THE POWER OF PATENTS

Ten Patents That Changed The World

U.S. Patent System

- U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8
  - "... promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for Limited Times to Authors and Inventors the Exclusive Right to their Respective Writings and Discoveries."
- Inception in 1790 (1st Patent - July 31)
  - Provides Incentive For Creativity
  - Promotes Advancement Of Commerce & Industry
- 1985 Court Case
  - Infringement Of Instant Camera Rights
  - Eastman Kodak Co. & Polaroid Co.
  - 1990 - Kodak Assessed $900 Million Penalty

U.S. Patent System

- Storied Old Days
  - Invented Something In Attic Or Basement
  - Got A Patent On It, Began Building It & Selling It
  - Made A Pile Of Money, All Pretty Much Alone
- Modern Days
  - Saleried Lab Worker
  - Anonimity Of A Large Corporation
- Few People Make It Big Today
  - Steve Wozniak (Apple)
  - Edwin Land (Polaroid)
  - William Hewlett & David Packard

U.S. Patent System

- Forefathers
  - Not Committed To Individual Rights
  - Dead Set Against Monopolies
- Patent
  - Gives Inventors Monopoly For A Period Of Years
    - 17 Years
  - Required Inventors To Disclose The Workings Of their Inventions Publicly For The Well-Being Of Society

U.S. Patent System

- Industrial Revolution Of 19th Century
  - Proliferation Of Complex Technologies
  - Growth Of Powerful Corporations
- Famous Inventors
  - Cyrus McCormick ( Reaper)
  - Samuel F.B. Morse (Telegraph)
  - Charles Goodyear (Vulcanized Rubber)
  - Thomas Edison, (1933 Patents)
  - Henry Bessemer, (Steel Process), — 1856
  - George Westinghouse, Jr. (Air Brakes), — 1869
  - Walter Hunt, (Safety Pin)
  - Alois F. Tono, (Tape Measures)

Ten Patents That Changed The World

- Cotton Gin
- Sewing Machine
- Barbed Wire
- Telephone
- Light Bulb
- Machine Gun
- Automobile
- Aeroplane
- Xerography
- Transistor
Cotton Gin
- Eli Whitney
- Patent - 1794
- Took Seeds Out Of Cotton
- Made Cotton King
- Made Slavery Profitable
- Led To Civil War

Sewing Machine
- Elias Howe & Isaac Singer
- Patent - 1846
- No. 4,750
- Industrialized Clothes Making
- Built Garment Industry
- Created First Patent Pool
- First Millionaire Inventors

Barbed Wire
- Joseph Glidden
- Patent - 1874
- No. 157,124
- Wood Fences Impractical For The Big Treeless Plains
- Ranchers Could Divide Up Range
- 173,000 Tons A Year Sold

Telephone
- Alexander Graham Bell
- Patent - 1876
- No. 174,465
- J.P. Morgan - Non-profitable Invention
- Created AT&T
  - World's Largest Company
  - Controlled All Telecommunications
  - Federal Antitrust Suit - 1984

Light Bulb
- Thomas Alva Edison
- Patent - 1880
- No. 223,898
- Symbolized Inspiration & Invention
- Became Important When Power Distribution Network Was Established