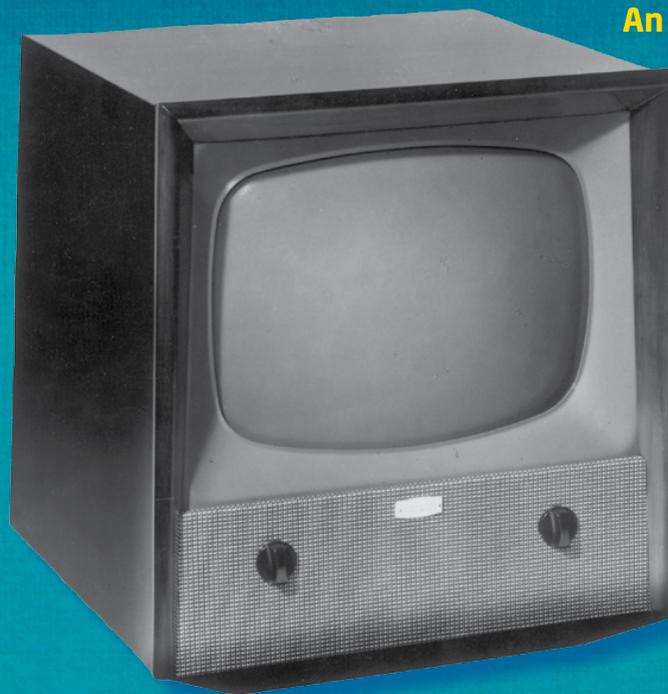


**S**ome inventions are created on purpose. Their inventors work hard to create them. The light bulb, the television, and the car are examples of these kinds of inventions.

But some inventions are created by accident. Their inventors don't know they are creating something until they see the invention. Some popular snacks and desserts were invented this way.

An early television



An early American car



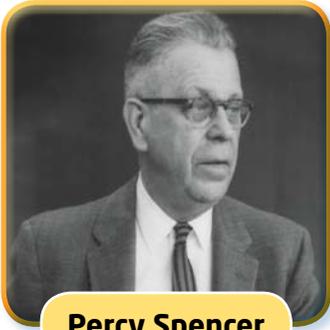
An early light bulb

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3

# Facts About Another Invention

As you've read, some popular foods were created by accident. But did you know that a popular device for cooking foods was also invented by accident?



Percy Spencer

A scientist named Percy Spencer invented the microwave oven in 1945. Percy worked with radars. Radars use radio waves to find the location of things such as boats and airplanes. During World War II, they were used to help find enemy airplanes.

One day, Percy was working with a machine that makes radio waves. Suddenly, he noticed that the candy bar in his pocket was melted. This gave him an idea. Maybe radio waves could heat food.



Percy tried another experiment. He used the radio waves on popcorn kernels. The popcorn kernels popped! He used the radio waves on an egg. The hot egg exploded all over Percy's co-worker.



By accident, Percy invented the microwave oven.

The first microwave ovens weighed 350 kilograms (about 770 pounds) and were 1.8 meters (6 feet) tall! Of course, microwave ovens are much smaller today and are used in millions of homes around the world.



A modern microwave



An early microwave