

Achievements of Thomas Edison

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THOMAS ALVA EDISON will be 83 years of age in February next, if he so long survives. As a resident of New Jersey since about 1870, a brief survey of his achievements in the line of inventions may be interesting to such of our readers as have no knowledge of the exact facts. Hence the following resume of a most remarkable lifework

- 1847. Born, February 11, at Milan, Ohio.
- 1854. Removed to Port Huron, Mich.
- 1857. Began a chemical laboratory in cellar of his home.
- 1859. Became a newsboy on trains of the Grand Trunk Railway between Port Huron and Detroit.
- 1862. Printed and published "The Weekly Herald" on the train; the first newspaper printed on a moving train. Saved from death a young son of a station agent at Mt. Clemens, Mich.; the father, in gratitude, taught Edison telegraphy.
Put up a telegraph line from the station in Port Huron to the village and helped to operate it.
- 1863-'68. Active as telegraph operator in various cities, always experimenting to improve the telegraph instruments.
- 1868. Went to Boston as operator in the Western Union; later resigned and went into the business of private telegraph lines.
Made, this year, an electrical vote recorder, his first patent.
- 1869. Went to New York City, in debt; after fixing up a broken-down telegraph apparatus of the Gold & Stock Telegraph Co., was made Superintendent at \$300 per month. Made new inventions.
Same year went into partnership with Franklin L. Pope as electrical engineer.
- 1870. Received for inventions. \$40,000; opened office in Newark, N.J., to manufacture telegraph tickers.
- 1871. Aided one Sholes to make first successful working model of a typewriter.
- 1872-'76. Completed inventions, including

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1875. Discovered "Etheric Force," the foundation later of wireless telegraphy.
1876. Erected laboratory at Menlo Park, N.J.
1877. Invented the carbon telephone transmitter. Same year invented the phonograph.
1878. Went with astronomical party to Rawlins, Wyoming, to test his microtasmeter during transit of Venus. Same year published an article in the "North American Review," forecasting ten uses for the phonograph, all accomplished since.
1879. Invented incandescent electric lamp.
- Same year invented improvements in dynamos for generation of current for light, heat and power; measurement, etc., of electric current; sockets, switches, etc.
- Same year gave public demonstration of electric lighting system on streets and in buildings at Menlo Park.
1880. Invented further improvements in electric systems to be introduced commercially; also magnetic ore separator.
- 1881-'82. Opened commercial offices in New York City. Same year established incandescent lamp factory at Harrison, N.J., and shops elsewhere; also installed electric railway at Menlo Park.
1883. Installed first three-wire central station for electric lighting at Sunbury, Pa.; discovered "Edison Effect," (so called), covering the foundation principle of modern radio lamps.
1887. Between 1880 and 1887 took out nearly 300 patents relating to electric systems; also invented system of wireless telegraphy by induction and between trains in motion, etc. In 1887 moved to present laboratory at West Orange.
1890. Between 1887 and 1890 took out over 80 patents on improvements on cylinder phonographs, including dictating and shaving machines.
1891. Made more inventions relating to electric railways; also invented the motion picture camera.
1900. From 1891 to 1900 made inventions on iron ore crushing and forwarded iron ore enterprises.
- Between 1900 and 1909 made inventions culminating in the Edison Alkaline Storage Battery, now in general use; also established a Portland Cement

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mill, making inventions in method and processes in production of Portland cement; also made new inventions in phonograph cylinders, dictating machines, etc.

- 1910-11. Continuing improvements on phonographs.
- 1912. Introduced talking movie pictures.
- 1913. Improvement in dictators.
- 1914. Devised plan for making carbolic acid synthetically, which turned out one ton a day; also invented the telescribe, combining telephone and dictating instruments.
- 1915. Erected four or more benzol plants, supplies from abroad being cut off by World War. They produced also totual, solvent naphtha, xylol and naphthaline.
Same year made separate plant for producing paraphenylenedlamine, used for phonograph diamond disks,
- 1916. Made new improvements in disk phonograph records.
- 1917-'18. Worked on War problems for U.S. Government; in all submitted reports on 42 problems.
- 1919-'26. Patented 40 inventions, resulting from experiments in his West Orange plant.
- 1927-'28. Spent much time experimenting to produce rubber; up to October, 1928, had about 1,150 patents issued to him in past 60 years.
- 1929. In June special U.S. Postage Stamp issue to commemorate Mr. Edison, and great display of lights in Atlantic City in his honor, when Edison spoke from Florida.