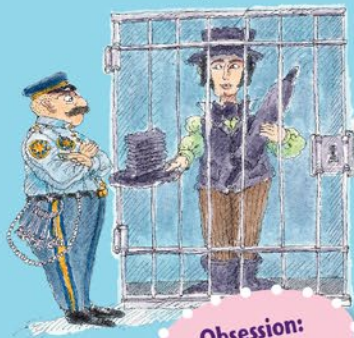


## Charles Goodyear

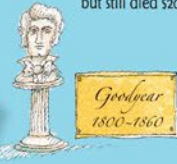
Imagine rubber money, musical instruments, flags, jewelry, ships' sails—even rubber ships!

"Be careful—This check might bounce!"



**Obsession:**  
Rubber

Charles Goodyear wanted to make (nearly) everything of rubber. He wore rubber hats and ties. He ate from rubber dishes. When he fell into debt and was taken to jail, his wife brought him rubber and a rolling pin. There he chopped, kneaded, and rolled it out like dough, experimenting with ways to make rubber—which in its raw state is gooey and unusable—the flexible and bouncy stuff we know today. Eventually, he succeeded, but still died \$200,000 in debt.



## Martha Matilda Harper

Born in poverty, Harper labored as a servant for 25 years while saving money and working on her idea—the invention of the modern beauty salon. It was a time when women



*Harper*  
1857-1950

did not leave their homes to have their hair done, but Harper used her luxurious, floor-length hair in her advertising, and eventually even presidents' wives visited her salons. Harper also helped many poor women like herself open their own businesses.

**Obsession:**  
Hair



"To perm or not to perm?"



## Archimedes

**Obsession:**  
Geometry, levers, pulleys, and shouting Eureka!

The Greek mathematician Archimedes is best known as the inventor who exclaimed "Eureka!" (I've found it) when he solved a difficult problem while taking a bath. Archimedes also invented war machines to defend against Roman invasion—designing cranes to pull ships out of the water



"EUREKA!"  
(I have found it!)

Found what?  
The soap?



**Obsession:**  
Germs, the number 3, white pigeons, and AC electricity

# Weird Tales

## from the Inventors' HALL OF FAME

by Lonnie Plecha,

art by Robert Byrd

## Hedy Lamarr

Brains and beauty sometimes go together! Once married to an Austrian arms designer, whom she left when he became too cozy with the Nazis, famous movie star Hedy Lamarr



invented a device to prevent the German navy from jamming radio signals used to guide Allied torpedoes.

**Obsession:**  
Hollywood movies and torpedo guidance systems



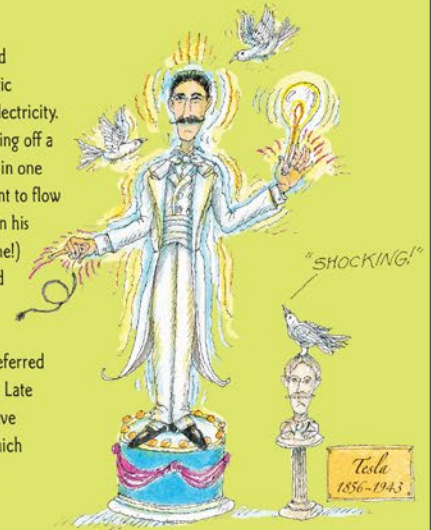
"Please..... I am trying to concentrate!"

"Lights!"  
"Camera!"  
"Action!"

## Nikola Tesla

A brilliant electrical engineer and scientist, Tesla gave peculiar public demonstrations of the safety of electricity. Wearing a white tuxedo (and giving off a blue glow), he would take a wire in one hand and allow low-power current to flow through his body to light a bulb in his other hand. (Don't try this at home!) However, Tesla was deathly afraid of germs and is said to have

used 18 napkins with each meal (he mysteriously preferred numbers divisible by 3). Late in life, he claimed to have invented a death ray, which he hoped would end war.



"SHOCKING!"

*Tesla*  
1856-1943