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A Salute To CREATIVE WOMEN

Inspiring Us Every Day



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Beulah Gets Busy

Beulah Henry

Beulah Henry was one busy lady during the 1920s. She had 110 different inventions in many different fields. One of her most famous was a form of "photocopying" that could make four copies at one time. That may not seem like a big deal now, but in those days, the ability to write something once and make four copies instantly, without having to write it over and over, was huge news!



OOPS! I Did It Again

Bette Nesmith Graham

Bette Nesmith Graham was a secretary with a problem – poor typing skills. Now, you type on a computer and your mistakes can be fixed instantly. (In fact, your computer may even correct your mistakes while you type!) But in Graham's day, back in the 1950s, typewriters weren't so forgiving. If you made a mistake, even just one incorrect character, you might have to retype an entire page because erasures made papers look messy, and bosses found that unacceptable! So Graham came up with a brilliant way to fix mistakes: by basically painting over them with a white liquid, which, when dry, looked just like the paper it was typed on. Then she could type over where the mistake was and no one would be the wiser. First she called the stuff "Mistake Out" and later, as more and more people wanted it, she changed the name to "Liquid Paper" (commonly called "Wite-Out") and patented it. Eventually, she sold her company for \$47.5 million. Not bad for someone who just couldn't type well. What are you bad at that might someday help you invent something wonderful?



Stop Motion!

Maragret Knight

Maragret Knight was born in 1838. She received her first patent at the age of 30, but inventing was always part of her life. Margaret, or "Mattie", as she was called in her childhood, made sleds and kites for her brothers while growing up in Maine. When she was just 12 years old, she had an idea for a stop-motion device that could be used in textile mills to shut down machinery, preventing workers from being injured. Knight eventually received some 26 patents. Her machine that made flat-bottomed paper bags is still used to this very day!



WORKING SMARTER

Easier for Travel

Lillian Russell

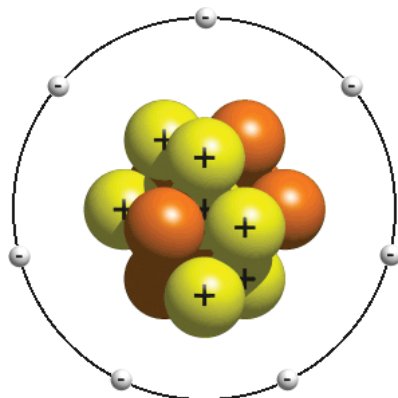
In 1912, the beautiful soprano opera singer and actress of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, **Lillian Russell**, patented a combination dresser-trunk built solidly enough to remain intact during travel and doubled as a portable dressing room.



Secret Project

Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu

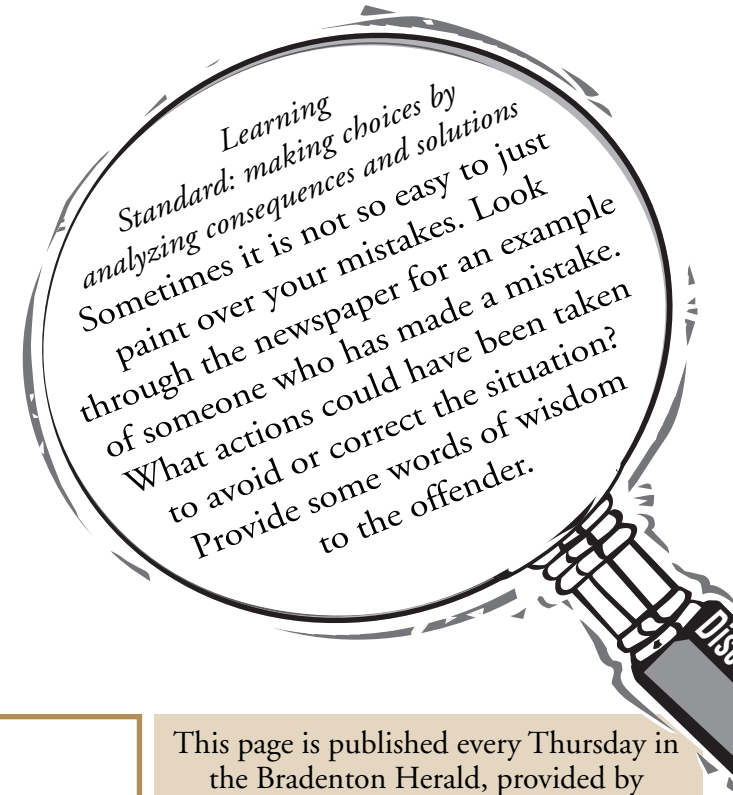
Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu was a nuclear physicist who studied beta-decay (a weak interaction in which one of the neutrons in the nucleus of an atom decays into a proton and an electron; the proton enters the nucleus, forming an isotope, and the electron is emitted as a beta-particle). In 1956, Dr. Wu did experiments showing that parity is not conserved in weak interactions (demonstrating parity violation in the nuclear beta decay in cobalt 60). Her experiments supported T. D. Lee and C. N. Yang's revolutionary idea that parity was not conserved in weak interactions (parity conservation had been a basic assumption in physics). Dr. Wu worked on the Manhattan Project (a secret US project during World War II to develop an atomic bomb, developing a process for separating the uranium isotopes U235 and U238 by gaseous diffusion. She also helped develop more sensitive Geiger counters (devices that detect radiation). Dr. Wu also studied the molecular changes in hemoglobin associated with sickle-cell anemia.



Invisible Len!

Katherine Blodgett

Katherine J. Blodgett was an American physicist and inventor who invented a micro-thin barium stearate film that makes glass completely non reflective and "invisible" (patent #2,220,660, March 16, 1938). Blodgett's invention has been used in eyeglasses, camera lenses, telescopes, microscopes, periscopes, and projector lenses. Blodgett also invented a gauge that measured the thickness of this type of coating (which can be only a few molecules thick), called a "color gauge."



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