



APRIL 4
Ask Us

Do you have any questions that need answering? Ask your public library. Last year, reference librarians at the Charles County Public Libraries helped over 12,000 customers find answers to their questions. Be specific--as the following questions answered at library reference desks show.

■ **When was the safety pin invented?** The first safety pin was invented by Walter Hunt of New York City who obtained patent No. 6,218, April 10, 1849. Within three hours, he conceived the idea, made a model, and sold his patent rights for \$100. The pins were manufactured in New York City. (Famous First Facts, 4th Ed. by Joseph Kane, P. 471.)

■ **Do you have any information about Hershey, the chocolate maker?** Milton Snavely Hershey, chocolate manufacturer

and philanthropist, was born Sept. 13, 1857, to Henry H. and Fannie B. Hershey in Derry Township, Dauphin County, which later became Hershey, PA. He became a confectioner's apprentice at age 15.

Hershey discovered that fresh milk could give candy a delicious flavor. After perfecting his mild chocolate recipe, he built a factory in his home town in 1903. Around the factory he constructed a self-sufficient community which included schools, churches, stores, a bank, an inn, golf courses, an amusement park, zoo, football field, and dancing pavilion, all owned by Hershey.

He and his wife started a trade school for orphans, which later became the business and college preparatory Hershey Industrial School. Hershey retired as chairman of the board of the Hershey Chocolate Corporation at age 87 in 1944. He died in 1945. (Dictionary of American Biography, Supp. Three 1941-1945, pp.

3579.)

■ **What is Einstein's Theory of Relativity?** Albert Einstein's relativity theory revolutionized scientific thought with new conceptions of time, space, mass, motion, and gravitation. He treated matter and energy as interchangeable, not distinct. His famous equation, $E=mc^2$ (energy equals mass times the velocity of light squared), became a foundation stone in the development of nuclear energy. (1991 World Book Encyclopedia, vol. 6, p. 144.)

The Charles County Public Library has four locations and a Bookmobile to serve you. Call or visit the Glymont Branch in Indian Head (743-7432), Bryans Road Branch (375-7375), La Plata Branch (934-9001 and 870-3520), or P. D. Brown Memorial Branch in Smallwood Village, Waldorf (645-2864 and 843-7688). Your libraries provide "Information for Life!"