

Inventions—Part II

Taking Another's Idea, Improving It, Often Brings Success for Inventors

By HARRY FERGUSON
Washington — Most famous inventors merely took another man's idea and improved on it. You do not have to come up with something entirely new to get a patent. The Wright Brothers in-

vented the airplane after reading about the work of Otto Lillenthal, a German who manufactured gliders. Galileo did not invent the telescope because of a sudden inspiration but because he had heard about experiments with lenses

performed by a Belgian named Hans Lippershey. Even the most simple thing can be improved upon and patented. The other day patent No. 3,085,272 was granted to Laverne M. Cowan of Covington, Ga., for a tooth brush. His idea was to set the bristles into the handle in the form of an X.

To apply for a patent you make a drawing of your invention, write a letter describing it and mail them, along with \$30, to the U.S. Patent Office. Your application will go to one of the patent office's 1,000 examiners who will determine whether you have come up with a novel idea. If the application is granted, you have exclusive rights to your invention for 17 years, but only in the United States and its territories. After that the invention goes into the public domain. Unless you get a patent in every country in the world, anybody in a foreign nation can take your idea and go into business without paying you anything.

Patience Pays Off
Patience is a virtue which every inventor must cultivate. It frequently takes 20 or 30 years to develop his idea to the point where it becomes commercially feasible and profitable. The zipper, for instance, is in such widespread use today that most persons assume it was an instantaneous success. Actually the basic idea was patented in 1891 by Whitcomb L. Judson who called his idea "a clasp locker and unlocker for shoes."

It was made of hooks and eyes with a sliding clasp and Judson soon extended the idea to women's dresses and sold his product for 35 cents. Complaints began rolling in immediately. There was no way to lock the first zipper and when women sat down, their dresses popped open. Judson could not devise a solution to the problem and died without cashing in on his invention.

A momentary discomfort or irritation frequently results in an invention. Patent No. 6,469 was issued to Abraham Lincoln because on a trip

down the Mississippi river his boat got stuck on a dam. He devised a set of bellows placed just below the water line of the hull, and the idea was that when the bellows were pumped up the boat would float free. There is no record that his invention ever was put into production, and a few years later he became pre-occupied with larger matters.

Mark Twain ran out of glue one day when he was pasting items into his scrapbook and immediately put aside literary matters to concentrate on the problem. The result was that he got patent No. 121,892 for what was described as a "self pasting scrapbook." It was simply a series of blank pages coated with paste, and he sold 25,000 of them.

Few persons have heard of Alfred E. Ischinger of Mount Penn, Pa., but he is a famous man in the U.S. Patent Office. In 1937 he set a record for the largest documentation of an invention — 170 sheets of drawings and 346 pages of specifications. His machine was for "the uninterrupted knitting of shaped fabrics."

Next: Strange ideas that flow into the patent office.

Police Check Two Accidents in City

Medford police investigated two non-injury vehicle accidents in the city Monday. One driver was cited, officers said.

Vehicles operated by William Jennings Cooney, 67, of 717 Dekota ave., and Elizabeth Ann Wehrly, 49, of 139 White Oak dr., collided about 1:20 p.m. at 11th and Holly sts. Investigating officers cited Cooney for disobeying a traffic signal.

A vehicle operated by Charlie Mull, 56, of 2978 East McAndrews rd., struck a parked car registered to Jarvey James Dutton, 2321 Capital ave., about 4:54 p.m. on Jackson st. near the Woodstock st. intersection. No citations were issued, officers said.



'LET 'EM RACE'—This 1 1/2-year-old Beagle, "Tripps," saw and heard all the sleek race cars as they prepared for the Memorial Day race at Indianapolis, Ind., but he couldn't care less. He was thankful for the shady spot provided by his master, Richard Houston, but he would just as soon be back in Elmira Heights, N.Y. (UPI)

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
Jackson, Miss.—Businessman Joseph Albright, advising Mayor Allen Thompson on the subject of civil rights after Negroes walked out of a grievance session:
"You run this city to the best of your ability for all concerned and let the agitators be damned."

Washington—Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, commenting on the unanimous Supreme Court ruling calling for a speedup in the desegregation of recreation facilities in Memphis, Tenn.:
"The basic guarantees of our Constitution are warrants for the here and now and . . . they are to be promptly fulfilled."

Los Angeles—Mrs. Elaine Johnson, 39, who lost 136 pounds on a hospital-supervised diet, commenting on her first meal in 117 days—a spoonful of cottage cheese and one-fourth cup of eggnog:
"I couldn't eat it all. It was too much."

Nairobi, Kenya—Jomo (Burning Spear) Kenyatta, possible first prime minister of Kenya, promising to protect the rights of the white minority:
"We shall build a country where every citizen may develop his talents to the full . . . The rights of all and of their property will be fully protected."

Dim Future for Feed Grain Law Repeal Visioned

Washington — Senate Democratic Whip Hubert H. Humphrey (Minn.) today predicted a "very dim future" for a new attempt to replace present wheat and feed grains laws with a new program.

The new bill, introduced Monday by two Republican and two Democratic senators, apparently faced slow going in the Senate Agriculture committee. Chairman Allen J. Ellen-

der (D-La.) was due back today from Louisiana but there were no indications he would support the bipartisan bill which is backed strongly by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The measure was introduced by Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper (R-Iowa) with Sens. George D. Aiken (R-Vt.), Clinton P. Anderson (D-N.M.) and Spessard L. Holland (D-Fla.) as co-sponsors.

Humphrey said "to repeal the present feed grain law would be unfortunate . . . it is a good piece of legislation."

He also attacked the new proposal on other counts and said he thought it would have "little or no chance" of passage. "I predict a very dim future for such an attempt," he told a reporter.

The bill would repeal the feed grain law which President Kennedy signed last week just before the wheat referendum in which growers rejected the administration's acreage control program.

It also would remove the agriculture secretary's authority to conduct another wheat referendum next year.

Racial Conflicts Hinder Diplomats

Washington — Secretary of State Dean Rusk says U. S. racial conflicts force U. S. diplomats to conduct foreign policy like sprinters with one leg in a cast.

Rusk called for solution of race problems which he said are causing "deep injury" to the United States abroad.

The secretary, a native of Georgia, spoke out on racial problems at a foreign policy briefing for about 300 representatives of private organizations.

His remarks, first made on a "background only" basis, were released for publication later at the request of newsmen.

Rusk said the United States "is now confronted with one of the gravest issues that we have had since 1865 and . . . this issue deeply affects the conduct of our foreign relations. I am speaking, of course, of the problems of discrimination in this country, in whatever part of the country, based on race or religion or national origin."

"I believe that in general the free world is in a position to move forward with confidence . . . if we do not let up, if we maintain our effort and continue to support the great causes of freedom," Rusk said. "But in this country we are running this race with one of our legs in a cast."



SWITCH ACTIVATED—President Kennedy presses a gold telegraph key to activate a light switch in the rebuilt Mark Twain Lighthouse in Hannibal, Mo., while attending the annual White House Press Dinner in Washington. President Franklin D. Roosevelt turned on the lights in the original building, which was destroyed by a wind storm two years ago, in a similar ceremony in 1935. (UPI)

this Memorial Day it's Pepsi for those who think young



Time off for a day outdoors calls for a time out for Pepsi-Cola. Light, bracing Pepsi matches your modern activities—the think-young life! Pepsi's sparkling-clean taste is never too sugary or sweet. And nothing drenches your thirst like a cold, inviting Pepsi. So think young—say "Pepsi, please!"



Bottled by Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Medford, under Appointment from Pepsi-Cola Company, N.Y., N.Y.



nothing could be more crisp!