

FASCINATING FIND

EDISON PHONOGRAPH



In 1877 Thomas Alda Edison invented his phonograph for use as a dictaphone which was limited to 2 and later 4 minutes recording time. It used hill and dale recording on a cylindrical former and had limited volume.

In 1888 Emile Berliner invented his gramophone using lateral recording on a flat disc, which was louder and could be more easily mass produced.

It eventually superceded the Edison cylinder, and with refinements went on to become the mainstream music recording medium until it was displaced by CDs in the 1980s.

Early machines were hand-cranked with a governer to regulate the speed, but electric motor drive soon became available.

This example of an Edison talking machine from the early 1900s was part of the estate of L. R. Ubank, and was donated by J. Finselback. The red and green containers hold the cylindrical records.

It is displayed in Andrew Fisher's cottage, and an later model Edison dictaphone is in the tank.