

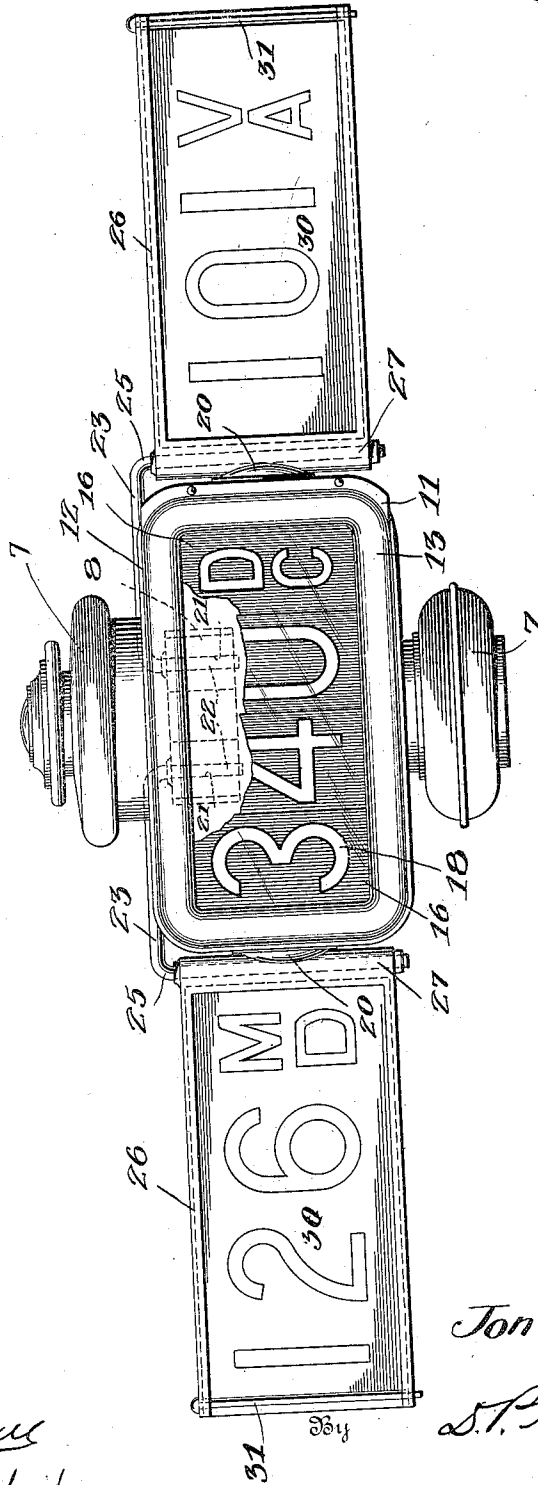
J. D. STEWARD.
COMBINATION LAMP AND SIGN.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 11, 1909.

Patented Apr. 25, 1911.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.

990,462.

Fig. 1-



Witnesses

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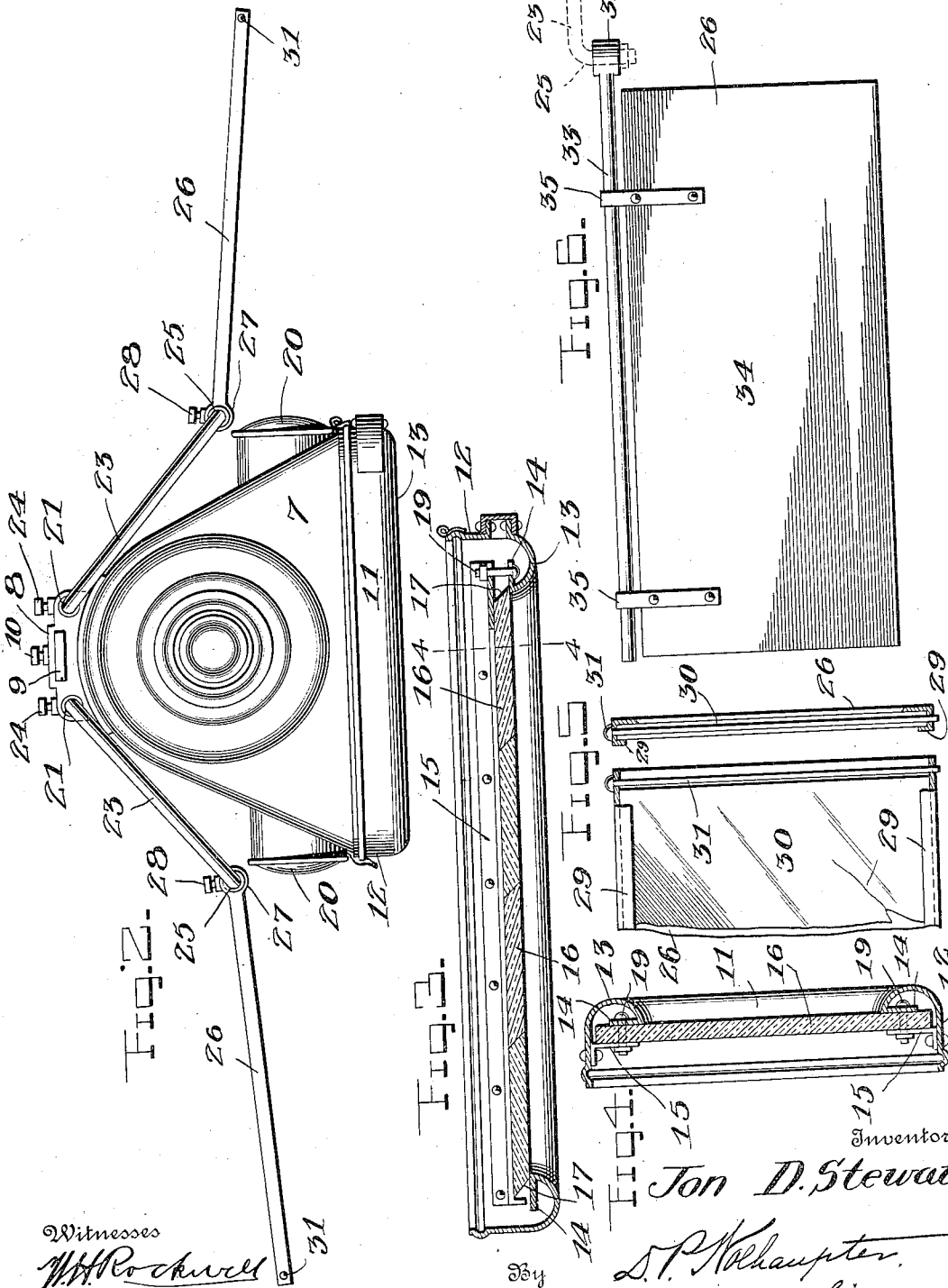
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JON DEAN STEWARD, OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

COMBINATION LAMP AND SIGN.

990,462.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 25, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JON DEAN STEWARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Atlanta, in the county of Fulton and State of Georgia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combination Lamps and Signs, of which the following is a specification.

As is well known, it is now almost the universal rule to require lamps on the rear ends of automobiles and similar self-propelled vehicles, and to likewise compel the owners to conspicuously display on said rear ends identification numbers or insignia. These latter are ordinarily not clearly distinguishable at night, and many automobilists so locate the identifying means that the light from the rear lamp will not clearly display the same.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a combined tail or rear lamp and identifying or indicating means so arranged that the latter will always be clearly illuminated by the former, and thus make said identifying means clearly distinguishable at night.

A further and important object is to so construct the identifying means that the numbers may readily be altered and different combinations easily produced.

Still another and important object is to provide means, whereby a plurality of numbers or signs can be carried and all brilliantly illuminated.

The preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of the apparatus. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view through the closure for the lamp body. Fig. 4 is a sectional view at right angles to Fig. 3, on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view illustrating a simple means for retaining an indicating sign in one of the side holders. Fig. 6 is a view in elevation of a modified form of side sign.

Similar reference numerals designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

In the embodiment disclosed, a lamp casing 7 is employed that may be of any desired form and structure having an open front side for the passage of light, and also having a bracket 8 secured to its rear side. This bracket 8 is adapted to be mounted on

a suitable standard 9 carried by the automobile, and the bracket is provided with a clamping screw 10, in order that the lamp body may be secured to the standard. The front open side of the body or case is covered by a door or closure comprising a frame 11 that includes an outer rim 12 having an inset bead 13 terminating in a flange 14. Secured within the rim is a strip that is spaced from the flange 14, forming seats for the reception of transparent sheet sections 16. These sections detachably fit between the flange 14 and strip 15, and preferably have abutted beveled edges 17. They are provided with indicating characters 18. The flange 14 and strip 15 are clamped upon the marginal portions of the sheet sections 16 by suitable bolts 19 that pass through the parts. It will therefore be clear that the lamp besides acting as a signal at the rear end of an automobile, also constitutes an indicator which will display the number or other identifying mark of the machine, and it will also be obvious that any number or indicating combination may be employed, as desired by altering and re-arranging the sheet sections.

Very often automobiles carry a number of identifying tags or signs, and the present structure is arranged to support and properly illuminate such additional devices. In the present form, the lamp case 7 has laterally extending light-emitting means in the form of bull's eyes 20 and the bracket 8 has sockets 21 to rotatably receive the downturned ends 22 of supporting arms 23 that extend outwardly on opposite sides of the lamp case. The arms are normally held against swinging movement and in different adjusted positions by set screws 24. The outer ends of these arms are also downturned, as shown at 25, and tag holders 26 have at their ends integral sleeves 27 that are rotatable upon said downturned ends 25. Set screws 28 serve to maintain the holders 26 in different adjusted positions. These holders may be of various types, but in the preferred embodiment, they are in the form of plates having upper and lower flanges 29, forming guideways, into which the tags or signs 30 may be slipped, pins 31 passing downwardly through the flanges at their outer ends, constituting retaining means for the tags or cards.

In the embodiment disclosed in Fig. 6 a slightly modified form of construction is

illustrated. In this embodiment, the arm is indicated in dotted lines at 23, and mounted on its downturned end 25 is the eye 32 of a supporting stem 33. The card or tag 34 is provided with hanger loops 35 that are engaged with the stem. With this construction, as shown in Fig. 1, the three signs or tags can be readily seen by any one in rear of the machine, it of course being understood that the designations 18 and sections 16 are of different colors. Furthermore, the three tags will be completely illuminated, the center one being the brightest, and indicating the domicile of the owner of the machine. The two side tags can be adjusted in order that they may be properly illuminated.

It will be apparent that the invention as above described possesses many advantages and is susceptible of embodiment in various modifications without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. As indicated, the distinguishing object of this invention is to provide a combined tail lamp and illuminated number device displaying the required color tail light, with one set of numbers in a contrasting color on the face or door of the lamp, in combination with detachable and adjustable supporting arms or brackets for displaying a second and third set of numbers, said auxiliary or supplemental sets of numbers or signs being so supported by said supporting arms or brackets as to receive the rays of light emitted from the bull's eyes at the sides of the lamp, thus making all of the license numbers or signs readily and conspicuously distinguishable. At the same time, the numbers of the signs are obviously readily readable in the day-time.

The manner of coloring the glass sections at the front of the lamp is not limited to any particular method, as they may be stained by means of transparent paint, or may be made from stained glass, semi-transparent glass, frosted glass or equivalent elements. Also, it will be understood, that these glass sections can be readily removed and replaced. Furthermore, the invention can be associated with lamps manufactured to use

any illuminant, such as oil, gas, or equivalent, and it will be generally understood that various changes in the minor details of construction may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. In a combined lamp and sign, the combination with a lamp body having an open front and side light-emitting means, a closure for the open front of the lamp body having a transparent sign, a bracket for supporting the lamp body, and side signs having supporting members supported from said bracket, said side signs being disposed across the path of rays from the side light emitting means and also arranged to be seen from the front of the lamp.

2. In a structure of the character described, a lamp case having an open front, and a closure for the front including a frame that fits upon the case and includes clamping strips, a series of transparent sheet sections fitted in the frame between the strips and having beveled abutted edges, said sheet sections having designating characters thereon, and means for clamping the strips upon the margins of the sheet sections.

3. In a structure of the character described, the combination with a lamp body having an open front and side light-emitting means, of a closure for the open front comprising a frame and transparent sheet sections clamped in the frame and having designating characters thereon, a bracket for supporting the lamp body, oppositely extending arms rotatably mounted on the bracket, and signs rotatably mounted at their inner ends on the arms and disposed in the light from the side light-emitting means.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JON DEAN STEWARD.

Witnesses:

O. C. FULLER,
W. C. CARTER.