

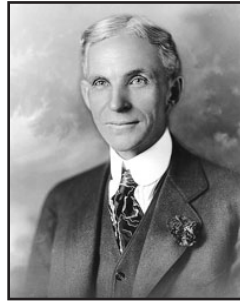


All About Michigan

Did You Know These Five Inventors Were From Michigan?

Henry Ford

Henry Ford is famous for developing and manufacturing the first affordable automobile known as the Model T in 1908. Henry Ford was born July 30, 1863, on his family's farm in Dearborn, Michigan and lived in Michigan his entire life. While most of his relatives worked on the family farm, he had an interest in machines. One of his first jobs was for Westinghouse as a steam engine repair man. He is the founder of the Ford Motor Company and the one that decided to put the steering wheel on the left side of American built cars.



Ford revolutionized manufacturing. By 1914, his Highland Park, Michigan plant, using innovative production techniques, could turn out a complete chassis every 93 minutes. This was a stunning improvement over the earlier production time of 728 minutes. Using a constantly-moving assembly line, subdivision of labor, and careful coordination of operations, Ford realized huge gains in productivity.

In 1914, Ford began paying his employees five dollars a day, nearly doubling the wages offered by other manufacturers. He cut the workday from nine to eight hours in order to convert the factory to a three-shift workday. Ford's mass-production techniques would eventually allow for the manufacture of a Model T every 24 seconds. Ford went on to design several more models and the company remains one of the most successful car manufacturers of all time.

William Boeing

William Boeing lived from 1881 to 1956. Although he later moved to Seattle, Washington, he was born in Detroit. As the name might give it away, he was the man responsible for The Boeing Company. It all began when Boeing damaged parts to his airplane and became upset after being told replacement parts would not be available for many months. He vowed to build a better and faster plane himself. This began Boeing's start into the aircraft



business. Today, The Boeing Company is among the largest aircraft manufacturers in the world.

Daniel Gerber

Daniel Gerber was born in 1898 in Fremont, Michigan. After serving in World War 1, he took a job working for his father at the Fremont Canning Company in 1920. By 1926, Gerber was promoted to General Manager. Upon settling down and starting a family, he had the idea to begin selling canned baby foods to alleviate time spent in the kitchen. With this idea, the Gerber Products Company was born. Today, the company is owned by Nestle, but it still has a location in Fremont. It is the largest baby food manufacturer in the world and continues to add infant products to its name each year.



William Hewlett

William Hewlett lived from 1913 to 2001. He was an engineer and the co-founder of the Hewlett Packard Company, also known as HP. Hewlett was born in Ann Arbor and shortly moved to San Francisco, California in 1916. After attending Stanford and MIT, Hewlett formed the then new company with David Packard in 1939. Their first product was the audio oscillator invented by William Hewlett in 1938. An audio oscillator is an electronic instrument used to test sound equipment. David Packard thought up the name "HP Model 200A" to make the company appear more established. Hewlett-Packard, now famous world-wide, started out of William Hewlett's garage in Palo Alto with a capital investment of \$538 and a Sears-Roebuck drill press.



Donald Keck

Donald Keck was born in Lansing. He was born on January 2, 1941. Keck entered Michigan State University with plans on becoming an engineer until he was persuaded by family to study physics. After receiving his Ph.D. he moved to New York where he, and two of his colleagues, invented special optical fibers while working for Corning's Inc. Research Department. Today, fiber optics is used in a wide range of communication equipment because it is much more efficient than metal wire. Keck was inducted as a member into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1993.

