April 12, 1932. G. B. TITMAN 1,853,523

DISPLAY SIGN

Filed March 27, 1929

Fig. 1.

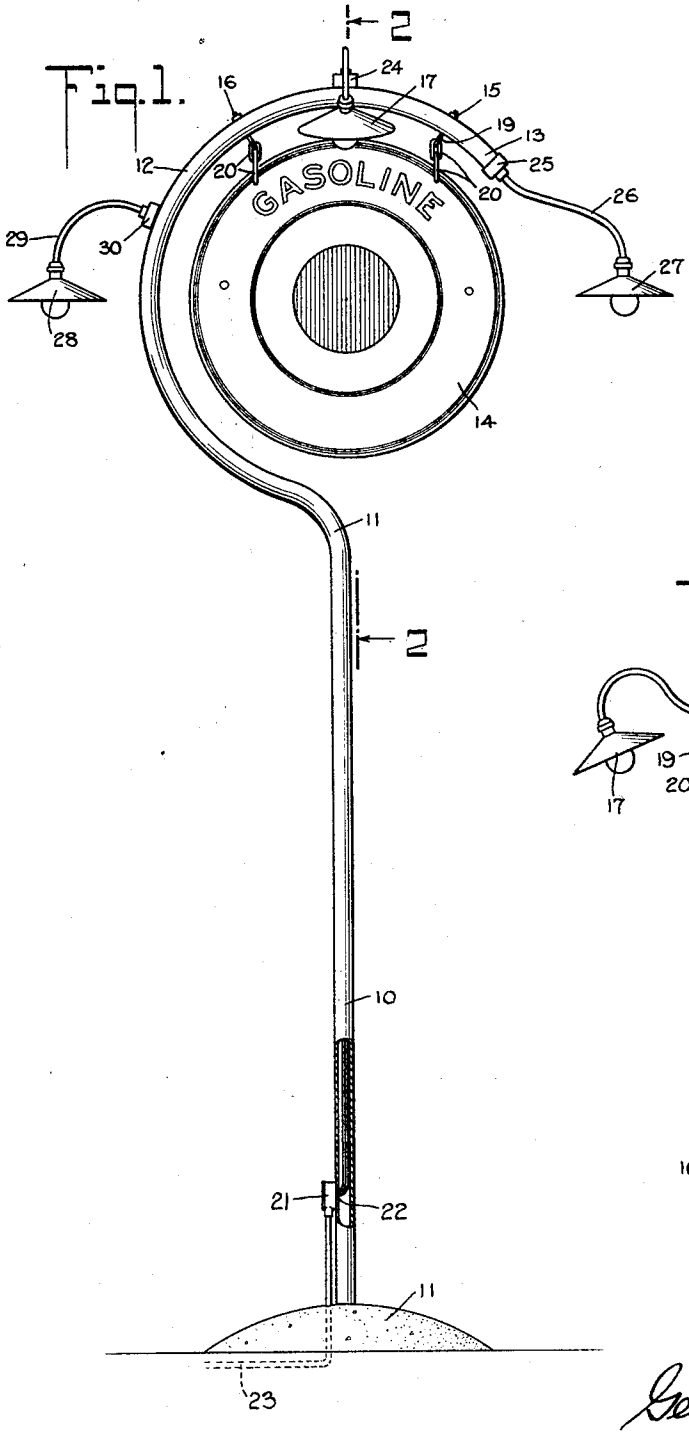
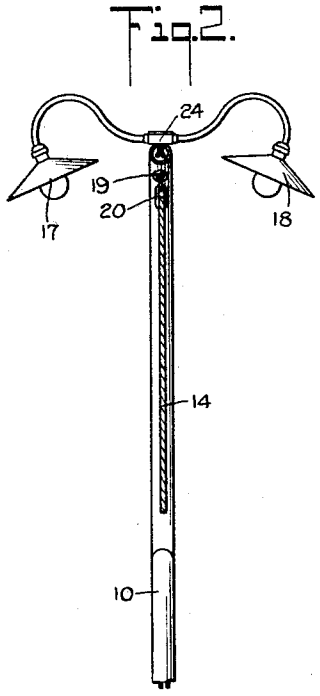


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DISPLAY SIGN

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This invention relates to illuminated outdoor display signs.

A particular object of the invention is the construction providing for the suspension of the sign proper with minimum strain upon the supporting means, the supporting means being preferably hollow to thereby provide rigidity to the same in its supporting function and also for the purpose of receiving the electrical cable for connection with the lamps or other illuminating means.

My invention has gone into wide use for the suspension of display signs in the distribution of gasoline, oil and automobile accessories, in which character of use permanency of the sign to resist wind and weather conditions and low initial and upkeep costs are controlling factors.

A feature of my invention is the use of pipe serving as the main support, a length of the pipe extending from the foundation on the ground to a pre-determined height above which the pipe is bent to desired arcuate shape, the display sign proper in such instance being of circular outline, usually flat, and movably supported by suspension members secured at symmetrical locations in the upper reach of the arcuate bent pipe portion. As appears from the hereinafter description, the arcuate upper portion of the pipe is located at a suitable height above the ground, to dispose the sign proper out of possible contact with automobiles, trucks and the like. The use of pipe facilitates also the installation and housing of the required electrical cable leading to junction boxes and lamp brackets for illuminating the sign.

Further features and objects of the invention will be more fully understood from the following detail description and the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a preferred form of my invention, showing also the supplemental use of electrical lamps for illuminating purposes; and

Fig. 2 is a detail sectional elevation on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings, the vertical or standard portion 10 is formed of pipe, the lower end of which is embedded in concrete 11 or the like, suitably sunk within the earth. Usually, signs embodying my invention are employed adjacent a curve or at one side of a roadway, leading to the premises of a garage, filling station, or the like. The upper portion of the pipe 10 is bent at 11 to form a suitably arcuate upper supporting portion 12, usually of circular outline as is illustrated in Fig. 1. The location of the terminus 13 of the upper portion 12 is selected as desired, and preferably closed to the atmosphere.

The sign proper 14 is suspended from the upper arcuate supporting portion 12 at symmetrical locations, as at the locations 14, 16 which are substanstially symmetrical relative to the vertical pipe standard portion 10. For artistic effect the lamps 17, 18 are disposed and directed on the opposite sides of the sign proper 14, substantially in alignment with the vertical pipe standard portion 10.

The sign proper 14 is advantageously of disk formation and a contour conforming to the arcuate pipe portion 12, the advertising context being located on the opposite faces of the sign proper 14. The illustrated pair of suspension members comprise each an eye bolt 19 passing through suitable aligned openings at one side of the arcuate pipe portion 12, to which are connected one or more links 20, the lowermost link being passed through a suitable opening in the material of the sign proper 14.

The pipe sections are painted or otherwise ornamented as desired, and for the purpose of preserving the material of the pipe. Usually the material of the sign proper 14 is of metal, and painted for preservation and display as required.

Under the conditions of high wind, the suspension of the sign proper 14 permits the same to swing and thus minimize the wind pressure; the strains to which the upper pipe supporting portion 12 is subjected are equalized by reason of the symmetrical suspension of the sign proper from the upper pipe supporting portion 12 and the vertical standard portion 10 and by the hollow pipe formation.

The electrical cable for leading the current to the illuminating lamps is readily

threaded to position and housed by reason of the hollow formation of the pipe. Usually, an outlet box 21 is located adjacent an opening 22 at one side of the pipe portion 10 near the concrete or other foundation 11, the underground cable 23 leading from a suitable switch on the interior of the garage or other premises being to the outlet box 21. A suitable outlet box is also provided at 24 for the twin lamps 17, 18.

For illumination forwardly of the sign an outlet box 25 may be provided at the terminus 13, and a pipe bracket 26 for supporting such forward lamp 27, and for enclosing the electrical connections to the lamp 27.

A rearward lamp 28 may similarly be supported on a pipe bracket 29 carried by the outlet box 30, the electrical connections being threaded through the pipe bracket 29.

It will be observed that the terminus 13 is closed to the atmosphere by the outlet box 25 or in lieu thereof by a cap.

The pipe section or sections of my invention are most readily formed of standard pipe. I prefer the lower standard portion and upper arcuate portion to be of an integral length of pipe, thus obtaining rigidity at the bend 11 as well as through the pipe length. The proper length of the pipe is readily shaped to the desired configuration without rupture or impairment of the pipe material.

As appears from the above, my sign construction provides for the locating of the sign proper at a height and within a region substantially out of danger of contact with automobiles, such as pleasure cars and trucks of normal height. By the use of a continuous pipe length, and an upper arcuate suspending portion disposed substantially symmetrically relative to the lower vertical body portion, and by reason of the freely suspending and symmetrically related link members to which the sign proper is secured, the stresses and strains arising from wind pressure directed against the sign proper and the supporting structure are reduced to a minimum, and at all times precluding any rotational force, i. e., torque, upon the sign supporting means, thereby insuring permanence of physical structure.

As appears from the above, sign supports embodying my invention are manufactured at low initial and installation costs, with minimum upkeep expenses.

Whereas, I have described my invention by reference to specific forms thereof, it will be understood that many changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:—

An electrically illuminated sign comprising a length of pipe, the body and lower portion of which extends substantially vertical and the upper portion integral with the lower body portion being of arcuate contour, a cap closing the terminus of said arcuate portion, a hollow bracket for an illuminating lamp secured to said cap, a sign proper disposed within the contour of said upper arcuate pipe portion, a plurality of link members freely suspending said sign proper from said arcuate portion, and an electrical cable passing upwardly through said lower vertically extending pipe portion, thence through said upper arcuate pipe portion and thence through said hollow lamp-supporting bracket.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification this 13th day of March, 1929.

GEORGE B. TITMAN.