



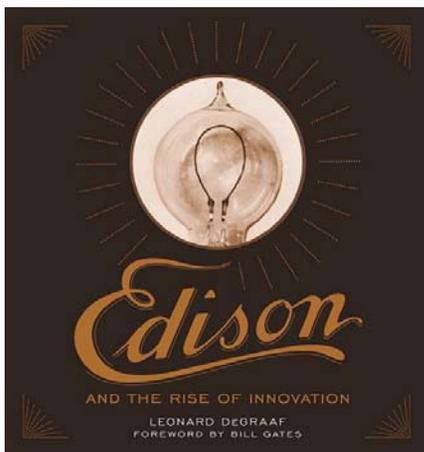
# The Lab Notebook

## Edison Celebrates The Year of Innovation

In conjunction with the 350th anniversary of New Jersey AND the publication of *Edison and the Rise of Innovation* by Park archivist Leonard DeGraaf, Thomas Edison NHP announces The Year of Innovation. The Park will serve as host to special programs for all ages throughout 2014!

Each month will be keyed to a chapter in the DeGraaf book, which chronicles Edison's life and work with special emphasis on his role as an innovator—a developer of new ideas, yes, but also a refiner of existing ideas, his own and others'.

Published by Sterling Signature in October 2013 and produced in association with the Edison Innovation Foundation, the Charles Edison Fund and the National Park Service, the book uses many rarely seen primary sources, including Edison's personal and business letters, lab notebooks, drawings, advertising materials, and modern and historic photos to reveal the inventor's thought and work processes and the impact they had on the world. Another famous innovator, Bill Gates, contributed the foreword to the book.



Leonard DeGraaf's new book takes a fresh look at Edison's work and sets the agenda for our Year of Innovation.



Leonard DeGraaf (above) kicked off the year's festivities with an introduction to his book at a public program at the end of October.



Later, he signed copies of his book in the Museum Shop.

In November, Kathleen Carlucci (below), Director of Interpretation at the Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park spoke on Edison's first invention factory. She invited everyone to visit the restored Tower, newly constructed museum, and outdoor interpretive exhibits.



### The Year of Innovation at a Glance

It's as easy as 1-2-3 to follow our special program schedule here at the Park:

1st **Fridays** at 2:30 p.m. for families and general audiences,

2nd **Saturdays** at 10:00 a.m. especially for children,

3rd **Thursdays** evening programs for adults.

#### The Year of Innovation

- |             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>2013</b> |                                       |
| <b>OCT</b>  | <b>The Education of an Inventor</b>   |
| <b>NOV</b>  | <b>The Invention Factory</b>          |
| <b>DEC</b>  | <b>The Tinfoil Phonograph</b>         |
| <br>        |                                       |
| <b>2014</b> |                                       |
| <b>JAN</b>  | <b>Electric Lighting System</b>       |
| <b>FEB</b>  | <b>From Menlo Park to West Orange</b> |
| <b>MAR</b>  | <b>Ore Milling</b>                    |
| <b>APR</b>  | <b>Portland Cement</b>                |
| <b>MAY</b>  | <b>Edison in World War I</b>          |
| <b>JUN</b>  | <b>A Phonograph in Every Home</b>     |
| <b>JUL</b>  | <b>Motion Pictures</b>                |
| <b>AUG</b>  | <b>Storage battery</b>                |
| <b>SEP</b>  | <b>Rubber</b>                         |
| <b>OCT</b>  | <b>Remembering the Wizard</b>         |
| <b>NOV</b>  | <b>Edison Lives On</b>                |
| <b>DEC</b>  | <b>Family Life</b>                    |

Visit our website for information on specific programs: [www.nps.gov/edis/](http://www.nps.gov/edis/)

### New Hours at the Laboratory

As of October 1 the Laboratory began operating Wednesday through Sunday, **10am – 4pm**. Public programs will change daily, depending on the number of staff and volunteers available.

Glenmont will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11:30am - 4:00pm. House Tours are offered between 12:00pm and 3:00pm. A ticketed tour is the only way to enter the house.

## Message from the Superintendent

It has been an interesting few months since I arrived as your new superintendent in mid-September. I have gotten a chance to meet staff, volunteers, friends and partners of the park. Along the way, we had a 16-day shut-down, but we are now back on track! I am always impressed and energized by the great dedication, interest and love of the Edison story that everyone here brings to the park and the Edison legacy.

With the New Year come the excitement and expectation of new beginnings and great things to accomplish. We have a full year of activities planned in celebration of New Jersey's 350th as part of our Year of Innovation. This year, we will celebrate the Edison story through themed months which mirror each of the chapters in Lenny Degraaf's book, *Edison and the Rise of Innovation*. A highlight of the year will be Edison Day on June 7, identified as a "signature 350th event" for the state of New Jersey, which we have already begun planning with our partners.

Beyond our interpretive and educational programs, we continue our work in preserving and protecting our collections, historic buildings and landscapes. As part of our ongoing program to enhance security of our park, we are hoping to successfully put out to bid the final phase of security upgrades to our facilities this year. This significant investment is critical in preserving and protecting our priceless collection for future generations.

I do look forward to working with each and everyone over the coming year to make for a great and memorable 2014 for Thomas Edison NHP. Also, please be sure to spread the word about our FREE Year of Innovation events and programs, it is a great way to celebrate New Jersey's 350th and Edison's role in the state's history.

Sincerely,  
Tom Ross

Thomas Edison National Historical Park was established to preserve and protect Thomas Alva Edison's West Orange Laboratory, home, and collections for the education and inspiration of people worldwide.

**Thomas Edison National Historical Park**  
211 Main Street  
West Orange, NJ 07052  
Web site: [www.nps.gov/edis](http://www.nps.gov/edis)  
Email: [edis\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:edis_superintendent@nps.gov)

**Visitor Information**  
973-736-0550 x11  
Fax: 973-243-7172

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Volunteers Contribute 6340 Hours in FY 2013, Up 28%

Our volunteers and interns contributed 6340 hours to Thomas Edison NHP during the fiscal year that ended on September 30. This is an increase of 28% over total volunteer hours in FY2012.

One of our volunteers produced a video of Glenmont that provides alternate access to the house for visitors with disabilities and to all visitors when the house is closed.

We had a large increase in the number of high school interns this year. For the first time, we partnered with the LEAD (Leadership/Education/Advocacy/Determination) program in New Jersey to provide work experience for two high school students with visual impairments. They easily integrated into the park's daily operations and assisted with work in the interpretation and curatorial programs. Two self-starters from Millburn High School also joined us this summer. Both came to us with an interest in Thomas Edison and as members of the Millburn High School Edison Club. They researched the destructive fire that ripped through Thomas Edison's manufacturing complex in December 1914, created a new museum exhibit, and develop and presented a visitor program on the topic. They also helped to revamp a middle-school education program called "Hollywood, New Jersey" about the birth of the movie industry. Interns from Seton Hall Prep assisted in all park programs: grounds maintenance throughout the park, collections storage upgrades, and historic housekeeping. They also presented public programs and tours.

Our high school interns were a valuable complement to the work of our adult volunteers, who provide essential day-to-day support for so many of our programs. Because of all their contributions, we were able to maintain a high level of service to the public.

**FY2012: Total VIP hours: 4,954**  
**FY2013: Total VIP hours: 6,340**

**Volunteers: 65**  
**Volunteers: 86**

**Our high-achievers this year were:**

**Gaye Olin, 502 hrs**  
**Kip Rowan, 500 hrs**  
**Jillianne Laceste, 400 hrs**  
**Arthur Gordon, 339 hrs**  
**Tom Hilmer, 316 hrs**  
**Harvey Cohen, 264 hrs**  
**Nick Azulay, 159 hrs**  
**Yvan Beausoleil, 157 hrs**  
**Briasia Beasley, 155 hrs**

**Claress Knight, 147 hrs**  
**Evan Hartwig, 137 hrs**  
**Evelyn Gurland, 128 hrs**  
**Susan Bennett, 126 hrs**  
**Scott Jung, 119 hrs**  
**Mark Malchow, 112 hrs**  
**Nancy Farley, 101 hrs**  
**Paula Stuart, 96 hrs**  
**Charlie Shapiro, 95 hrs**

**Our thanks to everyone who volunteered at the Park this year!**

Our volunteers gathered for a photo at the Park picnic in August. They are holding their Volunteer Appreciation Certificates.





## Theodore Edison Collection Returns to Park

Over 500 boxes of archival material originally belonging to Theodore Edison and donated to the Park in the 1990s have been organized by History Associates (HA), a Rockville, Maryland, company that processes archival collections. HA staffers picked up the material in March 2011 and returned it in September 2013.

The documents include business records of Thomas A. Edison, Inc., records of Calibron Products, Theodore's own business that employed many former TAE engineers after the laboratory wound down operations in the 1930s, material covering Theodore's interest in the preservation of Monhegan Island off the coast of Maine, and correspondence touching on his many charitable and political interests. The collection is not open for research yet, but should become so in the coming year.

## Millburn Edison Club Visits Park

The Millburn High School Edison Club stopped by in November to observe the conser-



vation of the copper cube that their fundraising made possible. Lauren Isaacs, the conservator, explained the cleaning process. Club members are looking forward to this school year; their plan is to raise funds to restore one of our phonographs. They are also working with other schools to launch more Edison clubs. The Club also hopes to present a festival of student-made films at the Park next summer.



### American Experience Plans Edison Documentary

The PBS series *The American Experience*, a showcase for documentaries on presidents, social movements, and popular culture, is planning a two-hour program on Thomas Edison for 2014 or 2015. A crew visited the Park to film footage on October 28 and 29. The script is not yet completed, but may focus on Edison's work with electric lighting and his many West Orange projects. Stay tuned.



WEST ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Where Bright Ideas Begin!

West Orange Public Library  
Houses Edison Exhibits

When you stop in at the West Orange Public Library during 2014 you can see changing exhibits drawn from period pieces and reproductions in our museum collection.



The first exhibit, installed in September, brought out from storage "Tools of the Trade," household items from Glenmont, including a carpet beater, a lemon reamer (squeezer), and a ceramic pitcher often seen on bedroom washstands.



The exhibit installed in mid-November features "Victorian Toys," trains, balls, tops, dominoes, paper dolls, and, still alive and kicking, Raggedy Ann, who will celebrate her own centenary in 2015. Our curatorial staff will be selecting themes and artifacts throughout the year. We're pleased to share more of the Edison story with library patrons.



## 2013: A Great Year for Public Programs

Karen Sloat-Olsen, Chief of Interpretation, reports that during the fiscal year ending on September 30, Park Rangers presented 113 school programs, 3473 interpretive programs, 812 phonograph demonstrations, and swore in 1456 Junior Rangers.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Thomas Edison National Historical Park  
211 Main Street  
West Orange, NJ 07052



### Kronos Quartet Makes Cylinder Recording in Music Room

On Saturday October 26, the Kronos Quartet, known for bringing audiences the work of contemporary composers, ventured back into the past with a visit to the Music Room to make a wax cylinder recording. The group recorded "Contrapunctus II" from Bach's *The Art of Fugue*.



### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

**Volunteers-In-Parks Coordinator**  
**Thomas Edison National Historical Park**

Michelle Ortwein  
973-736-0550 x31 phone  
michelle\_ortwein@nps.gov

[www.nps.gov/edis](http://www.nps.gov/edis) Click on  
"Support the National Park Service"

*The Lab Notebook* is a quarterly publication of Thomas Edison National Historical Park.

Printed on recycled paper.

**Editor**  
Edward Wirth

**Contributors**  
Jerry Fabris  
Theresa Jung  
Michelle Ortwein  
Karen Sloat-Olsen

**Comments? Write to:**  
Tom Roaa, Superintendent  
Thomas Edison National Historical Park  
211 Main Street  
West Orange, NJ 07052



Edison staffers raise their green coffee mugs to pledge their commitment to "going green" and eliminating those wasteful paper cups.

Happy New Year to all our friends.