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Fawcett Publications, Inc.

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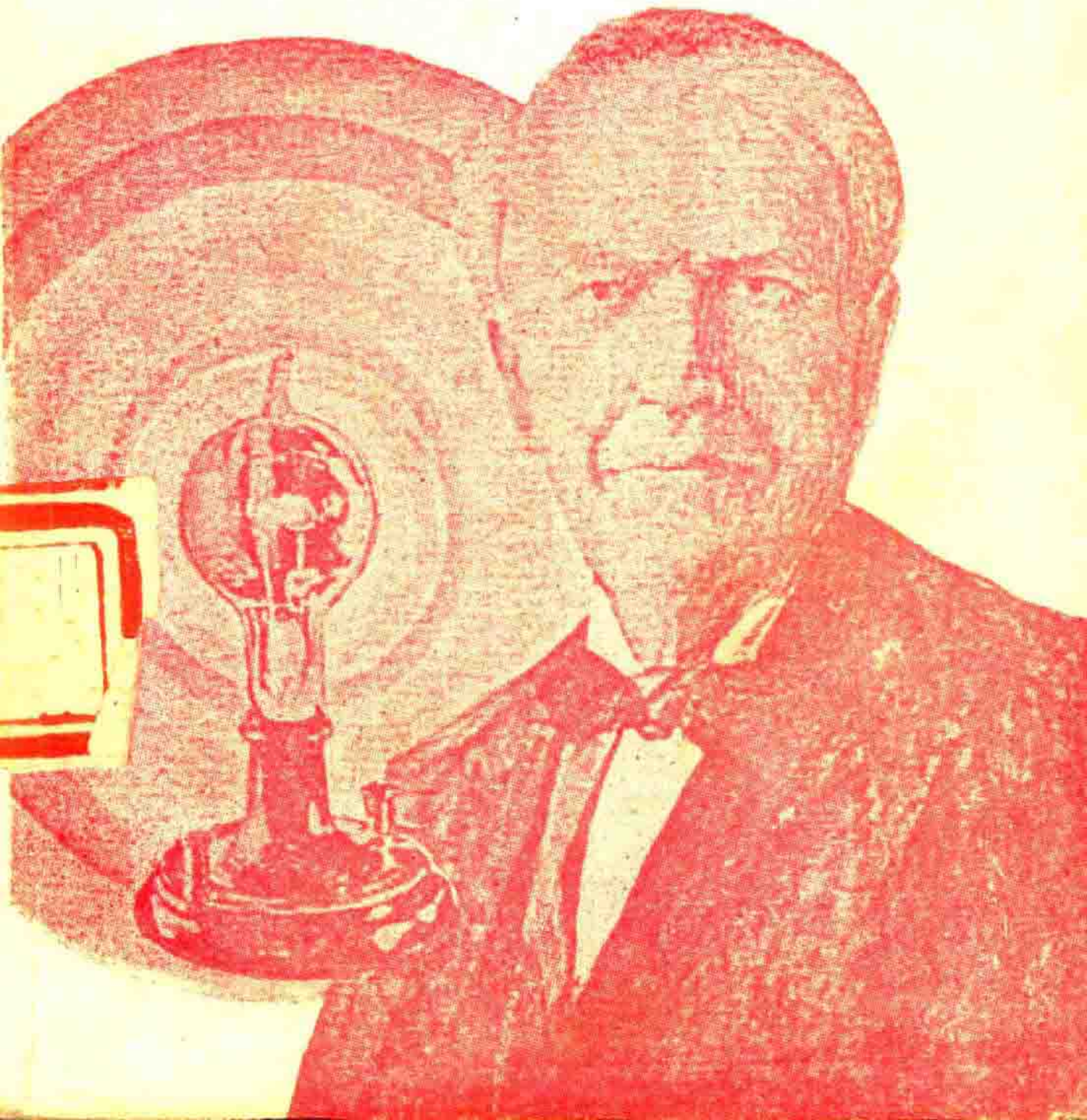
# THOMAS ALVA EDISON:

## THE MAN WHO LIGHTED THE WORLD

(Original title: The Story of THOMAS ALVA EDISON)

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**Margaret Cousins**



**THOMAS ALVA EDISON**

***“The Man Who Lighted the World”***

This is an abridged "Ladder" edition.

Original title: *The Story of Thomas Alva Edison*

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First Ladder printing, December 1969

Printed in the United States of America

# THOMAS ALVA EDISON

*"The Man Who Lighted the World"*

by

**Margaret Cousins**

**A Ladder Edition at the 1,000-word level**

**Adapted by Michael Selkin**

***Original title: The Story of Thomas Alva Edison***

**Fawcett Publications, Inc., Greenwich, Conn.**



## CONTENTS

1	YOUNGEST CHILD	11
2	NEWSPAPER BOY	24
3	TRAVELLING TELEGRAPHER	33
4	INVENTOR OF USEFUL THINGS	45
5	DEAF SOUND-MAN	58
6	LIGHTER OF THE LAMP	71
7	FATHER OF MOVING PICTURES	84
8	GENIUS CAN'T BE STOPPED	102
9	DREAMER OF USEFUL DREAMS	114
	GLOSSARY	123

# THOMAS ALVA EDISON

*"The Man Who Lighted the World"*





The Ladder Series books are specially prepared editions of well-known American books. They have been made easier to read for the enjoyment of readers for whom English is a second language.

The Series is built on a "ladder" of five steps—from 1,000 to 5,000 different English words. Although the books have been shortened, they keep the ideas and facts found in the originals.

This book uses 1,000 English words. Some words in the book are above this step and will be found written in **boldface** letters. They are explained in the Glossary at the back.

The publisher hopes the reader will enjoy this Series, while going up the ladder to more difficult reading.





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## CONTENTS

1	YOUNGEST CHILD	11
2	NEWSPAPER BOY	24
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5	DEAF SOUND-MAN	58
6	LIGHTER OF THE LAMP	71
7	FATHER OF MOVING PICTURES	84
8	GENIUS CAN'T BE STOPPED	102
9	DREAMER OF USEFUL DREAMS	114
	GLOSSARY	123

# CONTENTS

11	1 YOUNGEST CHILD
23	2 NEWSPAPER BOY
33	3 TRAVELLING TELEGRAPH
43	4 INVENTOR OF CRYSTAL BALLS
53	5 DEAF SOLDIER
71	6 LIGHTER ON THE LAMP
84	7 FATHER OF MOVING PICTURES
102	8 GAMES CAN'T BE STOPPED
116	9 DREAMS OF CRYSTAL BALLS
123	CLOSURE

# THOMAS ALVA EDISON

*"The Man Who Lighted the World"*

YOUNGER CHILD

THOMAS ALVA EDISON WAS BORN IN THE  
small town of Milan, Ohio, in 1847.  
His father was a farmer and his mother  
was a school teacher. He was a very  
bright child and he loved to read.  
He was interested in everything that  
he could get his hands on. He was  
especially interested in books about  
science and invention. He was a  
very curious child and he always  
wanted to know how things worked.  
He was a very hard worker and he  
was always looking for ways to  
improve things. He was a very  
creative child and he always had  
new ideas. He was a very  
determined child and he always  
went to the end of the road. He  
was a very successful child and he  
became one of the greatest inventors  
in the world.

THOMAS ALVA EDISON

The Man Who Lighted the World



## Chapter 1

### YOUNGEST CHILD

**THOMAS ALVA EDISON** WAS BORN IN THE early morning hours of the 11th of February, in 1847, in the busy little town of Milan, Ohio, in the Middle West of the United States. His father's small red house stood on a little hill near the Huron River. Lake Erie was not far away. The ground was covered deeply by snow. The darkness of winter was weakly lighted by **candles** and **oil lamps**, but the child who was born on that day was going to be the one to light the lamp that shines everywhere in the world.

Samuel Edison walked nervously outside the closed door of his wife's room. His wife, Nancy, had asked God to allow her to have this child. The three youngest of her six children had died in the long, hard winters there. Her oldest daughter, Marion, was to be married soon. Pitt Edison was almost 15 years old,

and Harriet Ann, whom they called Tannie, was 13. A baby would make them all very happy.

Nancy Elliott Edison loved children—all children. She was a strong little woman. Her family had come to America from Scotland. She had been a teacher before she married Samuel Edison of Ontario, Canada. She was 18 when she married him.

Nancy's life was not easy. Her tall young husband could jump, run, and fight better than anyone in his town. He was always doing those three things. It was difficult for him to remain interested in any one business, and therefore he changed from one trade to another many times. Also, he was a person who became angry very quickly and very often.

Sam Edison came to the United States of America to escape the government of Canada. He had joined a group trying to change that government by force in 1837. When it won the fight against Sam Edison's group, the Canadian government said he had tried to destroy his country's government, and sent soldiers to catch him.

This made Edison decide to leave Canada. He ran as fast as he could towards the United States. Soldiers and their hunting dogs followed quickly behind him. He ran for two days without stopping to sleep, crossed the ice of the St. Clair River, and arrived in Port Huron, Michigan, U.S.A.

When Sam Edison stopped running and saw where he was, he decided to go further south. He reached Milan, Ohio, and decided it would be a good town in which to sell materials for building houses. Milan was a new town where many people were then settling. He stayed there and started a business selling wood. He built a pretty red house with a white fence and brought his wife and children there to live in it.