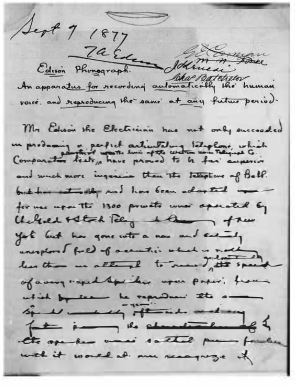
Draft Article: Phonograph



[Menlo Park,] Sept 7 1877

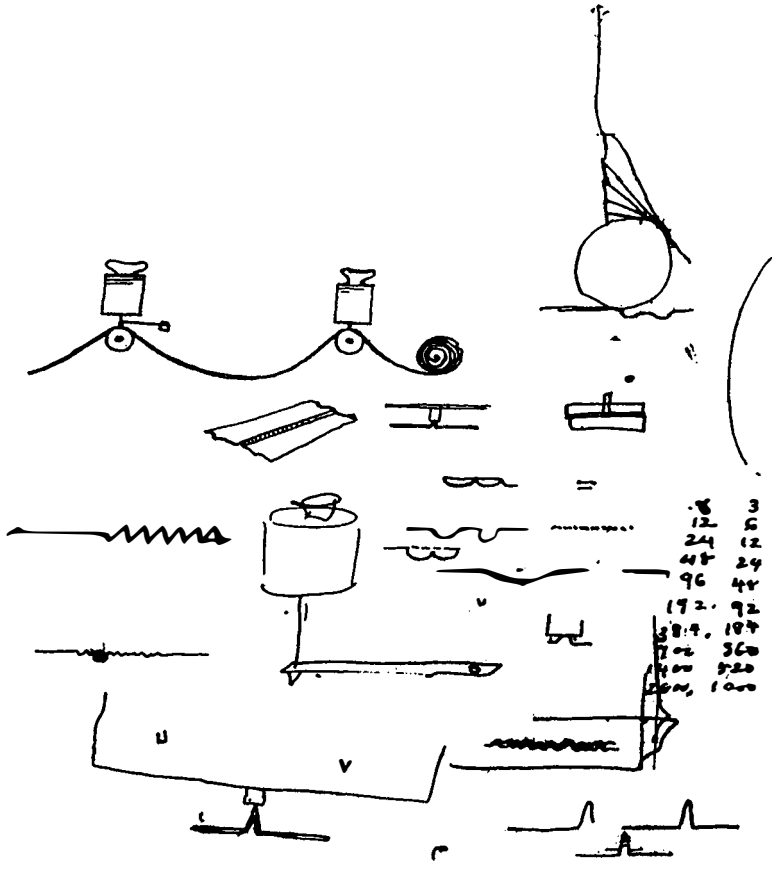
Edison Phonograph.[a]

An apparatus for recording automatically the human voice and reproducing the same at any future period.

Mr Edison the Electrician has not only succeeded in producing a perfect articulating telephone, which comparative ~~practical~~[b] tests, upon the lines of the Western Union Telegraph Co.[c] have proved to be far superior and much more ingenious than the telephone of Bell. ~~but has actually~~ and has been adopted ~~upon~~ for use upon the 1300 private wires operated by the Gold & Stock Telegraph Company of New York but has gone into a new and entirely unexplored field of acoustics which is nothing less than an attempt to record automatically[b] ~~a~~the speech of a very rapid speaker upon paper; from which ~~by~~ [~~exer~~?][d] he reproduces the same Speech immediately or year's[e] afterwards ~~or at any future~~ preserving the characteristics of the speakers voice so that persons familiar with it would at once recognize it

It would seem that so wonderful result as this would require elaborate mechanery on the Contrary the apparatus although crude as yet is ~~of~~ wonderfully simple I will en-

deavor to convey the principle ~~of~~ by the use of an illustration which although not exactly the apparatus used by Mr Edison will enable the reader to grasp the idea at once.[1]



T A Edison
[Witnesses:] James Adams Chas Batchelor J Kruesi
~~G E Carman~~[2] ~~M N. Force~~[3]

ADfS, NjWOE, Lab., Vol. 17:13 (*TAEM* 4:882). [a]Underlined twice. [b]Interlined above. [c]"upon . . . Co." interlined above. [d]Canceled. [e]"or year's" interlined above.

1. The following sketches appear to be rough designs that Edison then drew in more detail in Doc. 1040.

2. According to Jehl 1937–41 (1:318), George Carman did odd jobs around the laboratory. His name appears in the accounts by the end of April 1877 (Cat. 1185:141–42, 247, Accts. [*TAEM* 22:617–18, 66]).

3. Martin Force was a carpenter who helped build the Menlo Park laboratory in winter 1876. In spring 1876 he apparently worked in the electric pen factory packing pens and occasionally running the steam engine. Sometime in late 1877 or early 1878 he became a general handyman around the laboratory. Force's testimony, pp. 98–99, *Sawyer and Man v. Edison* (*TAEM* 46:232); Cat. 1185:141, Accts. (*TAEM* 22:617).