

May 26, 1931.

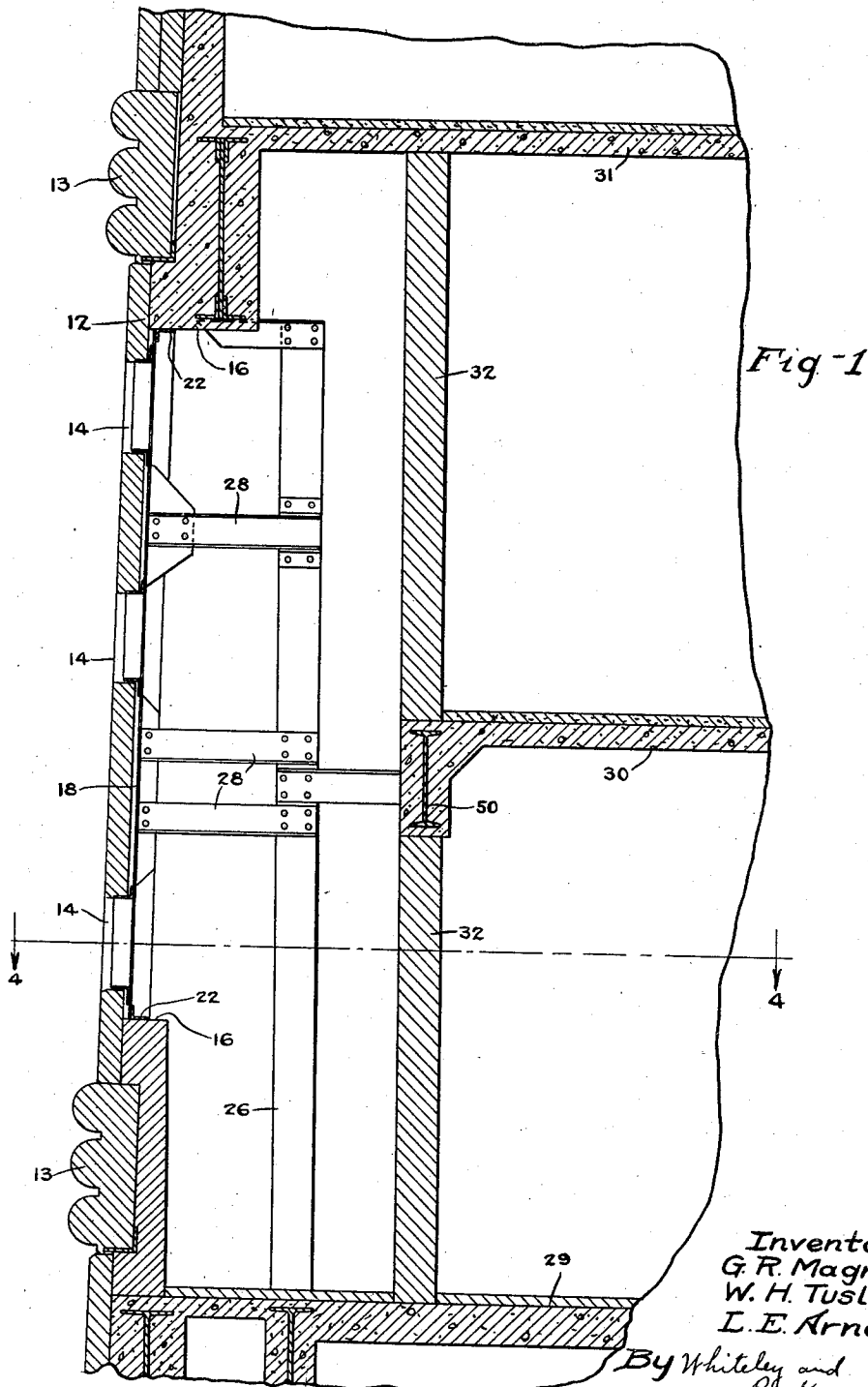
G. R. MAGNEY ET AL

1,806,634

DISPLAY DEVICE FOR BUILDINGS

Filed Feb. 1, 1929

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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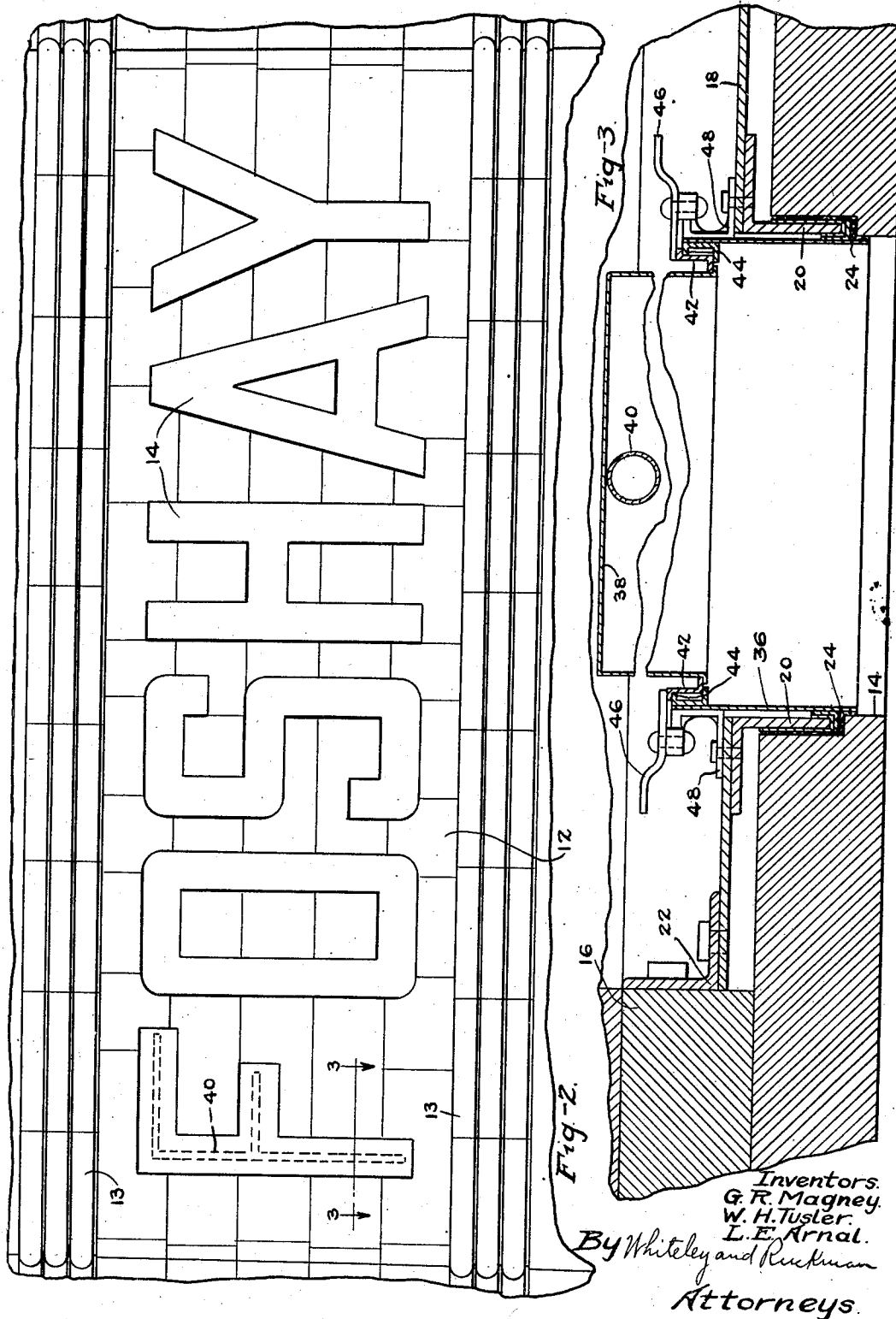
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DISPLAY DEVICE FOR BUILDINGS

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3

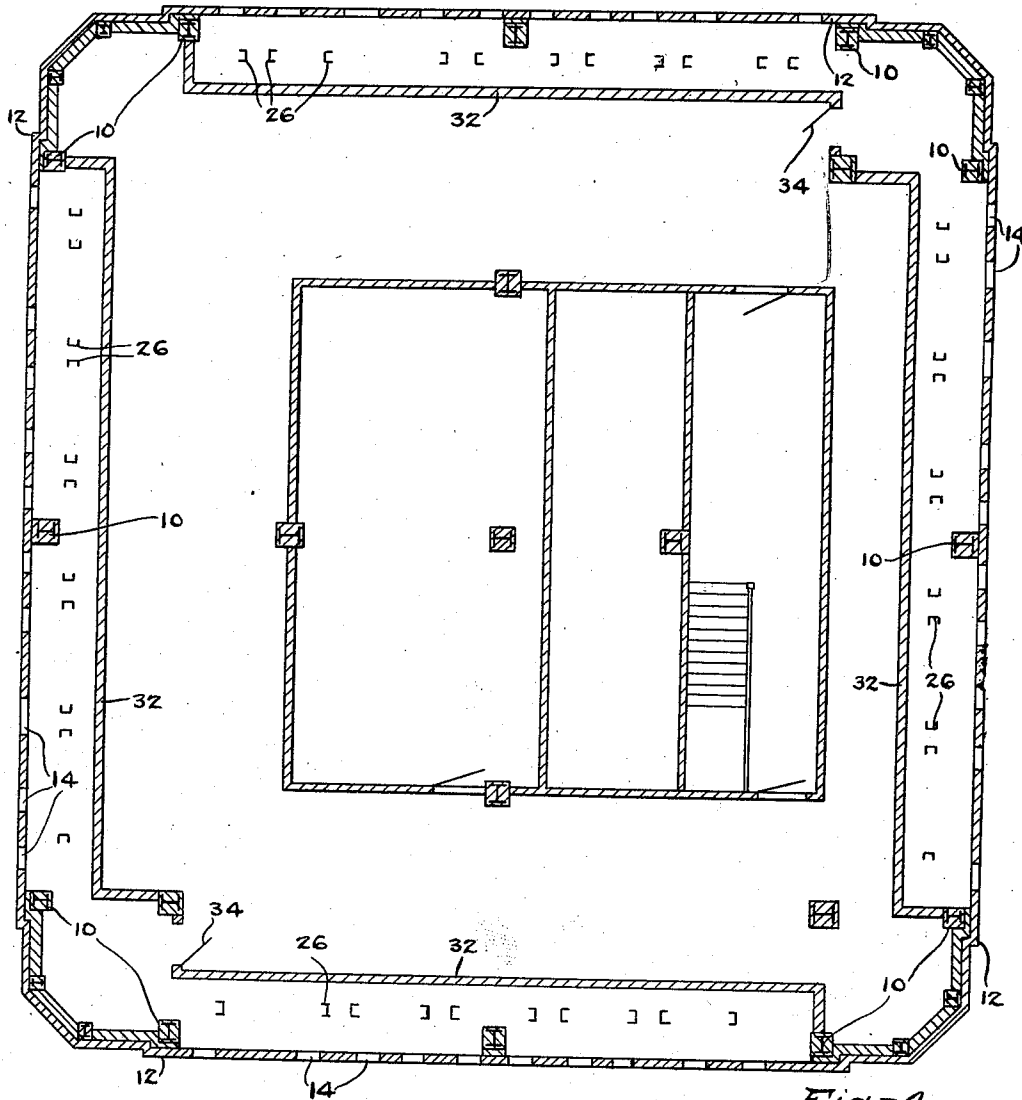


Fig-4

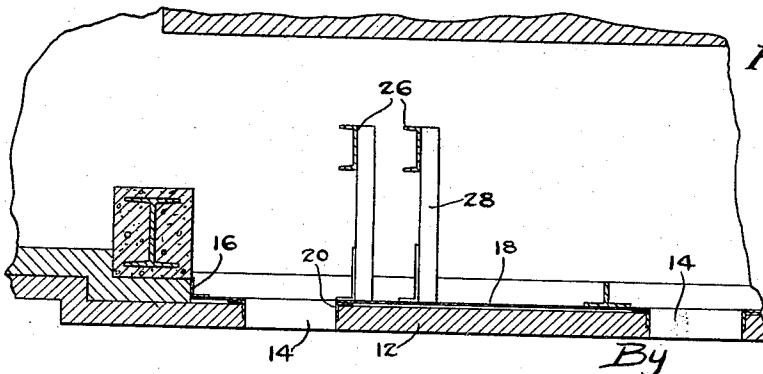


Fig-5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DISPLAY DEVICE FOR BUILDINGS

Application filed February 1, 1929. Serial No. 336,673.

Our invention relates to display devices for buildings, and more particularly to devices of this kind for displaying designs such as names and advertising matter from the upper portions of buildings at considerable height. An object of the invention is to provide improved means for illuminating said designs so that they may be observed for long distances at night. Another object is to so construct said devices that the portions thereof not formed integrally with the building when built may be readily installed and kept in working order from within the building, whereby it is extremely convenient and practical to employ the devices in connection with the upper floors of high buildings. In furtherance of the objects of our invention, we provide the side walls during the construction of the building with openings which form the desired design and install the accessories of the display device from the inside of the building. These accessories will ordinarily consist of lights, such as neon tubes, for illuminating the openings, means for supporting the lights in proper relation to the openings, means by which the lights may be readily installed and removed, and a construction whereby the design is made readily accessible from the inside while occupying the greater portion of the height of two floors of the building.

The full objects and advantages of our invention will appear in connection with the detailed description thereof, and the novel features of our inventive idea will be particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate an application of our invention, which has been exemplified in actual practice in the construction of the Foshay tower building, at Minneapolis, Minnesota,—

Fig. 1 is a view of the device in vertical section. Fig. 2 is an elevational view showing a portion of the outside wall of one side of the upper part of the building. Fig. 3 is a view in horizontal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2 and on an enlarged scale. Fig. 4 is a sectional plan view of the building, the section being indicated on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1, it being on a reduced scale. Fig. 5

is a detail sectional view taken near the corner of the building, this view corresponding in general to the lower left-hand portion of Fig. 4 but being on an enlarged scale.

Referring to the construction shown in the drawings, the numeral 10 appearing in Fig. 4 designates outer upwardly extending frame members outside of which are placed the four outer walls 12 of the building, which may be faced in any suitable manner, as by means of stone blocks, while ornamental bands of such material are designated at 13 which are disposed above and below the display device now to be described. Referring to Fig. 1, the numerals 29, 30 and 31 designates three successive floors located at the upper part of the building, and it will be understood from this figure that the display device extends both below and above the floor 30, so as to occupy the greater portion of the outside wall between the floors 29 and 31. The four outside walls between these two floors are provided with openings 14 corresponding to the design desired for the display device. By referring to Fig. 1, it will be understood that the outer walls 12, for the portions thereof occupied by the design, are of less thickness than the rest of the outer walls, this reduction in thickness being on the inside and producing a surrounding ledge 16 extending around the design. The outside of these walls is left of normal appearance except for the openings 14 of the design. In order to effectively display the design, a plate 18 of sheet material, such as metal, is made up having openings corresponding to but slightly larger than the openings 14 in the wall. The plate 18 carries outwardly extending flanges 20, as best shown in Fig. 3, which surround the openings of the plate. The openings 14 on the inside of the walls are enlarged so as to provide for receiving the flanges 20 when the plate 18 is put in place on the inside of the wall. When the plate 18 has been applied with its flanges 20 extending into the inner enlarged portions of openings 14, an angular frame 22 is slid into engagement with the margin of the plate 18, said plate fitting within the ledge 16. It should be noted, however, that before the plate 18 is

applied in the manner stated, calking material 24 is provided for the flanges 20 whereby a tight joint is made. Vertical U-shaped frame members 26 are secured in inwardly spaced relation to the walls carrying the design, while bars 28 connecting these frame members with the plate 18 serve to securely hold the latter in place. Somewhat inwardly from the frame members 26, partition walls 32 extend between the floors 29 and 31 at the four sides of the building, these partitions being provided with doors 34 as shown in Fig. 4 so that access may be had readily to the display compartment for installing and keeping the display device in proper working condition. In order to complete the display openings, thimbles 36 are slid therein whose outer ends stop short of the outside of the openings in the wall, as will be understood from Fig. 3. For the purpose of illuminating the display openings, boxes 38 are provided which carry neon lights 40 embodied in tubes having the shape of the display openings. For instance, the tube 40 of Fig. 3 will have a shape corresponding to the letter F in Fig. 2. The open outside ends of the boxes 38 are provided with compound flanges 42 welded thereto and which are adapted to rest upon flanges 44 secured within the thimbles 36. Cam-like levers 46 are pivoted to brackets 48 carried by the plates 18 whereby the boxes 38 may be secured in place with the flanges 42 in engagement with the flanges 44. When the levers 46 are turned into releasing position, the boxes 38 may be removed so that access may be had to the neon tubes 40. The space inside the walls 32 may be utilized for storage and for filing cabinets for use by the various tenants of the building, it being noted from Fig. 1 that two floors, which in this case are the 29th and 30th floors, are provided for this purpose. It will also be observed from Fig. 1, that the floor 30 does not extend to the outside walls of the building but is supported from the partition walls 32 by I-beams 50 embedded therein, whereby the display compartments extend for the height of two floors.

We claim:

1. A display device for buildings comprising outside walls having openings forming a design, the portion of the wall occupied by said openings being of reduced thickness on the inside to form a surrounding ledge, a plate of sheet metal having openings corresponding to said first openings, outwardly projecting flanges on said plate surrounding said second openings and extending into said first openings, a frame fitting into the space formed by said surrounding ledge and engaging the inside of the margin of said plate, and lights disposed inside the building for illuminating said openings.
2. A display device for buildings comprising outside walls having openings forming a

design, a plate of sheet material having openings corresponding to said first openings, outwardly projecting flanges on said plate surrounding said second openings and extending into said first openings, means for securing said plate in place, thimbles extending into said flanges, boxes disposed at the inner ends of said thimbles, engaging members carried by said thimbles and boxes respectively, releasable securing devices for holding said engaging members in contact with each other, and neon tubes in said boxes having shapes corresponding to said openings.

3. A display device for buildings comprising outside walls having openings forming a design and extending the greater portion of the height of two floors of the building, partition walls spaced inside the portions of said walls having said openings, said partition walls extending the full height of both of said floors and supporting the upper one of said floors, and lights disposed in the compartments formed by said partition walls for illuminating said openings.

In testimony whereof we hereunto affix our signatures.

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