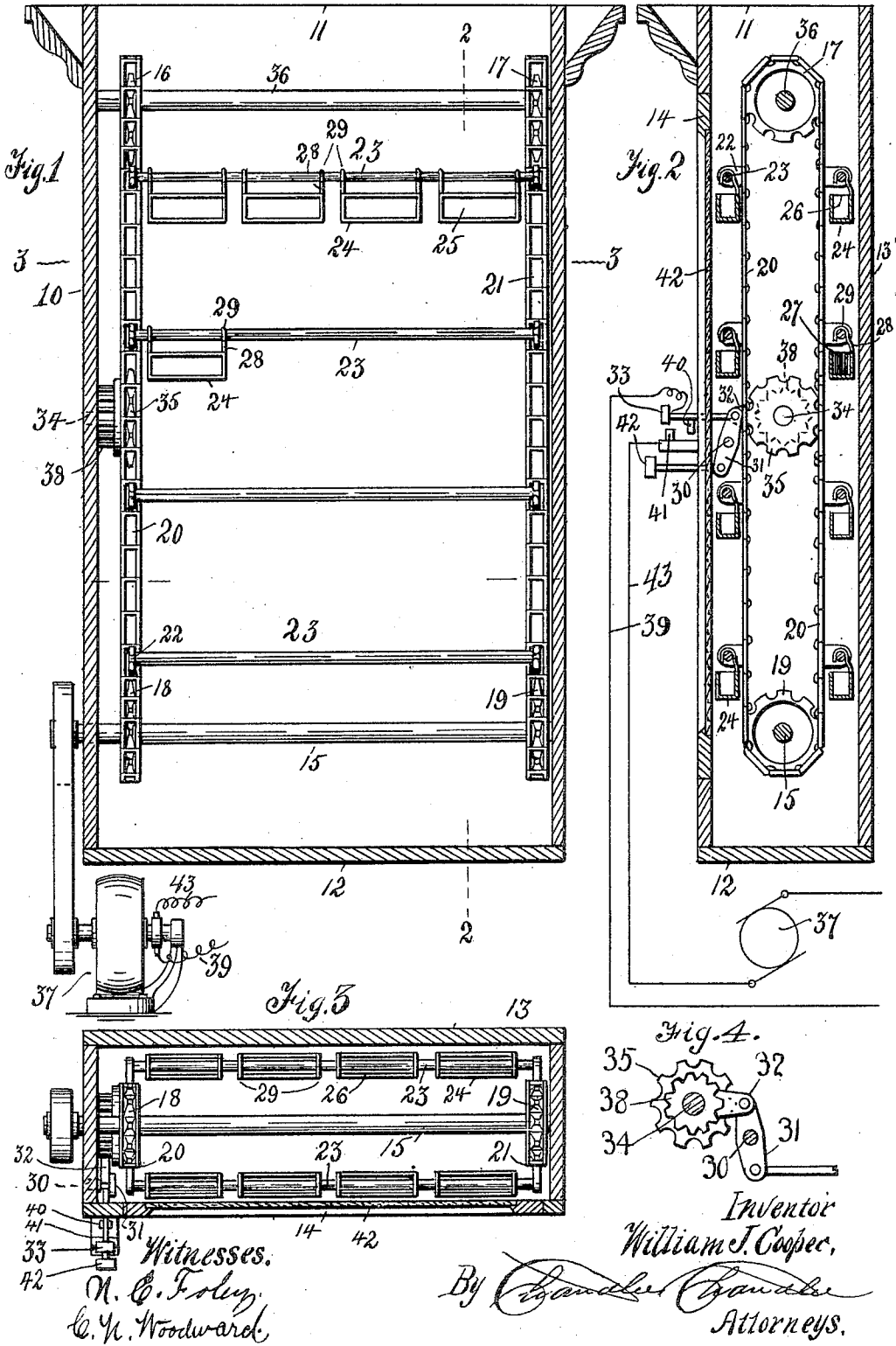


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 POSTAL CARD DISPLAY DEVICE.
 APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 17, 1908.

971,596.

Patented Oct. 4, 1910.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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POSTAL-CARD-DISPLAY DEVICE.

971,596.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 4, 1910.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM JOHN COOPER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Stockton, in the county of San Joaquin, State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Postal-Card-Display Devices; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to devices for displaying cards and like articles, more particularly picture postal cards in convenient position for inspection, display and the storage of articles of this character, and has for one of its objects to provide a simply constructed device of this character whereby a plurality of cards may be constantly displayed and at the same time stored in convenient and accessible position and without danger of damage from handling or from becoming "shop worn."

Another object of the invention is to provide a simply constructed device of this character whereby a supply of cards may be stored safely from damage by dust or dampness or from being handled or otherwise damaged.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in a casing having two endless chains engaging chain wheels running over shafts spaced apart, the chains coupled at intervals by transverse rods, a plurality of receptacles for the cards open at the front and top and suspended from the rods, and means for constantly rotating the chains to bring the receptacles containing the cards successively in front of a display opening or door having a transparent panel.

The invention further consists in certain novel features of construction as hereafter shown and described and then specifically pointed out in the claim, and in the drawings illustrating the preferred embodiment of the invention, Figure 1 is a front elevation of the improved device, partly in section. Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a sectional detail illustrating the construction of the locking pawl mechanism.

The improved device comprises a casing 10 of any suitable form, and of any desired ornamental shape or design and preferably forming a part of the fixtures of a store and

extending from the ceiling to the floor and against a wall, the ceiling indicated at 11, the floor at 12 and the wall at 13, and the casing being provided with swinging doors 14 having transparent glass panels 42 of the usual form.

Mounted for rotation in the upper portion of the casing is a shaft 36, and likewise mounted for rotation in the lower portion of the casing is a shaft 15, the shaft 36 carrying spaced chain wheels 16—17 and the shaft 15 carrying spaced chain wheels 18—19, the wheels 16—18 carrying an endless chain 20 and the wheels 17—19 carrying an endless chain 21, the chains made up preferably of detachable links and certain of the links at spaced intervals having perforated ears 22 carrying rods 23, the rods being uniformly spaced apart, as shown.

Suspended from the rods 23 are a plurality of receptacles 24 for the cards to be displayed and formed with an open front 25 and likewise open at the top as at 26, so that the cards indicated at 27 may be readily inserted and removed and the outermost card displayed through the opening.

Extending upwardly from each end of each receptacle are arms 28 having a terminal hook 29 for engaging over the rods 23, the hooks preferably having a relatively long depending terminal so that they will not be readily detached from the rods but will require to be elevated to a considerable extent before they can be released. By this means the receptacles will not be accidentally displaced from the rods when in operation.

The chain wheels will be sufficiently large so that as the chains carrying the rods and the suspended receptacles are rotated, the receptacles will readily pass over the upper shaft 36 without being disturbed thereby, and the shaft 15 will be disposed a sufficient distance above the floor 12 so that as the receptacles move downwardly and around the bottom of the lower shaft and then upward again at the front or next to the door of the casing, the receptacles will not strike the floor.

At one point intermediate the shafts 36—15 a stub shaft 34 is arranged and carrying a chain wheel 35 engaging the chain 20. Carried by the shaft 34 is a brake or drum 38 preferably with spaced teeth, and swinging at 30 upon the casing 10 is a small lever 31 having a pawl 32 swinging from one

end, the pawl adapted to be alternately engaged with and disconnected from the toothed wheel or drum 38 according to the position of the lever.

5 Push buttons 33—42 are movably arranged through the front portion of the casing 10 and connected to the opposite ends of a lever 31, the lever being pivoted at 30 to the casing 10. The pawl 32 is connected
10 to the lever 31 at one end, so that when the push button 33 is moved inwardly the pawl will be engaged with the drum and lock the belt and its connections. Then when the
15 push button 42 is moved inwardly, the lever 31 will be reversed in position, and release the pawl, and likewise release the belt of receptacles.

Projecting from the casing 10 is a contact member 41, and depending from the rod of
20 the push button 33 is a contact 40, the two contacts being engaged when the push buttons are in one position and disengaged when they are in the opposite position.

The push buttons 33—42 and the contacts
25 40—41 form a controlling switch for the motor which operates the belt of receptacles, as hereafter explained.

The device is preferably designed to be operated by an electric motor, and a conventional outline of a device of this character
30 is represented at 37 with the conductor wires represented respectively at 43—39 and connected respectively to the members 33—41 of the controlling switch. By this means
35 when the push button 33 is operated to force the pawl 32 against the drum 28, the contacts 40—41 will be separated and the switch opened and thus break the circuit and dis-

connect the motor, and at the same time lock the belt of receptacles. Then when it is de- 40 sired to operate the belt again the pawl 32 is withdrawn from the drum 28 by actuating the push button 42 and reversing the position of the switch, and the motor is thus again connected with the source of energy. 45 By this simple means the operation of the motor is controlled and the belt of receptacles held in stationary position when the motor is cut-out.

What is claimed, is:—

In a device of the class described, a casing, shafts mounted for rotation and spaced apart within said casing, chain wheels carried by said shafts, endless chains operating over said chain wheels, rods spaced apart and 55 connected to said chains, a plurality of receptacles open at the top and with upwardly projecting hooks detachably engaging said rods, an intermediate chain wheel engaging one of said chains and having a toothed 60 drum rotated therewith, a swinging arm, a pawl connected to said arm and alternately engaging said drum, means for swinging said arm, an electric motor connected to actuate said endless chains, and switch de- 65 vices associated with said swinging arm, whereby the circuit through the motor is closed simultaneously with the removal of the pawl from engagement with the drum.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses. 70

WILLIAM J. COOPER.

Witnesses:

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C. H. DANOUGH.