

Seed Of Many Famous Inventions Spawned From Other Men's Ideas

By HARRY FERGUSON
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Most famous inventions 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 invented the airplane after reading about the work of Otto Lilienthal, 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 and 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 unclasp locker 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

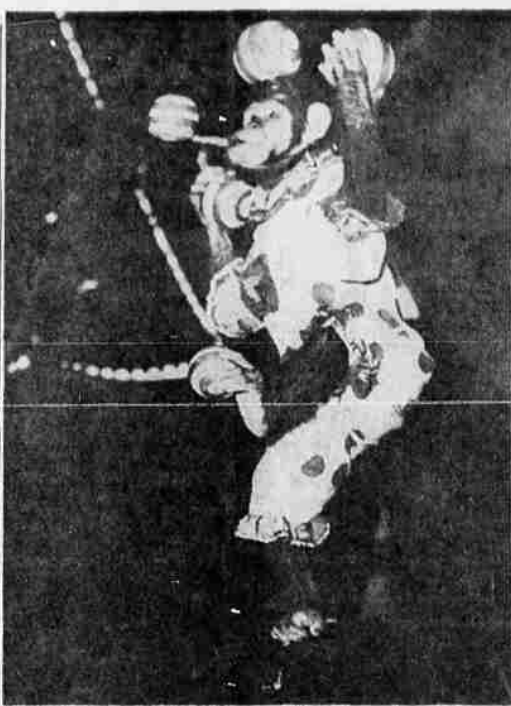
on a dam. He devised a set of bellows placed just below the water line of the hull, and the idea was that when the bellows were pumped up the boat would float free. There is no record that his invention ever was put into production, and a few years later he became preoccupied with larger matters.

Invents New Scrapbook
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. 121,992 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.

Many 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—179 sheets of drawings and 146 pages of specifications. His machine was for "the uninterrupted knitting of shaped fabrics."

Next: Strange ideas that flow into the patent office.

The Soviet Union is nearly three times the size of the United States.



CHIMP HAS HANDS FULL — This chimp who will be arriving with the James Brothers Circus Thursday will be doing his juggling act at two big performances at the Klamath Auditorium 4:30 and 8:30 p.m. The show is being sponsored by the Klamath County Sheriff's Posse and half the proceeds will be donated to the hospital fund.

Sheriff's Posse Circus Slated Here Thursday

The circus is coming to town. With cotton candy machines spinning their pink webs. With bareback riders and "death defying" wire acts. With the flying trapeze and clowns and chimps, and with Klamath Falls youngsters standing in line waiting to bring a bucket of water to the sometimes too big, sometimes a little scary pachyderms.

The James Brothers Circus will be at the Klamath Falls Auditorium for two big performances at 4:30 and 8:30 p.m. Thursday. It is sponsored by the Klamath County Sheriff's Posse and half the proceeds will be donated to the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital Fund.

When the James Brothers group arrives in its modern vans and trailers there is an immediate flurry of excitement as the troopers go right to work setting up for their acts.

One of the first out is the Flying Hartzells trapeze troupe with John and John Jr. right to work setting up wires, ropes and swings and testing and retesting each knot to insure the safety of the performers' lives.

Dwight Moore, master of the Dog Pound Review, tests the props to be used in the act, trapeze girls sew on loose spangles, clowns apply makeup, jugglers take their clubs and hoops and balls from the velvet lined cases and popcorn machines begin to create their small white mountains.

The circus is indeed coming to town.

Square Dance Jamboree Set

DUNSMUIR — Square dancers will gather for a Callers' Jamboree as a special feature of Railroad Days, June 22 - 23.

The Pepper Steppers, a local square dance group, will host the jamboree at the Dunsmuir High School on Saturday night, June 22. Two local callers and 13 guest callers have been invited to participate.

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Baccalaureate Service Set

MOUNT SHASTA — Baccalaureate services at the Mount Shasta High School will be held June 2 at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Mrs. William Strickland will play the prelude and processional as well as the recessional.

The invocation will be given by Rev. Harold Engdahl, Community Methodist Church, and the Scripture and prayer by Rev. Emory W. Leader, Evangelical Methodist Church. The sermon will be given by Rev. Harold Casper of the Assembly of God Church, and the benediction by Rev. John C. Shannon of the First Baptist Church.

A sextet composed of Jo Ann Jantzer, Marie Barry, Sylvia Manley, Patty Freeman, Carol Buchanan, and Kathy Baltar will sing "Break Faith, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" by Bach and "Hear My Supplication" by Arkhangelsky.

June 6 at 8 p.m. is the date set for commencement exercises in the Mount Shasta High School auditorium. Patti Hunter will give the welcome; Edwin Smutz, class history; Laura Melo and Larry Frazer, speech; and the farewell will be given by John Herzog.

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O R

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O R

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