



The Lab Notebook

How They Spent Their Summer: Edison Welcomes Seton Hall Prep Interns

Summer brought a new group of interns from Seton Hall Preparatory School, and they proved to be a great help in all Park divisions. They undertook plenty of gardening and yard work with the Maintenance Division, and they helped Curatorial staff build and disassemble storage racks. The students also spent much of their time with the Interpretive Division, working with rangers and visitors.

At the end of the summer they shared their reflections, writing: "...There was always something during the day that would make us laugh." Some preferred working with the public. "It allowed us to improve our presentation and so-

cial skills. We learned how to interact better with visitors by educating them on certain things they might not otherwise know." Independent research was another assignment. "We learned that [Edison] was involved in several endeavours besides science, one of which included his great impact on the music industry."

Any dislikes? Handing out visitor surveys was "not the most exciting." The interns summed up: "We believe our work was appreciated and valued." (Everyone on the staff can confirm the truth of that.) A final point: "The pay check was one of the biggest 'perks' of the job." Our thanks to all.



The 2012 Seton Hall Prep Interns: from left, Torry Alcindor, Alex Stevenson, Charlie Johnson, Carmello Jules, and Sherman Abrams.



Carmello assists at the Visitor Center desk. Seasonal Ranger Mike Pacyna, at left, is a graduate of the Seton Hall Prep intern program.



Alex prepares obsolete documents for the shredder.

Carmello provides backup for the Chemistry Lab tour.



Time out for a field trip to the Delaware River. The students are joined by Rangers Claire Shields and Ben Bolger, at left. Ben served as coordinator of the Seton Hall program. At center are Karen Sloat-Olsen, Chief of Interpretation, and Claxton Rabb from the Maintenance Division. Claxton is another graduate of the Seton Hall Prep program.

**Our thanks to the Edison Innovation Foundation/
Charles Edison Fund for ongoing support for this
worthwhile internship program.**

Message from the Superintendent

We don't know where the time went, but summer has gone as quickly as it arrived. The end of the summer is always a time of change at the park as we say goodbye to our interns and seasonal staff and wish them well as they resume their studies.

As they return to their schools and colleges, we are reminded that not all education has to take place in a formal setting. The National Park Service has been called "America's greatest university without walls." And, as it heads towards its 100 year anniversary, the NPS has put Education at the core of "A Call to Action," the strategy that will guide the Service as it enters its second century of existence.

Here at Thomas Edison NHP, education of our visitors has always been at the heart of everything we do. Many of the thousands of visitors that we welcome to the park each year associate Edison with the incandescent lamp but may have limited knowledge of the extensive range and breadth of technologies that he is actually responsible for. As they walk where Edison and his muckers walked, we hope that they will have an enjoyable and fun visit and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the park and the role of the NPS in its preservation. It is through education that the visitors of today become the stewards of our parks for future generations.

—Jill Hawk

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

My Summer "Vacation" as a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher

Janet Armstrong, our Teacher-Ranger-Teacher from the Parsippany-Troy Hills school district, spent a second summer at Edison. She reports: "What an interesting summer I have enjoyed...collaborating with the knowledgeable and professional rangers who warmly welcomed me back and helped me in a myriad of ways."

She began the summer working on Camp Edison, the four-day program at the end of June when young campers learned about Glenmont, sound and musical creations, and Edison's last major experimental project, rubber.



Janet Armstrong at this summer's Camp Edison.

Janet worked on several additional projects over the summer. Her first assignment was to develop a lesson based on the book *The Story of Thomas Alva Edison* by Margaret Cousins. Post-

ed on the Park's website, the lesson is formatted as a *Jeopardy*-style game to help students recall factual information about Mr. Edison and his work. Another project was the development of a virtual learning tool for children that features Edison family members. Janet also created an interactive workshop for teachers in Newark with the express purpose of encouraging them to bring their students on field trips to the park this school year.

The Star-Ledger



"It's the high altar of experimental recording."

Forget about the iPod. He spins it old-school



Jerry Fabris, curator of Thomas Edison National Historical Park in West Orange, shows what spin will be like again on the records made by the Bob Feroz Band on an Edison wax cylinder phonograph. Fabris is playing in the background.

S. Jersey tops north in cancer diagnoses

Report blames area's higher smoking rates

By Megan Colburn

Residents of South Jersey are more likely to have cancer than those in the northern part of the state, because they smoke more, according to a report issued Tuesday.

"The report, the first by the American Cancer Society that compares New Jersey to other states, shows the state of cancer and death rates in New Jersey are higher than the national average. What we know is that, of the states, most South Jerseyans live in the northern part of the state, and New Jersey has the highest cancer rates in the nation," said Dr. David F. Cella, vice president for advocacy at the American Cancer Society of New York and New Jersey. "Whether New Jersey's cancer statistics are high likely to have cancer are high likely to die of cancer than the northern part of New Jersey."

■ A look at cancer and types of cancer in New Jersey. Page 8

The rates of most cancers are similar throughout New Jersey, but lung cancer rates are higher in the northern region. Among cancers, lung cancer rates are the highest in the state, followed by prostate cancer in New Jersey and stomach cancer in the northern part of the state.

"Living near the Jersey Shore is not a health risk," said Dr. Feroz. "The rates of cancer are high in the northern part of the state, but the highest smoking rates are in the northern part of the state."

Front-Page News
Museum Curator Jerry Fabris was featured in *The Star-Ledger* on July 25. The article details the wax cylinder recording sessions he has held at the Park over the years. Among the musicians who have made the pilgrimage to West Orange are Wynton Marsalis, Les Paul, Suzanne Vega, Bucky Pizzarelli, and They Might Be Giants.

Restoration Work Continues at Glenmont

Chinese Mantel Clock

Visitors to Glenmont probably did not notice the elegant Chinese mantel clock in the Reception Room. Surface corrosion and dark



The Chinese clock, before and after conservation.

brown, greasy dirt rendered its images of landscapes and flowers virtually unidentifiable. Additionally, the clock face, attached to the body of the clock by unstable hanging chains, had been removed. With the help of NPS funds, we sent the clock out for conservation during the winter; a total of five clocks received conservation.

Careful cleaning removed the dirt and grime and revealed a cream enameled surface with brightly colored images. Conservators reattached the alabaster clock face, revealing its bright gold trim and two lounging serpents. This lighter look is more in keeping with Mina Edison's original intention for the room when she hired Proctor and Company to redecorate it in the early 1910s. Following the teachings of noted decorator Elsie de Wolfe, Mina chose a less cluttered style that emphasized lighter colors and an overall softer and airier feel, a firm reaction to overstated Victorian bric-a-brac.

Edison Lamp

During the installation of the Glenmont geothermal system in 2003, we found a unique artifact in the attic: a bronze lamp featuring a bust of Thomas Edison. Created with a classical theme, one might mistake Edison for a Greek or Roman ruler. The lamp also has a traditional wreath and laurel at its base and a series of lightning bolts emerging from its center to honor the great inventor's accomplishments. Covered with grime and soot, the lamp was definitely a candidate for conservation.

Conservator Margaret Breuker of the NPS Collections Conservation Branch cleaned the lamp, which was then rewired by Appleton Lighting in Brookline, Massachusetts. A 1903 photograph of the Glenmont Den shows Mr. Edison seated next to the lamp. A rare find, this type of artifact not only reveals more about how the Edisons used this historic room but also serves as proof of Edison's celebrity and fame, a status which made him as much an icon as a successful inventor.



Edison with the "Edison" lamp in the den, 1903. At right, the conserved lamp today.

Exterior Work at Glenmont

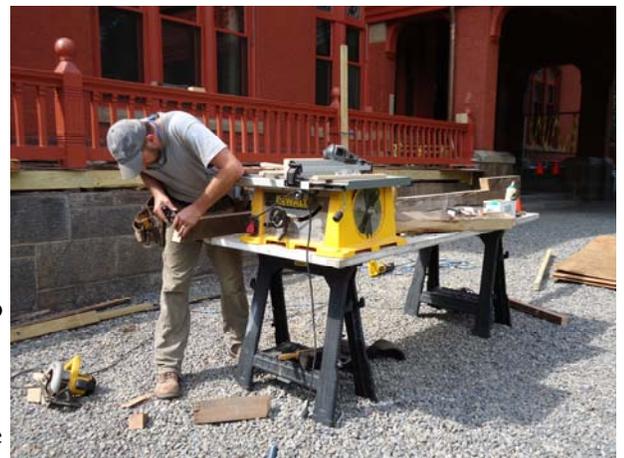


As anyone who owns an old house knows, true craftsmen must be found if the goal is to maintain the house's original appearance. Queen-Anne style Victorian homes are no exception. Carpenters working on the outside of Glenmont have been busily recreating decorative trims, spindles, shingles, and molding to replace rotted wood before winter comes.

Making sure all of those new pieces are historically accurate and an exact match to the existing wood elements is no small feat. The work has been complemented by the installation of a new copper gutter system, which also mirrors what the Edisons would have had on the house. All of this work has been funded by Recovery Act dol-

lars, which also funded the exterior painting of the house in its historic 1920s salmon color.

An NPS team has also been stabilizing the two porches that flank the entrance to



Glenmont. The carpenters will replace rotted tongue and groove boards and corresponding framing that have been affected by long-term exposure to the elements. A canvas covering will then be installed over the porches where the Edisons often relaxed in their wicker chairs, chatting with guests or looking over the grounds. Projects such as these will ensure that Glenmont will still look the same as it did when it was built in 1880, remaining the showplace that it was during its heyday.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Thomas Edison National Historical Park
211 Main Street
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Friends Kick Off Membership Campaign With Special Offer; Reception Celebrates Edison in Paris



Friends of Edison Chair Hap Bojsza serves crêpes to Larry Fast, longtime member of the Friends of Thomas

More than 40 guests attended the first of a series of special events sponsored by the Friends of Thomas Edison National Historical Park on July 12. The program that evening commemorated Edison's triumphant visit to the Paris Exposition of 1889. Edison products occupied more than a third of the space allocated to all U.S. companies at the exposition and introduced the public to mass-market versions of his phonograph. Park Collection Manager Joan Harris-Rico, who has taken a special interest in the Paris Exposition, previewed a multimedia presentation she offered to park visitors the following day. The Friends' reception featuring French cheeses and crêpes followed the preview; Highlawn Pavilion of West Orange provided French wines.

The talk and reception launched the Friends' "**Spirit of Innovation**" Series celebrating Edison's innovation and invention in the arts, science and technology.

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Volunteers-In-Parks Coordinator Thomas Edison National Historical Park

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Upcoming programs—diverse in content but connected in spirit—will complement the rich, historical offerings available throughout the Park. Each program, whether a concert, exhibit, lecture, or interactive experience, will incorporate a time for participants to exchange ideas and make connections with others in the community.

"In addition to adding another dimension to our community's experience of the Edison legacy," said Friends' Chair Hap Bojsza, "we hope to encourage people to become members of the Friends of Thomas Edison National Historical Park. Beyond preserving and interpreting Edison's work, we think the Park can play a greater role in the life and economy of West Orange and surrounding towns. Frankly, we need more hands at the wheel to make that happen."

The Friends also announced a **special membership offer**: A one-year membership for \$40 (normally \$50). This fee will remain the same for as long as an individual renews his or her membership.

New members will receive:

1. 2 free tickets for entry to the Thomas Edison National Historical Park (a \$14 value).
2. Edison lapel pin and Friends of Edison membership card.
3. Invitations to free, members-only programs and receptions.
4. This year only: Entry in a drawing for a 2004 Thomas Edison Silver Dollar Commemorative Coin. (Drawing February 11, 2013).

The Friends of Thomas Edison NHP is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Park in the preservation, restoration and promotion of Thomas A. Edison's laboratory and home through advocacy, volunteer service, and fundraising. The Friends also strive to foster an appreciation of Thomas A. Edison and his achievements through assisting in the planning of special events and providing programs that satisfy the needs and interests of its members and the local community.

You can call 973-736-2916 or email foe00@verizon.net for more details. In addition to FOE Chair Bojsza, the event committee includes Nina Barszcz, Keri Knowles, Kip Rowan, and John O'Reilly.