

May 25, 1954

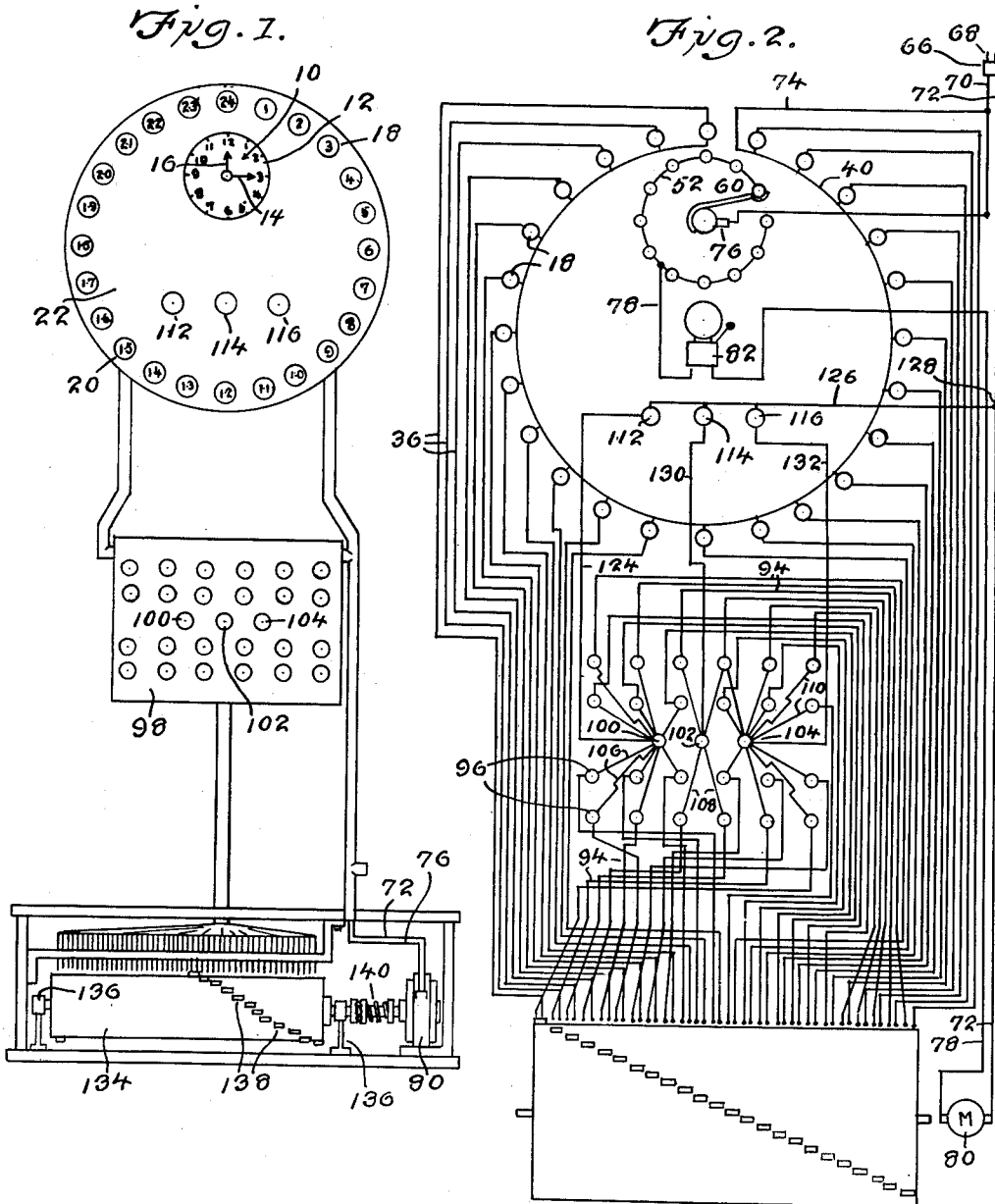
D B JAMESON

2,679,398

ADVERTISING CHANCE DEVICE

Filed Jan. 26, 1949

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 3.

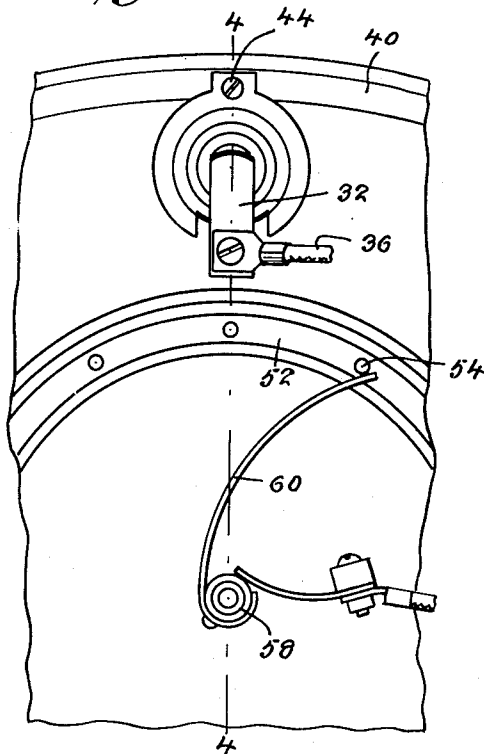


Fig. 4.

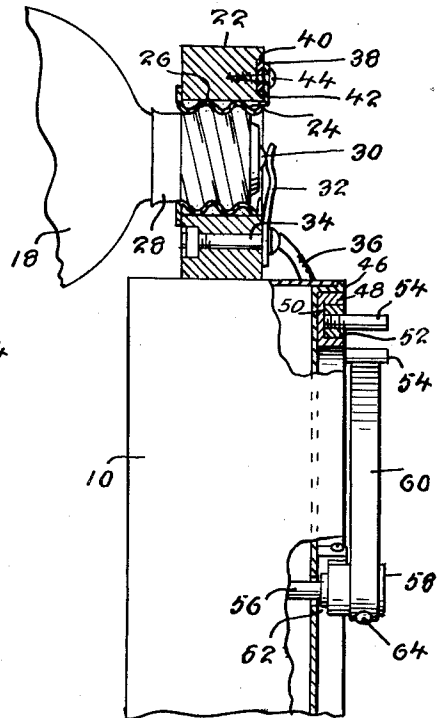


Fig. 5.

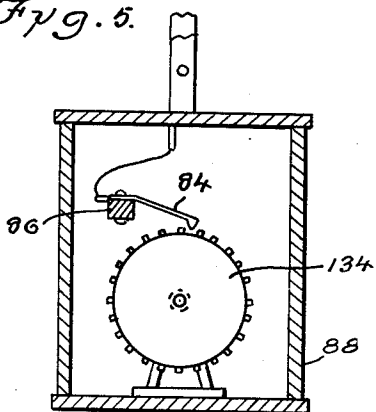
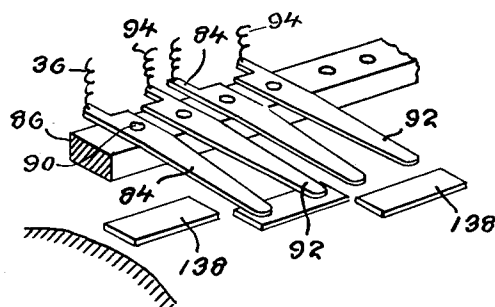


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ADVERTISING CHANCE DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 273-138)

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My invention relates to business establishments such as restaurants and the like, and has among its objects and advantages the provision of an improved advertising device.

The present invention is particularly adapted for use in connection with business establishments having seating accommodations for their patrons. I make use of clock-controlled means for flashing a plurality of electric lamps numbered or otherwise marked to correspond to the numbering or other marking of the seats in a particular place of business. The clock operates circuit closing means for energizing any one of the lamps from time to time to designate a winner. In association with the seat identifying lamps, I provide a second series of lamps which may be marked in terms of point value and are individually energized with the energization of certain of the seat or patron identifying lamps. Thus, when one of the seat or patron identifying lamps is energized, one of the second series of lamps will be simultaneously energized, so that the person occupying the seat having the number corresponding to the illuminated identifying lamp will receive in point value whatever amount the valuation light indicates. In addition, I connect an audible signal in the circuit for sounding an audible alarm simultaneously with the illumination of one of the seat or patron identifying lamps, thus calling the attention of the patrons to their chance to secure credit for whatever point value is indicated by the valuation lamp without necessitating constant attention to the device.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic elevational view of my invention;

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic view of the electric circuit;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary detail view illustrating the clock-controlled switch and the manner in which one of the seat identifying lamps is mounted;

Figure 4 is a sectional view along the line 4-4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is an end view of a motor operated circuit closing drum; and

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a portion of the group of contact fingers operatively associated with the switch drum.

In the embodiment selected to illustrate my invention, I make use of a conventional clock 10 which includes the usual dial 12 and hands 14 and 16. Figure 1 illustrates a group of lamps 18 as being arranged in circular formation about

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the clock 10. I illustrate twenty-four such lamps, which lamps may be numbered for identification, as indicated at 20, to correspond to the numbering of the seats in a particular place of business.

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate the manner in which the lamps 18 are mounted. About the clock 10 I dispose a panel 22 which is bored at 24 for the reception of threaded contact sleeves 26. These figures illustrate only one of the lamps 18 and its respective mounting, but all the lamps are mounted in the same manner so that the description of one will apply to all. Contact ferrule 28 of the lamp is threaded into the sleeve 26 for bringing the central terminal 30 of the lamp into contact with the conducting strip 32, which is anchored at one end to the panel 22 by a screw 34. Screw 34 also constitutes a connection for the wire 36.

Contact sleeve 26 includes an ear 38 fixedly related to a contact ring 40 lying in a circular recess 42 in one face of the panel 22. A screw 44 passes through aligned openings in the ear 38 and the contact ring 40 and is threaded into the panel 22 for connecting the parts into a unitary structure. According to Figure 4, the casing of the clock may be provided with an annular flange 46 into which I press a ring 48 of insulating material. In the ring 48 I provide an annular groove 50 into which I press a ring-like conductor 52 provided with a plurality of pins 54. Figure 2 illustrates twelve such pins. To a clock driven shaft 56 I connect a larger diameter sleeve 58 to which one end of a spring contact 60 is secured. The spring contact is of such length as to successively engage the pins 54 for short periods of time through rotation of the shaft. Sleeve 58 is insulated from the shaft 56 at 62, and the arm 60 is fixedly secured to the sleeve by a screw 64.

Referring to Figure 2, I illustrate a conventional wall plug at 66, which includes the usual prongs 68 and wires 70 and 72. Wire 70 is connected with one end of the ring 40 through the medium of a wire 74. Wire 70 also leads to a brush 76 arranged in conducting relation with the sleeve 58. To the ring 52 I connect a wire 78, which wire leads to the electric motor 80. An electrically operated bell 82 is interposed in the wire 78. Wire 72 also leads to the motor 80.

Figure 2 illustrates each of the lamps 18 as being provided with one wire 36, each of which is connected with one finger 84 mounted on an insulated bar 86 having its ends secured in any suitable manner to the end walls of a box 88.

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Fingers 84 are spaced longitudinally of the bar 86 and are secured thereto by screws 90. Alternately between the fingers 84 I mount the same number of fingers 92. One finger 84 and one finger 92 is provided for each of the lamps 18.

Each wire 94 is connected with one terminal 96 on the terminal board 98. Board 98 is provided with twenty-four of the terminals 96, there being one terminal for each of the lamps 18. The board is also provided with three terminals 100, 102 and 104. Terminal 100 is electrically connected with ten of the terminals 96 through the medium of wires 106. Four of the terminals 96 are electrically connected with the terminal 102 through the medium of wires 108. Terminal 104 is electrically connected with the remaining ten of the terminals 96 through the medium of wires 110.

Fig. 1 illustrates three valuation lamps 112, 114 and 116. Referring to Fig. 2, a wire 124 electrically connects the terminal 100 with the valuation lamp 112, and the valuation lamp 112 is also electrically connected with a wire 126. A wire 130 electrically connects the terminal 102 with the valuation lamp 114 and the valuation lamp 114 is also electrically connected with the wire 126. A wire 132 electrically connects the terminal 104 with the valuation lamp 116 and the valuation lamp 116 is also electrically connected to the wire 126. The wire 126 being connected at 128 to the wire 72.

Cooperating with the fingers 84 and 92 is a drum 134 which is rotatably mounted in bearings 136 located in the box 88. Drum 134 is of insulating material and is provided with twenty-four bridge elements 138 arranged spirally about the drum to define one convolution. It will be noted in referring to Figure 6 that one of the bridge elements 138 bridges one finger 84 and one finger 92. Drum 134 is operatively connected with the electric motor 80 through the medium of a Bendix drive 140.

From the foregoing description of the various parts of the device, the operation thereof will be readily understood. As the contact arm 60 is moved into engagement with one of the pins 54, assuming that the plug 66 has been connected with a source of current, the circuit through the motor 80 will be closed as follows: wire 70, brush 76, sleeve 58, contact arm 60, the associated pin 54, ring 52, wire 78, bell 82 to the motor 80 and to the wire 72.

As the motor is started, the Bendix drive 140 operatively connects the motor with the drum 134 so that the latter will be rotated for successively bringing the bridge elements 138 into bridging relation with their respective fingers 84 and 92. At the same time, the ring 40 will be energized through the medium of the wire 74 and the lamps 18 will be successively illuminated during rotation of the drum 134. However, contact arm 60 has conducting relation with the pin 54 for a very short period of time. Thus, the circuit to the motor 80 will be broken as soon as the arm 60 moves out of contacting relation with the previously engaged pin 54.

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The bridge elements 138 are so arranged that one finger 84 and its companion finger 92 will always be bridged through the medium of one of the elements 138. Such bridging of one finger 84 with one of the fingers 92 will close the circuit through one of the lamps 18 as well as through one of the valuation lamps 112, 114 or 116. Thus the illuminated lamps 18 will indicate the winning seat and one of the valuation lamps will indicate the point value received by the occupant of that particular seat.

Bell 82 will continue ringing so long as the circuit is closed through the motor 80. The frequency of operation may be changed to suit the needs of a particular place of business. Spacing of the pins 54 will depend upon the speed of the shaft 56.

I claim:

A device of the type described comprising a first plurality of identifying lamps arranged in circular formation, a second plurality of identifying lamps positioned within said circular formation of identifying lamps, a clock also positioned within said circular formation of identifying lamps, a terminal board having a plurality of terminals positioned thereon, a rotary bridging drum having a plurality of contacts thereon, a motor for rotating said drum, a plurality of first contacts positioned in the path of the contacts on said drum and connected to said circular formation of identifying lamps, a plurality of second contacts positioned adjacent said first contacts, a current conducting wire connecting each of said first contacts to one of said first plurality of identifying lamps, a current conducting wire connecting each of said second contacts to one of said second plurality of identifying lamps, a current conducting wire connecting certain of the terminals to certain of said second plurality of identifying lamps so that both said first and second contacts may be bridged by the contacts on said drum to simultaneously energize the first and second plurality of identifying lamps, first contact means adapted to be rotated by said clock, second contact means in the path of said first contact means connected to said motor, current conducting means connected to said motor whereby said motor is energized as the first and second contact means are engaged by the operation of said clock, said motor being adapted to rotate said drum to energize said lamps alternately and in sequence.

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