

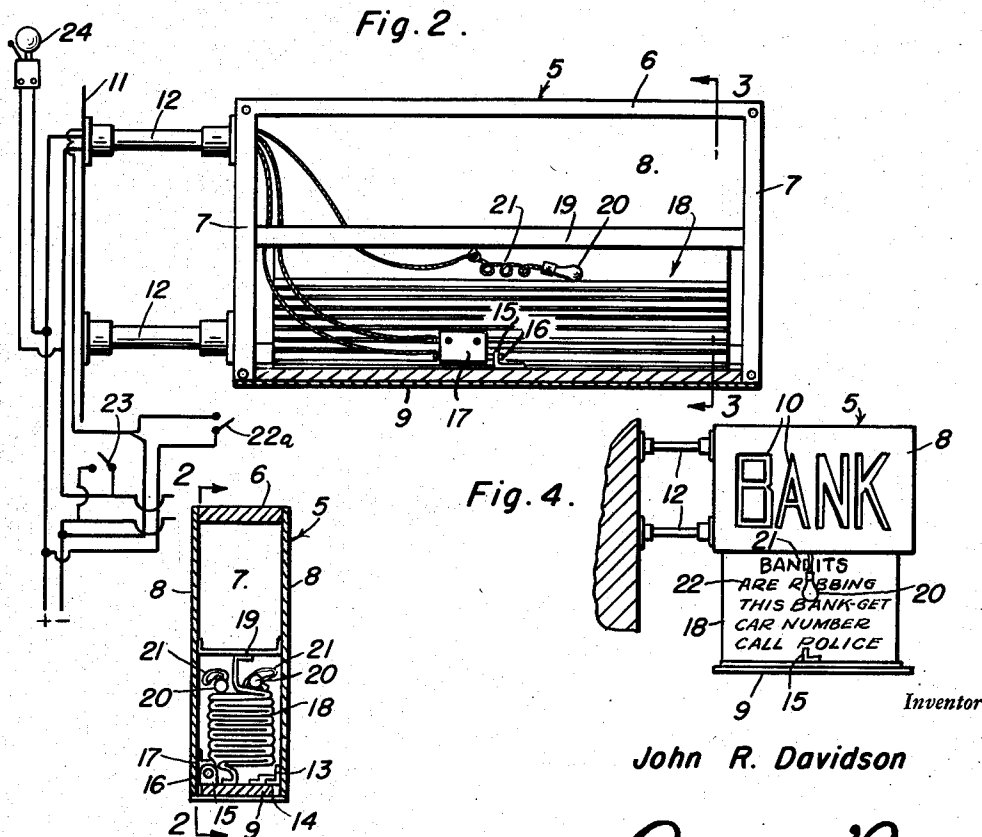
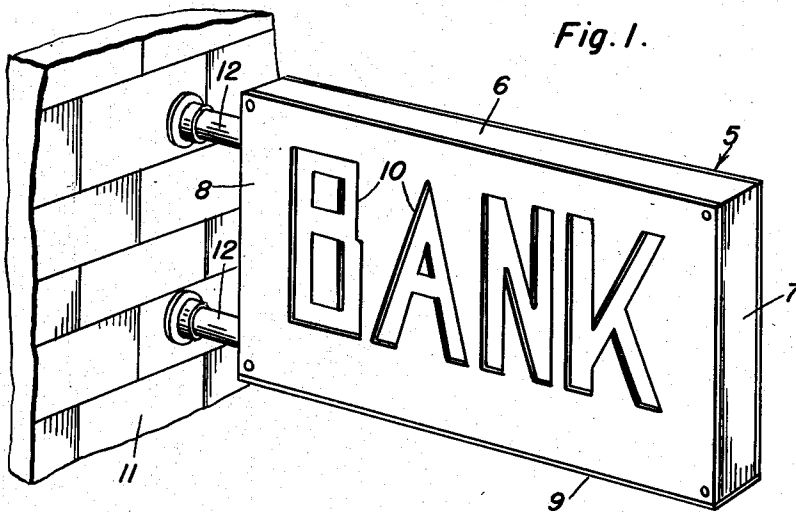
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COMBINED SIGN AND BURGLAR ALARM SIGNAL

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COMBINED SIGN AND BURGLAR ALARM
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2. Claims. (Cl. 177-314)

1

This invention relates to a device normally adapted to act as an identification or advertising sign for a business establishment, such as a bank, but adapted to act as a burglar alarm signal in an emergency.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a simple and efficient device of the above kind, which may be readily and easily used or operated.

Briefly, the present invention embodies a sign adapted to be mounted on the outside of the building of a business establishment and including a casing, at least one side of which bears words identifying or advertising the business establishment. The sign casing has a removable bottom wall attached to the lower edge of a signal flag whose upper edge is attached to a supporting member within the sign casing. The signal flag is foldable within the sign casing so as to be concealed when the bottom wall is disposed to close the bottom of said sign casing, electrically releasable means, under control of an employee of the business establishment, being provided to secure said bottom wall in closing position. The signal flag bears warning words to advise passers-by at the sidewalk that a burglar is in the building and that help is wanted, said words being displayed on the portion of the flag which depends and is exposed below the sign casing when the bottom wall is released and causes the flag to extend through and below the bottom of said casing to an unfolded condition.

The sign is preferably of the illuminated type having a source of light within the casing and having openings in the side wall of the latter which form the letters of the words identifying or advertising the business establishment. The source of light may be movable by gravity downwardly through the bottom of the sign casing with the flag to illuminate the latter when exposed at night. Preferably, both sides of the sign casing may have the letters, and both sides of the flag may have the warning words, two sources of light being provided, one to illuminate each side of the flag when exposed, at night.

The exact nature of the present invention will become apparent from the following description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view showing a device embodying the present invention as it appears in use.

Figure 2 is a view showing the device of Figure 1 in vertical section on line 2-2 of Figure 3, and diagrammatically showing the circuits for the

2

electrical elements used with and forming part of said device.

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical section on line 3-3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a side elevational view of the device, drawn on a reduced scale, with the signal flag extended.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 5 indicates a rectangular sign casing which is preferably of vertically flat and horizontally elongated form as shown, said casing including a top wall 6, end walls 7, side walls 8, and a removable bottom wall 9. At least one of the side walls 8 is provided with openings 10 in the form of letters of a word or words identifying or advertising a business establishment, such as a bank. The sign may be suitably supported from the wall 11 of a building in which the business establishment is located, by means of tubular brackets 12 fixed at corresponding ends to the wall 11 and at their other ends to an end wall 7 of the sign casing. In this way, the sign is rigidly supported to extend out from the wall 11 over the sidewalk, in which case both side walls of the sign casing are preferably provided with the letter forming openings 10 so as to present a sign to persons approaching from both sides of the sign.

The bottom wall 9 is releasably held in place by providing the same at one side with hooks 13 which engage over keeper brackets 14 attached to one of the side walls 8, and by providing the wall 9 at the other side with an apertured keeper bracket 15 receiving the spring projected bolt 16 attached to the core of a solenoid 17. The solenoid is of conventional construction in which the core is retracted when the coil of the solenoid is energized, so as to withdraw the bolt 16 from the keeper 15. As soon as the bolt 16 is released, the bottom wall 9 will be released so as to lower as far as allowed by a signal flag 18. This signal flag is made of flexible fabric and has the wall 9 suitably attached to the lower edge thereof, the upper edge of the flag being suitably secured to a horizontal longitudinal bar or equivalent supporting member 19 fixed within the casing 5.

In order to illuminate the sign and the signal flag at night, electric lamps 20 are arranged within the casing 5 at opposite sides of the flag 18 and suspended by drop cords 21. When the flag is folded within the casing and the bottom wall 9 is secured in place as shown in Figures 1 to 3 inclusive, the lamps 20 will illuminate the letters 10, when said lamps are lighted. On the other hand, when the bottom wall 9 is released so as to extend the flag 18 as shown in Figure 4, the

lamps 20 will lower by gravity through the bottom of the sign casing so as to be in proper position for illuminating opposite sides of the flag, as illustrated with respect to one of the lamps in Figure 4. Preferably the flag 18 is provided on opposite sides with the words 22 to advise passers-by at the sidewalk that a burglar is in the building and that help is wanted. As shown diagrammatically in Figure 2, the lamps 20 are under control of a switch 22a which is suitably located in the building on which the sign is used. Also, the solenoid 17 is under control of one or more switches 23 conveniently accessible by an employee or employees of the business establishment. In addition, the circuit of the solenoid 17 may have included therein an alarm 24 located at a distant police station or the like.

It is believed that the operation of the present device will be readily understood. With the bottom wall 9 locked in closing position as shown in Figures 2 and 3, the device will have the outward appearance of nothing but an ordinary sign. However, should a burglary be attempted in the building on which the sign is used, an official or employee of the business establishment located in the building may conveniently close a switch 23 so as to energize the solenoid 17 and remote signal 24. When the solenoid 17 is energized, the bolt 16 is retracted from the keeper 15 so as to allow bottom wall 9 to lower and extend the flag 18 to a visible position beneath the sign casing as shown in Figure 4. The warning words on the flag will then advise passers-by at the sidewalk that a burglar is in the building and that help is wanted. The signal is also received at the distant police station or the like so as to insure ultimate arrival of help from that point. During the daytime, the switch 22 may be left open so that the lamps 20 are not energized, at a time when illumination of the sign and the flag is not necessary. It will be seen that the device is comparatively simple in construction and effectively serves the intended purpose. Minor changes in details of construction illustrated and described, are contemplated, such as fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

Having described the invention what is claimed as new is:

1. A combined sign and burglar alarm signal, comprising a casing having a bottom wall and

provided in at least one side wall with openings forming a word or words identifying or advertising a business establishment, electrically operated securing means for releasably securing the bottom wall in position closing the bottom of the casing, said bottom wall being adapted to drop by gravity upon release of said securing means, a supporting member within the casing, a lamp mounted in the casing for illuminating said word or words, and a foldable warning flag connected at its upper edge to the supporting member and at its lower edge to the bottom wall, said flag being extensible through the bottom of the casing by the bottom wall when the latter is released and allowed to drop by gravity, whereby the flag will assume a visible unfolded condition beneath the casing, and means supporting said lamp for movement downwardly through the bottom of the casing with the flag for illuminating the latter when unfolded.

2. A burglar alarm signal comprising a casing having a bottom wall, electrically operated securing means for releasably securing the bottom wall in position closing the bottom of the casing, said bottom wall being adapted to drop by gravity upon release of said securing means, a supporting member within the casing, a lamp mounted in the casing, a foldable warning flag connected at its upper edge to the supporting member and at its lower edge to the bottom wall, said flag being extensible through the bottom of the casing by the bottom wall when the latter is released and allowed to drop by gravity, whereby the flag will assume a visible unfolded condition beneath the casing, and means supporting said lamp for movement downwardly through the bottom of the casing with the flag for illuminating the latter when unfolded.

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