



Thomas Edison

Thomas Alva Edison was one of America's most prolific and greatest inventors of all time. Edison's first big invention was the improvements he made to the stock ticker and telegraphs. He created a telegraph that could send four messages at once.

In 1876 he moved his laboratory to Menlo Park, New Jersey. Here he invented the phonograph, which was the first machine that could record and playback the human voice. By this time, Edison's hearing was so bad he considered himself deaf.

Edison invented the electric light bulb and designed a power system to bring electricity into homes. In 1886, Edison built a larger laboratory in West Orange, NJ. It was here that he worked on one of his greatest inventions - the first moving pictures, or movies.

By this time many people believed Thomas Edison was a genius. He believed hard work was responsible for his inventions. As he liked to say, "Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration."

Thomas Alva Edison died at the age of 84 on October 18, 1931.