To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FLOYD A. RUCKMAN, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Record-Keeping Devices; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to devices for keeping numerous records and the present disclosure is intended primarily for the recording of data relating to the kind of oil used in an automobile or other motor; the date at which the crank case was drained and filled with new oil, and the speedometer reading at such date. Recording of this data, enables the operator to successfully test the effective life of any oil used and is consequently of great advantage in determining the oil which may be most advantageously employed.

One object of the invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive, yet a desirable device of the class set forth, in which a recording slate or other tablet is held within a frame which may be mounted upon the instrument board of an automobile, said frame having a pencil-holding tube adapted to pass through the instrument board or other support upon which the device is mounted.

Another object is to provide a novel cover for the tablet having a frictional connection with the above-named frame and a unique relation with the pencil-holding tube.

A still further object is to provide a pencil for reception in the holder, of such nature as to assist in holding the cover in place.

With the foregoing in view, the invention resides in the novel subject matter herein described and claimed, the description being supplemented by the accompanying drawing.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a device constructed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view thereof as indicated by line 2–2 of Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view with the cover and the pencil removed.

Figure 4 is a sectional view of the cover.

Figure 5 is a horizontal sectional view on line 5–5 of Fig. 1.

In the form of construction selected for illustration in the present application, I make use of an annular frame 1 having an outstanding attaching flange 2 which is adapted to be secured by bolts or the like 3 to an automobile instrument board 4, or to any other suitable support. Suitably held within the frame 1, is a slate or any other desired tablet 5, its being understood that the term "tablet" is being used to cover any object which may be written upon. The flange 2 is formed with an opening 6 which is preferably disposed above the body portion of the frame 1, and in this opening, a pencil-holding tube 7 is soldered or otherwise secured, said tube extending forwardly to some extent from the flange 2 but extending rearwardly therefrom to a greater extent. As indicated by the line 8 in Figs. 2 and 3, the tube 7 is longitudinally split, so that its open front end may yieldingly grip a pencil to be hereinafter described.

I provide a suitable cover for the tablet 5, which cover preferably includes a transparent lens 9 of glass or other suitable material, said lens being preferably mounted in a weather-tight manner within a metal rim 10 having a peripheral notch 11 to receive the projecting front end of the tube 7. This rim is also provided with a continuous flange 12 to frictionally surround the body portion of the frame 1.

The lens 9 may have suitable indicia printed or engraved thereon to indicate what data is to be recorded on the tablet 5. For instance, "Mileage," "Kind of Oil" and "Date" may be provided as indicated in Fig. 1, and by having the notch 11 to receive the front end of the tube 7, it is impossible to apply the cover in any but the correct position, so that the words or other indicia thereon will read properly.

I provide a suitable pencil 13 for reception in the tube 7, one end of said pencil being preferably provided with a metal ferrule 14 whose inner portion may be slightly tapered to wedges tightly in the front end of said tube. I have shown this ferrule provided with an outstanding annular shoulder 15 which is adapted to abut the front side of the rim 10, so as to assist in holding this rim in place.

The device may be easily mounted upon an instrument board or upon any other suitable support, and it will be seen that by withdrawing the pencil, the cover may be removed, thus exposing the tablet 5, so that
any desired information may be recorded thereon. Then, when replacing the cover, the notch 11 must align with the tube 7, so that it is necessarily applied right-side up. As the flange 12 frictionally engages the frame 1, there is little danger of the cover becoming accidentally detached. Also, when the pencil 13 is inserted in the tube and its shoulder 15 engages the front side of the rim 10, still further insurance is provided, against accidental removal of the cover, the pencil being frictionally held within said tube, due to the split, resilient nature of the latter.

The device is extremely simple and inexpensive and may therefore be easily and cheaply manufactured and advantageously marketed, and on account of these advantages as well as the desirables results obtained from the use of the device, when constructed in the manner shown, this construction is preferably followed. However, within the scope of the invention as claimed, numerous minor changes may be made.

I claim:

1. A device of the class described comprising a tablet and a holding frame surrounding the same and adapted to be mounted on a support, a pencil-holding tube carried by said frame and extending rearwardly therefrom for passage through the support, and a cover for said tablet having a peripheral notch receiving the front end of said tube and also having a flange surrounding a portion of said frame.

2. A device of the class described comprising a tablet and a holding frame surrounding the same and adapted to be mounted on a support, a cover for said tablet having a flange surrounding a portion of said frame, a pencil-holding tube carried by said frame and extending transversely across the outer side of said flange, and a pencil removably held in said tube and having a shoulder abutting the front side of said cover.

3. A device of the class described comprising a tablet and a holding frame surrounding the same and adapted to be mounted on a support, a pencil-holding tube carried by said frame and extending rearwardly therefrom for passage through the support, a cover for said tablet having a peripheral notch receiving the front end of said tube and also having a flange surrounding a portion of said frame, and a pencil removably held in said tube and having a shoulder bearing against the front side of said cover.

4. A device of the class described comprising a tablet and a holding frame surrounding the same, said frame having an outstanding attaching flange formed with an opening, a split pencil-holding tube secured near its front end in said opening, an indicia-bearing transparent cover for said tablet having a rim formed with a peripheral notch receiving the front end of said tube, said rim being provided with a flange frictionally surrounding the portion of said frame at the inner edge of said attaching flange, and a pencil frictionally held in said split sleeve and having a shoulder abutting the front of said rim.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

FLOYD A. RUCKMAN.