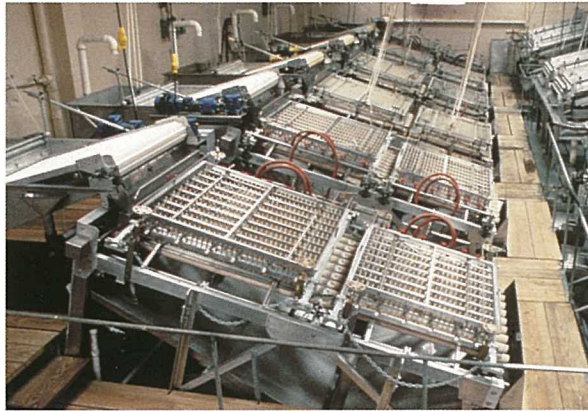


The Inventions of J.M. Lapeyre

U.S. Patent No. 2,429,828
Shrimp Peeler

Billions of pounds of shrimp have been peeled using the principles of this invention. The automatic shrimp peeling machine is responsible for creating an industry employing tens of thousands of people and has provided consumers worldwide with a delicious, yet economical source of protein.



James Martial Lapeyre 1926-1989

To many people, J.M. Lapeyre was known as “the man who invented the shrimp peeling machine.” This is true, but there is so much more. J.M. was seventeen when he co-invented the shrimp peeler. This pioneer invention revolutionized the shrimp processing industry in developed countries around the world and created what is now Laitram, L.L.C. to manufacture the needed machinery.

Spurred by the need to load shrimp efficiently into the peeling machinery, J.M. invented the first all-plastic, modular-construction conveyor belt. Pronounced by a federal court as another “pioneer” invention, these belts have become the standard means of conveyance in countless industrial applications worldwide. His far-sightedness led to the creation of Intralox, L.L.C., now Laitram’s largest division.

A third division of Laitram, Lapeyre Stair, Inc., sprang from J.M.’s invention of the alternating tread stair, which was originally designed to improve safety for oil rig workers. The stair’s design flexibility and speedy fabrication time have spread its popularity across industries worldwide.

J.M.’s inventions were not limited to low-tech mechanical devices. In the mid-1960s, he conceived the first digital magnetic compass. This electronic invention led to the creation of DigiCOURSE, a former division of Laitram. In the early 1970s, J.M. invented a high-speed, electronic, computer-driven printer that was manufactured under license by some of the world’s largest computer companies. Other high-tech inventions include: an automatic method for processing frozen tuna fish, a novel opposed-piston diesel engine, several energy recovery devices, a unique jet engine, and a computer keyboard.

He was an architect by training, but to many of his “fellow engineers” he was the most complete engineer with whom they had ever been associated. J.M.’s knowledge, acquired by continual study and observations, spanned mechanics, electronics, physics, structures, and computers.

J.M.’s inventions, which resulted in 191 U.S. patents, gave employment to thousands and generally improved productivity and, consequently, the standard of living in the world today. For these accomplishments, he deserves to be ranked among the great.

To many, J.M. was a genius, and this alone explained his success. This explanation is incomplete. It takes genius, courage, and motivation to pioneer new industries.

J.M.’s genius was developed through hard work and objective analysis. When dealing in technology, J.M. was relentlessly objective, recognizing that the laws of reality, “God’s laws,” could not be evaded by his or anyone else’s whim.

J.M.’s courage was the result of living by his own convictions. He relied exclusively on his own analysis of a problem. From the time he was a young boy, he was told he was “unrealistic” and a “dreamer.” He spent his life fighting for the ideas in which he believed.

His motivation came from the simple joy of admiring greatness in his own and in other human achievements. J.M. admired the best in his fellow man. He envied no one.

U.S. Patent No. 3,870,141
Modular Conveyor Belt

The invention of the all-plastic modular conveyor belt has improved productivity in industrial plants around the world. Today, modular plastic conveyor belting is the standard means of efficiently conveying products through thousands of processing applications.



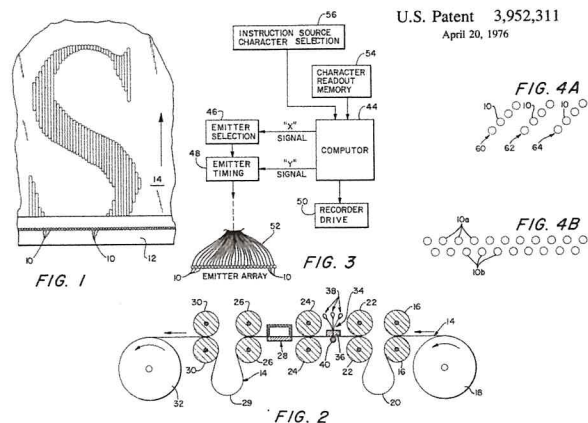
U.S. Patent No. 3,927,474
Internally Gimbaled Compass

The invention of the digital compass has helped lower the cost of oil and gas. The compass has been instrumental in improving the efficiency with which offshore seismic vessels are able to locate and chart oil and gas deposits.



U.S. Patent No. 3,952,311
Electro-Optical Printing System

This invention is the basis for efficient computer-driven printing systems. Several of the world’s largest computer manufacturing companies use this technology in their high-speed printers, fax and copy machines.



U.S. Patent 3,952,311
 April 20, 1976



Patent No. 4,199,040
 The Alternating Tread Stair
 One of 191 U.S. Patents.