Edison Botanic Research Laboratory

BEGINNINGS:
- During World War I, Edison, Ford and Firestone became aware that the supply of rubber in the U.S. could be cut off and there would be major costs to their industries. In 1927, they set up the Edison Botanic Research Company.
- The lab was built in 1928 so that Edison could find a source of natural rubber from a plant that could grow in the U.S.; opened January 1929.

COST:
- The funding for the project came from Edison, Ford and Firestone. The capital to start was $75,000: $25,000 from each of the three men. Edison’s continued share was in labor and personnel.
- Edison tried several thousand plants and found 40 that he could cultivate on a large scale. By 1928 Edison and his team in Fort Myers had created research plots that were located on the south side (where the parking lot is now).

PRODUCT:
- He focused on goldenrod, a common weed, which grows to 3-4 feet with a 5% yield. He developed a strain that grew to a height of 12 feet and had a yield of 12% latex.

STAFF:
- Only about 4 people worked in the lab itself with Edison: clerk, chemist, machinist and a glassblower. Each was able to multi-task on all aspects of the project.

FEATURES:
- Staff Office:
  - The cot was for his catnaps; Drafting Table; Edison’s Desk; Clerk’s Desk; Scales for measuring; Original equipment and apparatus

LAB:
- Original apparatus, raw material, original extraction equipment, machinery
- Edison’s last month in the lab was June of 1931; he returned to his home in New Jersey and died that October at age 84.
- Rubber research and experimentation continued after Edison’s death under the leadership of his brother-in-law, John Miller; decision by Ford, Firestone & Mina Edison to dissolve the corporation in July 1936 because rubber production was not a commercial success.
Principal Inventions and Discoveries of Thomas Alva Edison

1868  Electrical Vote Recorder.
1869  Universal Stock Ticker and Unison.
1872  Motograph, Automatic Telegraph System, Duplex, Quadruplex, Sextuplex, and Multiplex telegraph systems and Paraffin paper and Carbon Rheostat.
1875  Discovered "Etheric Force," an electrical phenomenon that is the foundation of wireless telegraphy.
1876  Electric Pen used for first mimeographs.
1877  Carbon Telephone Transmitter, making telephony commercially practical. This included the Microphone used in Radio.
1877  Phonograph.
1879  Incandescent light. Radically improved dynamos and generators. System of distribution, regulation and measurement of electric current - switches, fuses, sockets, meters, etc.
1880  Magnetic Ore Separator.
1880  Discovered the "Edison Effect," the fundamental principle of Electronics.
1885  System of Wireless Induction Telegraph between moving trains and stations. Patented similar system for ship-to-shore.
1891  Motion Picture Camera.
1896  Fluoroscope. Fluorescent Electric Lamp.
1900  Nickle-Iron-Alkaline Storage Battery.
1915  As Chairman of the Naval Consulting Board, conducted special experiments on more than 40 major war problems for the Navy Department and did much other work on National Defense.
1927  Tested 17,000 plants for rubber content as a source of rubber in war emergencies. A piece of vulcanized rubber was made from a Goldenrod strain he developed.
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<th>The Weekly Herald</th>
<th>Published on the Mixed Train. June</th>
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**John C. Headen is showing in the south of Wales.**

It is officially notified that Queen Victoria will this year hold no levee or drawing-room.

The celebrated English ratter Jacko recently finished 1553 rats in the marvellously quick time of 5min & 28 sec.

It is stated that the Duc'd A mile on visiting the French court at the Great Exhibition was dogged from spot to spot by a French detective, who took down the name of every exhibitor at whose stall the royal eye lingered.

We understand that a memorial is about to be presented to her Majesty to allow the State apartments at Windsor Castle to be thrown open to the public, in anticipation of Windsor being visited by numerous foreigners during the Exhibition.

Thus far the Great Exhibition in London has been perfectly successful in a pecuniary sense. The amount received for season tickets to the 9th inst was $59,649. Crowds of delighted and wondering daily congregate about the American sewing machines watching the operators.

**France.**

Murphy the famous Irish giant has just died of small-pox at Marseilles.

The Emperor Napoleon is attending the Paris spring races.

The Moniteur announced the departure of Prince Napoleon to Naples adds he has no political mission.

It is reported in Paris that the Emperor of China intends sending an embassy extraordinary to France and England.

The Emperor and Empress and the Queen of Holland honored the Gymnase Theatre. Paris, with their presence to see - Mr. Sarnou's new piece of Le Férielle Noire.

Local Intelligence,

There is great excitement in Monfleau over an attempt to reduce the current value of the British shilling to 24c. The newspapers are reaping a good harvest from the advertisements of long lists of retailers who will, and those who won't agree to the resolution.

Information wanted - Mr. W. McSweeney while in Fort Huron or Fort Griti a few days ago met in with a few of his old cronies, and very kindly invited them to partake of a little John Barley Corn, they did, and were "unhappy," which however terminated in a little fuss that ended. Billy went to bed, and on getting up in the morning, his repeater, and all the loose Bank notes were gone, much to Bily's disappointment, any information respecting either, will be gladly received by him.

We would say to Mr. McSweeney, the only cure for the above is to use one quartlass of John Barley Corn, each time you and friends meet and in the course of a few weeks, the nett gain will more than remunerate for the loss.

Ed H

Oil - We learn that a combination is being entered into by the Canada Oil well diggers, with a view of raising the price of the crude Oil to a remunerative figure, a very necessary move, as the difference between the prices of crude and

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**Reprint of Paper published by**

**Thomas Edison 1862**
FORT GRATIOT STORE!

JACOB C. EDISON

Invole the attention of the people of Fort Gratiot
and surrounding vicinity, to his choice stock of
Groceries Provisions and coarse Feed of all kinds
also a choice Brand of
Liquors
Cigars
Oils
Syrups
Vinegar
Oranges
Lemons
Nuts
Candies
Raisins.

Currents
Spices
Pepper
Starch
Candles
Soap
Salarnuts
Tobacco
Pipes
Gum.

Cheese
Butter
Eggs
Hams
Flour
Potatoes
Cod Fish
Herring
Mackerel

Blackings
Brushes
Pens
Ink
Paper

And he flatters himself that the quality, and
PRICES of the above articles will satisfy the
most exacting.

On Main Street Fort Gratiot;

Just received at the Fort Gratiot Store a lot
of Hampshire Cheese,

Just received at the Fort Gratiot Store a choice
lot of new Butter.

MAIL EXPRESS

Daily Express leaves New Baltimore Station
every morning on arrival of the Train from Det-
roit. For Baltimore, Algonac, Sceon Creek, and
Newport.
Clark & Bennett, prop.

A daily stage leaves Ridgeway station on
arrival of all passenger trains from Detroit, for
Memphis R. Q. prop.

The Railroad Time Tables.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL

Going West,
Le, Detroit 5:00 PM | Ar, Chicago 8:15 PM
Le, Detroit 5:00 PM | Ar, Jackson 9:00 PM
Le, Detroit 5:00 PM | Ar, Chicago 8:15 AM

Going East,
Le, Chicago 7:00 PM | Ar, Detroit 6:40 PM
Le, Jackson 4:40 AM " Detroit 8:35 AM
Le, Chicago 7:30 AM " Detroit 7:00 AM
Trains are run on Chicago Time, which is 20
minutes slower than Detroit time.

DETROIT & MILWAUKEE

Le, Detroit 5:00 AM | Ar, Gr, Hav. 4:35 PM
Le, Detroit 5:00 PM | " Gr, Hav. 4:35 PM
Le, Detroit 7:30 AM | " Gr, Rap. 8:55 PM
Le, Detroit 6:00 PM | " Fenton Vit 8:25 PM

"Going East,
Le, Flint 10:40 AM | Ar, Detroit 12:10 PM
Le, Gr, Rap. 5:45 " Detroit 7:00 PM
Le, Gr, Hav. 10:45 " Detroit 7:00 PM
Le, Gr, Hav. 11:00 PM " Detroit 7:15 AM

Pt. HURON STATION,
An Omnibus leaves the station for Pt. Huron
on the arrival of all Trains,
Fare 25 cents. Oley Ager

This is a facsimile of the original Herald published and printed by Thomas A. Edison in 1862 while he was a
newspaper on the Grand Trunk Railroad running between Port Huron and Detroit, Michigan.

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Dearborn, Michigan, as a part of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Edison's invention of the first prac-
tical incandescent electric lamp in 1879.