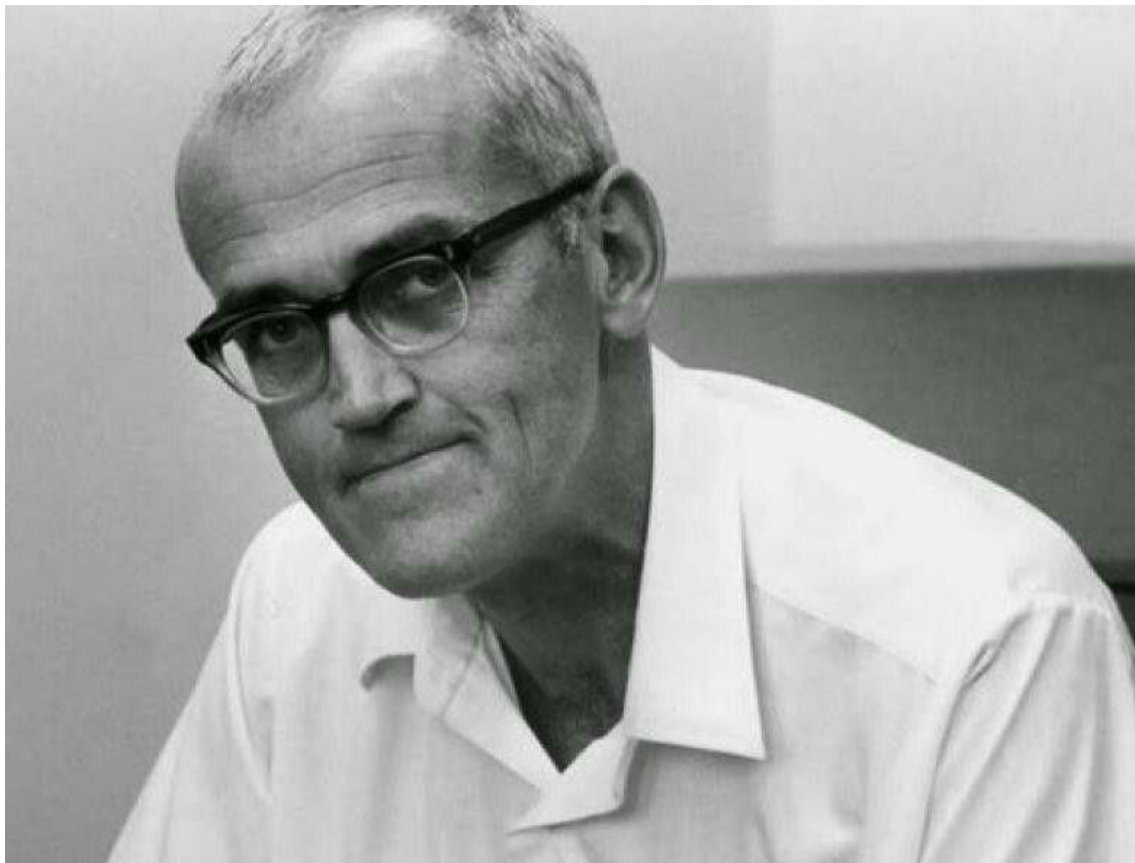


# Chapter 10 - Getting the Lead Out

**Directions:** Read Ch.10 from the book *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson and then answer the questions below.

1. How old is the Earth?
2. What is radiocarbon dating? What is radioactive dating? What forms of radioactive dating are used To determine the age of the Earth?
3. Why is it a good thing that your car uses unleaded gasoline?
4. What does the determination of the age of the Earth have to do with unleaded gasoline?
5. Why does Bryson say Thomas Midgley had “an instinct for the regrettable that was almost uncanny?” What did Midgley invent?
6. What does Bryson think is the “worst invention of the 20th century?” Why?
7. Why should you be aware of “who funded this scientific study?”
8. Who is Claire Patterson and how did he help determine the age of the Earth?
9. Research and discuss any other examples, such as the story of Tetraethyl lead, in which a large corporation (or maybe even the government?) influences science reporting.



*June 2, 1922 - December 5, 1995*