



# *GADGETS GALORE!*

## *TRANSFORMING THE AMERICAN HOUSEHOLD*

**Gadgets, gadgets everywhere!** Today, gadgets are an integral part of our everyday lives. We carry them with us, keep them in our cars and use them constantly at work and at home. Throughout this location are many ancestors of the gadgets that we take for granted today.

**Each gadget was at one time a new invention, the latest and greatest and the item everyone wanted to own.** As you move through the house, you'll see gadgets that are either no longer in use or that have changed so significantly that they are unrecognizable. These gadgets may seem strange because they use technology that has become outdated, or because they filled a very specific niche that we no longer need. Many obsolete gadgets also represent values that have shifted over time; what seems strange to us today may have been commonplace and even essential at one time.

**Industrialization transformed every American household between 1860 and 1960.** The 19th century was a time of massive change in technology and manufacturing. The invention of mechanical processes and the discovery of electricity and steam power would impact day-to-day life around the world. Mass production, faster communication, and more widespread transportation systems combined to industrialize the American household by inspiring the invention of the gadgets we rely on today.

*Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household* is a traveling exhibition from Exhibit Envoy, a nonprofit, and Heather Farquhar. This exhibition is based on the initial iterations at the Hayward Area Historical Society and Los Altos History Museum.