

Notes 4
The Silent Era

Early 1900s



Edison

- Angered he misjudged the potential of the "flickers"
- acquires the rights to the Latham Loop and Vitascope starting a 12 year Patent War
- Creates the MPPC (Motion Picture Patents Company) which corners the market on cameras, projectors, and production companies
- Enforced with armed henchmen who bullied independent film makers

Early 1900s

- Independents move to Southern CA to avoid conflict
- Audiences flock to the Nickelodeons (due to the 5 cent admission price). Low cost appealed to the working class
- Became more appealing to the middle and upper classes through the works of Edwin Porter. His Epic "The Great Train Robbery" was an astounding 12 minutes long and introduced the concept of a "story-driven" movie



