, he said, because the novelty would soon wear off; he was convinced poured concrete furniture would revolutionize that business and spent a fortune promoting it before he admitted he was wrong.

Edison was a victim of his whims and once abandoned experiments on a rocket plane, since developed in Germany, because one of his models exploded and burned his hair. Last May he suddenly announced he had forsaken the tests in which he tried to pick "America's Brightest Boy." After one such test he admitted he could not answer some of the questions he had asked the high school boys.

He died leaving the imprint of his genius in some form on every modern invention, except the airplane.

## FIVE GRANGERS ARE OBLIGATED AT MEET OF TALENT CHAPTER

TALENT, Ore., Oct. 19.—(Sp.)—Talent Grange met Thursday evening with Worthy Master Ormie Goddard in the chair. There was a large attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Werth, Bernice Werth, Beatrice Werth and W. A. Stratton were obligated in the first and second degree. Two applications for membership were referred to an investigating committee. County Judge Sparrow presented the script plan of relief work and the Grange appointed a committee to co-operate with the county committee.

Mr. Gallitan, chairman of the program committee, presented Mrs. Kilgore, music supervisor of Ashland high school; Mat Tompson, Y. M. C. A. secretary, Ashland, and Hugh Thompson, U. S. M., radio operator.

Mat Tompson, with Miss Kilgore at the piano, lead the singing. Miss Kilgore played two piano solos.

Hugh Thompson, stationed on the U. S. S. Arizona when President Hoover made his trip to Cuba, told some incidents of the trip.

Mr. Dodge gave a humorous reading and Mrs. Frink, musical readings. Refreshments were served by the H. E. committee.

## OREGON MOTHERS, DADS PLAN DINNER

Extensive plans are being completed for the entertainment here tomorrow evening of Dr. Arnold Bennett Hall, president of the University of Oregon, and the members of his tour.

# MILEPOSTS IN LIFE OF THOMAS ALVA EDISON

WEST ORANGE, N. J., Oct. 19.—The following chronology of Thomas Alva Edison's life touches the most important phases of his career: 1847—Born February 11 at Milan, Ohio. 1854—Moved to Port Huron, Mich. 1857—Started chemical laboratory in cellar of home. 1859—Became newsboy and "candy butcher" on Grand Trunk. 1862—Printed and published "The Weekly Herald," the first newspaper ever printed on moving train. 1862—Put up telegraph line from railway station to village. 1863—First position as telegraph operator at Stratford Junction, Canada. 1866—Employed as telegraph operator in Western Union office, Boston. 1868—Perfected first patented invention, an electrical vote recorder. 1869—Landed in New York and hired as superintendent of financial house's telegraphic department. 1869—Entered partnership with Franklin L. Pope as electrical engineer. Improved stock tickers and perfected several inventions relating to their operation. 1870—Received first money—\$40,000—for his inventions. Opened manufacturing plant in Newark. 1871—Assisted in building first successful typewriter. 1872 to 1876—Perfected monograph, multiplex telegraph systems, paraffin paper, carbon rheostat, microtransmitter. 1875—Discovered unique electrical phenomena "Etheric force," which became foundation for wireless telegraphy. 1876—Moved to laboratory at Menlo Park, N. J. 1877—Invented carbon telephone transmitter and microphone. 1877—Invented phonograph. 1879—Invented incandescent lamp. 1879—Invented improvements in dynamo. 1880—Invented magnetic ore separator. 1881—Opened New York business offices. 1881—Established first commercial

incandescent lamp factory. 1882—Invented and installed first electric passenger railway. 1883—Discovered control of current flow known as "Edison effect." 1887—Moved to present laboratories. 1891—Invented motion picture camera. 1891 to 1900—Worked on great iron ore concentration enterprise. 1900 to 1910—Perfected Edison Alkaline storage battery; made important inventions for producing Portland cement. 1905—Introduced new dictating machine. 1908—Introduced the kinetophone, or talking motion picture. 1914—Devised plan for making synthetic carbolic acid. 1914—Plant badly damaged by fire, Dec. 9. 1914—Invented the telecine, combining telephone and phonograph.

1915—Worked out chemical problems relating to manufacture of carbolic acid. 1917 and 1918—Worked on special experiments in war problems for government. 1918—Resumed experimental work at laboratories. 1927—Began experiments on rubber production, which occupied latter years. 1930—Developed keen interest in aeronautics. 1931—Died on Oct. 18, at his West Orange home.

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ley this week after spending the summer on Geo. Young's ranch. Mrs. Geo. McAnally spent Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. Jas. Mays. Mrs. Jess Black of Ashland is visiting her mother, Mrs. C. Bushnell here. Miss Bon Nell Jones called on Miss Ruth Mays Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Green were in Ashland Thursday. D. C. Hale was out to Medford Tuesday. Jas. Mays and family called on F. M. Centers Wednesday. E. J. Center is helping Mr. Schutte with his wood this week. Mrs. Bushnell and Mrs. Black spent Thursday evening at the Mays home. Burn dry slabs, \$4.75 per load. Med. Fuel Co., Tel. 631. Kindling, \$2.50 per load. Medford Fuel Co. Tel. 631.

**ANDERSON CREEK**  
ANDERSON CREEK, Ore., Oct. 19 (AP)—Joe Daniels moved out the val-



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