March 27, 1951 H. D. FRAME 2,546,855

INDICATOR FLAG FOR FUNERAL CARS

Filed May 10, 1948

Fig. 1.

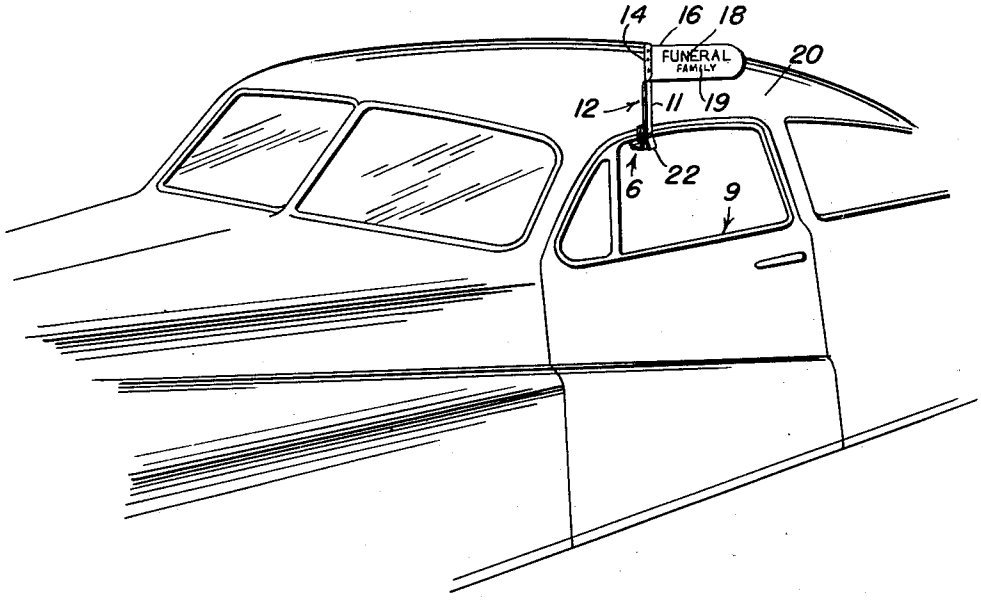


Fig. 2.

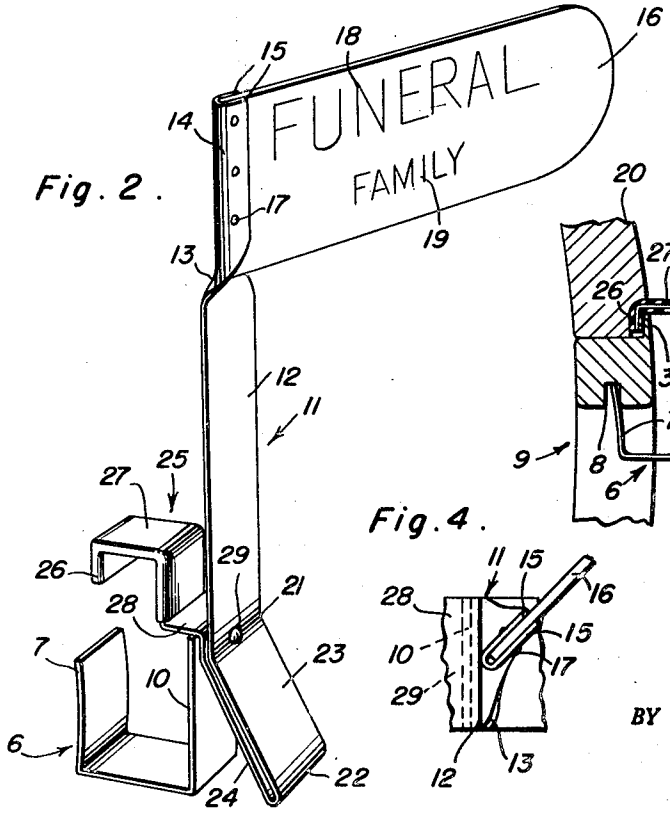


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

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INDICATOR FLAG FOR FUNERAL CARS

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4 Claims. (Cl. 116—173)

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The present invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in readily attachable and detachable flags and has reference in particular to a flag which is especially adapted for use on cars employed in funeral processions.

As the introductory statement of the invention implies, funeral designating flags for use on hired and private cars are not new. In many localities it is the practice to use suitably shaped and colored cloth or equivalent flags and to provide holders which are attached in various ways to fenders, car doors and elsewhere. Experience has shown, however, that the flags often become detached and fall off, fail to display wanted directions effectively, become faded and discolored, require frequent laundering and are otherwise objectionable to both funeral directors and users.

The purpose of the present invention is to provide a novel holder and flag assembly, said flag being of rigid material, such as for instance plastic, being supported and displayed at an advantageous angle for a clear view by motorists approaching the funeral procession, being readily applicable and removable and retained in place with requisite safety to avoid accidental displacement and otherwise amply suited to fulfill the requirements of a reliable indicator flag.

More specifically, in carrying out the desired principles of the invention, I provide a simple, effective and economical flag and holder which is made up of two comparatively simple units, one unit being a resilient U-clip which is attachable to the car door, and the other unit being fashioned from a single metal strap which provides the flag staff, an adaptor grip which cooperates with the clip and a finger grip which facilitates holding the flag, of a unitary structure, while applying and removing same.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a flag construction which is highly practical and efficient, which may be securely fastened in place to avoid displacement, which is well balanced and in which the flag portion, being of rigid sheet material, does not become water soaked, will not fade or become distorted in shape, requires no special laundering and which will stay put and assume the desired angular relationship to the side of the car to which it is attached.

Finally, it is a further object to provide a plastic or equivalent flag with holding means wherein the flag lends itself to effective display of the word "Funeral" and also serves to permit the printing thereon of other designations such as "Family car," "Pall bearers," "Flower bearers," etc., so as to permit a plurality of flags to be

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orderly employed for systematic and methodical funeral directing requirements.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of an automobile showing the improved flag and holder and the manner in which same is, when in use, attached;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the flag and holder as a unitary assemblage;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary sectional and elevational view showing how the holding means is constructed and attached;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary top plan view of Figure 2 with the principal parts omitted.

Reference is had to Figure 2 wherein it will be seen that one of the holding or attaching units is denoted by the numeral 6. This is a simple U-shaped metal clip with one end portion 7 constructed and adapted to fit in the window groove or channel 8 of the car door 9 as shown in Figure 3. The opposite upstanding end portion 10 serves in conjunction with the flag staff unit 11. As before stated this unit of the structure is preferably formed from a single metal strap, the major upright portion of which constitutes the staff 12. The upper end of the staff is axially twisted and bent, as at 13, and the longitudinal half-portions are then bent upon themselves, as at 14, to define flanges 15 between which the flag 16 is riveted or otherwise fastened, as at 17. The flag may be of any appropriate dimensions and is preferably of comparatively rigid self-sustaining and shape retaining plastic. The flag has displayed thereon suitable designations such as at 18 and 19. The designation 18 is usually the word "Funeral." The other designation 19 will change and vary on the different flags and will serve to designate a "Family car," car for close relatives, pall bearers, flower bearers, etc. Incidentally, I am aware that it is common practice to use flags with appropriate designations to assist in funeral directing and to aid pall bearers and others to readily select the car which has been placed at their disposal. Therefore, I am primarily interested in the rigidity of the flag rather than the designation displayed thereon and also in the mode in which the flag is attached to the staff so that when the staff is applied on the car, the flag will take an approximate 45° angle at an elevation above the usual body 20 of the car. The lower end portion of the staff is

bent laterally as at 21 and the adjacent portions are bent upon themselves, as at 22, to define spaced coacting portions 23 and 24 which together provide a finger grip and assist in handling the unit 11. The free end portion of the metal strap is bent upon itself to provide an inverted substantially U-shaped adaptor clamp 25 having a hook 26 to engage over the lip flange of the door 9 and to be clamped between said flange and the body of the car as shown in Figure 3. This clamp 25 is rubber covered as at 27 to serve as a cushioning protector. Said clamp 25 is attached to a horizontal web 28 and the several parts 23, 24 and 10 are securely riveted together as at 29.

In practice the yieldable and accommodating finger or limb 7 of the U-clip 6 is fixed and snapped into the groove 8 of the door frame, the window (not shown) being lowered for the purpose. Since the limb 7 is comparatively thin, the window may be raised and thus substantially closed if the occasion requires closing. The hook 26 of the U-clamp 25 is engaged over the lip flange 30 of the car door as shown in Figure 3 where it may be securely held when the door is closed. The finger gripping means, parts 23 and 24, may be, and preferably is, laterally offset in respect to parts 6 and 25, to facilitate holding the entire structure while applying and removing same. Once in place, the structure is securely held and the flag is situated at a point of vantage and at a suitable angle for effective display and signalling purposes.

A careful consideration of the foregoing description in conjunction with the invention as illustrated in the drawings will enable the reader to obtain a clear understanding and impression of the alleged features of merit and novelty sufficient to clarify the construction of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

Minor changes in shape, size, materials and rearrangement of parts may be resorted to in actual practice so long as no departure is made from the invention as claimed.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. An indicator flag for funeral cars comprising a flag staff, a substantially rigid flag fixed on the upper end of said staff and obliquely offset in respect to the vertical axis of said staff, the lower end of said staff being provided with a laterally offset finger-grip, an inverted U-shaped adapter clamp adapted to be anchored between an automobile body and complemental edge portion of a swingable door mounted on said body, said adapter clamp being disposed on a plane above the plane of said finger-grip and being

connected with said staff solely through the medium of said finger-grip and being at right angles to and thus offset in a position opposite to the staff to permit the staff to be disposed perpendicularly to said body, and a holding unit occupying a position beneath said adapter clamp and located alongside of the finger-grip and adapted to be connected with the stated door.

2. The structure specified in claim 1 wherein said holding unit is in the form of a resilient U-shaped metal clip embodying spaced limbs connected by a bight portion, one limb being adapted to engage the stated door, the other limb being riveted to said finger-grip.

3. An indicator flag for funeral cars comprising a flag staff having means at its lower end for attachment of said staff to an automobile door or the like, the upper end portion of said staff having spaced parallel flanges and said flanges being axially offset, a rigid indicator flag having one end portion secured between said flanges, the lower end of said staff being provided with an outstanding laterally angled finger-grip and further provided with a U-shaped adapter clamp which is connected at one end with the finger-grip and which is adapted to be saddled over an edge portion of said door, and a U-shaped spring metal clip alongside of the finger-grip and underlying said clamp and having one end portion fastened to said staff, the opposite end portion being free for connection with the stated automobile door.

4. An indicator flag for funeral cars comprising an inverted U-shaped adapter clamp adapted to be saddled over an edge portion of an automobile door, one end portion of said clamp being provided with an outstanding web, a flag staff having offset flanges at an upper end and a laterally offset finger-grip at its lower end, said finger-grip being connected with said web, a rigid flag having one end portion mounted between said flanges, and a resilient U-shaped clip arranged alongside of said finger-grip and underneath of the adapter clamp and having one end abutting said web and secured to said staff.

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