April 22, 1941. J. SLOAN 2,239,060

TICKET ISSUING MACHINE

Filed April 20, 1939 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

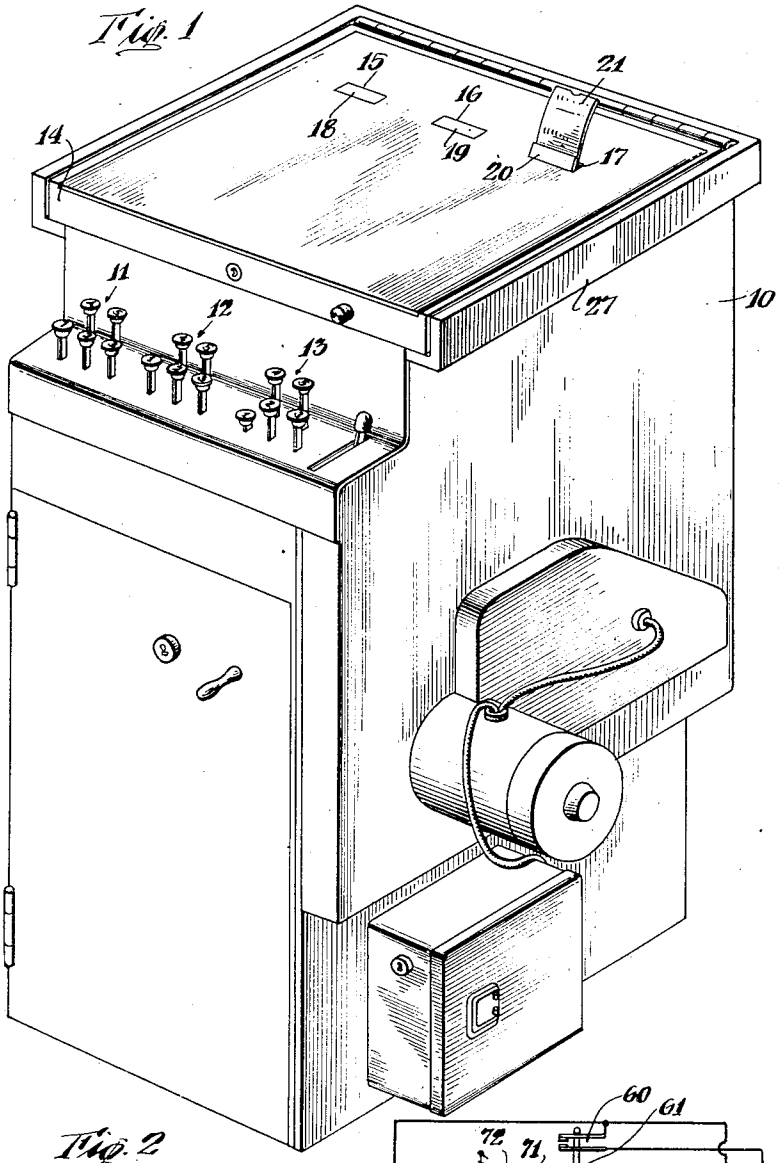


Fig. 10

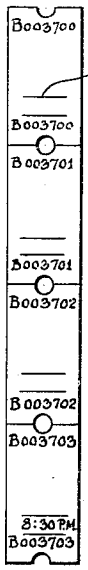


Fig. 11

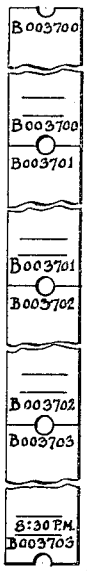


Fig. 12

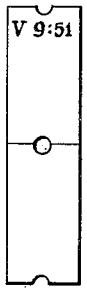
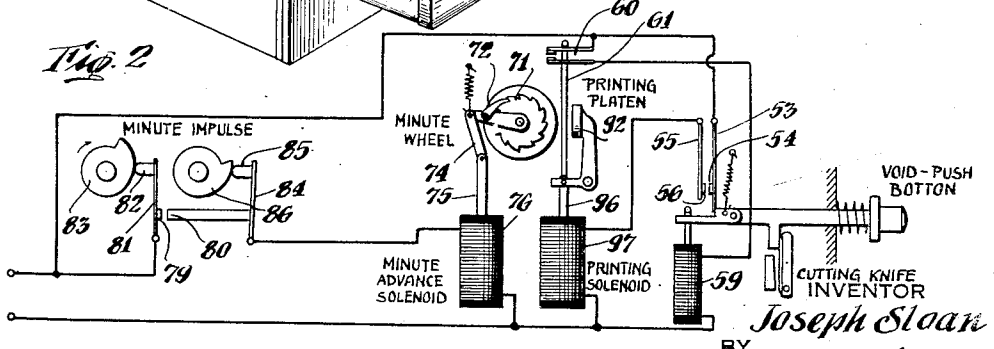


Fig. 2



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April 22, 1941. J. SLOAN 2,239,060

TICKET ISSUING MACHINE

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Fig. 3

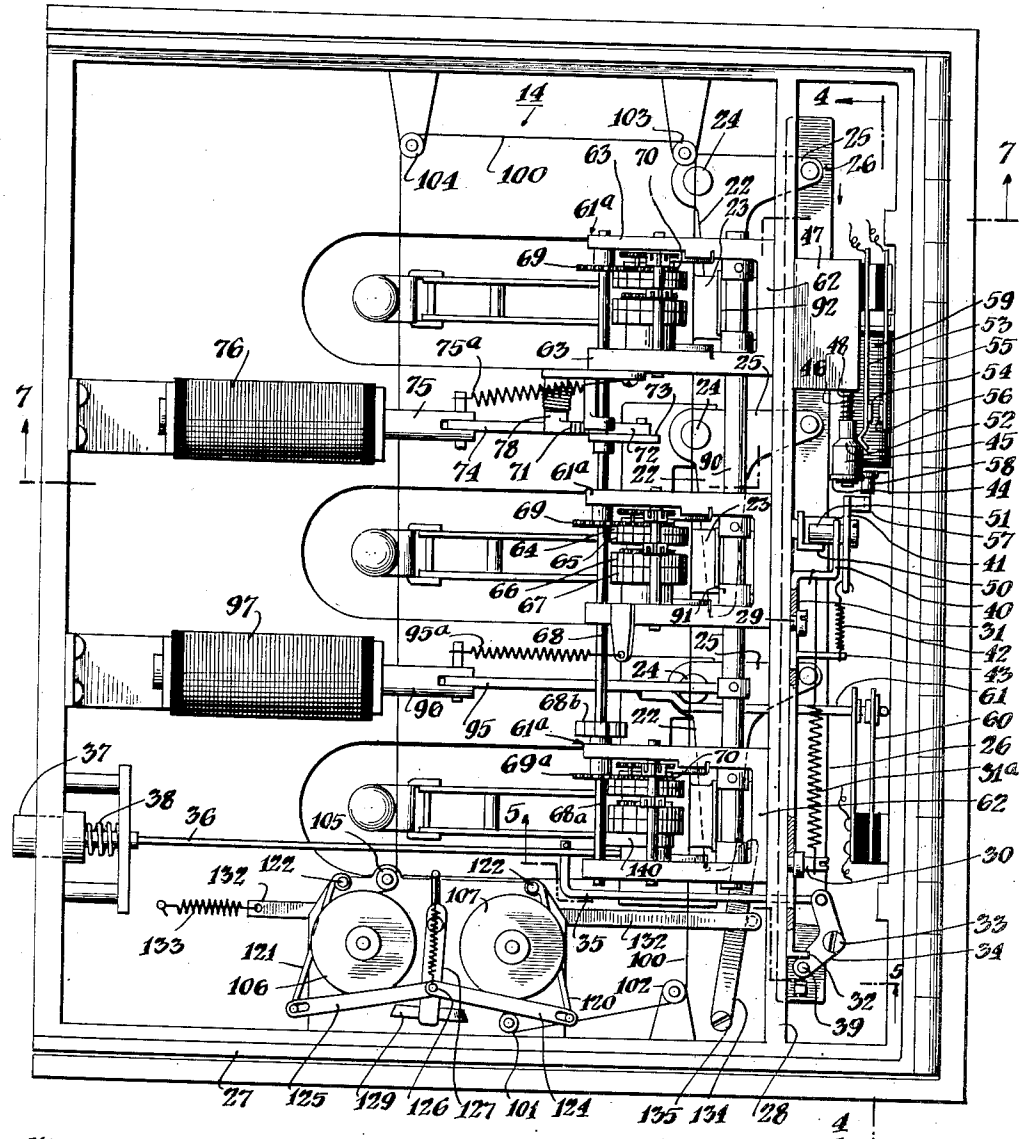
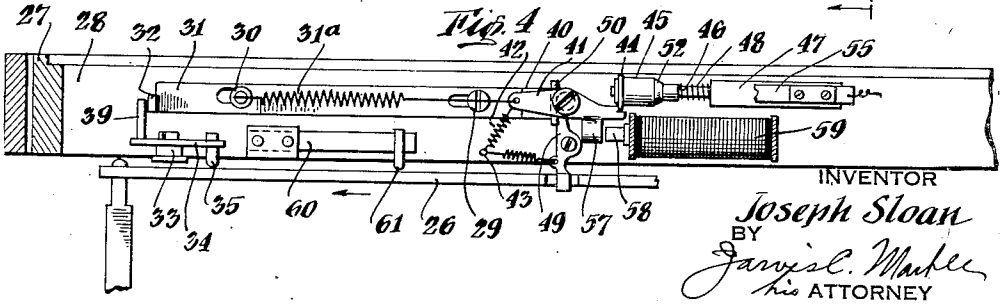


Fig. 4



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TICKET ISSUING MACHINE

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Fig. 5

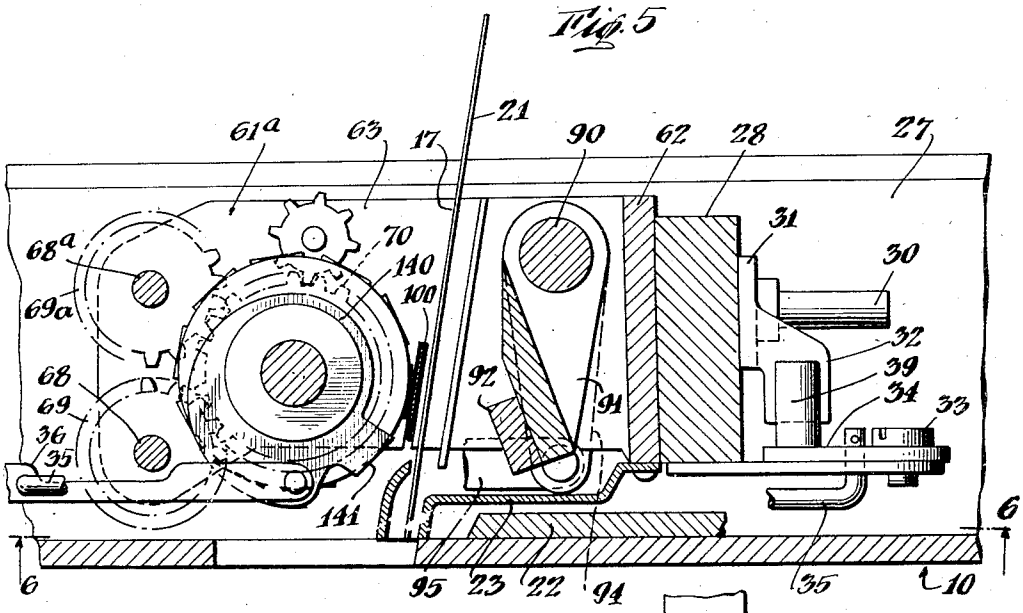
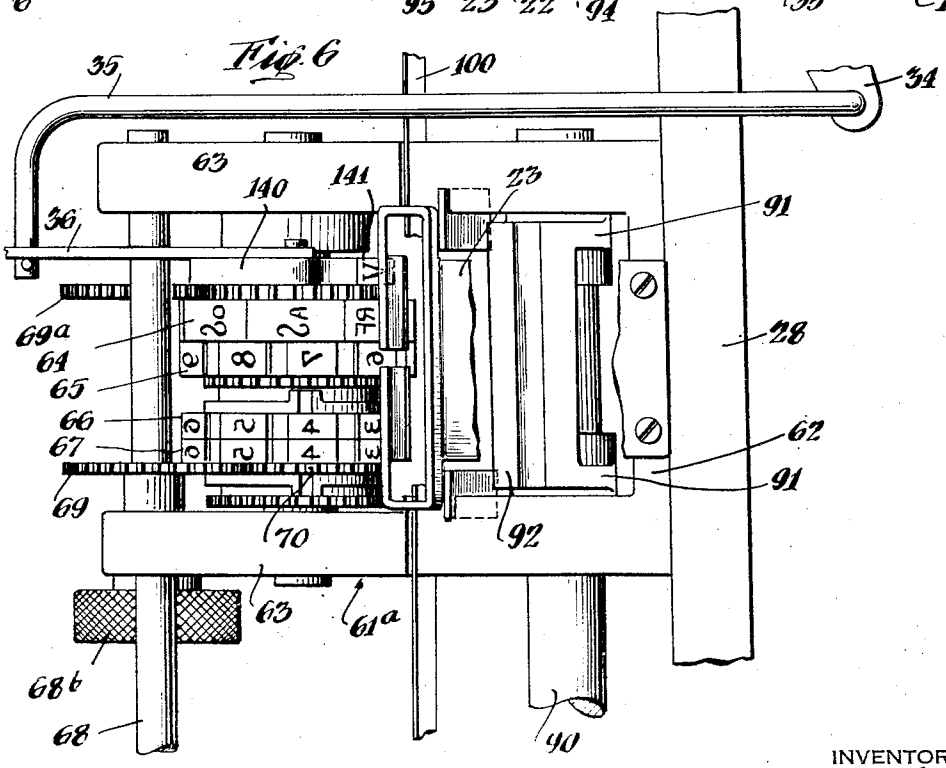


Fig. 6



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TICKET ISSUING MACHINE

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Fig. 7

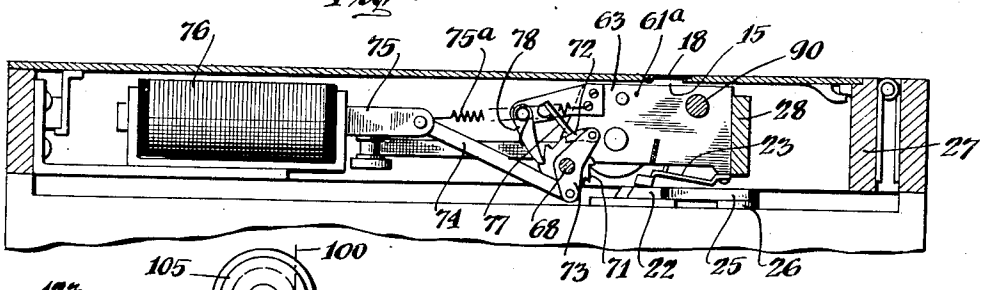


Fig. 8

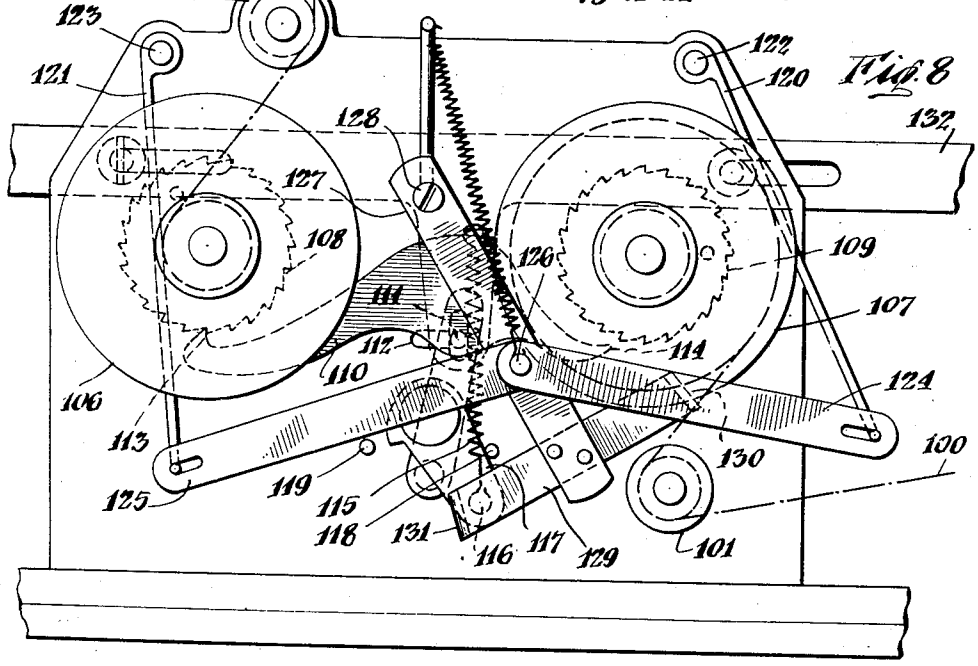
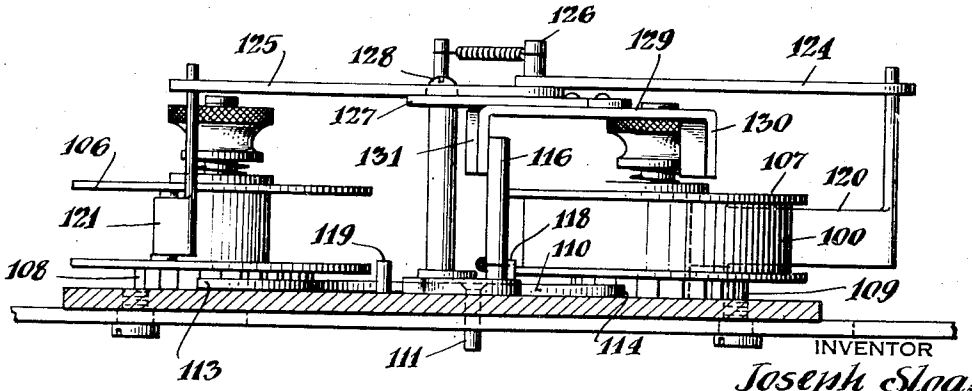


Fig. 9



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Patented Apr. 22, 1941 2,239,060

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,239,060

TICKET ISSUING MACHINE

Joseph Sloan, New York, N. Y.

Application April 20, 1939, Serial No. 268,919

8 Claims. (Cl. 101—69)

My invention relates to a mechanism for automatically printing the time of sale on the last ticket of each strip of tickets sold through a ticket vending machine. Such vending machines are in common use in theater box offices and include mechanism for ejecting tickets upon the depression of a key. Five keys are usually provided, numbered from 1 through 5 and the arrangement is such that upon the depression of, for instance, the key numbered 4, a like number of tickets will be ejected, the four tickets being connected in a strip. As the tickets come to rest after ejection, a knife automatically severs the strip from the remaining tickets in the machine. The mechanism in accordance with my invention serves to imprint the time on the last ticket of each strip at substantially the instant that the knife acts to sever the strip, that is after the tickets have come to rest.

One of the chief advantages resulting from printing the time as aforesaid is that it greatly reduces the opportunity for fraudulent resale of tickets. The usual arrangement is that a patron purchases tickets at the box office and hands them to a doorman as he enters the theater. The doorman is supposed to tear each ticket in two, give one-half back to the patron, and deposit the other half in a ticket box provided for that purpose. In order to quickly tear the tickets, the doorman folds them in such a way that all the tickets are torn at one time. Assuming the patron purchased a strip of four tickets, this leaves two single half tickets or stubs and three double stubs, that is two half tickets connected together as they were in the original strip. However, it is possible for the doorman to tear two of the tickets from the strip and then tear these two tickets in half and return both halves of each ticket to the patron, thus providing him with the proper number of stubs, while the doorman retains two complete and untorn tickets which he does not deposit in the box. These may be resold through collusion with the ticket seller in the box office or in other ways.

In accordance with my invention each ticket is provided with a space in which the time may be printed, but the time is printed only on the last ticket of a strip. When such a strip of tickets is handed to the doorman and he folds them so as to tear all tickets in half by a single tearing operation, the result is that there is one-half or single stub with the time printed in the space provided therefor, one or more double stubs and one single stub without any space for the time. The latter half ticket has a machine-cut edge at one end. Hence, there should never be a single stub with a vacant time space nor a single stub without a time space but with a hand torn end. If either of these are found in the ticket box it is conclusive evidence that the doorman has not properly torn the strips of tickets and has "palmed" some of the tickets.

My invention also includes means for printing the time on the back of any ticket which is voided. It sometimes occurs that the patron changes his mind after the tickets have been ejected from the machine; he either wishes to purchase a ticket for some other part of the theater or decides not to come in. When this occurs the ticket seller immediately sets such tickets aside and is credited for them. This makes it possible for the doorman to return untorn tickets to the cashier and have them improperly credited to her, whereupon the cashier may remove a corresponding amount of money from the till without a discrepancy appearing. However, inasmuch as a ticket can be cancelled only before the patron has left the box office, the time of the sale, appearing on the face of the ticket must correspond to, or at the most be only a minute earlier than the time of voiding, which appears on the reverse side of the ticket. This does not provide sufficient time for a doorman to return an untorn ticket to the cashier and if a greater interval than one minute appears between the time of sale and the time of voiding, this is conclusive evidence of an irregularity.

Another advantage of my invention is that, if the doorman is instructed to always give the patron the stub on which the time has been printed, this provides an immediate check if the patron should request a refund. It is not infrequent that patrons, after having been in the theater but a few minutes, decide for one reason or another that they wish to leave. Such reason might be that they discover that they have seen the show before. In such cases most theaters will refund the money. However, certain people attempt to take advantage of this practice and request a refund after they have seen a complete show. Obviously, if the time of the sale of the ticket has been printed thereon the manager may immediately determine whether or not the patron is requesting a refund after having been in the theater an unreasonable length of time. The present method of checking refunds depends upon the serial number which is inadequate since the time of sale can only be determined approximately. Also at present a patron seeking a refund fraudulently may pick up any recent stub and in spite of it being "checked" will receive a refund of the admission price. However, with the timed tickets, if the patron resorted to the same practice he would more than likely pick up an improper stub or set of stubs.

A further advantage of my invention is that it enables the theatre manager to determine quite accurately how many people will leave a theater in which a continuous performance is being shown. At present, each ticket bears a serial number and every hour the ticket seller notes on a

chart the number of the ticket which was sold at that time. Thus, the manager is able to know how many people enter the theater during any one hour, but he has no way of knowing how many people entered during a shorter period of time. With the time on each strip of tickets sold the manager is able to determine exactly how many people enter the theater during any desired period of time by merely picking up at the beginning of that period a stub bearing the time and another stub at the end of that period and subtracting the serial numbers appearing on the two stubs.

Moreover, the device in accordance with my invention lends itself to a game which may be played by the theater audience. Inasmuch as each ticket bears a serial number and at least one ticket of each strip bears the time at which it was purchased, these numbers may be used to form the basis of a game. For instance, a dial may be provided with numbers from 1 to 12 thereon representing the hours and from 1 to 60 representing the minutes. Another dial may be provided with the numbers running from 0 to 9, representing the last digit of the serial number. These dials may be provided with pointers and so arranged that they may be projected on a motion picture screen. Thus, when the pointers are spun they will stop at certain numbers and the patron who holds a ticket having the correct last digit of the serial number and the correct time may be given a prize. Obviously, several spins of the pointers are usually required before the proper combination of numbers appears, and the suspense thus involved adds to the interest of the game. Also, the fact that the time must be printed on a ticket in order for a patron to have a chance to win a prize causes the patron to examine the ticket when it is purchased in order to see that it has been properly stamped with the time. Thus, the patrons are very apt to notice any irregularity in the sale of tickets, which makes such irregularity much more difficult.

It is quite important that theater box offices open as per schedule; also that price changes are made on time. The theater owner may now have this information definitely by asking that the first timed ticket at box office opening and the first ticket of each price change be turned in to the office.

Further objects and advantages of my invention will be apparent from the following description considered in connection with the accompanying drawings which form a part of this specification and of which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a ticket vending machine equipped with a device in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a wiring diagram;

Fig. 3 is a top view of the device in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view, on an enlarged scale, taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view on enlarged scale taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 8 is a top view of a portion of the device shown in Fig. 1, but on a larger scale;

Fig. 9 is a side view of the device shown in Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a view of a strip of tickets as ejected by the machine;

Fig. 11 is a view of the tickets shown in Fig. 10, but after they have been torn by the doorman; and

Fig. 12 is a view of the reverse side of a ticket which has been voided.

Referring to the figures, reference character 10 designates generally a ticket vending machine of well known construction. This machine is capable of ejecting three different types of tickets and banks of keys 11, 12 and 13 are provided. However it may be a one, two, four, five or more unit ejector machine. Each bank includes five keys numbered 1 through 5. Thus, if key number 4 is depressed, the machine operates to eject a strip of four tickets. The device in accordance with my invention is designated generally by reference character 14 and is located immediately above and secured to the ticket vending machine. It is provided with three slots, 15, 16 and 17, which are normally closed by pivoted members 18, 19 and 20, respectively. These slots are in alignment with ticket guiding channels in the top of the vending machine, so that a ticket ejected through one of the slots in the vending machine will pass through a corresponding slot in my device. In Fig. 5 there is shown a strip of tickets 21 issuing from the slot 17, and it will be seen that this strip has passed through a correspondingly located channel in the ticket vending machine.

The vending machine is provided with a knife blade 22 which serves to sever the strip of tickets from the remaining tickets in the machine. As appears from Fig. 3, the knife blades 22, one of which is provided for each slot, are pivoted in the machine at 24 and are provided with arms 25 which are pivotally connected to a bar 26. The construction of the vending machine is such that, after a strip of tickets has been ejected as a result of the depression of one of the keys, the bar 26 is caused to move in the direction of the arrow in Figs. 3 and 4, which in turn pivots the knife blades, thus causing them to sever the strip of tickets from the remaining supply.

The device 14, forming the subject matter of my invention, includes a rigid rectangular frame 27 across which extends a rigid member 28. Flexible plates 23 are secured to member 28 and have portions normally interposed between the cutting edges of the knives and the tickets to guide the tickets from the vending machine into my device. When the knife blade 22 moves to the left, as viewed in Fig. 5, it strikes the plate 23 and deflects it upwardly. Reciprocably mounted on member 28 by means of pins 29 and 30 is a bar 31. The end of this bar is provided with a horizontally extending projection 32 (Figs. 3 and 4). Pivotally mounted on a fixed vertical pin 33 is a bell crank lever 34. One end of this lever is connected by means of a rod 35 with a bar 36, and one end of the bar is connected to a push button 37 extending through an opening formed in the front of the frame 27. A spring 38 tends to move the push button and the bar 36 to the left, as viewed in Fig. 3. The other end of lever 34 is provided with a pin 39 which is positioned adjacent to the projection 32 so as to contact the projection when the lever is pivoted in a clockwise direction by the depression of push button 37.

The end of bar 30 opposite from projection 32 is formed with an offset portion 40 between which and pin 30 is disposed a tension spring 31a tend-

ing to move the bar to the left, as viewed in Fig. 4. A pawl 41 is pivotally mounted on offset 40. A spring 42 (Fig. 4) is secured to one end of the pawl and to a fixed pin 43, the spring tending to pivot the pawl in a counter-clockwise direction, as viewed in Fig. 4. The opposite end of the pawl is formed with a notch which is adapted to engage a collar 44 formed on a member 45 which is mounted on the end of a rod 46, the rod being reciprocably mounted in a block 47 secured to the frame. A spring 48 tends to move the rod 46 toward the pawl 41. A lever 49 is pivotally mounted on the frame member 28 and the lower end of this lever engages a notch or aperture formed in the knife operating bar 26, the arrangement being such that the lever 49 is pivoted by reciprocation of the bar 26. The upper end of the lever 49 is formed with a projection 50 which engages a pin 51 secured to the opposite portion 40 of the bar 31.

Member 45 (Fig. 3) is formed with a conical surface 52 which engages one end of a resilient strip 53 which carries an electric contact 54. A similar strip 55 is mounted parallel to strip 53 and carries a contact 56. Thus, movement of member 45 toward strip 53 causes this strip to be deflected so as to close the contacts 54 and 56.

Lever 41 (Fig. 4) is provided with a downwardly extending projection 57 disposed in alignment with a plunger 58 of a solenoid 59. Movement of the plunger 58 to the left, as viewed in Fig. 4, causes it to strike projection 57 and pivot lever 41 in a clockwise direction, thus disengaging the lever from collar 44 on member 45. The circuit of solenoid 59 is controlled by electric contacts 60 which are closable by movement of a rod 61 to the left, as viewed in Fig. 3. The means for actuating this rod will be explained hereinafter.

Mounted on the side of frame member 28 opposite from bar 31 are three generally U-shaped members 61 having bases 62 and parallel arms 63. Members 61 are mounted in alignment with the slots 18, 19 and 20 so that the strips of tickets being ejected pass between the arms 63. Mounted between the arms are printing wheels 64, 65, 66 and 67 (Fig. 6). Wheels 64 carry abbreviations for the days of the week. Wheels 65 carry the numbers 1 through 12 for printing the hour, while wheels 66 and 67 carry numbers for printing minutes from 0 to 60. These printing wheels have associated therewith suitable transfer mechanism which is well known and which serves to transfer values from one wheel to the next when the first wheel has made a complete revolution. If desired, wheels 64 may be independent of wheels 65, 66 and 67 and may be set manually, as is shown in Fig. 5, by means of a gear 69*a* mounted on a shaft 68*a* which may be turned by means of a knurled knob 68*b*. In this case, wheel 64 may also carry several characters intended to designate the cashier on duty. A shaft 68 is rotatably mounted in the arms 63 and carries gears 69 which mesh with corresponding gears 70. The gears 70 are integral with the printing wheels 67.

Shaft 68 also carries a ratchet wheel 71 which is arranged to be engaged by a pawl 72 pivotally mounted on one end of a bell crank lever 73 (Fig. 7). The lever is pivotally mounted on shaft 68 and a link 74 connects the other end of the lever with a plunger 75 of a solenoid 76. A spring pressed arm 77 holds the pawl 72 in contact with the ratchet wheel. A retaining pawl 78 is provided for preventing reverse rotation of the ratchet wheel. Solenoid 76 is connected in a circuit including contacts 79 and 80 (Fig. 2). Contact 79 is mounted on a resilient arm 81 which is provided with a cam follower 82 cooperating with a cam 83. Contact 80 is carried by a resilient arm 84 having a cam follower 85 cooperating with a cam 86. Cams 83 and 86 are geared together and driven by suitable clock work so that each cam makes one revolution per minute in clockwise direction. It will be noted that the high point of cam 86 leads the high point on cam 83. Thus, as soon as cam follower 85 has passed the high point on cam 86, the resiliency of arm 84 moves the point 80 into contact with point 79, thus closing the circuit for solenoid 76. The circuit remains closed until the high point of cam 83 passes cam follower 82, whereupon the resiliency of arm 81 moves the point 79 away from point 80, thus opening the circuit.

When the circuit is closed, the plunger 75 is caused to move to the left, as viewed in Fig. 7 against the resistance of spring 75*a*. This pivots bell crank lever 73 in a clockwise direction and pawl 72 slides to the next tooth of ratchet 71. When solenoid 76 is deenergized by the opening of its circuit, spring 75*a* moves plunger 75 to the right and pivots lever 73 in a counter-clockwise direction, and pawl 72 rotates ratchet 71 one step. The rotation of the shaft 68 in this manner causes the printing wheels 67 to be advanced one step. Thus, the printing wheels are at all times in condition to print the correct time.

Rockably mounted in arms 63 is a shaft 90. Secured to this shaft are three arms 91, each of which carries a printing platen 92 disposed in alignment with the printing wheels 64 through 67. A crank arm 94 is secured to shaft 90 and extends downwardly therefrom. A link 95 is connected to the lower end of arm 94 and to a plunger 96 of a solenoid 97. The circuit of solenoid 97 includes the contacts 54 and 56, heretofore described, and the arrangement is such that when the solenoid is energized plunger 96 is moved to the left, as viewed in Fig. 3, thus rocking shaft 90 in a clockwise direction, as viewed in Fig. 5. The rod 61, which closes the contacts 60 for solenoid 59 is connected to link 95 so that when the link is moved by the solenoid 97, the rod 61 closes the contacts 60.

An inking ribbon 100 is arranged to pass between the printing wheels and the strip of tickets 21 in alignment with a platen 92. Thus, movement of the platen to the left, as viewed in Fig. 5, forces the ticket against the printing wheel with the inking ribbon between the ticket and the characters on the wheels and the time is in this manner printed on the ticket.

The ribbon 100 is guided by means of guide pulleys 101, 102, 103, 104 and 105 suitably located in the device and is wound on to and off of spools 106 and 107 (Fig. 8). For the purpose of rotating the spools, each is provided with a ratchet 108 and 109, respectively. A pawl 110 has secured thereto a pin 111 which may be moved back and forth through a slot 112 formed in a stationary frame plate, as shown in Fig. 8. Pawl 110 is provided at one end with a hook 113 for engaging ratchet 108 and at the other end with a nose 114 for engaging ratchet 109. A spring 115 is secured to the central part of pawl 110 and to a pin 116 mounted on a rockable arm 117, which arm may be rocked within the limits defined by

pins 118 and 119. As shown in Fig. 8, arm 117 is in contact with pin 118. With the parts in this position, the spring 115 passes to the right of pin 111 and thus tends to rotate pawl 110 in a clockwise direction about the pin 11 as a center and this causes hook 113 to engage ratchet 106 while holding nose 114 out of engagement with ratchet 109. When the pin 111 is reciprocated in the slot 112 the pawl thus rotates spool 106 in a counter-clockwise direction so as to wind up thereon the inking ribbon 100. As the ribbon is wound on to spool 106 it unwinds from spool 107 which is, under these conditions, free to rotate.

However, if lever 117 is rocked into contact with pin 119, the spring 115 will then pass to the left of pin 111 and the spring will tend to rotate the pawl 110 in a counterclockwise direction thus bringing nose 114 into engagement with ratchet 109 and freeing hook 113 from ratchet 108. Under these conditions, when the pin 111 is reciprocated in the slot 112, the pawl 110 rotates spool 107 in a counter-clockwise direction, thus winding the ribbon up on this spool, which in turn causes it to unwind from the spool 106.

The position of lever 117 is automatically shifted when the ribbon is substantially all wound on one or the other of the spools. In order to accomplish this, a pair of arms 120 and 121 are pivoted at 122 and 123, respectively, and extend between the sides of the spools so as to contact the ribbon wound on the spools. The opposite ends of arms 120 and 121 are connected to links 124 and 125, respectively, which are pivotally connected together by means of a pin 126. An arm 127 is pivotally mounted at 128 and pin 126 engages this arm. A cross member 129 is secured to the free end of arm 127 and is provided with downwardly extending projections 130 and 131 which are arranged to contact pin 116 on arm 117.

As shown in Fig. 8, practically all of the inking ribbon is wound up on the spool 107. As the ribbon was wound onto spool 107 it caused arm 120 to be pivoted gradually in a counter-clockwise direction and, through the link 124 caused arm 127 to be pivoted in a similar manner, with the result that projection 131 contacted pin 116 to move arm 117 into contact with pin 118. As above explained, with arm 117 in this position the pawl 110 rotates spool 106 so as to wind the ribbon thereon and unwind it from spool 107. After the ribbon becomes substantially all wound on spool 106, this will cause arm 121 to be pivoted in a clockwise direction, thus pivoting arm 127 in a similar direction until projection 130 strikes pin 116 and rocks lever 117 into contact with pin 119, whereupon pawl 110 rotates spool 107 so as to wind the ribbon thereon and unwind it from spool 106. Pin 111 is connected to a reciprocable bar 132 which is urged to the left, as viewed in Fig. 3, by a spring 133. The opposite end of bar 132 engages a lever 134 which is pivoted at one end at 135 and has its other end in engagement with one of the knife blades 22. Thus, each time the blade pivots in a clockwise direction, it permits spring 133 to move bar 132, thus reciprocating pin 111 to cause pawl 110 to rotate one of the spools. Hence, the ribbon is advanced a short distance each time a printing operation takes place.

The operation of the device in accordance with my invention is as follows:

Upon the depression of one of the keys in the banks 11, 12 and 13, the ticket vending machine operates to eject a strip of tickets, the number of the tickets in the strip corresponding to the number on the key which was depressed. As these tickets come to rest in the position shown in Fig. 5, the mechanism of the ticket vending machine causes the knife actuating bar 26 to move to the left, as viewed in Fig. 4, so as to cause one of the knives 29 to sever the strip of tickets from the supply of tickets in the machine. Movement of the bar 26 causes the lever 49 to pivot in a clockwise direction, as viewed in Fig. 4. The upper end 50 of the lever 49 engages the pin 51 on the bar 31 so as to move this bar to the right, as viewed in Fig. 4. The notch in the end of pawl 41 engages the collar 44 on the member 45 thus moving the member toward the contact arm 53 (Fig. 3) so as to close the contacts 54 and 56. These contacts being in the circuit of the solenoid 97, the latter is energized so as to move a plunger 96 to the left, as viewed in Fig. 3. This movement is transmitted by means of the link 95 and the arm 94 so as to rock a shaft 90 in a clockwise direction, as viewed in Fig. 5, thus bringing the platen 93 against the ticket and causing the correct time to be printed on the last ticket of the strip, which ticket is disposed in alignment with the printing wheels 94 through 97. As previously described, these wheels are at all times set so as to print the correct time.

In order to limit the period during which the platen is held against the ticket, I provide the solenoid 59 and the contact 60 in its circuit. The movement to the left, as in Fig. 3, of the plunger 96 and link 95 causes the rod 61 to move in a similar direction, thus closing contacts 60 and energizing solenoid 59. This in turn causes the plunger 58 to move to the left, as viewed in Fig. 4, so as to contact the projection 57 on the pawl 41, thus pivoting the pawl slightly in a clockwise direction so as to disengage it from the collar 44. Hence, the member 45 may be moved to the left under the influence of spring 48 so as to open the contacts 54 and 56, even though the bar 31 remains in its right hand position, as viewed in Fig. 4. Consequently, the circuit of solenoid 97 is opened and the spring 95a moves the plunger 96 and link 95 to the right, as viewed in Fig. 3, to return the shaft 90 to the position shown in Fig. 5, where the platen is out of contact with the ticket.

If it is desired to print the time on the back of a ticket when the ticket is voided, such ticket may be inserted in the slot 17, the pivoted member 20 of which is slightly narrower than the slot, thus providing a slit through which the ticket may be introduced. The button 37 is then depressed and this movement of the button causes the arm 36 to move to the right, as viewed in Figs. 3 and 5. The inner end of this arm is connected to a wheel 140 mounted on the shaft which carries the printing wheels. This wheel is formed with a portion 141 which carries the letter "V" or some other symbol designating "void" or "cancelled." Movement of the bar 36 to the right, as above described, causes the wheel 140 to be rotated a fraction of a revolution in a counter-clockwise direction so as to bring the symbol carried thereby into printing position. Movement of the bar 36 also carries the bar 35 to move in the same direction, thus rocking bell crank lever 34 in a clockwise direction, as viewed in Fig. 3, so as to cause the pin 39 thereon to contact the projection 32 on bar 31, thus moving the bar to the right, as viewed in Fig. 4. This

causes the contacts **54** and **56** to be closed in the same manner as occurs when the bar **31** is actuated by movement of the knife cutting bar **26**. Closing of these contacts energizes the solenoid **97** with the result that the platen **93** moves against the ticket so as to print thereon the symbol "V" as well as the time. Ordinarily, the tickets should be placed in the slot so that this is printed on the reverse side of the ticket, as is shown in Fig. 12. Due to the fact that there is no positive connection between lever **49** and bar **31**, movement of the bar under the influence of push button **37** may take place while the knife actuating bar **36** remains stationary.

In Fig. 10 there is shown a strip of four tickets which have been ejected. It will be noted that each ticket is provided with a space **170** in which the time may be printed. However, the time is actually printed only on the last ticket of the strip. Of course, if only a single ticket is ejected, the time is printed on such ticket.

In Fig. 11 there is shown the strip of tickets illustrated in Fig. 10, but after they have been torn by the doorman. It will be noted that this strip consists of three double stubs and two single ones, the time being printed on the single stub which is provided with a space for printing the time. As has been explained heretofore, the printing of the time in this manner makes it hazardous for the doorman to improperly tear the tickets and prevents the possibility of tickets being resold. It is not necessary that the time be printed on each individual ticket of a strip of tickets and it is usually not desirable to do so, inasmuch as this would slow down the ejection of tickets from the machine, but obviously if for any reason it is desired to have the time on each ticket, this may be done. As above pointed out, the time is printed on each single ticket sold.

Obviously, while my invention has been described in connection with the sale of theater tickets, it is equally applicable to the use of tickets for any other purpose, such for instance as in connection with automobile parking lots, and baggage and check rooms. In accordance with the patent statutes I have illustrated preferred embodiments of my invention, but the scope of my invention is not to be limited thereby, but is to be determined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination with means for ejecting a strip of tickets, type bearing mechanism located adjacent to the ejected tickets, an inking ribbon disposed between the type and the tickets, a movable platen disposed on the opposite side of the tickets from said type, a knife for severing said strip, means for operating said knife upon the completion of the ejection, and means automatically actuated by the means for operating said knife for moving said platen against the last ticket of the severed strip to press said last ticket against said type with said ribbon therebetween to thereby print on the last ticket only of said strip.

2. In combination with means for ejecting a strip of tickets, type bearing mechanism located adjacent to the place where the strip is ejected, an inking ribbon disposed between the type and the strip, a movable platen disposed on the opposite side of the strip from said type, a knife for severing said strip, means for operating said knife upon the completion of the ejection, a solenoid for moving said platen against the last ticket of said strip to press the latter against said type with said ribbon therebetween, a pair of contacts in the circuit of said solenoid, and means actuated by the means for operating said knife to close said contacts, whereby printing takes place on only the last ticket of said strip.

3. In combination with means for ejecting tickets, printing mechanism located adjacent to the place where tickets are ejected, means automatically actuated by the means for ejecting tickets to cause said mechanism to print a character on an ejected ticket, a normally inoperative printing element carrying a different character disposed adjacent to said printing mechanism, manually operative means for moving said element into printing position, and means actuated by said manually operative means for causing said mechanism and said element to print both of said characters on a ticket inserted into said place.

4. In combination with means for ejecting a ticket, printing mechanism located adjacent to the ejected ticket, an inking ribbon disposed between said mechanism and the ticket, a movable platen disposed on the opposite side of the ticket from said mechanism, a solenoid for moving said platen against the ticket to press the latter against said mechanism with said ribbon therebetween to thereby print a character on the ticket, a pair of contacts in the circuit of said solenoid, a normally inoperative printing element carrying another character disposed adjacent to said wheels, manually operative means for moving said element into printing position, and means responsive to either the operation of the ticket ejecting means or said manually operative means to close said contacts.

5. In a ticket vending mechanism, means for ejecting a variable plurality of tickets in a continuous strip, normally inoperative printing mechanism, and means operative upon completion of the ejection to cause said printing mechanism to print a character on only one ticket of said strip.

6. In a ticket vending mechanism, means for ejecting a variable plurality of tickets connected together in a continuous strip, printing mechanism, and means operative immediately after said strip has been ejected to cause said printing mechanism to print a character on only the last ticket of said strip.

7. In a ticket vending mechanism, means for ejecting a variable plurality of tickets connected together in a continuous strip, printing mechanism, a member in said vending mechanism movable upon completion of the ejection, and means connected to said member for operating said printing mechanism to print on only one ticket of said strip.

8. In a ticket vending mechanism, means for ejecting a variable plurality of tickets connected together in a continuous strip, printing mechanism, cutting means in said vending mechanism, apparatus for operating said cutting means to sever said strip upon completion of the ejection, and means actuated by said apparatus for operating said printing mechanism to print on only the last ticket of said strip.

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