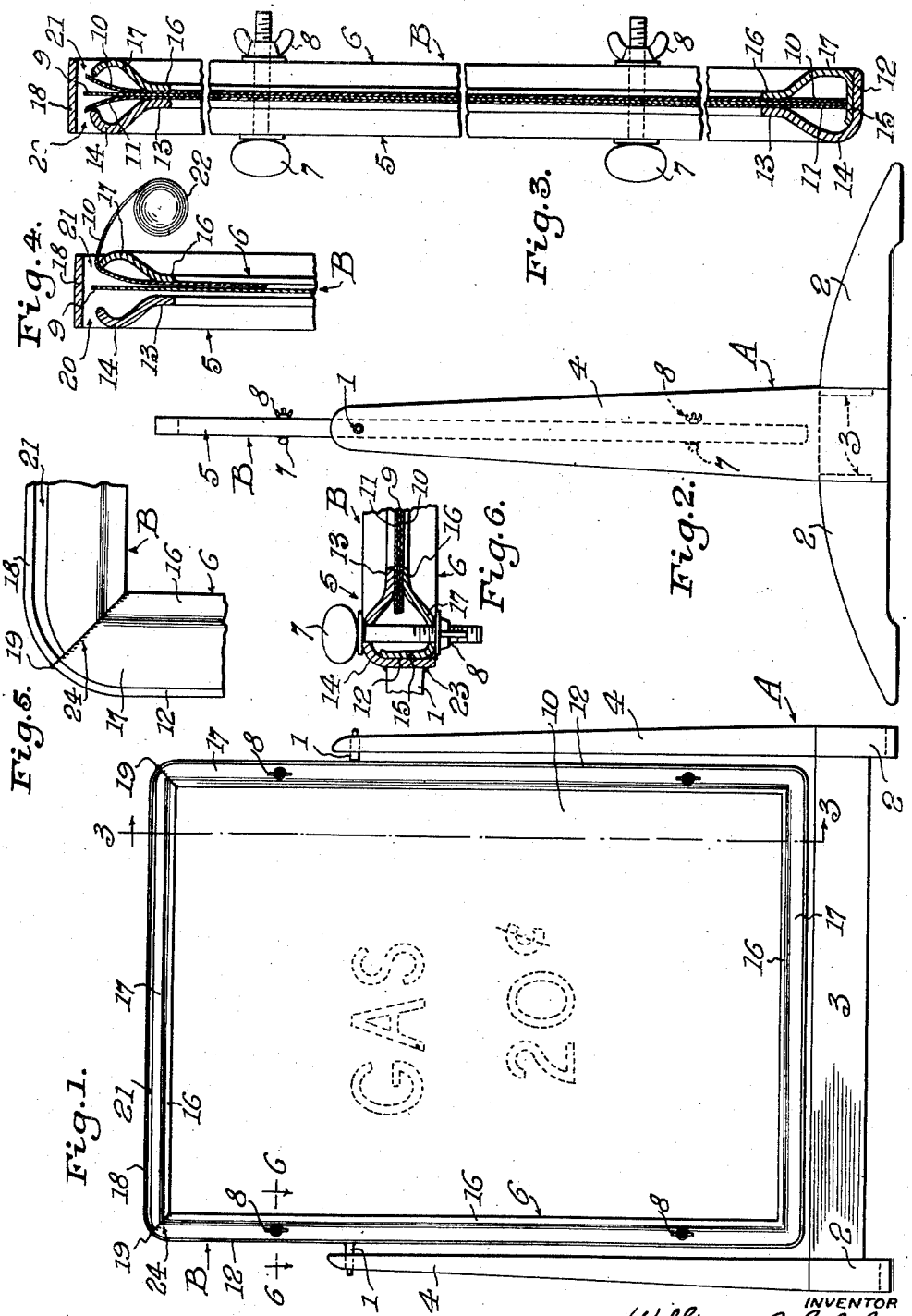
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SIGN DISPLAY FRAME

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SIGN DISPLAY FRAME

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2 Claims. (Cl. 40—155)

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This invention relates to signs, and more particularly to signs of the general class including a marginal frame constructed or equipped to mount interchangeable or replaceable display or poster sheets.

Signs of this general class frequently are used for advertising changing or fluctuating prices of commodities such as gasoline, or for advertising different goods from time to time. The advertising changes require frequent replacing of the display or poster sheets.

One conventional type of sign of the class referred to includes a metal sheet or plate on which the poster sheets are pasted, and from which they can be removed only by being soaked or scraped off, which is troublesome and requires considerable time. It has been proposed heretofore to provide signs equipped with means for mounting and holding poster sheets without the use of adhesive, but such signs have had disadvantages, the overcoming of which is a general object of this invention.

An object of the invention is to provide a sign of the general character referred to comprising a marginal frame including or being provided with improved means for mounting and securing a poster sheet or sheets within the confines of the frame and in a manner permitting easy removal and replacement of the sheet or sheets.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sign of the kind referred to which is so constructed as to enable a flexible poster sheet or flexible poster sheets to be inserted edgewise and drawn into the frame between clamping means adapted to be set in operative clamping position, and subsequently easily released for permitting replacement of the sheet or sheets with a minimum of effort.

Other objects of the invention will become apparent from a reading of the following description, the appended claims, and the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a sign embodying the invention;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the sign shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an enlarged scale vertical sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 1 showing two relatively movable frame members in relatively closed or clamped position;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view showing parts also illustrated at the top of Figure 3, and showing the frame members in relatively separated or unclamped position;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary detail elevation showing a frame member corner construction; and

Figure 6 is an enlarged scale horizontal section on the line 6—6 of Figure 1.

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The sign shown for the purpose of illustration is of a well known kind generally known as a "sidewalk" display sign and includes a stand A and a frame assembly B pivotally mounted on the stand A by means of pins 1. The stand A may be of any suitable or conventional construction and, in the form shown, it includes a base consisting of two side feet 2 connected by spaced cross bars 3, and two upright side members or standards 4—4. The frame assembly B is positioned between the standards 4—4 with the pivotal pins connected to the assembly B somewhat above its center of gravity, the arrangement being such that normally the frame assembly will hang in a vertical position with freedom, however, for turning about the pins 1—1 when subjected to strong wind pressure, thereby preventing the sign from being blown over. The general organization of construction of the sign as described thus far is well known, the invention residing more particularly in the construction of the frame assembly B and its cooperative relationship to parts carried by the frame assembly B.

The frame assembly B, shown as embodying the invention in a preferred form, includes two relatively separable rectangular marginal frame members 5 and 6 adapted to be pulled together to closed position by clamping or fastening means comprising four wing head bolts 7 and wing nuts 8. A floating plate or stiff backing sheet is adapted to be clamped between the frame members 5 and 6 with poster sheets 10 and 11 disposed between opposite faces of the backing sheet 9 and clamping portions on the members 5 and 6 respectively. Preferably the construction and relative arrangement of the parts is such that the poster sheets 10 and 11 can be inserted edgewise from one boundary of the frame and then drawn between the clamping parts on the frame members 5 and 6, after which the clamping bolts and nuts 7 and 8 are tightened to effect clamping of the poster sheets and the plate 9 securely in fixed relation to the frame assembly B.

In the preferred construction illustrated, the frame member 5 is assembled from straight sections forming a bottom, two vertical sides, and a top. The bottom and both sides include outer edge or flange portions 12 which are perpendicular to the general plane of the sign, or more particularly the plane of the plate 9, and inwardly directed flanges or sheet holding or clamping parts 13 connected to the flanges 12 by curved parts 14 as shown in Figure 6.

As shown in Figures 3 and 4, the top of the frame member 5 includes a clamping part 13 and curved part 14 but has no flange corresponding to the flanges 12 on the bottom and sides of the member 5.

The frame member 6 is generally similar to the frame member 5, but may be of somewhat lighter construction, and includes an assembly comprising a bottom, two vertical sides and a top. The bottom and sides include outer edges or flanges 15 in planes perpendicular to the plane of the sheet or plate 9, and inwardly directed flanges or sheet holding parts 16 connected to the flanges 15 by curved parts 17 as shown in Figures 3 and 6. The top part of the member 6 includes a sheet holding part 16 and curved part 17, but has no flange corresponding to the flanges 15 forming part of the sides and bottom of the member 6.

The member 6 is somewhat smaller than the member 5 and is so dimensioned that the flanges 15 of the member 16 fit telescopically within the flanges 12 of the member 5, the arrangement being such that the two members 5 and 6 are maintained against substantial shifting in or parallel to the general plane of the sign, and are guided for relative separating and closing movements. It will be seen that the clamping parts 16 and 13 are disposed on opposite sides of the backing of the sheet or plate 9 so that by drawing the members 5 and 6 together, the plate 9 may be clamped or held securely.

Preferably a cover plate 18 welded as at 19 to the frame member 5 extends across and is spaced above the tops of the members 5 and 6 so as to prevent rain from falling between the top parts of the frame members. The tops of the frame members are so shaped and disposed with reference to the plate 9 as to provide sheet entrance slots 20 and 21.

In order to position and secure poster sheets within the confines of the frame assembly and in face-to-face contact with the sheet 9, the wing nuts 8 are loosened and the frame members 5 and 6 are moved apart to the positions shown in Figure 3. A roll of poster sheet shown at 22 in Figure 4 is held close to the slot 21 and the poster sheet edge is inserted through the slot and moved downwardly between the plate 9 and clamping part 16 so as to project a little below the parts 16 at the top of the frame member 6. The protruding lower edge of the poster sheet pin is then grasped and drawn downwardly while the roll 22 is unwound, the operation being generally similar to the lowering of an ordinary window shade. The side edges of the sheet 10 will be drawn downwardly between the side clamping parts 16 until the lower edge of the sheet 10 is positioned between the plate 9 and the sheet holding part 16 at the bottom of the frame member 6. The sheet 11 is inserted by a similar operation through slot 20 so as to be positioned between clamping parts 13 of the frame member 5 and the plate 9. Then the nuts 8 are tightened to draw the frame members 5 and 6 together so as to clamp the poster sheets 10 and 11 securely in face-to-face relationship with the backing sheet 9.

In order to replace the poster sheets 10 and 11 with sheets bearing other advertising matter, the nuts 8 are first loosened, and the sheets 10 and 11 are withdrawn edgewise through the slots 20 and 21, new poster sheets are inserted in the manner described above, and the nuts 8 are then tightened.

Obviously, a sign construction embodying the invention may be mounted or suspended in any desired manner. In the form shown, the mounting pins are shown as being welded to the frame member 5 as indicated at 23, and the frame members themselves are welded at the corners as indicated at 24. Other methods of connecting the individual parts could be used, and it will be understood that although the sign construction shown embodies the invention in its preferred form, some changes may be made without departing from the invention as defined in the claims.

I claim:

1. In a sign, two substantially rectangular frame members each including a bottom, two sides, and a top; a relatively stiff sheet positioned between said frame members, the bottoms and sides of said frame members having mutually engaging means for maintaining said members against substantial relative shifting in the general plane of the sign and guiding said members for relative separating and closing movement at an angle to said plane, said members having on their four sides opposed clamping means adjacent opposite faces of said relatively stiff sheet, the tops of said frame members being flared to provide entrance slots between the respective flared tops and said relatively stiff sheet when said frame members are in separated relationship, whereby two poster sheets may be inserted through said slots respectively and drawn down within the confines of the frame members and between said relatively stiff sheet and the clamping means on the bottoms and sides of the respective frame members; a cover plate connected to one of said frame members and extending across and spaced above the tops of said frame members; and means for drawing said frame members together to clamp said poster sheets against opposite faces of said relatively stiff sheet.

2. In a sign, two oppositely disposed rectangular frame members having registering windows, bounded on four sides by complementary opposed clamping flanges, the outer portion of each of said clamping flanges being bent transversely, to form with its opposite flange, a continuous, substantially tubular marginal frame, the outer edges of the opposed flanges forming the bottom and vertical sides of the frame, terminating in telescopically engaging guide walls extending perpendicularly to the general plane of the sign, the outer edges of the opposed flanges forming the top side of said frame, being spaced apart to provide an open, poster sheet receiving mouth, a cover plate connected to one of said frame members and extending across and spaced above said mouth, a relatively stiff backing sheet positioned between said clamping flanges and extending into said tubular frame, and means for drawing said frame members together to clamp poster sheets against opposite faces of said backing sheet.

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