

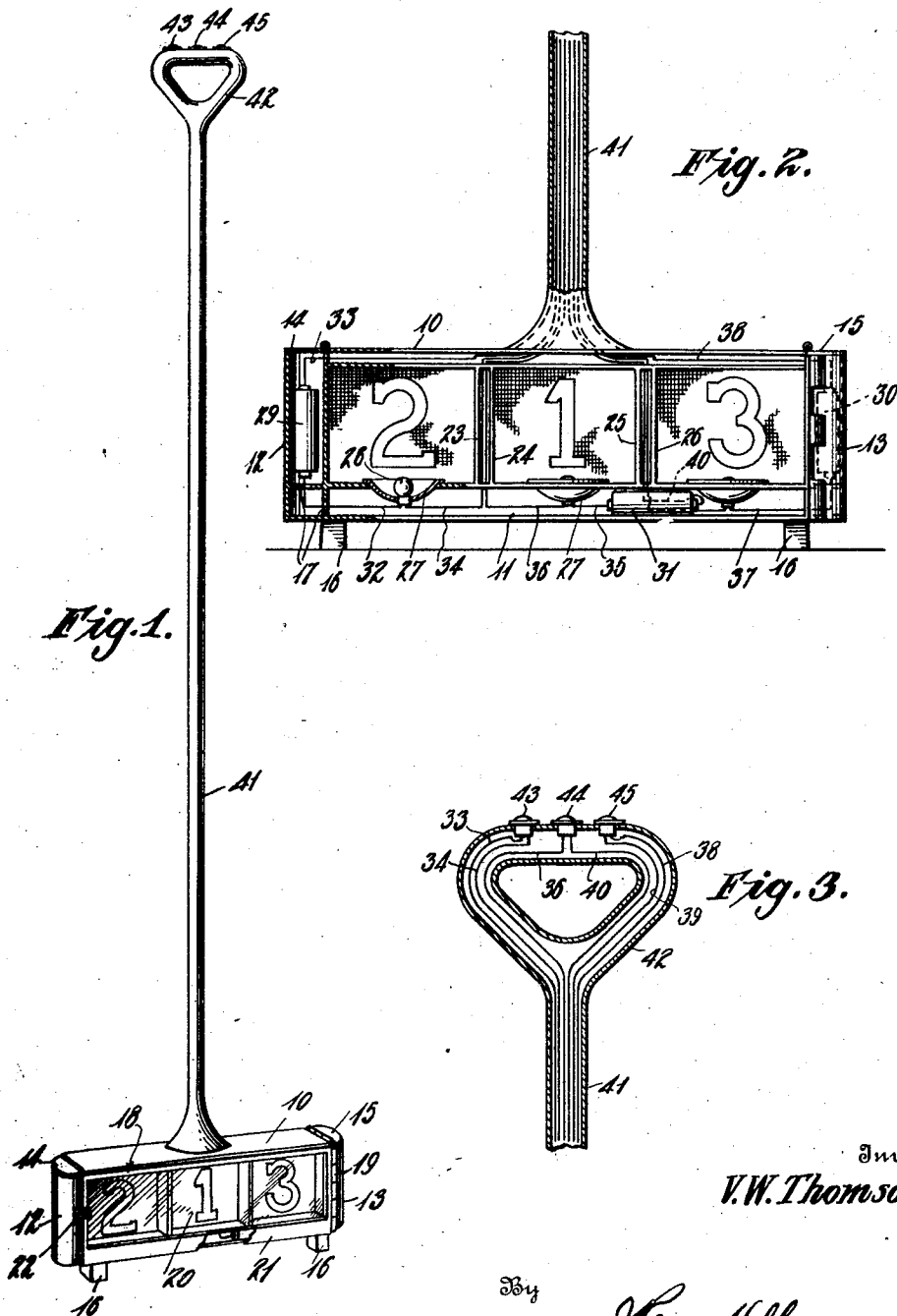
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SEAT SIGNAL

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By

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## SEAT SIGNAL.

Application filed April 17, 1922. Serial No. 553,398.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, VOLNEY WAYNE THOMSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at El Paso, in the county of El Paso and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Seat Signals, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a new and improved seating signal for ushers etc.

The main object of the invention is to provide a seating signal or indicator to be used by ushers in theatres etc., including means to signal or indicate to the patrons in the rear of the theatre the number of available seats.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the above character which can be conveniently carried by the usher such as will eliminate the necessity of the usher going from the front to the rear of the theatre each time there are available seats to indicate the number of the seats to the patron.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a signaling device of the above character which when placed on or near the floor will not in any way disturb the seated patrons when operated.

A yet further object of the invention is to provide a signaling device of the character outlined above that is simple in construction, strong and durable and which it is believed may be manufactured at a low cost.

Various other objects and advantages of my invention will become apparent during the continuance of the following description.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a view in perspective showing my invention as in its preferred embodiment.

Figure 2 is a view in front elevation of the body of the signaling device showing the handle or carrier partly broken away and partly in cross-section.

Figure 3 is a view in vertical cross-section of the upper end of the handle or gripping portion.

In describing my invention more in detail, 10 designates the box type body portion of the signaling device that is preferably constructed of metal but which may be made of any other suitable or desirable material. If made of metal it may be coated with

black enamel or painted in any other suitable or desirable color or style. The body portion 10 is normally open on the front side and carries, at the bottom, a battery compartment 11 which is also normally open at its front. At its ends the body portion carries battery compartments 12 and 13 to which access may be had through the medium of hinged doors or covers 14 and 15 arranged at their upper ends.

Beneath the battery compartment 11 the body is provided with seats or supports 16 so that it may be allowed to stand unsupported on the floor, if such is desired.

Suitable openings 17 in the dividing members between the compartments 12 and 13 and the compartment 11 are provided so that electrical conductors may be readily passed therethru.

The front or open side of the body portion 10 is provided with a door member 18 that is hingedly mounted to swing open and closed as at 19 and which has a transparent upper part 20 to disclose the interior of the body portion 10 and a solid or translucent portion 21 to close the open side of the battery compartment 11. A catch or fastening member 22 may be provided so as to secure the door member in a closed position.

As will be noted upon reference to Figures 1 and 2 the interior of the body member 10 is divided into three compartments by means of spaced partitions 23 and 24, and 25 and 26. The partitions 23 and 24 are spaced apart to permit electrical conductors to pass between as will be pointed out hereinafter; and the partitions 25 and 26 are also spaced apart for a like reason. The rear walls of the compartments are provided with numerals such as indicated in the present embodiment, viz, 1, 2 and 3. However, it is pointed out that any number of compartments may be provided and that the numerals may be changed or rearranged if occasion requires.

The bottom of each compartment is equipped with a reflector 27 which carries an electric bulb 28. Compartments 12, 13 and 11 are equipped with electric batteries 29, 30 and 31, respectively. The light bulb 28 in the first compartment is connected by an electrical conductor 32 with one end of the battery 29 while the other end of the battery connects with an electric wire 33. Another electric wire 34 has connection with the first light bulb and is extended up-

wardly between the partitions 23 and 24 to a suitable connection that will be herein-after described. Battery 31 has connection as at 35 with the second light bulb and the  
 5 bulb has a further connection with an electric wire 36 that is also extended upwardly between the partitions 23 and 24. Battery 30 also connects as at 37, with the third bulb and is in turn connected also to an  
 10 electric wire 38. The third bulb is connected to a wire 39 which is extended upwardly between the partitions 25 and 26 and one end of the battery 31 also has an electric wire 40 extending upwardly between the said  
 15 partitions.

At the top, the body member 10 carries a hollow handle or carrying member 41. At its upper end the handle or carrying member 41 is formed into a hand grip 42 that is  
 20 in turn equipped with electric buttons, 43, 44 and 45. Wires 33 and 34 extend upwardly through the hollow handle 41 and connect with button 43, wires 36 and 40 are extended upwardly to connect with button 44 and  
 25 wires 39 and 38 connect with button 45. Consequently when button 43 is depressed a circuit will be established to the first electric bulb which will light the compartment having the numeral 2 therein. Pressure upon  
 30 button 44 will light the middle compartment and pressure on button 45 will light the compartment being provided with numeral 3. Because of the convenient location of the buttons 43, 44 and 45 the operator may touch  
 35 one or all of them at the same time so as to illuminate certain of the compartments.

In operation the operator grips the portion 42 of the handle 41 and the body member 10 is held near or on the floor somewhere  
 40 in the front part of the theatre. When seats are available the operator simply touches one of the buttons 43, 44 or 45 to indicate the number of seats and the patrons at the rear of the theatre will be able to use  
 45 the signal and thereby eliminate the necessity of the usher returning to the back of the theatre.

From the foregoing it is believed that the advantages and novel features of my invention will be readily understood and therefore further detailed description is deemed  
 50 unnecessary.

What is claimed is:—

1. A seat signal comprising a horizontally  
 55 elongated casing, elements carried by said casing by means of which the device will retain an upright position when placed upon a floor, said casing divided into a plurality of horizontally disposed compartments having  
 60 numerical indicating means, battery compartments beneath said indicating com-

partments and at each end of the casing, batteries therein, an electric light bulb mounted in the floor of each indicating compartment, a hollow handle member extending upwardly  
 65 vertically from the casing and having communication with the interior thereof, conductors from said bulbs and batteries extending upwardly through said hollow handle, the upper end of said handle member  
 70 formed into a hollow loop hand grip to house said conductors, circuit closers mounted on said hand grip and controlling said conductors housed in the handle member, whereby the numerical indicating means may be operated  
 75 by the same hand that carries the device.

2. A signaling device comprising, a horizontally elongated signal box a plurality of  
 80 horizontally arranged illuminating compartments presenting indicating means properly readable when said box assumes a horizontal position upon the floor, a handle carried by and extending upwardly in vertical  
 85 relation to said box, said handle being hollow throughout its entire length, and terminating at its upper end in a loop-shaped hand grip, and switch means to illuminate the interior of said signal box  
 90 mounted on said hand grip whereby said box may be carried and said illuminating means operated by the same hand of the operator.

3. A seat signal comprising a horizontally  
 95 elongated casing, elements carried by said casing by means of which the device will retain an upright position placed upon a floor, said casing, divided into a plurality of horizontally disposed illuminating compartments provided with numerical indicat-  
 100 ing means, a battery compartment underlying said compartments, and a vertical battery compartment at the opposite ends of said casing, batteries in said battery compartments, the illuminating compartments  
 105 spaced from each other and defining conductor passages, light bulbs mounted in said illuminating compartments, a hollow handle member projecting vertically upward from the top of said casing and communicating  
 110 with the interior of the same, said handle member terminating at its upper end in a loop-shaped hand grip, conductors leading from said batteries and light bulbs through the handle member and into the hand grip  
 115 portion, and circuit closing means mounted on said hand grip portion for the purposes specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

VOLNEY WAYNE THOMSON.