



The Lab Notebook

EDISON DAY — JUNE 2, 2012



Wax Cylinder recording sessions feature (clockwise from top) Slavic Soul Party, Homegrown Two, Red Hook Ramblers, and the Royal Nines.

At the Glenmont garage, the Edison Innovation Foundation will unveil plans for new exhibits that will complement the historic vehicles with multimedia and interactive displays.



The Friends of Thomas Edison NHP will display the mini-Model T, just the right size for kids to climb in and have their pictures taken. Visitors can also pose for a photo with a life-size cutout of Mr. Edison. The Friends will be kicking off a membership drive and will have plenty of prizes to give away.



Come join us!

Early Edison films—Ranger presentations on Edison and the White House and Daily Life in the Machine Shop—Kids' Corner & Edison Family games—How Do Solar Panels Work?—Glenmont geothermal system—Edison Goes Camping—In the Archives: 125th anniversary of the West Orange Lab—Mrs. Edison's Greenhouse.

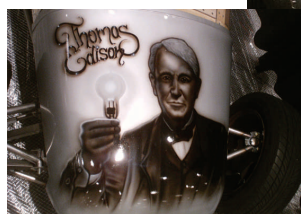
The Edison Innovation Foundation will acknowledge winners of the Edison Invention Challenge, students from High Point Regional High School, who developed a car exhaust charger design.



Selections from this year's Black Maria Film Festival.



There's a wealth of information about the Edison story you can tap into using QR codes. What are they? They're those matrix barcodes you see everywhere these days including here at Edison. A special program, repeated during the day, will show you how to access information with your smart phone.



The Edison Electric Lotus 7, built by students at Memorial High School, West New York, N.J., will be on display at the Glenmont garage.



Message From the Superintendent

What do the Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park (Edison, NJ; Middlesex County), Historic Speedwell (Morristown, NJ; Morris County), and Thomas Edison National Historical Park (West Orange, NJ; Essex County) all have in common? Each site served as an “invention factory” in the 19th century and was the foundation of innovation, invention and research and development that we know today. The common denominator for all three sites is the work of Thomas Alva Edison: his start in telegraphy, his inventions at Menlo Park, and finally his research and development in West Orange.

In present day, the sites have joined together to collaborate and develop a partnership that seeks to present the sites as parts in a greater story; the story of a New Jersey that was the beginning of the “Route of Industrial Heritage.” Our intention is to link the stories of each site to provide our guests with information and stories to “connect the dots” and to ensure that our programming and social media are relevant to education and current events.

We encourage you to visit all three historic sites to learn about Thomas Alva Edison - his life, his inventions and the process of research and development that he created along with his “muckers.” Our team is excited about this new partnership and the opportunity it creates for you, our guest, to learn about the northern New Jersey Route of Industrial Heritage, the invention factory where America was transformed.

Jill Hawk

National Park Week, April 21-29

To celebrate National Park Week this year, NPS Director Jon Jarvis asked Park staffs across the country to prepare a video presentation that invites each visitor to “Picture Yourself” in that particular Park. You can see the Edison video on our webpage: www.nps.gov/edis. Click on “National Park Week.”

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
Email: 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 heritage.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Collections Care Workshop at Edison

On March 19 the Park played host to the workshop “Best Practices for Non-Profit History Organizations,” on the fundamentals of caring for museum collections. Twenty-eight museum professionals from institutions across the state attended the day-long event.



Glenmont Curator Beth Miller stressed the importance of house-keeping routines and using the proper supplies, equipment, and methods when caring for delicate artifacts. She pointed out that the museum professional is a detective who looks for clues while housekeeping: Has this object been damaged? Moved? Is light affecting it adversely? Does it need repair or conservation treatment?



Archivist Lenny DeGraaf addressed the group on operating an archival program that makes historic manuscripts available to the public. He later showed the group the reference area in Building 4 where researchers examine documents from the Edison Archives.

Supervisory Museum Curator Michelle Ortwein led a Lab tour and highlighted issues involved in maintaining historic spaces: storage supplies and equipment, conservation, environmental monitoring, pest control, security, and fire protection.



Curator Jerry Fabris describes caring for sound recording collections.



Lunch break during a busy day.



Mr. Edison is ready for any hazard.



Rachel Koblitz receives congratulations from her mother Laura, her sister Sarah, Edison superintendent Jill Hawk and Web-Ranger coordinator Wyndeth Larue on Junior Ranger Day.

WebRanger No. 10,000 Honored at Edison

Junior Ranger Day, April 28, was particularly special for one young visitor. NPS Director Jon Jarvis announced (via video link) that 11-year old Rachel Koblitz had become the 10,000th WebRanger.

WebRangers (www.webrangers.us) is the online extension of the junior ranger program, the youth initiative that helps engage the next generation of Americans with their national parks. The WebRangers site is full of games, activities, maps, and secret codes that encourage young visitors to learn more about America's national treasures.

Superintendent Jill Hawk and WebRangers manager Wyndeth LaRue presented Rachel with a certificate and a backpack of national park related books and gifts. Rachel was on her first visit to a national park and had no advance knowledge of the presentation. To earn her WebRangers patch she had completed over 60 activities, learning about many of the parks and the people who care for them. She quickly became a fan of the national parks, even though she had never visited one.

"The goal of WebRangers is not to glue children's eyeballs to yet another computer screen," said Jarvis. "It is an invitation, reaching out to them, where they are, and inviting them to come and explore, learn about, and protect their national heritage."

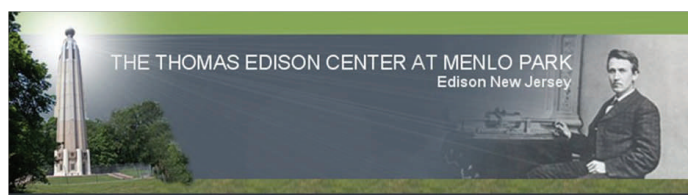
WebRangers, online for five years, adds new activities and features every year. The site has more than 200,000 registered users, and roughly one million other visitors who visit and complete activities without registering. The site has been very popular with home school organizations, and is used in classrooms across the country as well as by children and families. Last year, the addition of a teacher's guide, aligning the activities to learning standards, made Web-Rangers even more attractive for classroom use.

Menlo Park Announces Grand Re-Opening

The Edison Memorial Tower Corporation announces the re-opening of the museum at the Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park, 37 Christie Street, Edison, New Jersey on June 9, 2012. The schedule for the day will be: a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:00 AM and the opening of the Museum at 11:30 AM, with tours provided every half hour through 4:00 (last tour starts at 3:30).

Reservations are strongly encouraged to ensure a place on a scheduled tour. Visitors should call 732-494-4194 or email info@menloparkmuseum.org.

Other activities to be held that day include visits with an Edison impersonator, Edison-related book signings, children's hands-on activities, face-painting, and gift shop items for sale.



As its contribution to the re-opening, Thomas Edison NHP has loaned two lathes used here in the outlying phonograph factory buildings. Manufactured around 1885, they were donated by Mr. Edison to Henry Ford's Deerfield Village in 1929 and returned along with Building 11 in 2002. Now you can see them on display in the new museum exhibit at Menlo Park.

100th Anniversary of Edison's Concrete Mile

Franklin Township Historic Preservation Commission, Greenwich Township Historical Society, The Highlands Project, and Warren County Morris Canal Committee are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Edison Concrete Mile at Bread Lock Park located at 'mile marker 4' in New Village on Rt. 57 (behind OK 4 Wheel Drive) on Saturday, June 2 (alas, the same as Edison Day) from 10am to 4 pm. The (rain date is June 3).

A parade of pre-WWII automobiles will drive over the Concrete Mile. Photo displays of the Edison Portland Cement plant and Edison concrete houses will be on view. For additional information contact Brenda Heinrich Higgins, Chair of Franklin Township Historic Preservation Commission at: bhiggins7403@comcast.net.

From our photo collection. The sign on this undated photo reads: "The first concrete highway in New Jersey built 1912 by state highway dept."





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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



National Volunteer Week April 15-21

To mark National Volunteer Week we sent each of our active volunteers a thank you note and a National Park Service water bottle. We appreciate the contributions our volunteers make every day. We certainly would be unable to operate the Park without the support and dedication of our volunteers. Thank you all for making a difference!

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

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www.nps.gov/edis Click on
"Support Your Park"

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Edison Represented at New Jersey History Fair

Rangers Carmen Pantaleo (left) and Greg Washburne staffed the Edison booth at the 2012 New Jersey History Fair held on May 12 at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville. They joined 140 other exhibitors and vendors who helped visitors explore five centuries of the state's history through living history presentations, period music and dance, and hands-on demonstrations.