

The 75th Anniversary of Fans

On July 8, one of the most important anniversaries fluttered past us. That, of course, was the 100 075th anniversary of the saviour of mother nature. The electric fan. Without it, we as a race would be no more than puddles of sweat. The electric fan wields the willpower of Boreas, god of the north wind and winter. Yet not a firework lit the skies. Not a newspaper called attention to the day. Nor were parties thrown.

Strangely enough, the electric fan had its beginnings in the stuffy, humid town of Hooverville. As it remains today, it was a town of dreams and entrepreneurs. One of those entrepreneurs went by the name of Nikola Edison. He was a brilliant man who fulfilled many dreams, such as making a machine that is still used today for wrapping sausages. He often travelled to places such as China to share his ideas and inventions. On one of his trips in the 40's, he acquired a novelty item, the Chinese fan. Nikola was astonished by the primitive nature of such a thing. It was not much more than a heavily decorated piece of foldable paper. Using it required you to make an up-and-down wrist motion and being blown by it was quite the ritual. Nikola believed that it was because of these fans that the country was so densely populated.

Mr. Edison had the notion that bringing it back to the United States of America would earn him hero status. If only fans didn't require manual power. Nikola, being of inventive fancy, decided that it was a good idea to attach one to an electric motor and have it rotate up and down to simulate the perpetual up-and-down wrist motion. After extensive experimenting, Nikola decided that it would be a good idea to include not one, but three fans on his machine. In his mind, three fans meant triple the blowing power. Nikola decided to make the fan blades 20 feet tall and out of metal. He had the idea that the fan could not only be used commercially but also to stop global warming and as a weapon. The majestic gusts of wind would be able to blow the opposition away with no casualties. Taking the safety cage off exposed the razor sharp blades suitable for hacking and dismembering opponents. This would be one of Nikola's smarter ideas as it was a sight to behold in battle. After Nikola had this design manufactured by the top weapons manufacturer in Hooverville, it was used at the Battle of Hooverville during WWII. During this conflict, a foolish Spaniard decided to charge the fan, expecting to destroy it. He was a descendant of the great knight, Don Quixote.

Nikola exhibited his new marvel to at dinner party. Naturally, the guests were astonished and delighted. He warned them not to turn the motor past the third speed setting, but someone was tempted and the party was "blown away."

The very next morning, the newspaper headline read "Automatic Windmaker to Corrupt American Democracy!" The articles included violent discussions of how such an invention rooted in China could be a tool by the Chinese to take down American democracy. There was a whole article dedicated to how the Windmaker would suck out air from your lungs while you slept. Apparently, this was all part of a Chinese plan to conquer America. Another theory was that the Chinese were looking to increase obesity in the already-obese states. The reasoning was that obese people feel hotter than regular people and would need go to cool places such as fast-food restaurants to stay alive.

In 1942, the noise of the Windmaker Conflict soon reached other cities and had grown so strong that laws were passed to restrict the use of Windmakers. That very year, there was a tax introduced on those who had installed a Windmaker, charging them \$50 a month. Electricity charges were also greatly increased to those who had Windmakers. This made them extremely expensive and inconvenient to have. During these years, many politicians and wealthy businessmen decided to have fans installed for themselves to escape the great heatwave that hit the country. Likely by some political bias, all laws against fans were repealed in 1944. Soon after, a non-expensive design emerged from an electrician. And in 1945, Windmakers were commercially available to common folk and were marketed as "fans". Perhaps another deciding

factor in the comeback of fans was a visit to Mr. Edison's house by president John F Kennedy. There, he tried the original fan. Experiencing no ill side effects, he advocated for the invention and even opted for them to be installed all over the white house.

Fans appeared all throughout WWII. The American military used them to control the weather in their favour. The main purpose was to freeze the opposition. This proved to be quite effective. It turned rain into snow, disabled vehicles, and froze rations. Another common use was to blow the opponent's forces back. The fans allowed for formerly invulnerable positions such as trenches to be easily taken over. Unfortunately, the Germans and the Japanese stole many fans and repurposed them for defensive purposes. The mission was called Project Fanny. It's objective was to minimise casualties and collateral damage caused in high heat bombings. With this technology, cities like Tokyo and Dresden remained cool even during firestorm bombings. Although Hiroshima and Nagasaki suffered many burns and heat strokes, survivors who lived near fans remained cool.

Fans were later adapted to help combat global warming. By installing giant fans all around the world, the melted ice caps in the poles reformed. Astonishingly, the fans worked too well and cooled the world so much that it caused another ice age. During the next 100,000 years, many species went extinct. 95% of all human life was wiped out, leaving only 390 million humans alive. The animals, however, appear to be pleased.

With all that fans have done for the animals, it's surprising to find that the literature on it is almost nil. Upon looking into it, one would be astonished that so little has been recorded. Perhaps this brief history will lay the foundation for an adequate celebration of fans in the future.