

June 3, 1930.

P. P. CHAPIN ET AL

1,761,871

SIGN

Filed Aug. 4, 1928

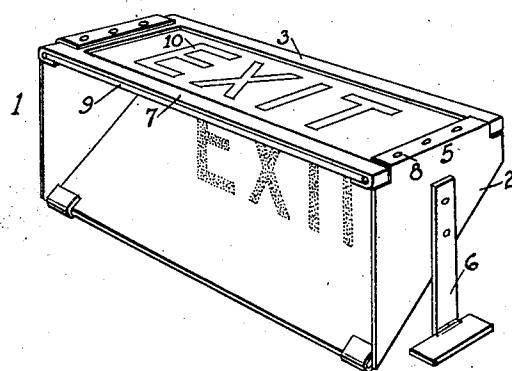


Fig. 1

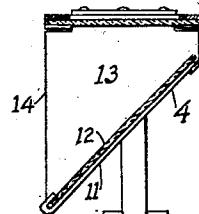


Fig. 2

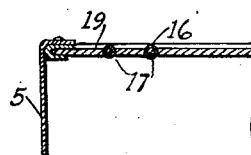
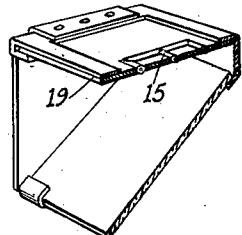


Fig. 4

Fig. 3

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## SIGN

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This invention relates to signs, and particularly to the type wherein a darkened mirror receives a skylighted designation and reflects it to the observer.

5 The principal object of the invention is to provide a simple, inexpensive, efficient, and improved sign of the above type, wherewith the same designation may be reflected to the observer in luminous form in darkness, without use of artificial light or electric current, as well as in skylighted form during day-light.

Other objects and advantages will hereinafter appear.

15 In the accompanying drawings,—

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of the sign.

Fig. 2 is a transverse-sectional side elevation of the sign shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 shows a perspective view of a modification of the invention.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal cross-sectional elevation of the sign member shown in Fig. 3.

The sign 1 comprises a casing 2 having a roof-wall 3, an oblique wall 4, and upright 25 end-walls 5, to which are preferably secured brackets 6 for fastening the sign in any desired location. Said roof-wall consists of a frame 7 which is secured to the end-walls 5 at 8 and carries a plate 9, preferably of glass, 30 on which is painted or otherwise inscribed the desired designation 10. The oblique wall 5 consists of a frame 11 which carries a mirror 12, whereby the said several walls comprising the casing form a darkened chamber 13, the front side of which is open and presents the mirror 12 to view.

In making the designation 10 upon the sign member 8 we utilize such paints or substances as will be translucent to daylight, and in darkness 40 will be self-luminous or glowing, resort being had to radio-active materials or compounds having a meso-thorium base, phosphorescent materials or compounds, or any other similarly acting substances, and in 45 making the designations 10 we either produce the characters themselves in the translucent self-luminous paint and make the background opaque, or vice versa; or we make the letters in colored translucent paint 50 with the background opaque, or vice versa,

and in either of the latter cases make the outline of the letters in the translucent self-luminous paint.

In the operation of this sign the sunlight or skylight strikes the roof-wall 3 and passing through the translucent designation 10 reflects the latter in the mirror-wall 12, which in turn reflects the designation outwardly horizontally toward the observer. During nighttime or in any darkened situation the self-luminous designation 10 reflects its glow into the mirror 12, which in turn reflects the designation outwardly toward the observer, who thus sees it in the form of upright brightly illuminated characters.

According to the modification shown in Figs. 3, 4, the characters 15 composing the designation 10 are made out of glass tubing 16 which is filled with any suitable substance 17, preferably in liquid form, that possesses 70 the quality of being self-luminous or glowing in darkness, and at the same time is translucent to daylight. The characters 15 are set in in mountings or openings 18 formed in an opaque plate 19, which may be of metal, 75 and when the daylight strikes this plate, or when this sign is brought in a darkened situation, it produces the same results as those above described in connection with the sign illustrated in Figs. 1, 2.

80 Variations may be resorted to within the scope of the invention, and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

Having thus described our invention, we claim:—

1. The combination of a member disposed as a skylight, said member having thereon designations made up of translucent self-luminous material, and a mirror reflecting the translucent quality of said designations to the observer during daylight and reflecting the luminous quality of said designations to the observer during darkness.

2. The combination of a member disposed as a skylight, said member having thereon designations composed of tubular glass, said glass being filled with translucent self-luminous material, and a mirror reflecting the translucent quality of said designations to the observer during daylight and reflecting 100

the luminous quality of said designations to  
the observer during darkness.

Signed at the city of New York, in the  
county of New York and State of New York,  
5 this 3rd day of August A. D. 1928.

**PHILIP P. CHAPIN.**  
**WILLIAM J. KUPEC.**

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