

November 2003

Wee Ones

Online Children's Magazine

Simon's Book

Reading & writing aren't so bad!

The Teddy Bear

It's his birthday!

The Sandwich Snatcher

Who could be the thief?

Inventions

How they came to be

Hippos, Ponies and Platypuses!

Ideas that Grew into **INVENTIONS**

Michelle M. Barone



Can you believe a yummy invention like the popsicle was an accident? Band-aids and ice cream cones were inventions that someone came up with to solve problems. Have you ever wondered where toys such as yo-yos, frisbees, and Barbie dolls came from? Things you use every day, are ideas that grew into inventions.

The first yo-yos were stones or wooden disks with twine tied around them. Philippino hunters caught animals by throwing yo-yos at their legs. An American named Donald Duncan saw this weapon when he was on a trip. Donald made a small yo-yo to play with. When he came back to America he sold thousands of toy yo-yos.

Another fun toy, the frisbee, came from a Connecticut bakery called the Frisbie Pie Company. Kids played catch with the empty pie pans. One of those kids was Walter Morrison. He grew up and invented a flying saucer to throw back and forth. Walter called his flying saucers Frisbees after the pie pans he threw as a boy.

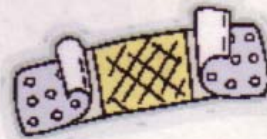


Barbie Handler's mom noticed that she liked to cut out magazine pictures of fashion models and glue different outfits on them. Mrs. Handler invented the Barbie doll and named it after her daughter. She also made a boy doll named after her son, Ken.



Inventions can grow out of ways people try to solve problems. That's what happened to Arnold Fornachou. Arnold was a teenager selling ice cream at the 1904 World's Fair. One day he ran out of dishes. Arnold saw a man selling an Arabic, waffle dessert called zalabia. Arnold bought some zalabias. He rolled them into cone shapes to use instead of dishes to sell ice cream. Arnold solved his problem, and invented the first ice cream cones.

Then there was Earle Dickson's idea to help his wife, Josephine. She got many small cuts when she cooked. Earle stuck little gauze squares in the middle of pieces of tape to put on Josephine's cuts. Earle's boss at Johnson and Johnson Company liked Earle's idea for Band-aids,



but no one would buy them. When they gave free Band-aids to Boy Scouts all over America, the invention became a success.

Sometimes an accident sparks an idea that grows into an invention. One night, eleven year old Frank Epperson used a stick to stir water and soda pop mix. Frank left his mixture outside on the back porch. He found it frozen the next morning with the stick in it. He pulled it out of the jar and took a few licks. The following summer Frank made more "Epperson Icicles" and sold them for five cents. He decided to call his icicles "popsicles" because they were made with soda pop.

Do you have an idea for a new kind of toy or a snack? Maybe the next time you have a problem, you'll come up with an idea that grows into an invention. Perhaps millions of people will use your invention. Get the idea?