

EDISON LOSES VALIANT FIGHT AGAINST DEATH

Inventor Was Ready to Die;
Views on Religion
Are Revealed.

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Edison would sleep for an hour or so when tired by his persistent labors.

A desk and several chairs are in one end of the room. That was Edison's own little nook, or study corner.

Police Control Crowds

One corner is partitioned off for an office for Charles Edison, son of the inventor, president of the Edison Laboratories.

The center of the room for years purposely had been left bare for reception of visitors. There Edison's bier, banked with flowers, was placed today.

Flags on buildings in the nearby communities and West Orange were at half staff, while school children, informed of the death of the man who had been a familiar figure to them all, planned to visit the bier in groups late today.

Made Valiant Fight

Death of the man whose inventions have meant so much to mankind came after a valiant fight against uremic poisoning, complicated by Bright's disease, diabetes and ulcers of the stomach.

Edison first became seriously ill. He had been weakened for two years by pneumonia. And last spring he spent weeks recuperating in Florida. When he returned, he was unable to continue his active interest in the laboratories.

He suffered a collapse Oct. 2, and soon thereafter newspapers of America and foreign countries and news association correspondents began their vigil on the Edison estate, that the world might have immediate news of the death.

That came just before dawn Sunday. It was flashed to the world by means of communication, many of which Edison had helped perfect.

At the bedside was every member of the family, summoned Saturday night by Dr. Hubert S. Howe, Edison's personal physician.

Edison was ready to die. Dr. Howe revealed, as the aged genius assured his family he would rather leave this world than leave his burden of life and illness for his loved ones. Dr. Howe also revealed a cryptic comment of the dying man as he once apparently roused from his final stupor. Edison, he said, smiled and spoke:

"It was beautiful over there."

Edison often had been attacked as an atheist, or an agnostic. His religious beliefs were not confined to theological teachings, his relatives revealed with his death.

The inventor believed in a "supreme intelligence," they said, but subscribed to no "orthodox creed." He never was an atheist, they said.

They referred to this quotation from Matthew xxii:

"Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him and saying: 'Master, which is the great commandment in the law?' Jesus said unto him: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Edison, they said, lived the life that reference suggested.

It was recalled that once an interviewer asked him how he expected to spend his life after death, if any.

"Experimenting," he chuckled.

MEXICANS RETURN TO OWN COUNTRY BROKE

More Than 1,500 Quit U. S., Hungry,
But Glad to Be Home.

NUENVA LAREDO, Mexico, Oct. 19.—More than 1,500 Mexicans who emigrated to the United States in search of riches, ran into the depression, and came back destitute and hungry, celebrated a joyous homecoming in Mexico today.

One family after another, the Mexicans streamed back across the Rio Grande, many of them hungry, but all happy to get back to the country which once they left because they though they could find more opportunities elsewhere.

Friends on this side of the border cared for many of the returning families Sunday night and gave them enough food to last until they reach their old homes in the interior.

ROAD BUILDING URGED

Congressman's Plan Would Give Millions Jobs, Is Claim.

A plan whereby 15,000 of Indianapolis' unemployed would be given jobs building roads is proposed in a copyrighted article in the November Plain Talk magazine by Congressman William P. Holaday of Illinois.

Holiday asserts his \$5,000,000 federal road act, first introduced six years ago, would provide jobs for 136,000 Hoosiers and for 5,000,000 men throughout the nation.

The congressman proposes to press for early passage of his bill at the next session of congress.

ARRANGE HOME-COMING

Grid Game, Barbecue on Program for Indiana Central.

Annual homecoming of Indiana Central college alumni will be held Saturday and Sunday. The Indiana Central-Rose Poly football game, a barbecue supper and a three-act play, "Cracked Ice," presented by Alpha Phi Omega, dramatic fraternity, will feature the event.

Hoover Calls Hoosier

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Oct. 19.—Rome C. Stephenson, president of the St. Joseph Loan and Trust Company, here, and retired president of the American Bankers' Association, will go to Washington tonight for a conference with President Hoover. A. C. Stephenson said he was not informed of the subject of the conference, it was believed it will concern banking and other financial problems.

The Life of Thomas Alva Edison in Sketches



BY JOE KING
NEA Service Staff Artist

THESE striking sketches depict some of the most important phases in the career of Thomas A. Edison, whose amazing achievements touch the lives of everybody every day:

1—Traits of genius were discernible even in Edison's youth. At the age of 10 he started a chemical laboratory in the basement of his home.

2—Interested in telegraphy, he put up a telegraph line

from the railway station to the nearby village of Port Huron, Mich., when he was 15.

3—The speedy typewriter of today is a perfection of the machine that Edison helped build in 1871.

4—In 1877 he invented the carbon telephone transmitter, forerunner of the radio microphone.

5—In the same year he invented the phonograph. The first words he spoke into it were: "Mary had a little lamb."

6—His invention of the electric lamp in 1879 turned night into day.

7—In 1891 he invented the forerunner of today's motion picture machine. Only one person at a time could see into the box-like device containing pictures rapidly revolved.

8—Careless of his personal appearance, and a slave to his work, Edison spent long hours in his laboratory, often getting only four hours' sleep.

9—In 1930, the aged inventor asked for five more years of life in order that he might complete his work in extracting rubber from the golden rod. "Give me five more years," he said, "and the United States will have a rubber crop that can be utilized in twelve months' time."

EDISON VIEWED IN DESPAIR AT SCHOOL

One Teacher Declared He Was 'Addled'; Always at Foot of Class.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Oct. 19.—Thomas Alva Edison was born in Milan, O., Feb. 11, 1847, the son of Samuel and Nancy Edison. He was not especially brilliant in school and, in his own words, "usually was at the foot of the class." One teacher went so far as to call him "addled," and after a year at school his mother decided to teach him at home.

As a result, before he was 12 he had been made to digest such intellectual fare as Gibbons' "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," Sear's "History of the World," "Dictionary of Sciences" and Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy."

Edison's interest in science, however, was noticeable early. When he was 8, he discovered what propelled a locomotive. He next became fascinated by chemistry after trying an experiment described in a text book.

Had Laboratory on Train

He sold newspapers, peanuts and candy as a "news butcher" on the Port Huron-Detroit line to get money to buy chemicals.

He set up his first laboratory in a baggage car without asking permission and did his experiments while on the run. He was permitted to go ahead with his tests until one day a jerk of the train shook a tube of phosphorus from its rack and set the car on fire. The baggage man, cuffed Edison's ears—an act which some early biographers say resulted in his partial deafness.

Edison was married twice, his first wife dying in 1884, leaving three children, Thomas Alva Jr., William Leslie and Marion Estelle. He was married to the present Mrs. Edison, the former Miss Mina Miller, two years later. Three children resulted also from this marriage, Charles, Madeline and Theodore. Charles is acting head of the Edison plant at West Orange today.

Often Slept on Job

Through working at night he was sleepy by day and often slept on the job on the trains. Caught napping frequently, Edison was instructed to signal the letter "a" once every hour to another station to prove he was awake. This led him to make his first invention.

He devised an apparatus which automatically clicked out the letter "a" on the hour. It worked flawlessly until he was caught sleeping and dismissed.

From then on through the years his inventions or improvements on his inventions came with rapidity. He improved the stock exchange ticker when he noticed it one day running an hour behind, and got \$400 for it from Marshall Lefferts, president of the Western Union.

Superior Judge Harry W. Falk, who presided at the trial, Clark's second on the same charge, added his congratulations with the statement that had he been hearing the case without jury, his verdict would have been the same.

He bought an old building at Menlo Park, N. J., in 1870, and de-

veloped his laboratory that was unequalled in its day. A toy built purely to amuse his assistants led him to invent the phonograph. Chance has played a vital part in many of Edison's great inventions.

Unequalled in Day

The idea of bottling electricity for illumination purposes challenged Edison. He and his workmen started out to create an electric light that would burn indefinitely within a glass bulb. On Oct. 21, 1879, after spending \$40,000 and personally conducting more than 16,000 tests, Edison, almost totally discouraged, met with success.

He succeeded in carbonizing a length of cotton sewing thread which, when placed in an airtight glass bulb, burned for forty hours.

An argument about horses led the "wizard of Menlo Park" to invent the first successful motion picture camera.

Governor Leland Stanford of California, in order to prove his contention that a running horse landed all four feet on the ground simultaneously had a photographer set up forty cameras in a room and snapped a horse in motion. He was right.

Edison saw the photographs, which was more important, and decided to reproduce the human figure in motion. He finally devised a workable machine in 1891.

The outbreak of the World war stirred anew Edison's inventive genius. Moved by patriotism, he worked more strenuously than at any time in his life. Numerous devices to aid the country in its war came from his laboratory.

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PARKED AUTOS LOOTED

Clothing and Blankets Worth \$235 Stolen From Three Cars.

Loot totaling \$235 in value was stolen from automobiles parked downtown Sunday night, police reports disclosed today.

Pearl Ormsbee of Detroit reported an overcoat, a blanket, a jacket and a suit were stolen from his car near the Sheffield Inn. He valued the merchandise at \$105.

Carl Bruner of Rushville, said thieves broke the handle on the door of his car, at Capitol avenue and North street, stealing \$100 worth of belongings in a suit case.

Theft of a topcoat from his car near New York and Illinois streets, was reported by Russell Paugh of Springfield, O.

SCREEN RIPPER ACTIVE

Gets \$20 in Two Raids on North Side Residences.

The "screen ripper" burglar renewed activities in the city over the week-end, looting two homes of \$20 in cash.

D. H. Lewis, 6429 Winthrop avenue, reported to police a screen in his home was ripped Saturday night and \$15 taken from a purse.

Miss Mayme Anderson, 2211 North Meridian street, apartment 12, reported a window screen had been slashed with a knife and \$5 taken from a purse. The thief left the purse, she said.

Burglars' Toll Nets Only \$5

Sawing a hole in the floor of a room over a Haag drug store at 1550 North Illinois street Sunday night, burglars gained entrance to the store and took \$5 from the cash register. Howard Glenn, 3868 Bryam avenue, manager, reported today to police.

St. CLARK WINS ACQUITTAL

Jury Holds Former U. S. Attorney Shot Two in Self-Defense.

By United Press

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Oct. 19.—David H. Clark, former deputy district attorney, whose campaign for the office of municipal judge was eliminated last May by the shooting of two men, was free today, acquitted of a charge of murdering Herbert Spenger, magazine editor.

Freely admitting the killing of Spenger and Charles Crawford, politician, but claiming he shot in self-defense, Clark was exonerated by the jurors, who believed his story. Women members of the panel embraced Mrs. Clark.

Superior Judge Harry W. Falk, who presided at the trial, Clark's second on the same charge, added his congratulations with the statement that had he been hearing the case without jury, his verdict would have been the same.

He scoffed at persons who insisted on getting the conventional eight hours sleep a night.

Edison often neglected to buy new suits even when his clothing was threadbare, but insisted on wearing silk nightgowns and carried India silk handkerchiefs a foot square.

His Memorial

By United Press

TIFFIN, O., Oct. 19.—In the vaulted ceiling of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal church here is a reminder of Edison's pride in the incandescent electric light. It is an ornate chandelier, resembling a huge spider. In it are sixty electric bulbs.

Edison made the church a gift of the chandelier in 1885 on the church's completion, because it was the first public edifice in Ohio lighted electrically.

He still was in his teens, but gained the title of "the boy who always is experimenting" while he was employed as operator for the Western Union Telegraph Company at the Union station.

Charles E. Tweed of 904 Tecumseh place, who worked with Edison, and who probably is the only surviving telegrapher with this honor, tells how Edison "always seemed to be dreaming, and never was a very sociable workman."

The thieves entered the lodge rooms by climbing a fire escape and then forcing a window. The glass in the door of the office had been removed.

William Beswick, 1325 Linden street, building custodian, told police he noticed an automobile parked near the building when he closed the lodge offices at 4 Sunday morning.

A safe in the office of the I. J. Case Machinery Company, 802 South Missouri street, was blown Saturday night. Floyd Richardson, 105 South Butler avenue, manager, told police the vault contained no money. The eggs gained entrance by forcing a window.

The thieves entered the lodge rooms by climbing a fire escape and then forcing a window. The glass in the door of the office had been removed.

Not satisfied with being an operator, the youthful Edison haunted the office of William Wylie Smith, telegrapher, superintendent for the Bell railroad, "teasing" for old telegraph instruments.

This story was told today by Miss Ida F. Richardson of 312 Burgess avenue, daughter of Foster Richardson, an executive of the railroad.

City Man Was Associate

It was Richardson who persuaded Smith that he ought to give the lad the discarded instruments, when Smith protested that "I can't be bothered with him."

Thomas Spencer of 3523 Baisman avenue, now an employee of Prest-O-Lite Corporation, was associated with Edison in his early work on the incandescent lamp, considered by Edison his greatest invention.

Spencer worked for the inventor from 1883 to 1890, and relates how a "short circuit once perplexed the wizard," but not for long, for Edison soon found that "double-pointed tacks on the electric wiring were causing the shorted circuit."

ART ROSE

The Chief Tire Changer Speaking

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Good returning until Monday Night