

Fort Myers, Florida: Museum – Part 4

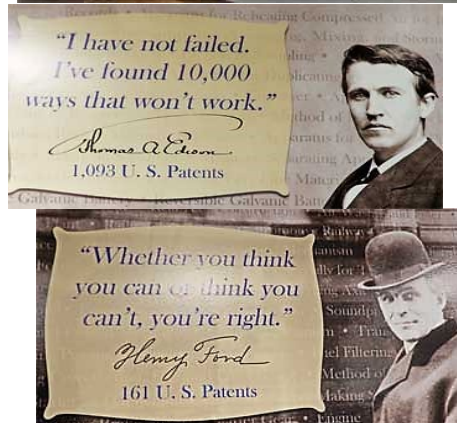
The International Council of Museums offers the following definition of the word “museum:”

“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>

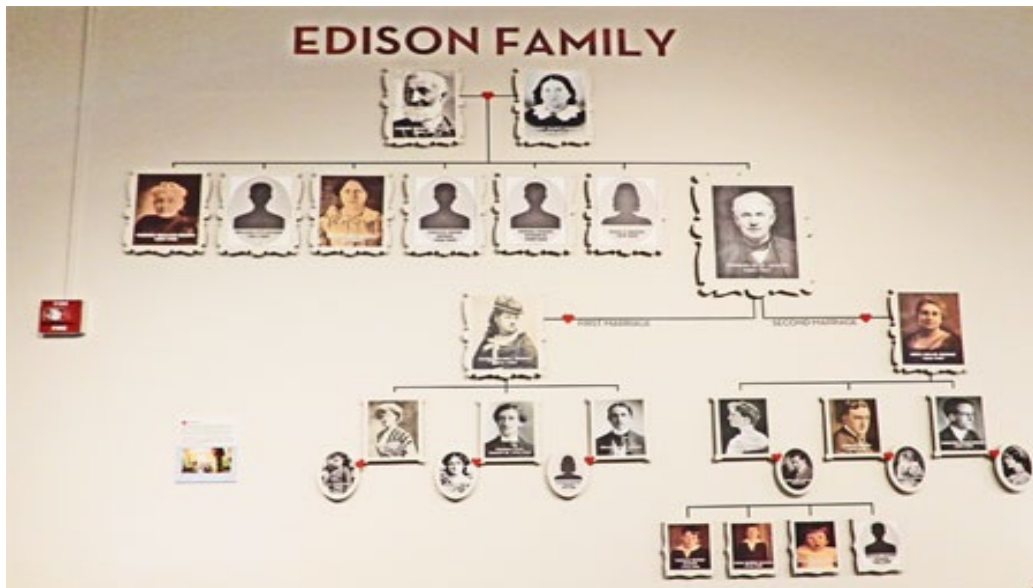
Thomas Alva Edison and Henry Ford have many museums throughout the United States dedicated to the life and work of both men. This photo program focuses on both Edison and Ford at their winter estates in Fort Myers.

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>

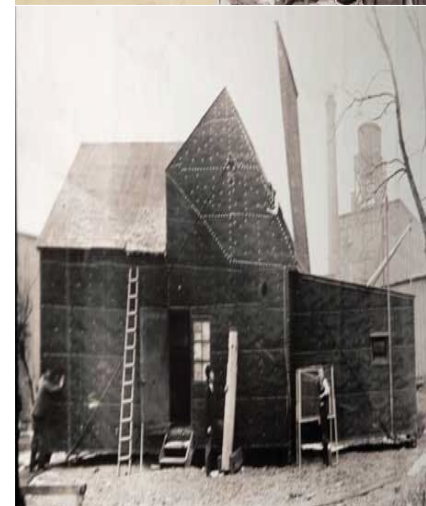
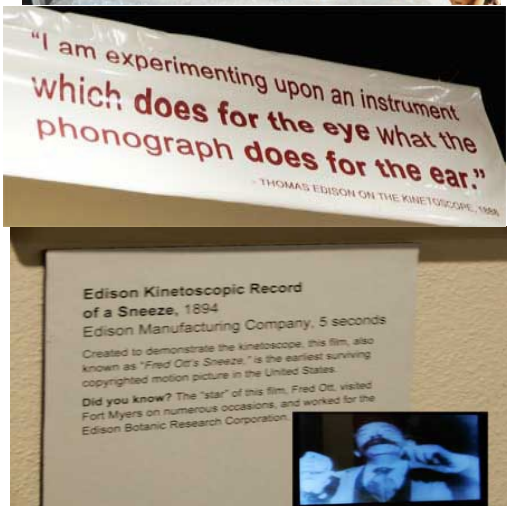
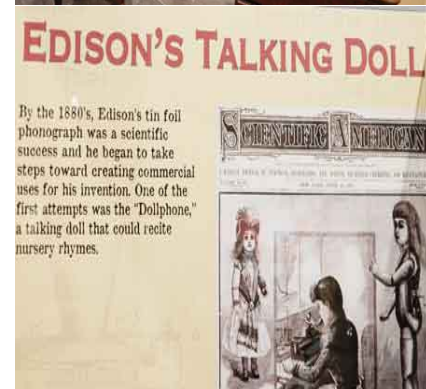
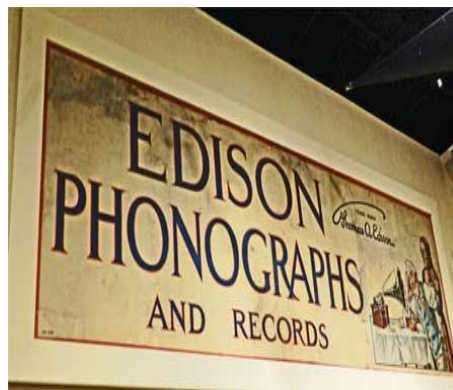
The Edison-Ford Museum displays give one an understanding of how, when, and why the winter estates came about. A chronological and photographic timeline is also provided. Some of the timeline exhibits were used in Part 2, the homes at the estates.



“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 1885, 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."

ELECTRIC POWER
Edison's kinetoscope was the first movie projector to use electric power.

KINETO-SCOPE
From the Greek: *kinema*, meaning "motion"; *skopein*, meaning "to view". A kinetoscope is a machine which quickly displays a sequence of still images, creating the illusion of motion.

PERSISTENCE OF VISION
Have you ever looked at a series of still pictures and seen what appears to be a single image? This is the persistence of vision.

Other still images, when quickly displayed, create the illusion of motion. The persistence of vision is the reason why we can see a continuous image when we look at a series of still pictures.

Edison's kinetoscope was the first movie projector to use electric power.

Edison's Projecting Kinetoscope

Circa 1897

Edison's Projecting Kinetoscope

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
Holds and protects the film.

Lamphouse
Contains the lamp and controls heat and light.

Lens
Magnifies the images on the film onto a projection screen.

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.

Edison's Inventions

Edison's Inventions

Edison's light bulbs

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

EDISON & RUBBER: A SCIENTIFIC QUEST

RUBBER ROUNDUP

"I have always found (Edison) really far out there."

For centuries, rubber has been valued for its unique properties. It is elastic, resilient, and water resistant. Rubber has been used for everything from airplanes to rubber bands.

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

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HENRY FORD MAKING TRACKS THROUGH TIME

Born on farm outside of Detroit, Michigan

1863

1876 Begins repairing pocket watches

Leaves family farm to begin career as a machinist

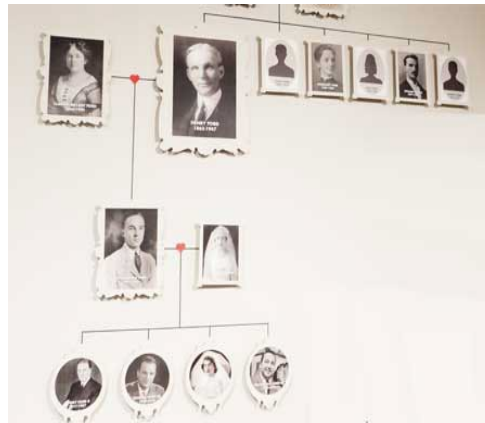
1879

Timeline of Henry Ford's Life

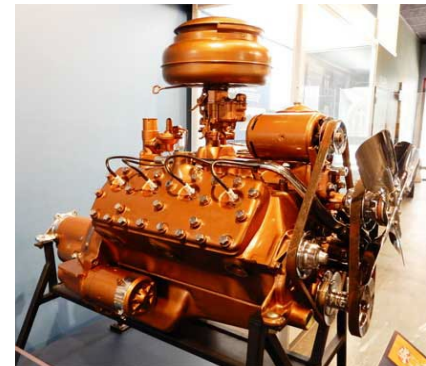
- 1888 Marriage to Clara Bryant
- 1891 Begins working for the Detroit Edison Illuminating Company
- 1893 Birth of Edsel Ford
- 1896 Introduces first vehicle, the Quadricycle
- 1899 Leaves Detroit Edison Illuminating Company
- 1901 Wins major automobile race
- 1902 The Ford Motor Company founded
- 1903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

Henry Ford's Life Timeline

- 1904 Ford offers \$5 wage for employees / First visits Fort Myers
- 1905 Purchases home in Fort Myers
- 1906 Leaves bid for U.S. Senate seat
- 1908 Ford's Detroit Rouge factory begins automobile production
- 1909 Edsel Ford is named President
- 1910 Begins producing 25-horsepower Model T
- 1912 Greenfield Village/Edison Institute opens
- 1913 Ford's 4-cylinder engine production begins
- 1915 Ford's 4-cylinder engine production begins
- 1916 Ford's 4-cylinder engine production begins
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- 2018 Ford's 4-cylinder engine production begins
- 2019 Ford's 4-cylinder engine production begins
- 2020 Ford's 4-cylinder engine production begins
- 2021 Ford's 4-cylinder engine production begins
- 2022 Ford's 4-cylinder engine production begins
- 2023 Ford's 4-cylinder engine production begins
- 2024 Ford's 4-cylinder engine production begins



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>



THE MODEL T

Can you imagine never traveling beyond your hometown? Henry Ford's desire was to make Americans more mobile by building an affordable, reliable vehicle.

CHANGING HOW AMERICA TRAVELS

The Model T allowed people to travel freely and visit areas previously out of reach. Ford's innovation not only shaped the way Americans spent their leisure time, but also the way modern cities and suburbs developed.

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

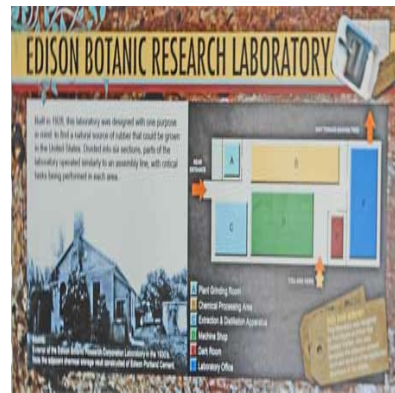
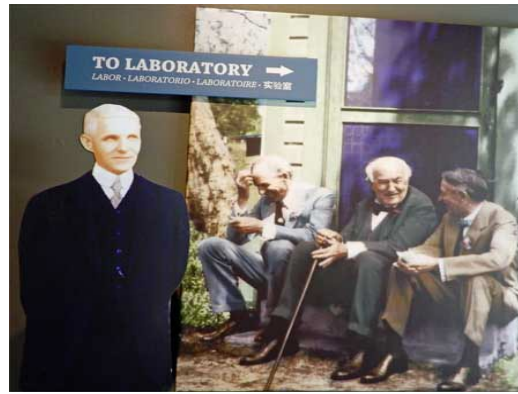
START YOUR ENGINES!

How to start a Model T:

Set parking brake, throttle and spark lever
Get out of car, pull out choke, turn crank slowly, push in choke
Get in car, turn key
Get out of car, turn crank quickly
Get in car, adjust spark lever until engine runs smoothly

Below (top to bottom):
Model A steering wheel, 1928
Model T parts:
Wooden rimmed steering wheel, ca. 1914-1921
Wooden ignition coil, 1914-1921
Magneto flywheel magnet, 1914-1921
Black ignition switch, ca. 1920
Brass ignition key, ca. 1926
Nickel-plated ignition switch, ca. 1916
Spark plug, 1912-1927
Spark plug wires, ca. 1916
Crank handle with ratchet, 1909-1916





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