**Potato Chips Can Change Your Life**

Ordinary people living ordinary lives. A potato changed it all for three individuals. First, George Crum who lived in Saratoga Springs, NY in the mid-1800’s, was employed as a chef at a fancy restaurant, Moon’s Lake House. He loved everything about his job except the fussy customers. On one occasion, his patience was tested and he accidently cooked up a “potato dish so unique it change[d] his life forever.” The potato chip was born! Next, Myrtle Young made a living as a potato chip inspector for the Seyfert Potato Chip Co. in the 1980’s. After she retired, Myrtle made several guest appearances on television talk shows, most notably “The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson,” to show off her collection of potato chips that resembled animals and famous people. “The editors of TV Guide magazine named the moment the funniest on television” when Johnny Carson’s co-host, Ed McMahon, distracted Myrtle who heard crunching sounds coming from Johnny Carson. Myrtle didn’t know that Johnny was eating potato chips from a bowl hidden under his desk. Her reaction – and this TV appearance – made Myrtle Young an instant celebrity. Lastly, Abe Davis, currently a graduate student in electrical engineering and computer science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), is trying to figure out a way to capture vibrations and translate them into music and speech. For his experiment, a bag of chips was filmed with a high-speed camera from 15 feet away through sound-proof glass while someone sang “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” When playing back the recording, Davis accidently noticed that the infinitely small vibrations of the bag of potato chips caused by the singing voice could be translated into intelligible sound. Although the translation “isn’t crystal clear, the words being said are possible to decipher.” Davis is excited that when fully developed, this new technology may be a useful tool for law enforcement. George Crum, Myrtle Young and Abe Davis all have the potato chip to thank for making their ordinary lives extraordinary.