

Bette Nesmith



The Inventor of Liquid Paper



Background

Bette McMurray was born in 1924 in Texas.

Became a secretary in 1941.

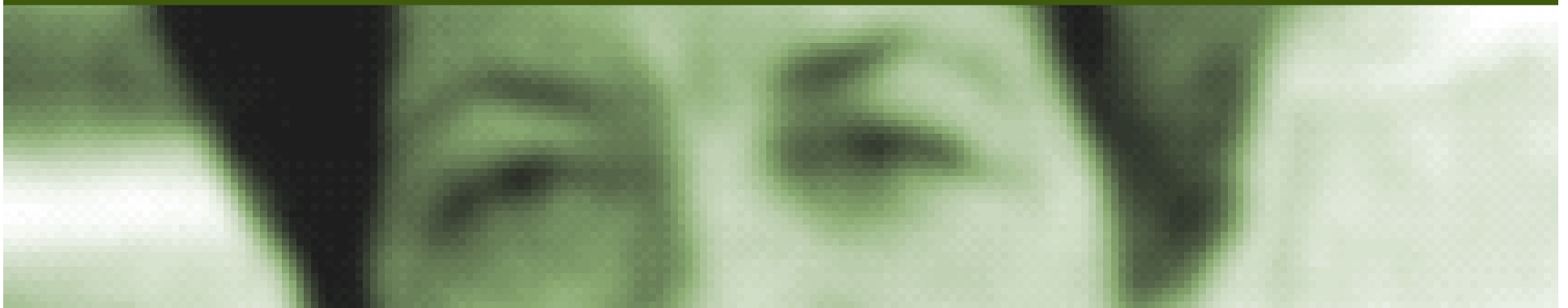
Married Warren Nesmith in 1942.

Son Michael was born in 1945.

Divorced from Warren in 1946.

Motivation

Bette needed to support herself and her child, so she became a secretary at the Texas Bank and Trust, where she would eventually invent Liquid Paper.



The Invention

Secretaries began using new electric typewriters. Unfortunately, they were difficult to use, and they would make many mistakes.



Bette started another job as an artist.

She realized that painters painted over mistakes and she decided to do the same.

Rewards



Most inventors at the time were men, and Bette showed that women could be inventors too.

Sold Liquid Paper in 1979 for \$47.5 million.

Public Rewards

The public also gained rewards from Bette's invention.

After an ad was put into a popular magazine for “Mistake Out”, hundreds of secretaries wrote to Bette to get their own bottles of her product.



Characteristics



- **Creative**
- **Innovative**
- **Motivated**
- **Inquisitive**
- **Committed**

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Successful?

Bette Nesmith was a very successful entrepreneur.

Her invention is still widely used today by secretaries, students, and many others in their daily lives.



Successful

Conclusion

Bette Nesmith was a “made” entrepreneur.

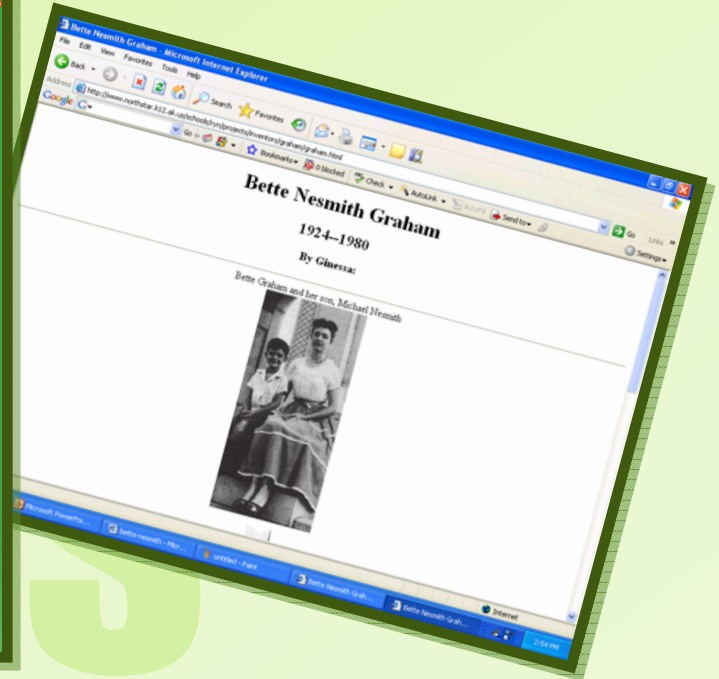
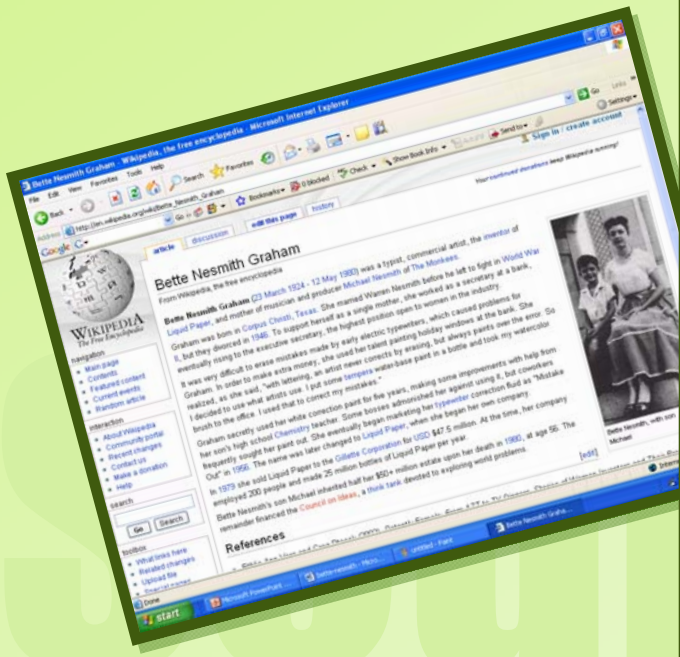
When she first started her secretarial work, she had no idea how to type.

However, Bette was able to learn quickly and adapt to her new environment.



Sources

- <http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us/schools/ryn/projects/inventors/>
- “Total Control” by Randi L. Massingill
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bette_Nesmith_Graham



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