

At the age of 10, Thomas Edison built his first laboratory in the basement of his family home. To prevent tampering with his chemicals, young Tom labeled them all "poison." And shortly before his death in 1931, Edison advised "I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy." The "Wizard of Menlo Park" invented the phonograph in 1877 and cut the first record: *Mary had a Little Lamb*. On tour to promote the record, he killed as the opening act for the New Vaudeville Kids on the Block.