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**Grey House Publishing announces *Working Americans, 1880-2010 Volume XI: Inventors & Entrepreneurs***

Grey House Publishing is proud to announce the publication, *Working Americans 1880-2010 Volume XI: Inventors & Entrepreneurs*, the eleventh volume in the Working Americans series. Like its predecessors, this work profiles the lives of Americans – how they lived, how they worked, how they thought – decade by decade.

Earlier volumes focus on economic status or social issues. More recent volumes focus on a specific group of Americans – like immigrants in *Volume VIII* and athletes in *Volume X*. This volume highlights American ingenuity, men and women with an edge. They are the folks who struggled to reach for the American dream with new inventions, improved products, or perseverance, plain and simple.

Without exception, the 365 individuals profiled in the eleven volumes of this Working Americans series are working toward their version of the American dream.

*Volume XI: Inventors & Entrepreneurs* takes you:

- ★ To Hershey, PA, where Milton Hershey perfected his recipe for milk chocolate in 1907;
- ★ Onto the drawing table of Grace Wiederseim, creator, in 1917, of the still recognizable Campbell Kids;
- ★ To NYC's Wall Street in 1928, where Joseph Ridgeway experienced the highs and lows of a stock pool manager;
- ★ Behind the scenes of the U.S. Navy in Falmouth, MA, where Lt. Mary Sears overcame prejudices in 1945 that still exist 55 years later;
- ★ Into a 1954 courtroom where FM radio inventor Edwin Armstrong was left so depressed over the legal battle in which RCA claimed ownership of his designs and patents, that he claimed his own life;

—continued—

- ★ To Los Angeles, CA, where Dr. Harry Coover discovered in 1967 Super Glue by accident – a substance that literally stopped the bleeding;
- ★ Inside a bottle of Liquid Paper, invented in 1976 by Bette Graham, who grew tired of fixing her mistakes by retyping entire pages;
- ★ To Jackson, SC in 1986, where soybean farmer James Jarrett built rifles so accurate that customers waited up to 12 months to own one;
- ★ To the shores of the Pacific Ocean, where young Ray Banatao and his brother launched in 2008 a greener surfboard.

Arranged in 12 chapters, this newest *Working Americans* includes three **Profiles** per chapter for a total of 36. Each profile offers personal insight using *Life at Home*, *Life at Work* and *Life in the Community* categories. These personal topics are followed by historical and economic data of the time. **Historical Snapshots** chronicle major milestones. Various **Innovation** charts list products and ideas born in a specific year. **Timeline** include *Chocolate Making*, *Refrigeration*, *Business Machines* and *Fast Food Restaurants*. A variety of **News Features** puts the subject's life and work in context of the day. These common elements, as well as specialized data, such as **Selected Prices**, in currency of the time, punctuate each chapter and act as statistical comparisons between decades. The 36 men and women profiled in this volume represent all regions of the country, and a wide variety of age and ethnicity. The Table of Contents following this Introduction provides a detailed list.

Like the other ten volumes in this series, *Working Americans 1880-2010 Volume XI: Inventors & Entrepreneurs* is a compilation of original research (personal diaries and family histories) plus printed material (government statistics, commercial advertisements, and news features). The text, in easy-to-read bulleted format, is supported with hundreds of graphics, such as photos, advertisements, pages from printed material, letters, and documents.

### **Praise for earlier volumes:**

“... promises to enhance our understanding of the growth and development of the working class over more than a century. It capably fulfills this promise... recommended for all types of libraries. ”

- ARBA

“Derks adds to the genre of social history known as “history from the bottom up,” which examines the lives of ordinary people... Recommended for all college and university library collections.”

- Choice

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