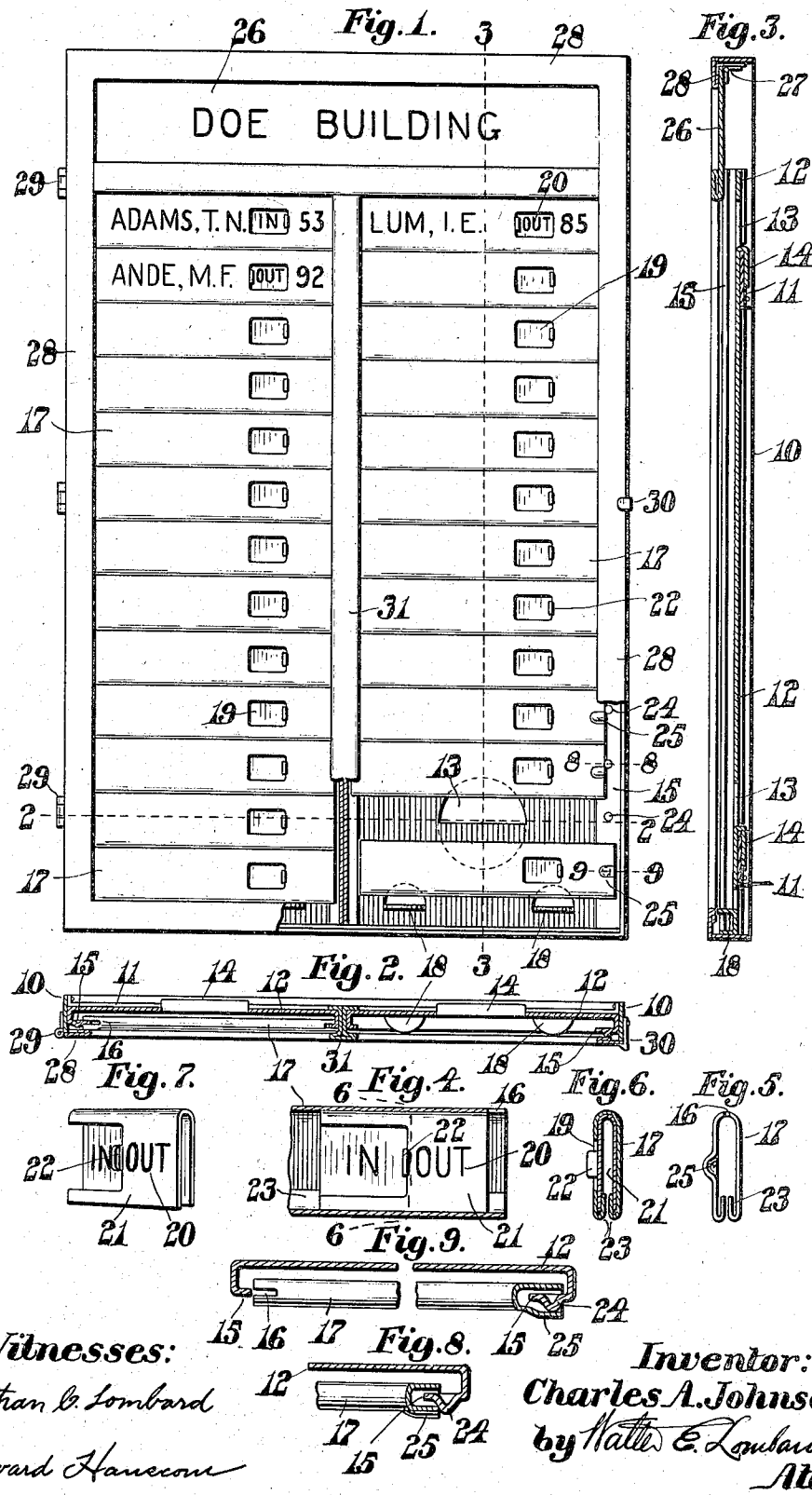


937,308.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. JOHNSON, OF EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS.

DIRECTORY-BOARD.

937,308.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 19, 1909.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. JOHNSON, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Everett, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Directory-Boards, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved mechanical directory or changeable sign for use in business buildings or other localities where it may be desired to indicate the location of the different persons or things.

It has for its object the provision of such a device which will dispense as far as possible with wood in its construction and thereby obviate the difficulty which has been found in devices of this kind owing to the exposure to the various weather conditions to which such devices are usually subjected.

It has for a further object a novel construction of the various name strips and a novel means for readily removing the same from the supporting guides.

A further object of the invention is to provide each strip with a slidable member provided with indicating characters which are adapted to be exposed to view through an opening in the name strip.

The invention consists in certain novel features of construction and arrangement of parts which will be readily understood by reference to the description of the drawings and to the claims hereinafter given.

Of the drawings: Figure 1 represents an elevation of a mechanical directory embodying the features of this invention, a portion of the lower righthand corner of the same being broken away. Fig. 2 represents a horizontal section of the same, the cutting plane being on line 2—2 on Fig. 1. Fig. 3 represents a vertical section of the same, the name strips being removed, the cutting plane being on line 3—3 on Fig. 1. Fig. 4 represents a longitudinal vertical section through a portion of one end of a name strip and showing the slidable indicating member contained therein in elevation. Fig. 5 represents an end view of one of said end strips. Fig. 6 represents a transverse section of the same, the cutting plane being on line 6—6 on Fig. 4. Fig. 7 represents a perspective view of one of the slidable indicating members. Fig. 8 represents a partial horizontal section of the same, the cutting plane being on line

8—8 on Fig. 1, and Fig. 9 represents a partial horizontal section on line 9—9 on Fig. 1.

Similar characters designate like parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

In the drawings, 10 represents a suitable rectangular frame, the two vertical sides of which are connected by means of cross members 11 which not only give rigidity to the frame but serve as a means for securing thereto the rectangular metal strip-supporting plates 12, each of which has cut therefrom as indicated at 13 in Figs. 1 and 2 an ear 14 which is bent over and forms a hook fitting over one of said cross members 11 to provide a suitable support for the plate 12. Each of the plates 11 is provided with inwardly extending guide members 15 extending toward each other, these guide members being adapted to enter slots 16 formed in each end of the name strips 17, the lower strip in each plate being adapted to rest upon ears 18 formed upon the plate 12.

Each name strip 17 is provided with an opening 19 through which is exposed to view the indicating characters 20 upon a slidable member 21 positioned within the name strip 17 and having an ear 22 extending through the opening 19 by which said member may be moved longitudinally of the name strip 17 to expose different characters to view through said openings. These characters in the drawings are shown as the words "In" and "Out" to indicate the presence or absence of the tenant but other indicating characters may be used equally as well if desired.

Each of the name strips 17 is composed of a metal strip bent over upon itself to form two parallel sides with the opposite edges bent inwardly as indicated at 23 with the opposing faces thereof separated a distance equal to the width of the slot 16 in the upper edge of the strip 17 at either end.

The guide member 15 of each plate 12 is provided with a plurality of outwardly extending stops 24 against which one end of the name-strip 17 abuts to lock the name strip in position and prevent it from being removed.

Each of the name strips 17 is provided with a recess 25 at the end which abuts the stops 24 and when either of the name strips 17 has been raised so that this recess 25 is in the same plane with the stop 24 as indi-

cated in the lower righthand corner of Fig. 1 the name strip can then be moved to the right with the stop 24 in the recess 25, as shown in the lower righthand corner, Fig. 1, and in section, Fig. 9, so that the opposite end of the name strip 17 is disengaged from the guide 15 and may be moved outwardly and then to the left to disengage the opposite end from the other guide member 15. This provides a ready means for inserting and removing the name strips when any change therein is made necessary but none of the strips can be removed unless they are raised upon the guides 15 a sufficient distance to bring the recess 25 opposite to a stop member 24. To prevent this, the building name plate 26 is hinged at 27 to the top of the frame and the lower edge thereof abuts the upper edge of the upper name plate so that when the building name plate is in position the name strips 17 are prevented from being moved upwardly to allow either of the strips to be disengaged from the guide members 15. When it is necessary to make any change it is obvious that by moving the name plate 26 outwardly about the hinge 27 the strips 17 may be removed at will. Normally the name plate 26 is retained in position by means of the front plate 28 secured by a plurality of hinges 29 to the frame 10 and locked thereto at the opposite side by means of a catch 30. It is obvious, therefore, that when the front plate 28 is in position and locked by the catch 30 no one of the strips 17 can be removed or disturbed.

When a plurality of strip-supporting plates 12 are used a metallic beading 31 is interposed between every pair of such plates with the edges thereof extending slightly over the adjacent edges of the name strips 17, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2. When it is desired to remove the strip-supporting plates 12 the front plate 28 is unlocked and moved about its hinges so that the name plate 26 may be moved about the hinge 27 and the plates 12 lifted bodily upwardly until the hooks 14 thereon are disengaged from the cross bars 11 connecting the two sides of the frame 10.

This makes a very convenient form of directory board, composed entirely of sheet metal, which overcomes the objections usually arising from the use of a frame composed of wood, which often gets out of working order owing to the various changes in weather conditions to which it is exposed. Moreover, the invention provides a ready means of locking the name strips in position and retaining them in such locked position until the change is effected by some one authorized to do so by unlocking the front plate and permitting the strips to be lifted sufficiently to bring the recess 25 therein opposite the stop members 24.

The name strips as shown in the drawings and described in the specification are very effective in their operation.

The feature of providing a means of indicating the presence or absence of a tenant is an obvious advantage and the means for accomplishing this object is much simplified by the present construction of name strip.

It is believed the operation and many advantages of the invention will be fully understood from the foregoing.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a device of the class described, the combination of a frame provided with a cross member; a plate provided with a hook adapted to engage said cross member; and a plurality of name strips detachably supported upon said plate.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of a frame; a metal plate secured thereto and provided with parallel name-strip supporting guides, one of said guides having a plurality of outwardly extending stops; and a plurality of slotted name strips mounted on said guides which extend into the slots in the opposite ends of said name strips, one of said stops abutting one edge of each name strip.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination of a frame; a metal plate secured thereto and provided with parallel name-strip supporting guides, one of said guides having a plurality of outwardly extending stops; and a plurality of slotted name strips with a stop engaging recess in one end mounted on said guides which extend into the slots in the opposite ends of said name strips, one of said stops abutting one edge of each name strip.

4. In a device of the class described, a name strip formed of a strip of metal folded on itself to form two parallel sides the full width of said name strip and having a slot in each end.

5. In a device of the class described, a name strip formed of a strip of metal folded on itself to form two parallel sides and having a slot in each end, the opposite edges of said strip of metal being folded inwardly between said sides and separated the width of said end slots.

6. In a device of the class described, a name strip formed of a strip of metal folded on itself to form two parallel sides and having a slot in each end; and an opening through one side at one end, said strip having a movable member therein provided with an ear extending through said opening by which it may be moved longitudinally of said strip to expose to view through said opening different surfaces.

7. In a device of the class described, the combination of a frame provided with two parallel inwardly extending guides; a plu-

ality of slotted name strips mounted on said guides; and a top plate hinged to said frame with its lower edge abutting the upper edge of the upper name strip.

5 8. In a device of the class described, the combination of a frame provided with two parallel inwardly extending guides; a plurality of slotted name strips mounted on said guides; a top plate hinged to said frame
10 with its lower edge abutting the upper edge

of the upper name strip; and a hinged front to said frame bearing on said hinged plate and normally retaining it in position.

Signed by me at 4 Post Office Sq., Boston, Mass., this 6th day of April, 1909.

CHARLES A. JOHNSON.

Witnesses:

WALTER E. LOMBARD,
NATHAN C. LOMBARD.