Fort Myers, Florida: Museum – Part 4

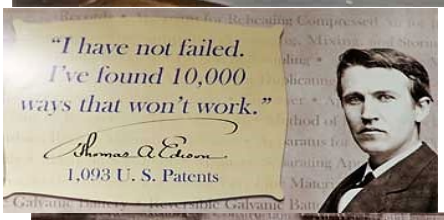
The International Council of Museums offers the following definition of the word "museum:"

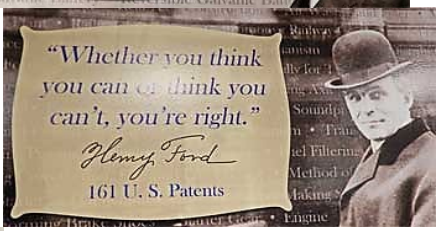
"A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment. <icom.museum>

Thomas Alva Edison and Henry Ford have many museums throughout the United States dedicated to the life and work of both men. This photo program focuses on both Edison and Ford at their winter estates in Fort Myers.

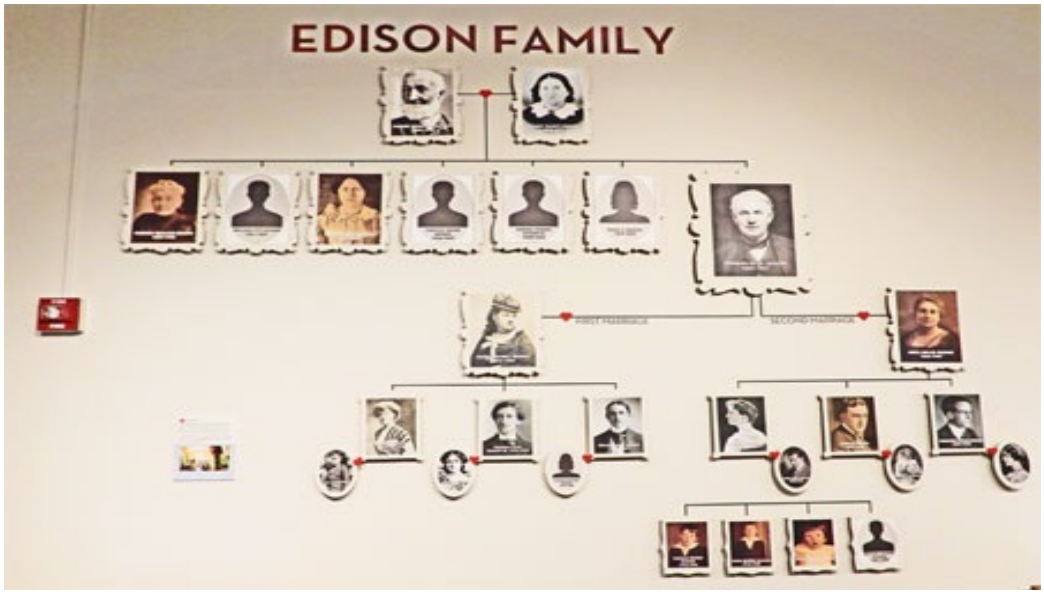
There are several other museums about Edison. They are Thomas Alva Edison Memorial Tower and Museum in Edison, New Jersey; Thomas Edison Depot Museum in Port Huron, Michigan; Thomas Edison Birthplace Museum in Milan, Ohio; Edison Museum in Beaumont, Texas; The Thomas Edison House Museum in Butchertown, Kentucky; and Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, New Jersey. <en.wikipedia.org>

The Edison-Ford Museum displays give one an understanding of how, when, and why the winter estates came about. A chronological and photographic timeline is also provided. Some of the timeline exhibits were used in Part 2, the homes at the estates.

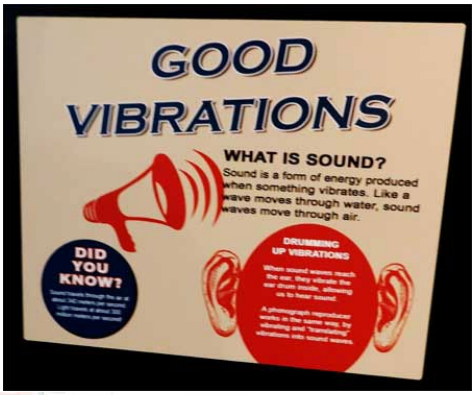


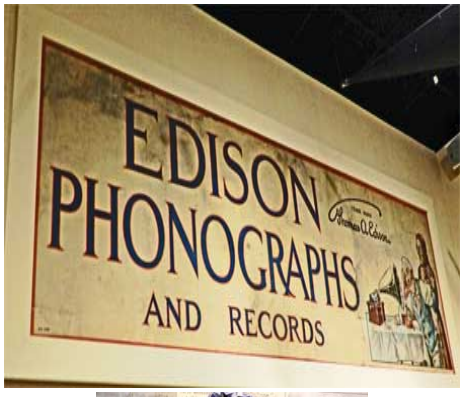


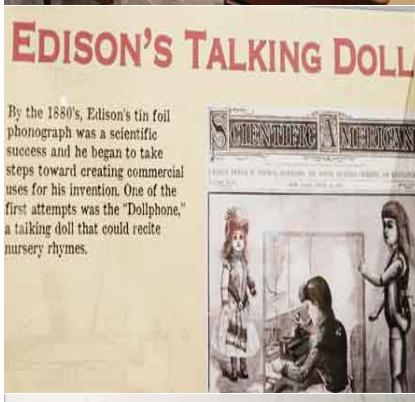
"One of the great medical mysteries surrounding Edison's genius, however, was his profound deafness, which he considered to be a blessing because it allowed him to think and read with total concentration. As a boy, Edison once noted, "my refuge was the Detroit Public Library. I started, it now seems to me, with the first book on the bottom shelf and I went through the lot, one by one. I didn't read a few books. I read the library." "But what caused his deafness is still debated by doctors and hearing experts to this day." <pbs.org>

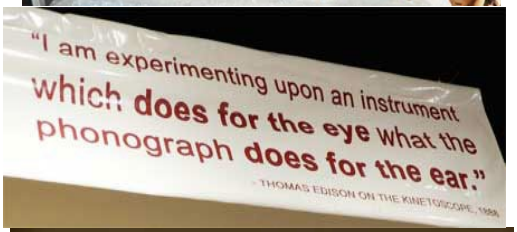


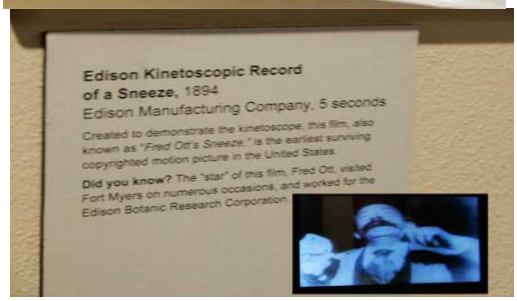
Edison's Family can be best understood by going to https://www.thomasedison.org/the-edison-family

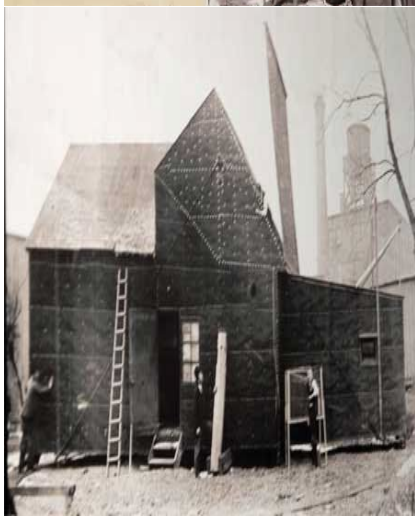


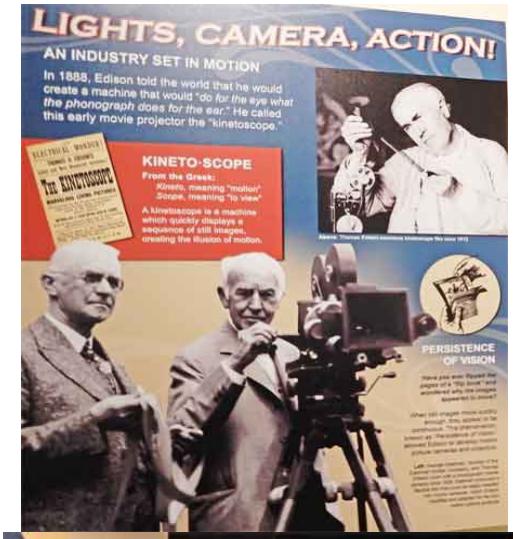




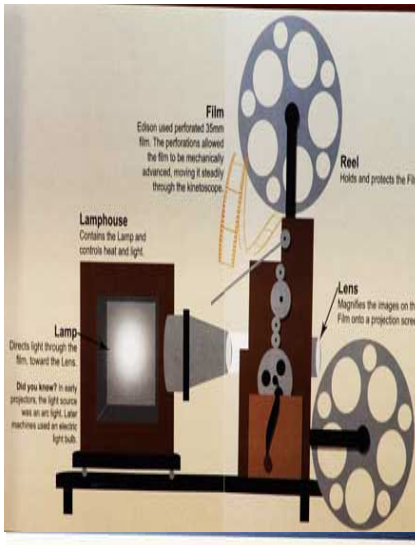




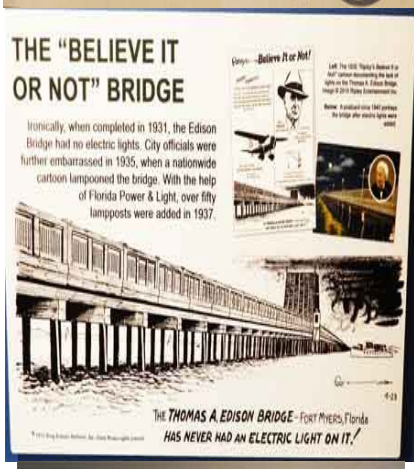


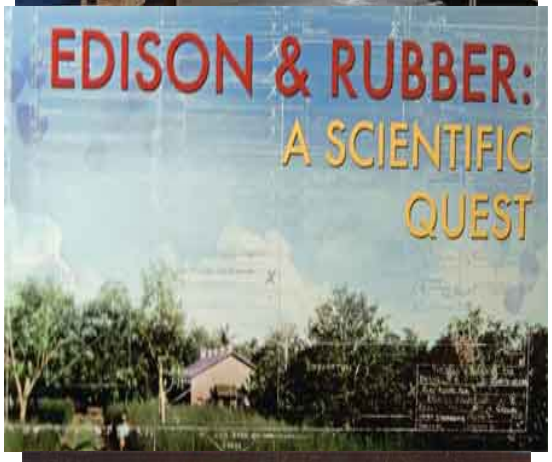

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!
AN INDUSTRY SET IN MOTION
In 1888, Edison told the world that he would create a machine that would "do for the eye what the phonograph does for the ear." He called this early movie projector the "kinetoscope."
KINETO-SCOPE
From the Greek:
Kinein, meaning "motion"
Scope, meaning "to view"
A kinetoscope is a machine which quickly displays a sequence of still images, creating the illusion of motion.
PERSISTENCE OF VISION

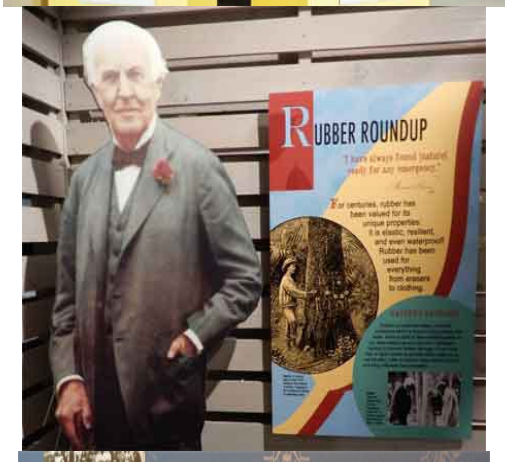

Edison's Projecting Kinetoscope Circa 1897
PAY PER VIEW


Film
Edison used perforated 35mm film. The perforations allowed the film to be mechanically advanced, moving it steadily through the kinetoscope.
Reel
Lamphouse
Contains the Lamp and controls heat and light.
Lens
Lamp
Directs light through the film, toward the Lens.
Did you know? In early projectors, the light source was an arc light. Later machines used an electric light bulb.

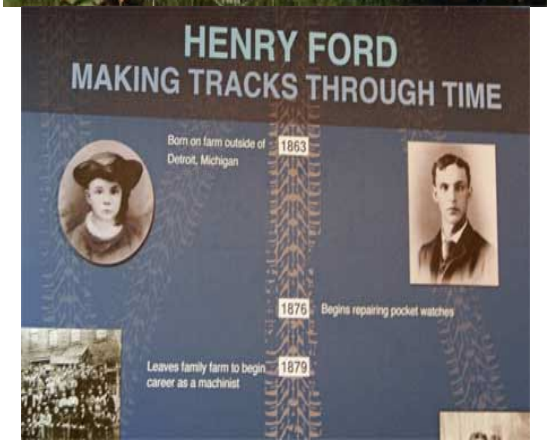

1880s
Edison's Inventions

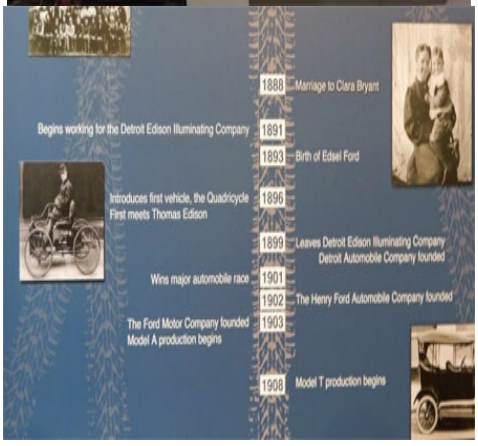

THE "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" BRIDGE
Ironically, when completed in 1931, the Edison Bridge had no electric lights. City officials were further embarrassed in 1935, when a nationwide cartoon lampooned the bridge. With the help of Florida Power & Light, over fifty lampposts were added in 1937.
THE THOMAS A. EDISON BRIDGE - FORT MYERS, Florida
HAS NEVER HAD AN ELECTRIC LIGHT ON IT!

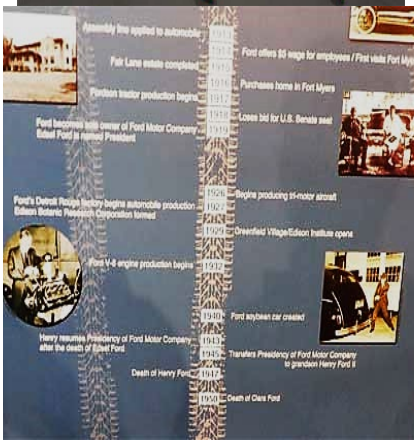

EDISON & RUBBER:
A SCIENTIFIC QUEST

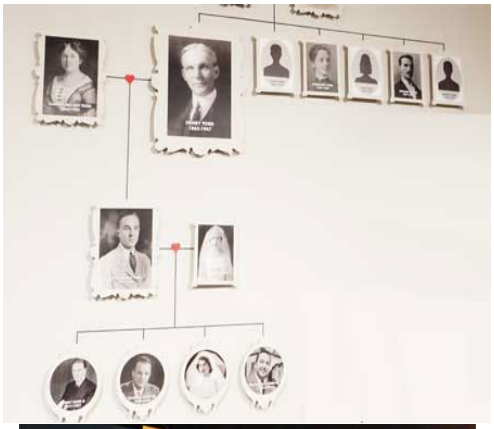

RUBBER ROUNDUP


LOOKING FOR LATEX:
WHERE DID EDISON'S PLANT COLLECTORS FIND RUBBER IN THE UNITED STATES?

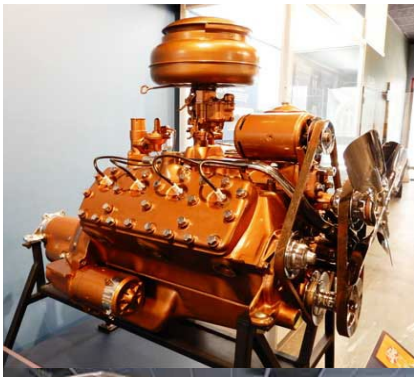

HENRY FORD
MAKING TRACKS THROUGH TIME
1863 Born on farm outside of Detroit, Michigan
1876 Begins repairing pocket watches
1879 Leaves family farm to begin career as a machinist


1888 Marriage to Clara Bryant
Begins working for the Detroit Edison Illuminating Company 1891
1893 Birth of Edsel Ford
Introduces first vehicle, the Quadricycle
First meets Thomas Edison 1896
1899 Leaves Detroit Edison Illuminating Company
Detroit Automobile Company founded
Wins major automobile race 1901
1902 The Henry Ford Automobile Company founded
The Ford Motor Company founded
Model A production begins 1903
1908 Model T production begins


Assembly line applied to automobile
Fair Lane estate completed
Fordson tractor production begins
Ford becomes sole owner of Ford Motor Company
Edsel Ford is named President
Ford offers $5 wage for employees / First visits Fort Myers
Purchases home in Fort Myers
Loses bid for U.S. Senate seat
Begins producing tri-motor aircraft
Ford's Detroit Rotunda factory begins automobile production
Edison Botanic Research Corporation formed
Greenfield Village/Edison Institute opens
Ford V-8 engine production begins
Ford soybean car created
Henry resumes Presidency of Ford Motor Company after the death of Edsel Ford
Transfers Presidency of Ford Motor Company to grandson Henry Ford II
Death of Henry Ford
Death of Clara Ford

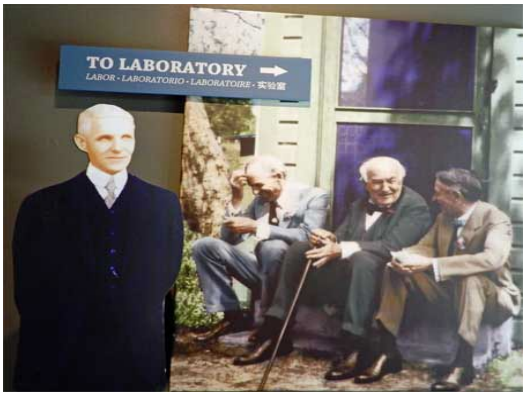


Henry Ford, founder of Ford Motor Company, was born in Springwells Township, Wayne County, Michigan, on July 30, 1863, to Mary (Litogot)and William Ford.He was the eldest of six children in a family of four boys and two girls. His father was a native of County Cork, Ireland, who came to America in 1847 and settled on a farm in Wayne County.
<corporateford.com>



MODEL T *FAST* FACTS

- Top speed: 40 miles per hour on a smooth, straight road
- Gas Mileage: 13 to 21 miles per gallon
- 20 horsepower, four-cylinder motor
- 1,200 pounds (average weight of a car today is just over 4,000 lbs.)
- Originally available in multiple colors
- Only available in black from 1913 to 1926 to cut costs



Sources of automobiles shown: 1937 Ford Five Window Coupe, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1937_Ford; The Model T, https://corporate.ford.com/articles/history/the-model-t.html and https://test.auburnheights.org/collections/automobiles/1914-ford-model-t/; The Cadillac Connection before the Ford Motor Company, https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/general-motors-buys-cadillac; and the Thomas Edison's 1916 Model T, https://www.thomasedison.org/thomas-edison-historical-garage.

Edison-Ford Winter Estates: Part 1-Overview; Part 2-Homes; Part 3-Botanicals/Ford's Automobiles; Part 5 Edison's Laboratory

Other Sources: https://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/, https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/the-medical-mystery-that-helped-make-thomas-edison-an-inventor, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edison_and_Ford_Winter_Estates, https://tomedison.org/visit/, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edison_Museum, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edison_Museum, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Edison_Depot_Museum, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Edison_National_Historical_Park, https://www.historichomes.org/thomas-edison-house, https://mainlymuseums.com/post/909/thomas-edison-center-at-menlo-park/, https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/the-medical-mystery-that-helped-make-thomas-edison-an-inventor, https://icom.museum/en/resources/standards-guidelines/museum-definition/, and https://www.thomasedison.org/the-edison-family.

acuri.net John R. Vincenti Edison-Ford Museum-Part 4