Feb. 2, 1926. 1,571,790

A. B. CAMDEN

TRAFFIC INDICATOR AND ADVERTISING SIGN

Filed Oct. 21, 1924 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

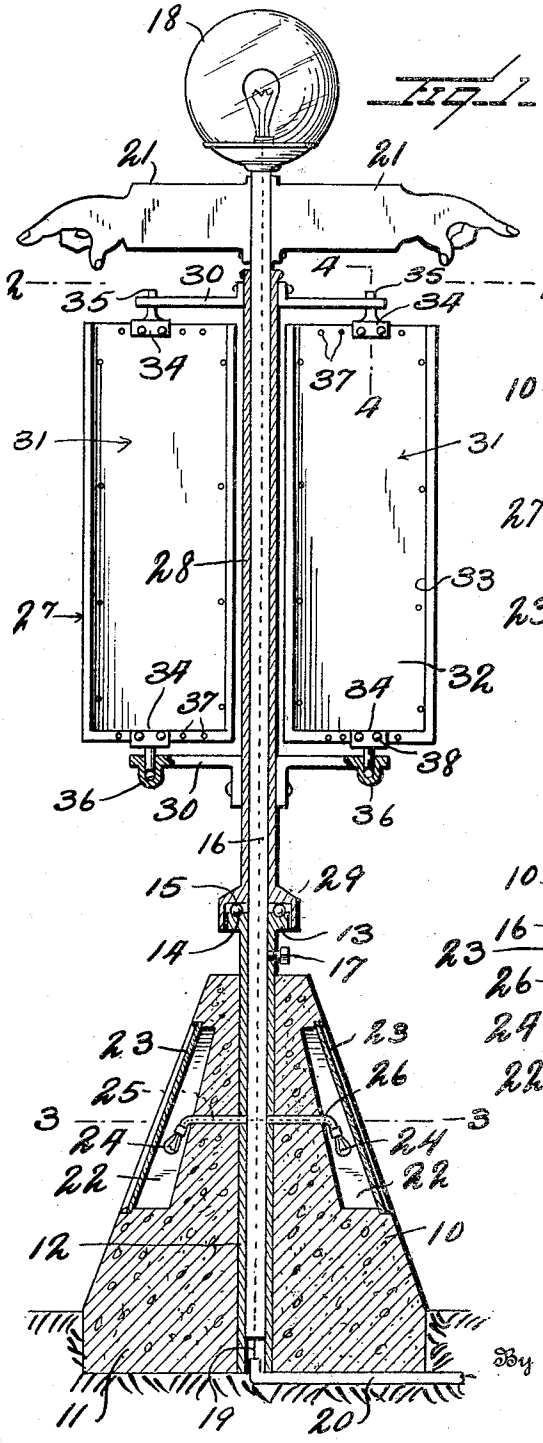


Fig. 2

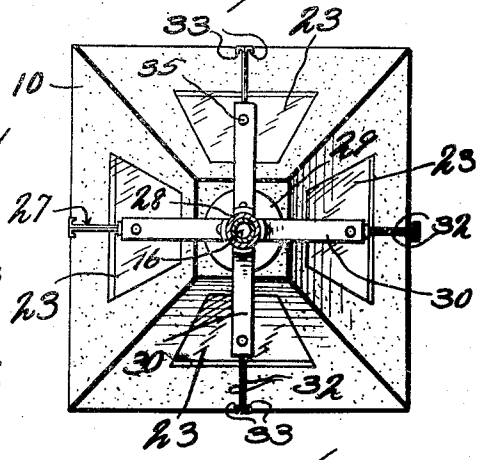
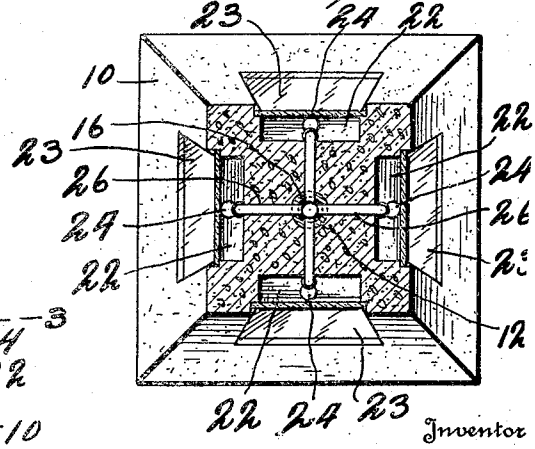


Fig. 4



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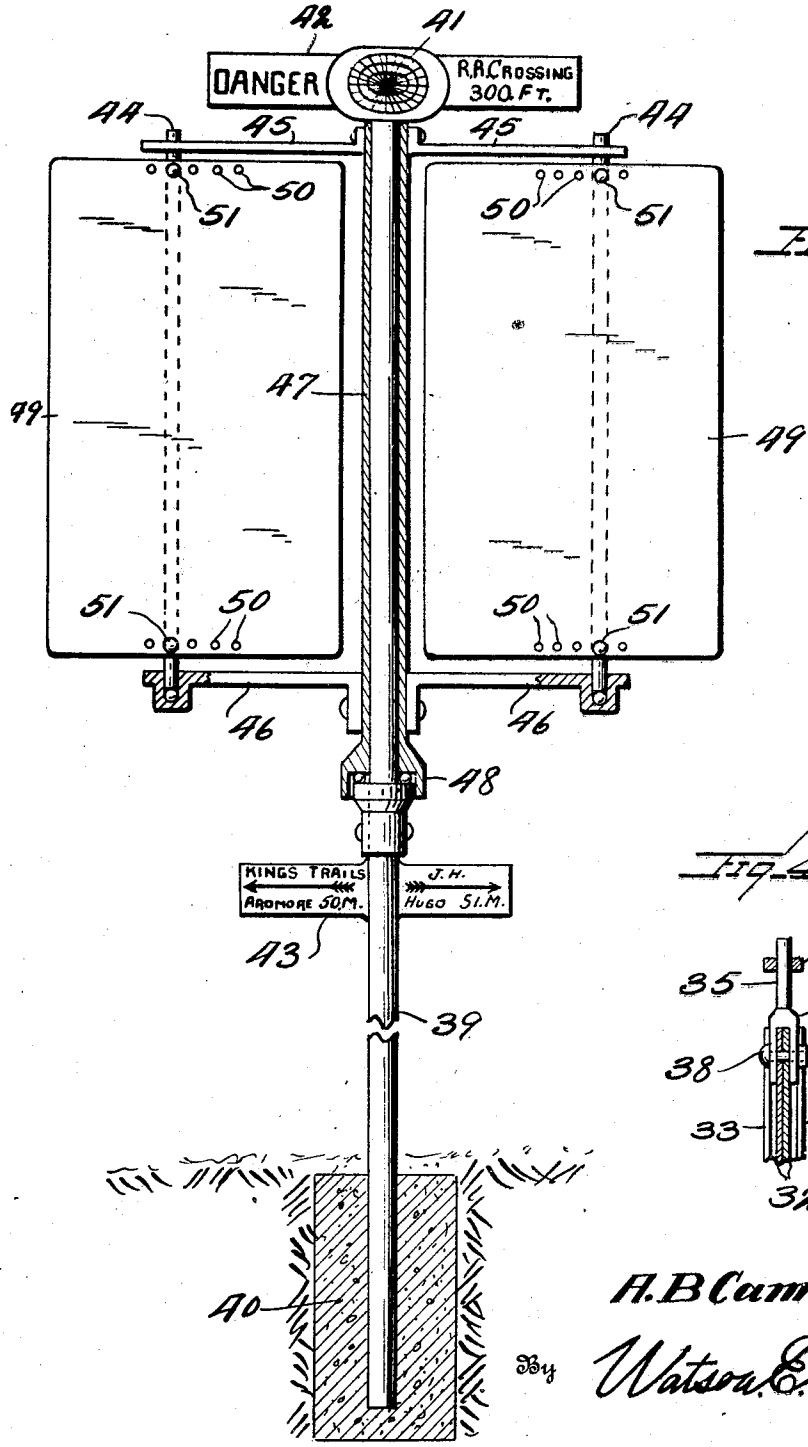


Fig. 5.

Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TRAFFIC INDICATOR AND ADVERTISING SIGN.

Application filed October 21, 1924. Serial No. 744,977.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW B. CAMDEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Durant, in the county of Bryan and State of Oklahoma, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Traffic Indicators and Advertising Signs, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to signs and has for its object the provision of a novel combined traffic indicator and advertising sign well adapted for use at street intersections, in towns and cities and also capable of employment along highways or other places where there is any need to give indications and where an attractive display of advertising matter may be made.

An important object is the provision of a device of this character embodying a rotatable member or portion which consists of a series of rotatably mounted sign plates, the construction and arrangement being such that the impingement of wind against the sign plates will cause rotation thereof individually and rotation of the entire assembly with respect to its supporting structure.

Another object is the provision of a device of this character in which the permanent sign plates are capable of adjustment in so far as the pivots thereof are concerned so that the device may be made more or less susceptible to wind pressure.

A further object is the provision of a device of this character in which the permanent sign plates are so constructed as to be capable of holding temporary sign plates, show cards, or the like which may be simply slipped in place.

An additional object is the provision of a device or structure of this nature which will be comparatively simple and inexpensive in manufacture, easy to use, positive in action, efficient and durable in service, and a general improvement in the art.

With the above and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists in the details of construction to be hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a vertical section through one form of the device;

Figure 2 is a cross section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a cross section on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a detailed section on the line 4—4 of Figure 1; and

Figure 5 is a view partly in elevation and partly in section showing a modification.

Referring more particularly to the drawings and especially Figures 1 to 4, the numeral 10 designates a base of any suitable material mounted on a foundation 11 and preferably of pyramidal shape. Embedded within and extending centrally of the base 10 is a tubular housing 12 provided at its upper end with an enlargement 13 provided with a ball race 14 within which are engaged bearing balls 15. Extending through the housing 12 is a hollow shaft 16 held stationary by a set screw 17 or the like.

Mounted upon the upper extremity of the hollow shaft 16 is an electric lamp 18 fed with current by wires 19 which extend through the hollow shaft and which are brought to the device through a suitable conduit 20. While any legend plate or the like may be mounted on the shaft 16, I have, in Figure 1, illustrated a sign board 21 which might be made to represent hands pointing and which is adapted to bear any suitable legends, such as the distance to a certain nearby town or the like.

The base 10 is provided with compartments 22 covered by transparent panes 23 on which may be inscribed any suitable legends such as a statement of the speed limit, directions as to turning, distances to nearby places, or in fact any other desired matter. Within these compartments may be placed incandescent bulbs 24 fed with current by wires 25 passing through suitable conduits 26 leading into the hollow shaft.

The rotatable portion of the device is designated broadly by the numeral 27 and includes an elongated sleeve 28 rotatably engaged upon the hollow shaft 16 and terminating at its lower end in an enlargement 29 of cup like formation engaged upon the bearing balls 15 so as to provide a very efficient and practically frictionless bearing. Secured to and radiating from the sleeve 28 are upper and lower sets of arms 30 between which are arranged sign plates 31 designed to bear any suitable or preferred

advertising matter. The plates 31 are each formed of two similar sections 32 having overhanging side flanges 33 which, of course, face in opposite directions and which are adapted to serve as retaining means for a show card or temporary sign, not shown, which sign may be used, for instance, to advertise a special sale. Naturally there is no limitation in this respect.

The plates 31 are pivoted between the upper and lower arms 30 by means of forked brackets 34 straddled and secured upon the upper and lower edges of the plates and formed with trunnions 35 rotatably engaged through the arms 30. It is preferable that the lower arms be formed with bearing sockets 36 receiving the trunnions at the lower edges of the plates. While it is true that these bearings or brackets might be fixed with respect to the plates, I prefer to provide an adjustment and for this reason the upper and lower edges of the plates 31 are formed with a plurality of holes 37 through selected ones of which may be passed pins or bolts 38 which hold the brackets 34 in position.

In the use of the device it is obvious that wind impinging against the plates 31 will cause them to rotate owing to the fact that the pivots are off center. If the sign is used in some territory where the prevailing winds are mild or gentle the pivots may be adjusted nearer to the side edges of the plates than if the device is used in a locality where the prevailing winds are strong. By means of the plurality of holes 37 it is evident that such adjustment is readily accomplished. Likewise the impingement of the wind against the rotatable assembly 27 will cause this entire assembly to rotate upon the stationary portion of the device so that the advertising matter will be most effectually and attractively displayed.

The above described form of the invention is particularly well adapted for use at street intersections or the like and owing to the fact that I have provided the electric lamp 18 at the top of the support and the lamps 24 in the base it is evident that the device will show up extremely well at night and be an effective guide to motorists and others.

In Figure 5 I have shown a modified form in which the above described base 10 is omitted, the supporting shaft 39, corresponding to the hollow shaft 16, being anchored within a mass 40 of cement embedded within the ground as indicated. In this case the electric lamp above described is replaced by a reflector 41 of such construction as to be illuminated and to throw back the reflected light cast thereon by the headlights of motor vehicles. This reflector is located at the center of a suitable sign board 42 which may bear any desired directions, warnings or the like.

In view of the fact that the illuminated base has been eliminated I may provide a sign board 43 secured on the shaft 39. The rotatable sign assembly may be the same in this form as above described though the structure may be varied by providing vertical shafts 44 journaled in the upper and lower arms 45 and 36 which radiate from a sleeve 47 journaled on the shaft 39. A bearing structure 48 corresponding to the bearing structure above described is provided for the sleeve 47. The plates 49 have their upper and lower edges formed with a plurality of holes 50 through which may be passed securing members 51 which also pass through the shafts or rods 44 so that adjustment of the pivots may be easily made.

The operation of this form is, of course, the same as that of the first described, the only difference being that it is well adapted for use along highways and other similar places where electricity is not available. Naturally this modification is less costly to make than the preferred form but it embodies the same advantages in regard to the rotatable assembly including the individually rotatable plates adapted to turn by wind pressure.

From the foregoing description and a study of the drawings it will be apparent that I have thus provided a simply constructed and highly efficient traffic indicator, sign and advertising device which will be highly attractive and which will make a conspicuous display.

While I have shown and described a preferred embodiment of the invention, it should be understood that I reserve the right to make such changes in the form, construction and arrangement of parts as will not depart from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claim.

Having thus described the invention, I claim—

In a device of the character described, a base formed in its outer face to define chambers, transparent panes covering said chambers, incandescent lamps mounted within said chambers, a tubular member secured stationarily within said base in upright position and provided with a bearing at its upper end, a tubular conduit stationarily mounted through said tubular member and projecting thereabove, an incandescent lamp carried by said second-named tubular member, said member having feed wires extending therethrough for all of said lamps and a rotatable windwheel journally mounted on said second named tubular member and having a bearing seating upon said first named bearing.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

ANDREW B. CAMDEN.