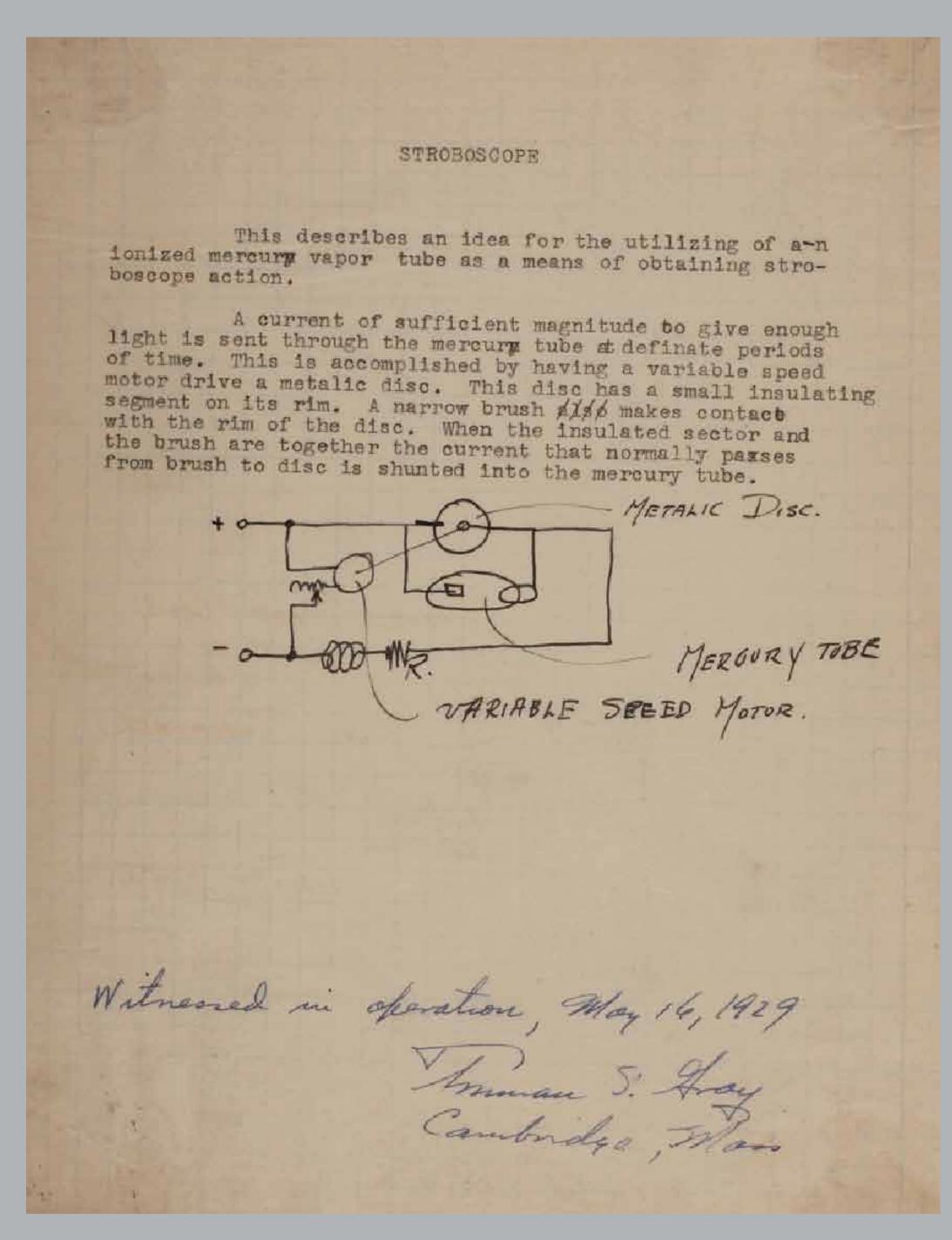


"The stroboscope... enables you to work on impossible problems."

Harold "Doc" Edgerton loved being surprised by what he could capture with his camera and strobe. Though he thought of himself as an engineer and never wanted to be called an artist, he pursued an image of the perfect milk drop coronet for more than half a century. His spectacular photographs helped make "frozen movement" part of our modern visual culture.

New Ways of Seeing, New Tools

Engineer at Work

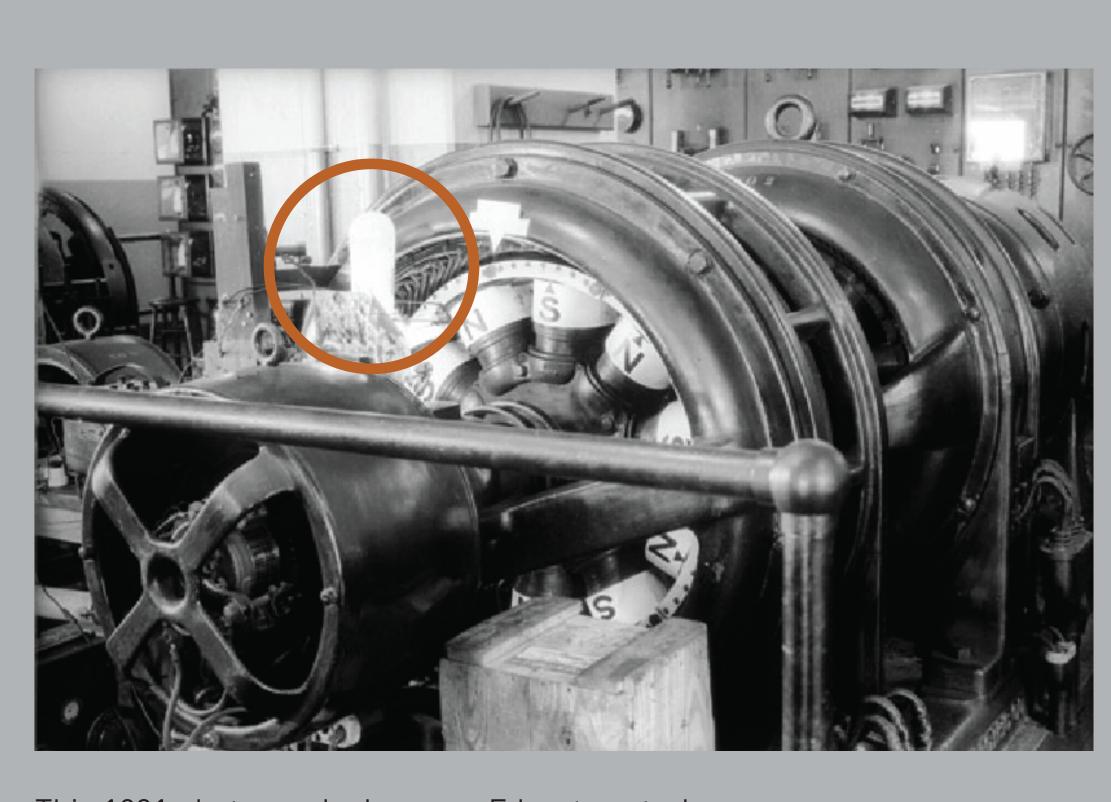


Edgerton's original idea for the stroboscope was documented and witnessed on May 16, 1929.

Edgerton's interest in strobes started when he was a college student in the 1920s. At his first job with General Electric, he saw a "whirling watcher" called a Stroborama. The light quality was too poor to be useful, but the problem of synchronous motors stuck with Edgerton until he started graduate school at MIT.

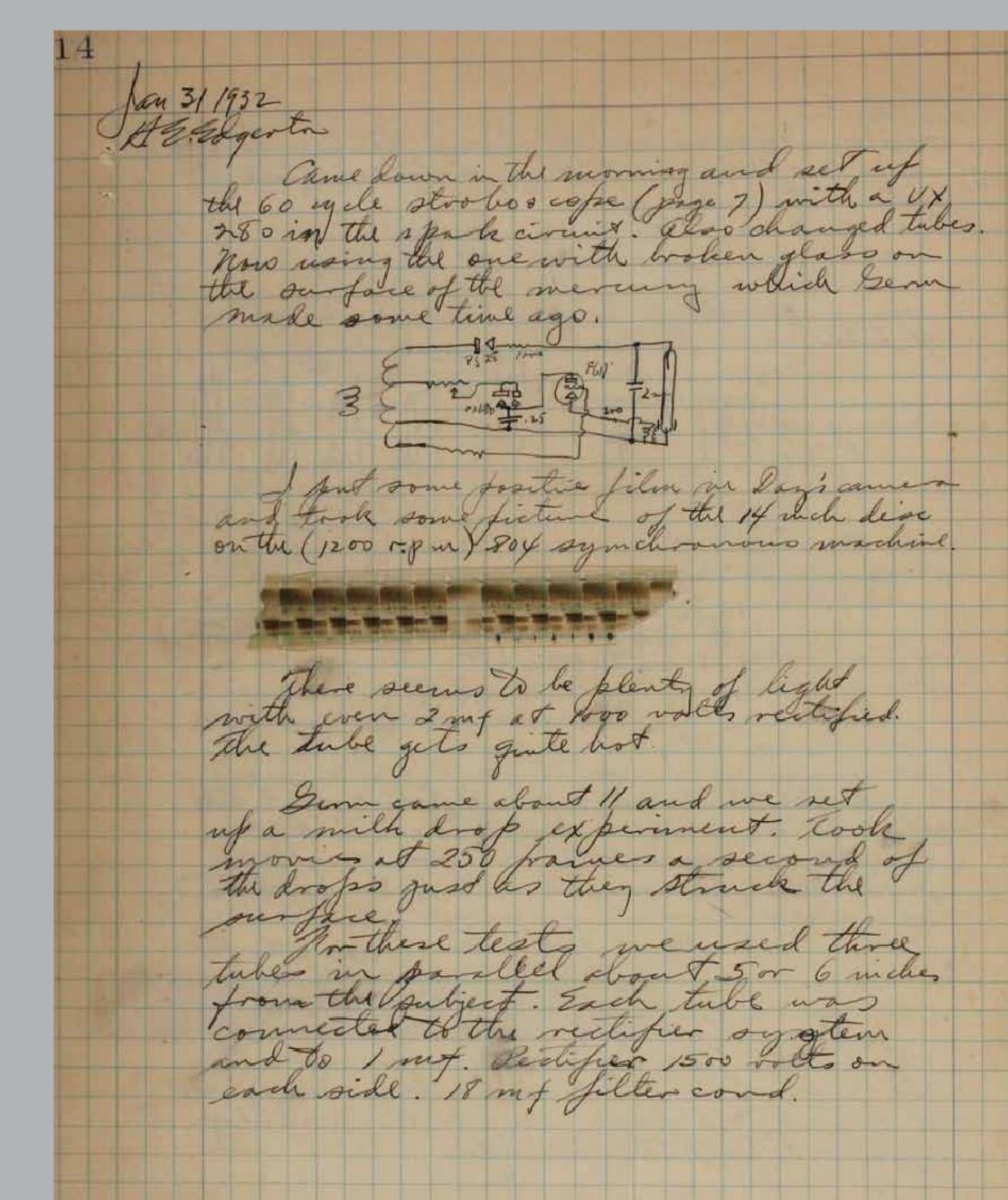
Over the next 50 years, Doc kept making advance after advance.

Because of his creative work, high speed flashing light—from photocopiers and airport landing lights to your camera flash—is part of modern life.

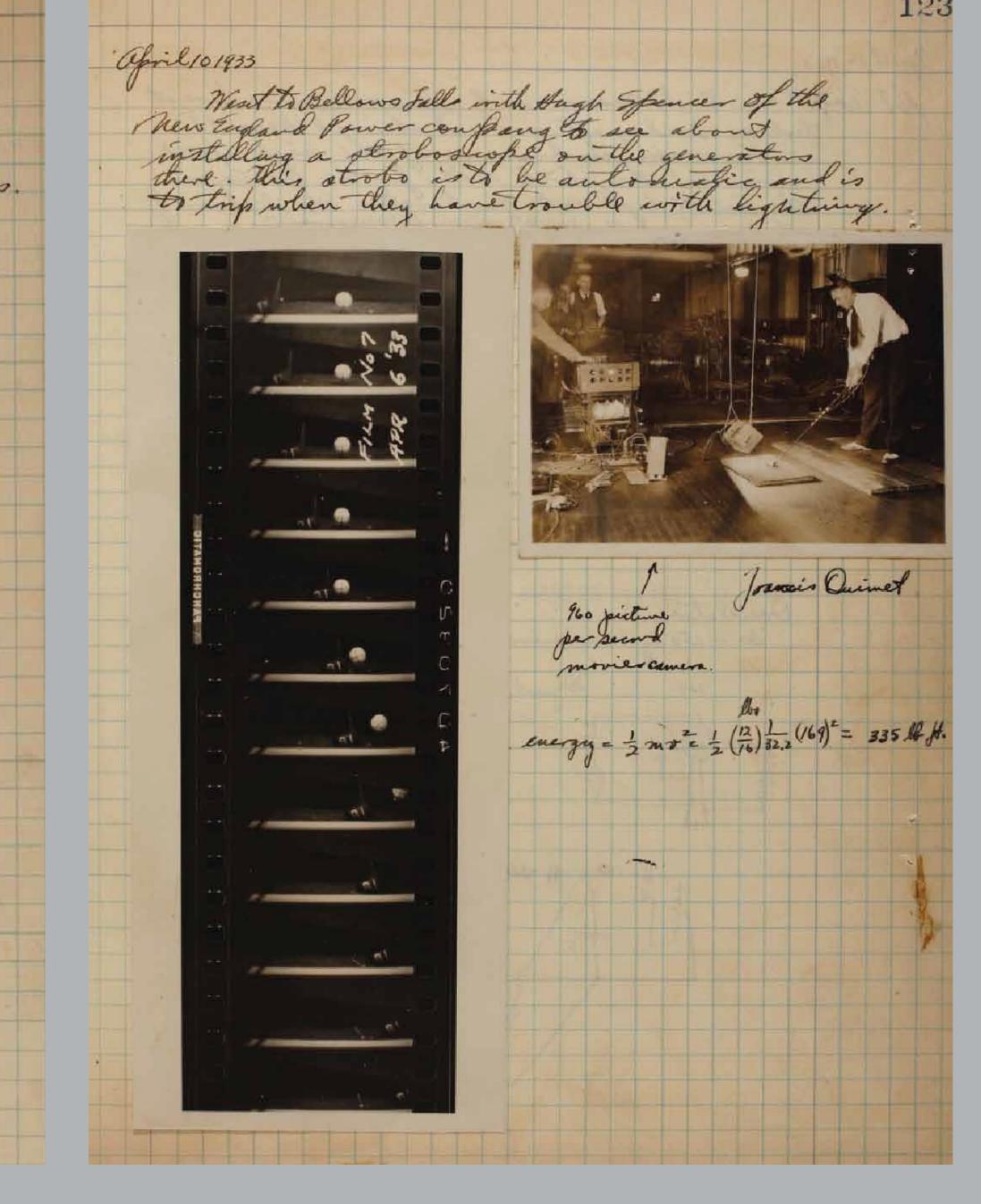


This 1931 photograph shows an Edgerton stroboscope (circled) being used to study a motor.

At MIT, Edgerton developed a new electronic stroboscope, which enabled him to visually stop the motion of the motors he was studying. The flash from this new strobe was bright enough to use with cameras and motion pictures.



Edgerton describes development and use of stroboscope to take images of a milk drop, January 31, 1932.

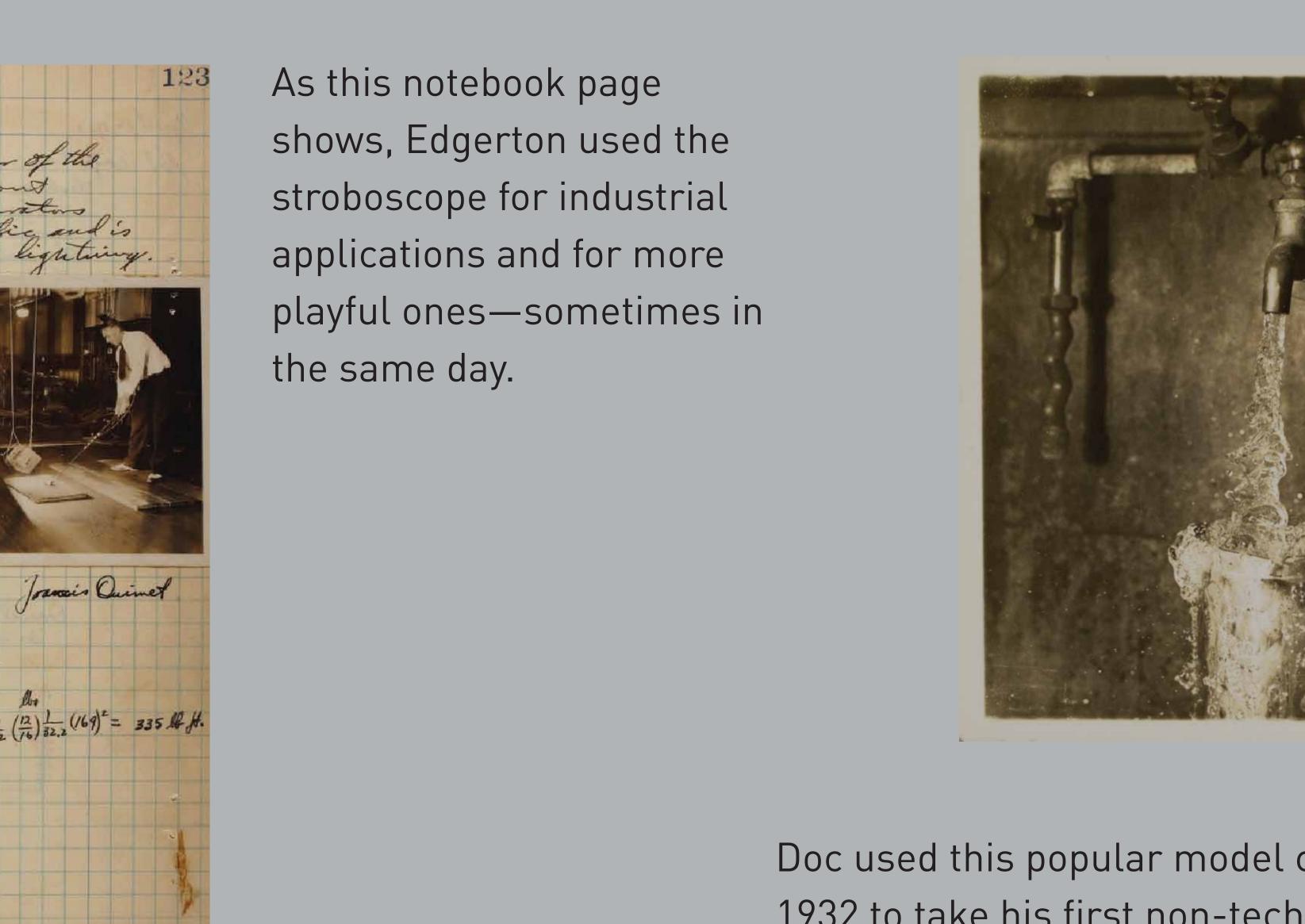


April 10, 1933.

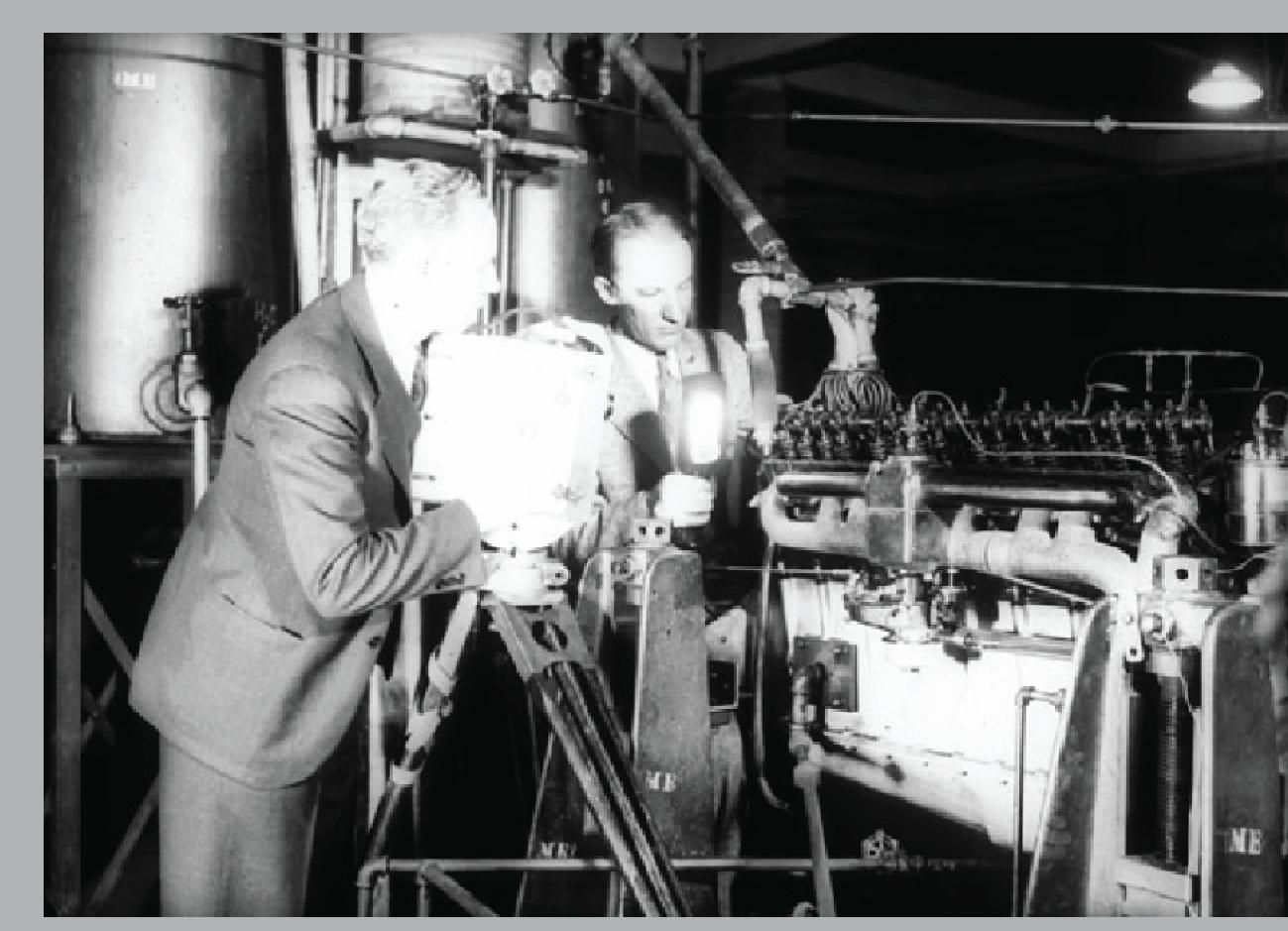
Engineer at Play



This 1935 photograph shows that even a light stroke will compress a golf ball. The exposure is 1/50,000th of a second.

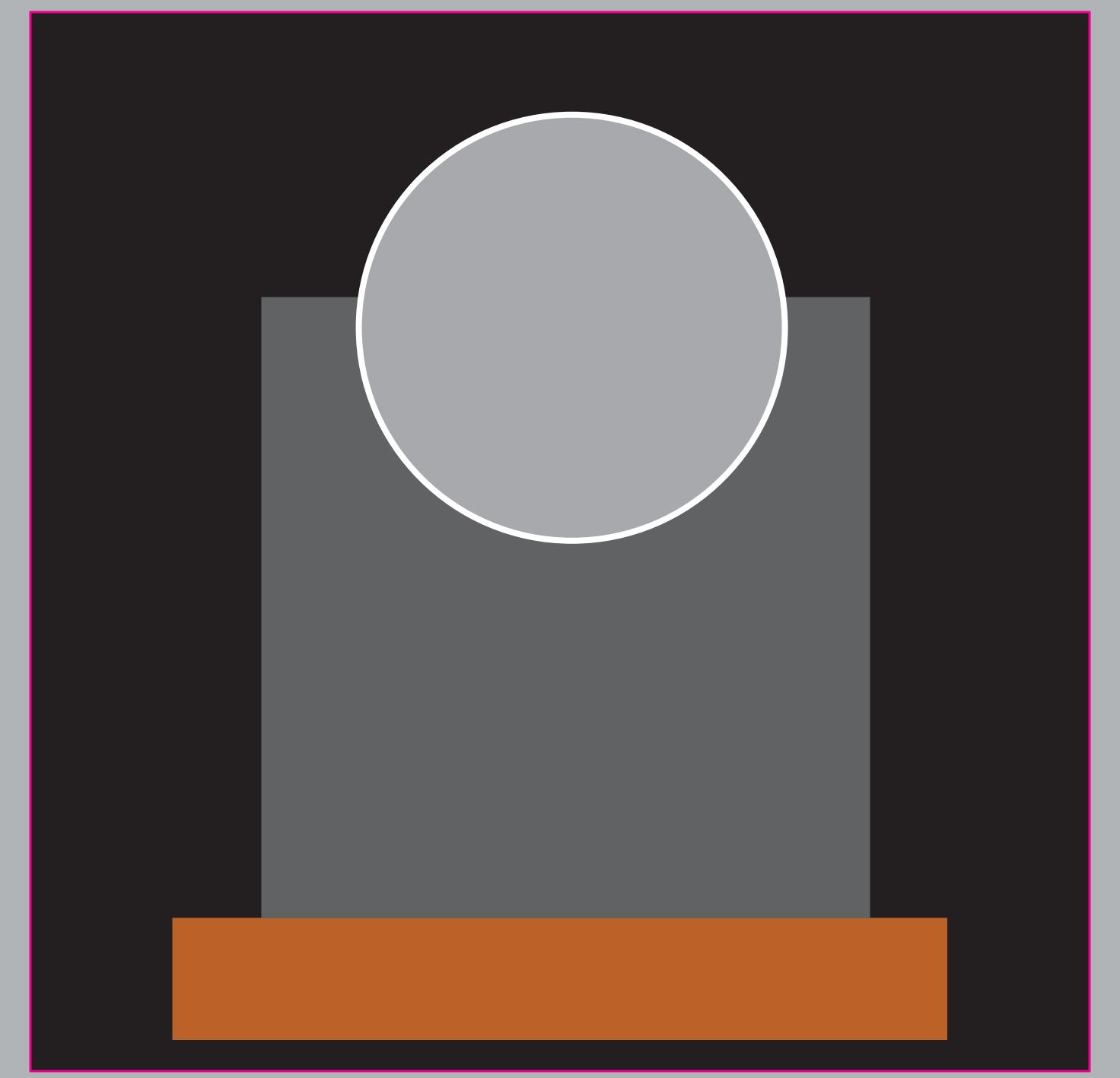


Doc used this popular model camera in 1932 to take his first non-technical image—of water running from a faucet. Edgerton used ordinary cameras for stroboscopic still photography.



Edgerton (left) prepares to photograph a motor in action. His colleague holds the stroboscope.

"I am an electrical engineer and I work with strobe lights and circuits and make useful things," said Doc. If he had only worked on motors or only taken images "in service of science and industry," Edgerton might merely be remembered as an electrical engineering professor. But he is also recognized as an artist, explorer, entrepreneur, and educator.



Camera Voightländer Avus about 1930