

In 1897, H.G. Wells wrote a science fiction book about spaceships coming to Earth. The book is still very popular. It is called *The War of the Worlds*. In 1938, a man named Orson Welles decided that he would make a radio programme from the book. The programme would be different from the book in one important way: the actors would talk like reporters so that the listeners would think that it was a news report.

When the listeners heard the programme, they became very afraid. They thought that the world would end. Many of them left their homes and tried to hide.

Kelly had wanted to be a scientist since she was a little girl. She was interested in biology, physics, and chemistry. She hoped to work in space one day.

One night, she saw a strange, colored light moving across the sky. "It can't be a star," she thought. "It must be a spaceship!" She walked quickly toward the light.

The spaceship landed a few meters in front of Kelly. Two giant dogs were standing at the door of the spaceship! They said a few words to Kelly's dog. Kelly's dog looked at Kelly and then ran into the spaceship. In a moment, the ship had gone.

Jean C. was very good at languages. By the time he was 16 years old, he had learned seven languages. He learned Chinese, too. When he was 18, he began teaching history at university. He was younger than many of his students!

Jean was very interested in ancient Egypt and began to study the Rosetta Stone. The stone had lain under the sand for hundreds of years until soldiers dug it up. There was a message in three languages on the stone. One of the languages was ancient Egyptian. However, until Jean worked out its secret, no one could read this language.

For hundreds of years, people have found dinosaur bones in many different parts of the world. But until scientists did tests on them, only a few people knew where these large bones really came from.

In ancient China, people thought the bones were dragon bones. In parts of Europe, people thought that they were the bones of giant people and animals. American Indians thought the bones came from very big snakes. The ancient Greeks found dinosaur bones when they dug for gold. These dinosaurs had beaks like birds. The Greeks thought that they must be a special monster called a griffin.

When you answer the phone, do you ever ask yourself, “Who invented the telephone?” It was a man named Bell. He was an inventor. Mr. Watson helped him to to invent the telephone. The first words anyone ever heard on the telephone were, “Mr. Watson, come here. I want you.”

Bell was also a teacher. He taught deaf children. His own mother was deaf, so his father invented a way to help her learn to speak. He used pictures of mouth shapes. Deaf people can't hear, but they can learn how to move their mouths so that they can speak. Bell used his father's invention to teach many deaf kids.