



National Archives at Kansas City Newsletter

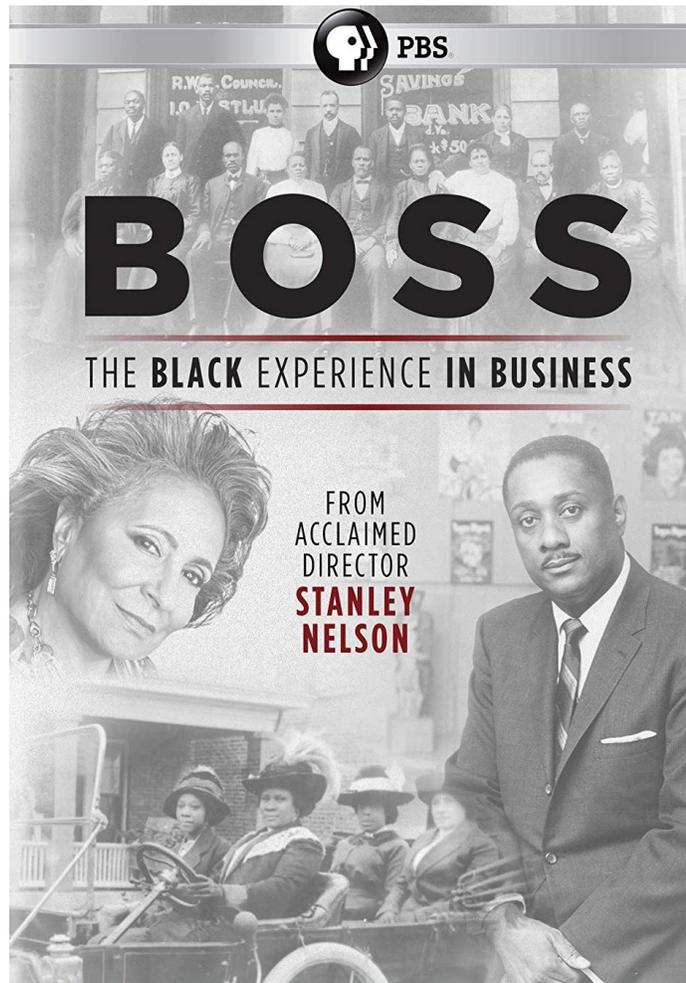
Film Screening of *BOSS: The Black Experience in Business* at the Federal Reserve Bank Money Museum

On **Monday, February 3 at 5:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, the Greater KC Black History Study Group, and Shirley's Kitchen Cabinet, will host an exhibit viewing of **No Turning Back: The Growth of Black Female Entrepreneurs** and film screening of **BOSS: The Black Experience in Business**. **Reservations are required by January 29 for this free program.**

A light reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with exhibit remarks from **Dell Gines**, Senior Community Development Advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank at 6:30 p.m., and the film screening immediately following. The exhibit viewing and film program both take place at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, 1 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO. Special note: a photo-issued government ID (e.g. drivers license, passport, or state issued ID) is required to enter the building. Guests without proper identification will be denied admission. Please allow 5-10 minutes for the security screening process.

BOSS: The Black Experience in Business is the untold story of African American entrepreneurship, where skills, industriousness, ingenuity and sheer courage in the face of overwhelming odds provide the backbone of this nation's economic and social growth. The history of business and entrepreneurship lies at the heart of the American story, but often absent from that narrative are the experiences of African Americans. From the country's earliest days, African Americans have embodied the qualities of innovation, risk-taking and determination to forge a path toward a better life. This documentary traces the lives of African American entrepreneurs over 150 years, from those bound by bondage to moguls at the top of million-dollar empires. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson, *BOSS* brings the largely unknown stories of enterprising African Americans to the forefront.

No Turning Back: The Growth of Black Female Entrepreneurs is an exhibition highlighting the research conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Community Affairs department on the characteristics, challenges and trends for black women business owners in the United States.



February 2020

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Upcoming Events

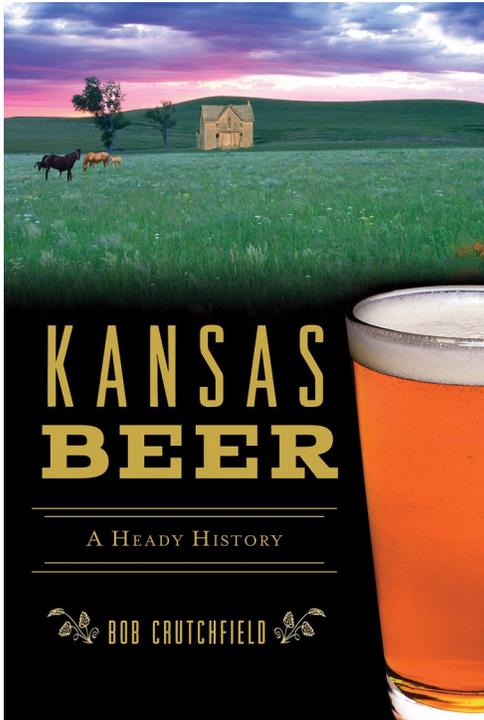
Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives 400 W. Pershing Road Kansas City, MO 64108

- **FEBRUARY 3** - 5:30 P.M.
FILM SCREENING: *BOSS**
- **FEBRUARY 13** - 6:00 P.M.
AUTHOR EVENT: KANSAS BEER: A HEADY HISTORY
- **FEBRUARY 17** - FACILITY CLOSED: PRESIDENT'S DAY
- **FEBRUARY 18** - 6:30 P.M.
FILM SCREENING: *TRUE JUSTICE*
- **FEBRUARY 23** - 3:30 P.M.
FILM SCREENING: *MILES DAVIS: BIRTH OF THE COOL**
- **FEBRUARY 26**- 6:30 P.M.
LECTURE: *THE WAR WITHIN: RACE AND VIETNAM**

*DENOTES ACTIVITY IS OFFSITE.

Author Bob Crutchfield to Discuss *Kansas Beer: A Heady History* at the National Archives

On **Thursday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives will host author **Bob Crutchfield** who will discuss his book *Kansas Beer: A Heady History*. This program will take place at the National Archives, 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO.



Prohibition came early to Kansas in 1881, driving more than 125 breweries out of business or underground. Refusing to even vote on the 1933 national repeal, the state remained dry until 1948, with liquor by the drink finally being approved in 1987. Lawrence's Chuck Magerl worked with the legislature to pen new laws allowing something (little known at the time) called a "microbrewery."

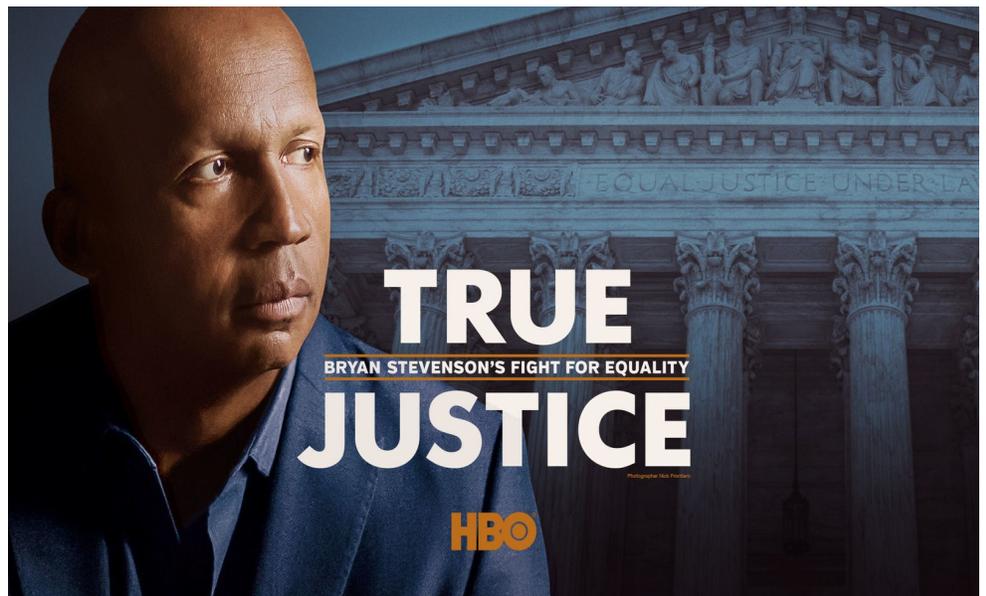
Magerl started the state's first brewery in over a century, appropriately named Free State Brewing Company. John Dean of Topeka's Blind Tiger Brewery counts more awards than any other brewer in the state, including Champion Brewer at the World Beer Cup in 2014. Props & Hops Brewing, in tiny Sylvan Grove, is owned and operated by an enterprising pilot who also owns and operates a crop-dusting business on the weekdays. Crutchfield will share these stories and more as he tells the heady history of Kansas beer. He is a native Kansas and perfected his beer consumption while attending Kansas State University.

To make a reservation for this **free program** call 816-268-8010 or [email](#). Requests for ADA accommodations must be received five business days in advance. Copies of *Kansas Beer* will be available for purchase and signing.

Film Screening and Discussion of *True Justice* at the National Archives

On **Tuesday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m.** the National Archives in partnership with Park University and the Greater KC Black History Study Group, will offer a screening of *True Justice*. This program will take place at the National Archives, 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO.

True Justice is an HBO-produced documentary that explores the life and most memorable cases of Bryan Stevenson, an Alabama public interest lawyer, advocate for incarcerated people and founder/executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative where he continues his decades-long effort to eradicate racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. This film sparks critical conversations about the history of racial injustice in America and compels us to confront the ways it continues to permeate American society in both obvious and covert ways.



To make a reservation for this **free program** call 816-268-8010 or [email](#).

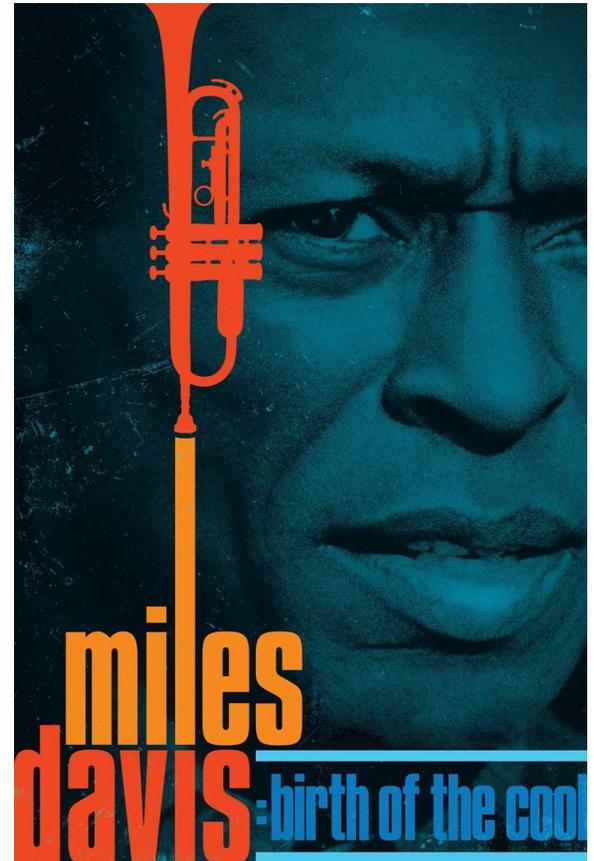
Requests for ADA accommodations must be received five business days in advance. Special note: a Hollywood produced feature motion picture film debuted in commercial theaters in December 2019 titled *Just Mercy*, and tells the story of Stevenson based on his own autobiography.

Film Screening of *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool* at the GEM Theater

On **Sunday, February 23 at 3:30 p.m.** the National Archives in partnership with the American Jazz Museum, the Bruce Watkins Cultural Center, Kansas City Public Television, and the Greater KC Black History Study Group, will offer a screening of *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool*. This program will take place at the GEM Theater, 1615 East 18th Street, Kansas City, MO. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

Miles Davis: Horn player, bandleader, innovator. Miles was a singular force of nature, the very embodiment of cool. The central theme of Miles Davis's life, and of this film is his restless determination to break boundaries and live life on his own terms. This documentary feature explores archival photos and home movies shot by Davis and his colleagues, his manuscripts and Davis's original paintings, to explore the man behind the music. Featuring interviews with some of the most well-known musicians on the planet, including Jimmy Cobb, Lee Konitz, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Ron Carter, Carlos Santana, The Roots, and Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers; the film explores why Miles continues to be a relevant voice in today's world.

Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool is a part of the PBS American Masters series. The film was directed by awarding winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson Jr., and earned a 2020 Grammy® nomination in the "Best Music Film" category. *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool* premieres nationwide Tuesday, February 25 at 8:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on PBS, check local listings at pbs.org/milesdavis.



The War Within: Race and Vietnam with Dr. Beth Bailey at the National World War I Museum and Memorial

On **Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives in partnership with the National World War I Museum and Memorial, will host **Dr. Beth Bailey** for a lecture titled *The War Within: Race and Vietnam*. This program will take place at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, 2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

U.S. Army leaders in Vietnam were once proud of their record on race, especially as racial violence escalated back home. But by mid-1968 these same leaders, many of them white, were describing race relations as "a war within the war," challenging the commonly held axiom that: "there's only one color and that's o.d. (olive drab)." Bailey is director at the Center for Military, War, and Society Studies at the University of Kansas. Her talk will discuss race during the war through the stories of those who lived it. Guests will learn about Major Merritt, who told newspaper reporters that

the U.S. Army was a "citadel of racism," about Vietnam's Long Binh Jail Riot and of the Army's efforts to address mounting racial tensions within its ranks.



This program is offered in conjunction with the exhibition, *The Vietnam War: 1945-1975*, a traveling exhibition from the New York Historical Society currently available for viewing at the National World War I Memorial and Museum.

Hidden Treasures from the Stack

Puppets and Patents: Highlights of 20th Century American Puppetry

When Caroll Spinney passed away on December 8, 2019, the world lost the puppeteer responsible for two beloved characters in American popular culture. From the inaugural season of the children's television show *Sesame Street* in 1969 until Mr. Spinney's retirement during the 50th season in 2018, the puppets of Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch not only entertained countless children, but also taught them valuable life lessons. The art form of puppetry can be traced back as far as 4,000 - 5,000 years ago, and evidence of puppetry can be found in many countries and cultures around the world. Immigrants brought their countries' puppetry traditions with them to America and over the course of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries American puppeteers created, experimented, and used new technology to take the art form into new and unique directions. There are far too many kinds of puppetry and types of puppets to discuss them all here, but examples of different types of puppets can be found in Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office. Below and on the following pages are a few examples of types of puppets found in the Patent Case Files and Design Patent Case Files.

April 25, 1939.

V. LEEPER
PUPPET

2,155,665

Filed March 26, 1938

Fig. 1.

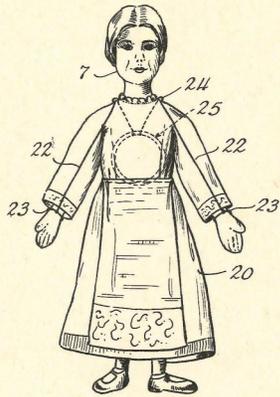


Fig. 2.

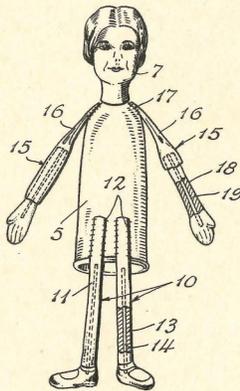
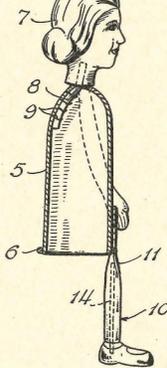


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Property of the U. S. Patent Office
Not to be taken from the Files.

INVENTOR.
VERA LEEPER
BY *Queller Kuhl*
ATTORNEYS

Finger Puppets

Finger puppets sit on one finger which control the movements of the puppet. Because of this, the potential movements of a finger puppet are limited to the wiggling of the finger. Their simplicity makes finger puppets a popular toy and craft project for children. Vera Leeper was granted Patent 2,155,665 for her design of a more complex finger puppet. Ms. Leeper wrote a book published in the 1970s that is part manual and part memoir chronicling the time she spent traveling around the southwest teaching puppetry to Native American children.

Left: Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office. "Patent Case Files, 1836-1978" National Archives Identifier 302050. Patent 2,155,665, "Puppet" granted to Vera Leeper.

Hand Puppets (or Glove Puppets)

Hand puppets are usually made of cloth and the puppeteer manipulates the puppet by inserting one hand inside the puppet. Usually the hand only moves the head and arms of the puppet, as seen in Patent 2,551,195. Well-known examples of hand puppets are the puppet duo Punch and Judy, as well as the puppets featured on the children's television show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*.

May 1, 1951

M. C. WIRTH
HAND DOLL

2,551,195

Filed Nov. 30, 1948

PROPERTY of the U. S. Patent Office
Not to be taken from the files

FIG. 1.

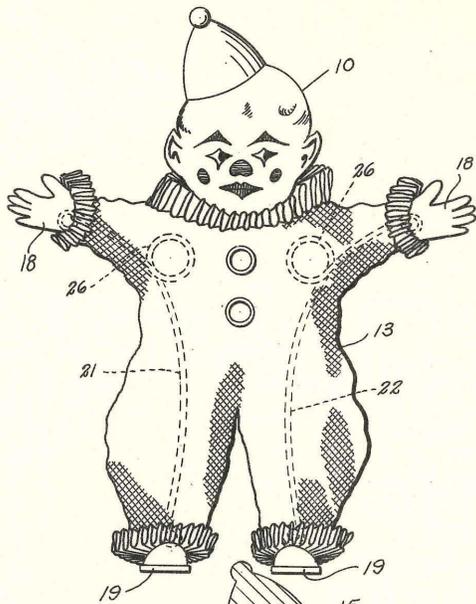


FIG. 2.

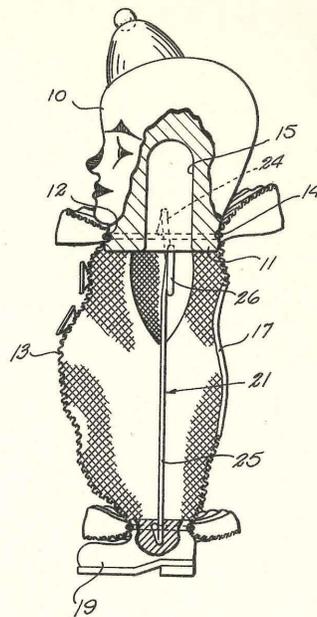
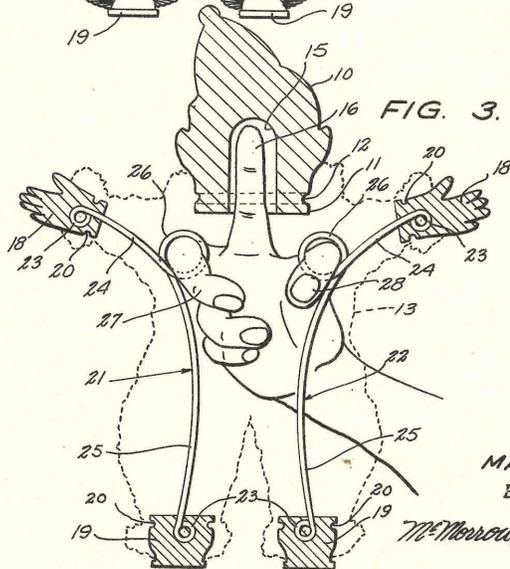


FIG. 3.



INVENTOR.
MARIE C. WIRTH,
BY
McCormack, Burman & Davidson
ATTORNEYS.

Left: Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office. "Patent Case Files, 1836-1978" National Archives Identifier 302050. Patent 2,551,185, "Hand Doll" granted to Marie C. Wirth.

Sock Puppets

Sock puppets are a popular type of hand puppet. A sock puppet can be as simple as slipping a sock over the hand and using the fingers and thumb to open and close the "mouth" of the puppet, or they can be more elaborate with facial features and a defined mouth. Ventriloquist and puppeteer Shari Lewis performed with her popular sock puppet Lamb Chop for multiple decades, and she had several TV shows over the years that featured her many puppet characters. After Shari Lewis's passing in 1998, her daughter Mallory Lewis began performing with Lamb Chop all over the country.

March 22, 1960

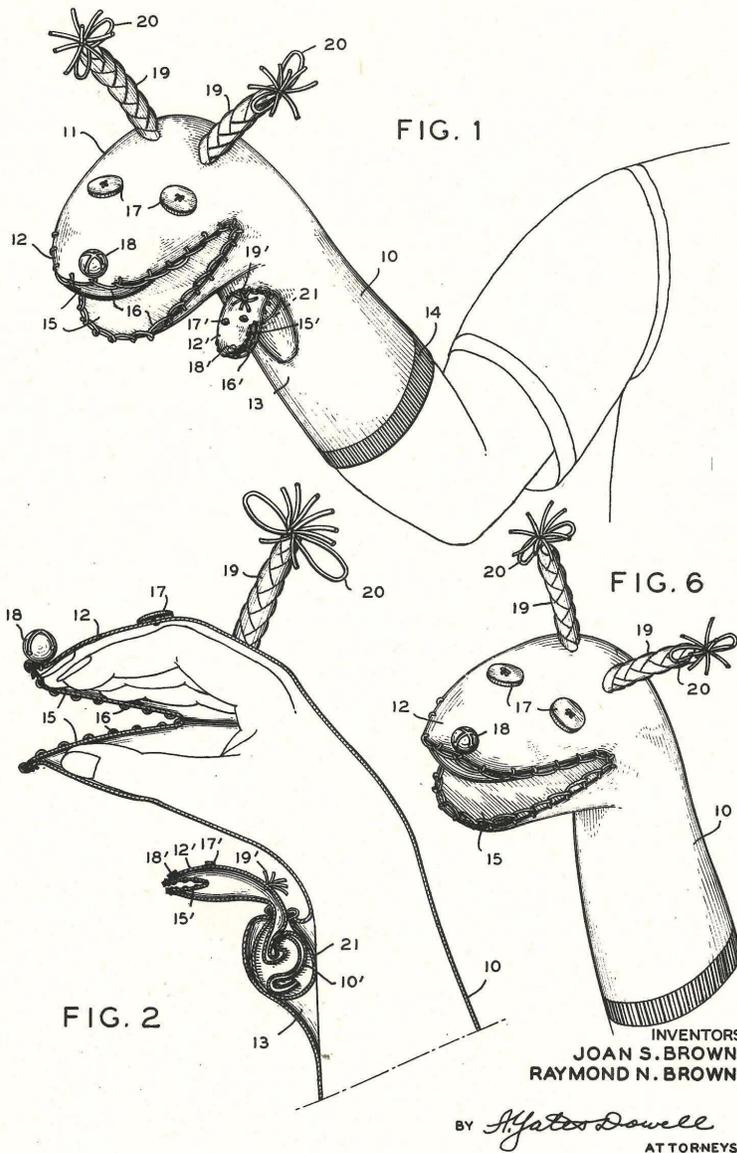
J. S. BROWN ET AL

2,929,170

EDUCATIONAL OR INSTRUCTIVE PUPPET

Filed Feb. 25, 1957

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Right: Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office. "Patent Case Files, 1836-1978" National Archives Identifier 302050. Patent 2,929,170, "Educational or Instructional Puppet" granted to Joan S. Brown and Raymond N. Brown.

186,120

PUPPET DOLL OR SIMILAR ARTICLE

James M. Henson, Hyattsville, Md., and Jane A. Nebel, Washington, D.C., assignors to John H. Wilkins Company, Washington, D.C., a corporation of Delaware

Application October 17, 1958, Serial No. 53,013

Term of patent 14 years

(Cl. D34-4)

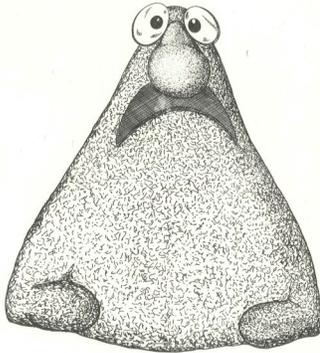


Fig. 1

Rod Puppets

Rod puppets have a rod attached to the head and to each of the arms (and sometimes legs). The puppeteer then moves the rods to make the head and arms of the puppet move. Sometimes rod puppets are manipulated both by rods and by having a puppeteer's arm inside the puppet. Many of the Muppets and *Sesame Street* puppets created by puppeteer Jim Henson are rod puppets. These two Design Patents were granted to Jim Henson and Jane Nebel in 1959. The puppets names were Wilkins and Wontkins, and they were featured in many TV commercials for Wilkins Coffee Company.

186,119

PUPPET DOLL OR SIMILAR ARTICLE

James M. Henson, Hyattsville, Md., and Jane A. Nebel, Washington, D.C., assignors to John H. Wilkins Company, Washington, D.C., a corporation of Delaware

Application October 17, 1958, Serial No. 53,012

Term of patent 14 years

(Cl. D34-4)



Fig. 1

Above and right: Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office. "Design Patent Case Files, 1853-1978" National Archives Identifier 562243. Design Patent 186,119, and Design Patent 186, 120, "Puppet Doll or Similar Article" granted to James M. Henson and Jane A. Nebel.

Marionettes

Marionettes (or string puppets) are puppets with strings connecting their limbs and head to a horizontal control bar above the marionette's head. The puppeteer manipulates the marionette by moving the control bar in various ways, usually from above the stage. Famous marionettes include Pinocchio and Howdy Doody. Patent 2,662,338 of a marionette was granted to Bil Baird in 1953. Bil, and his wife Cora Eisenberg Baird, spent their decades-long careers as puppeteers performing for audiences all over the world. They had their own marionette theater in New York City, made many television appearances, and performed with their puppets in multiple Broadway shows. In addition to making over 3,000 puppets over the course of their careers, Bil and Cora also designed the marionettes and performed "The Lonely Goatherd" marionette scene in the 1965 film *The Sound of Music*.

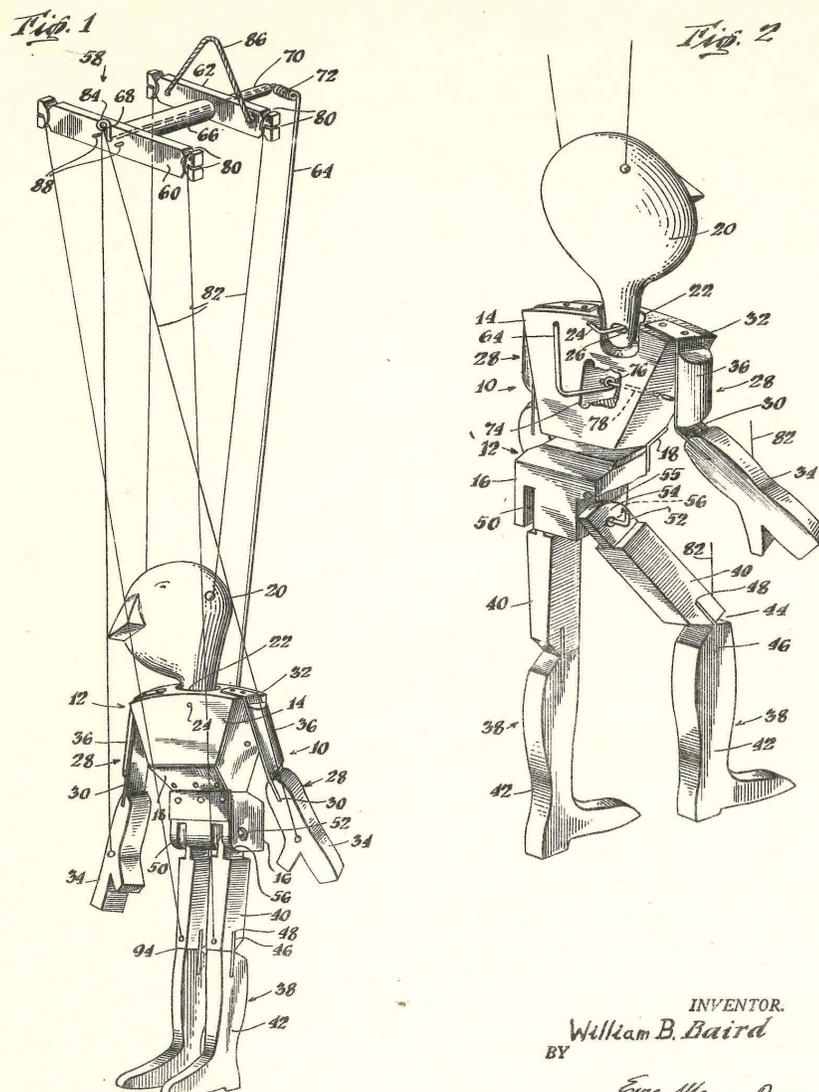
Dec. 15, 1953

WILLIAM (BIL) BRITTON BAIRD

2,662,338

MARIONETTE TOY

Filed Aug. 15, 1951



INVENTOR.
William B. Baird
BY
Espe, Mason & Parsons
ATTORNEYS

Record Group 241,
Records of the
Patent and
Trademark Office.
"Patent Case Files,
1836-1978"
National Archives
Identifier 302050.
Patent 2,662,338,
"Marionette Toy"
granted to William
B. Baird.

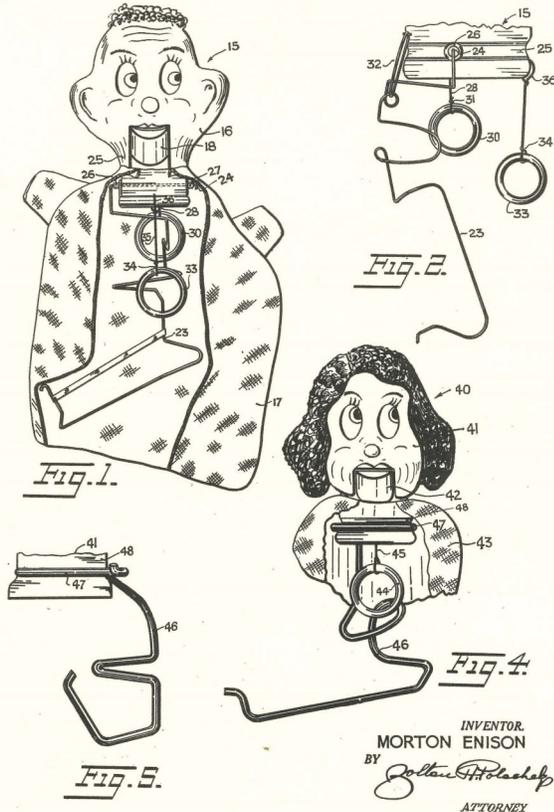
Aug. 6, 1957

M. ENISON
HAND PUPPET

2,801,495

Filed March 20, 1956

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR.
MORTON ENISON
BY *Gottlieb H. P. P. P.*
ATTORNEY

Ventriloquist Dummy (or Ventriloquist Puppet)

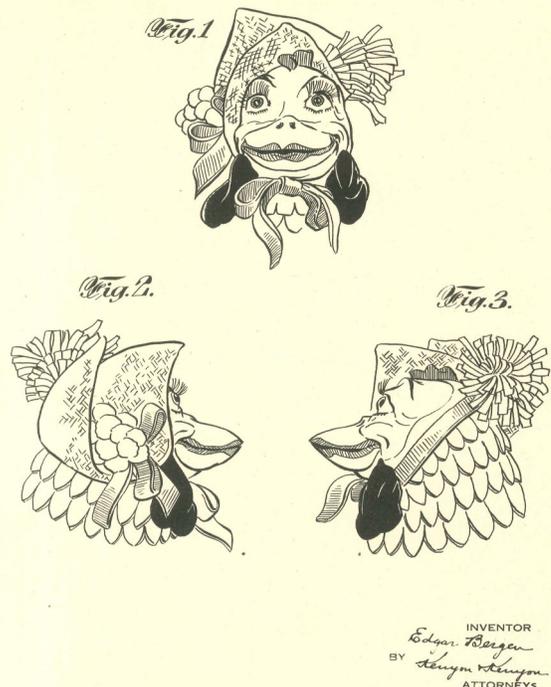
The most well-known kind of a ventriloquist dummy is a puppet that looks like a large doll, but they can also be hand puppets or a stuffed puppet. The dummy always converses with the ventriloquist/puppeteer. The ventriloquist has the ability to “throw their voice” so that it looks like the words are coming from the dummy rather than the ventriloquist. Patent 2,801,495 is an example of a ventriloquist dummy. Design Patent 129,255 is of a puppet created by Edgar Bergen, a famous American ventriloquist. Mr. Bergen had a long-running radio show in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s featuring his two most popular characters, Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd. During his long career, Edgar Bergen and his dummies appeared in films and on many TV shows. His work inspired a whole generation of puppeteers.

Left: Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office. “Patent Case Files, 1836-1978” National Archives Identifier 302050. Patent 2,801,495, “Hand Puppet” granted to Morton Enison.

Sept. 2, 1941.

E. BERGEN
DOLL HEAD OR SIMILAR ARTICLE
Filed Oct. 26, 1940

Des. 129,255



INVENTOR
Edgar Bergen
BY *Edgar Bergen*
ATTORNEYS

The puppeteers mentioned here, along with so many others, have experimented and expanded this art form over the years. Their puppets have educated and entertained children and adults alike, and their work within their chosen disciplines has impacted countless people over the decades. While they each may be known for specific types of puppetry, their versatility as puppeteers made it possible for them to collaborate on various projects over the years. Jim Henson, Edgar Bergen, Carroll Spinney, Bill Baird, and Shari Lewis, along with many other puppeteers, can all be seen performing together in the 1979 film *The Muppet Movie*. To learn more about the Patent Case Files and the Design Patent Case Files at the National Archives at Kansas City, please visit the National Archives [Catalog](#).

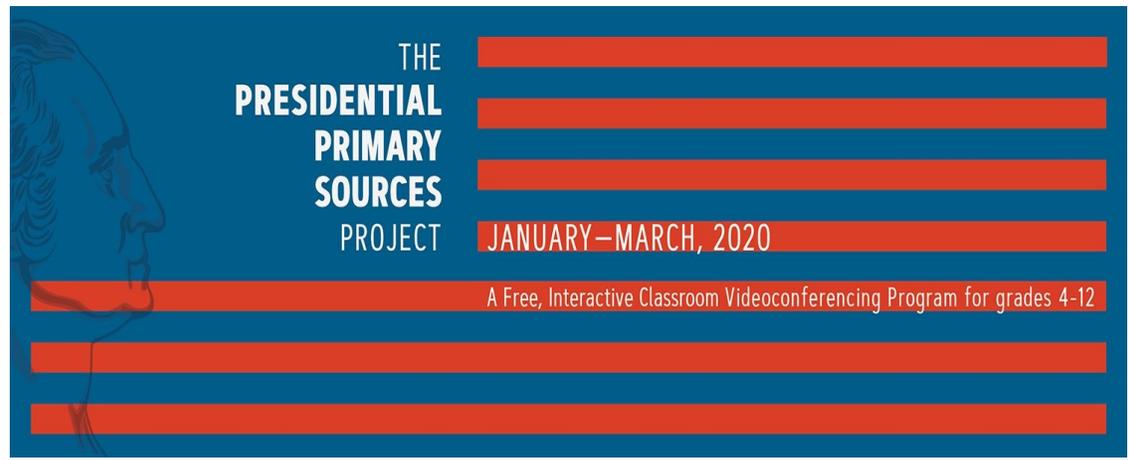
Right: Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office. “Design Patent Case Files, 1853-1978” National Archives Identifier 562243. Design Patent 129,255, “Doll Head or Similar Article” granted to Edgar Bergen.

Free Professional Development Opportunities for Educators

Presidential Primary Sources Project

January - March, 2020

The National Archives and Presidential Libraries, National Park Service, Internet2 community, and cultural and historic organizations nationwide are proud to offer the annual Presidential Primary Sources Project, a series of free, standards-aligned, 45-minute interactive videoconferencing programs aimed at students in grades 4-12. The series will run from January through March 2020. Through the use of primary source documents and interactive videoconferencing, the 2020 program series will take students on a journey through the historical legacies of our presidents. By the conclusion of each session, students will have gained a greater understanding of our nation's presidents and how they shaped the past and present of our country. For more information and to register visit the [Presidential Primary Sources Project](#). The January programs are as follows:



Exploring Lincoln in Washington

February 6, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Presented by: Alex Wood, Education Programs Manager at Ford's Theatre Society

1960: JFK and the First Modern Presidential Campaign

February 11, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Presented by: Stephen Fagin, Curator, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

Slavery in George Washington's World

February 13, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Presented by: Sadie Troy, Student Learning Specialist, Mount Vernon

Theodore Roosevelt and the Expansion of Presidential Power

February 20, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Presented by: Erik Johnson, Digital Library Coordinator and Archivist, Dickinson State University

Herbert Hoover and the Bonus March: Presidential Blunder or Necessary Action?

February 27, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Presented by: Elizabeth Dinschel, Archivist and Education Specialist, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library

GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.

The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108, and is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives. Follow us on Instagram at: [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives). Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.

