April 6, 1965 V. D. RAMSEUR, JR 3,176,418

SIGNBOARD APPARATUS AND METHOD OF ASSEMBLY

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FIG.1

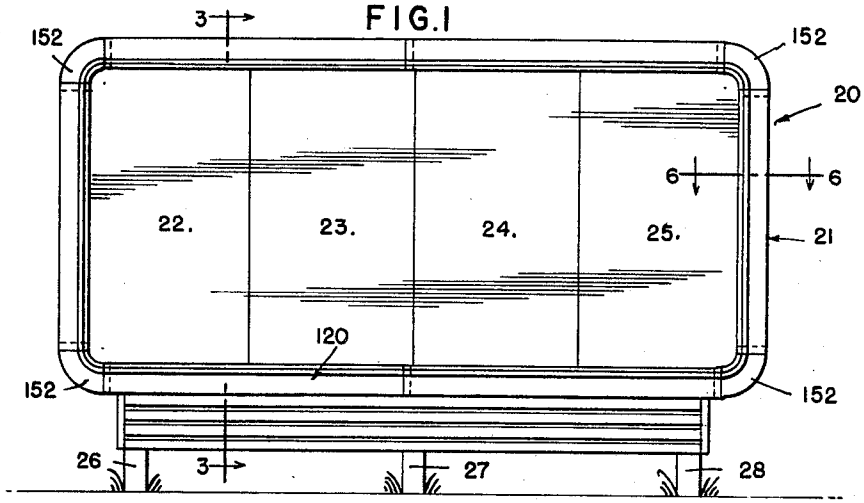


FIG.2

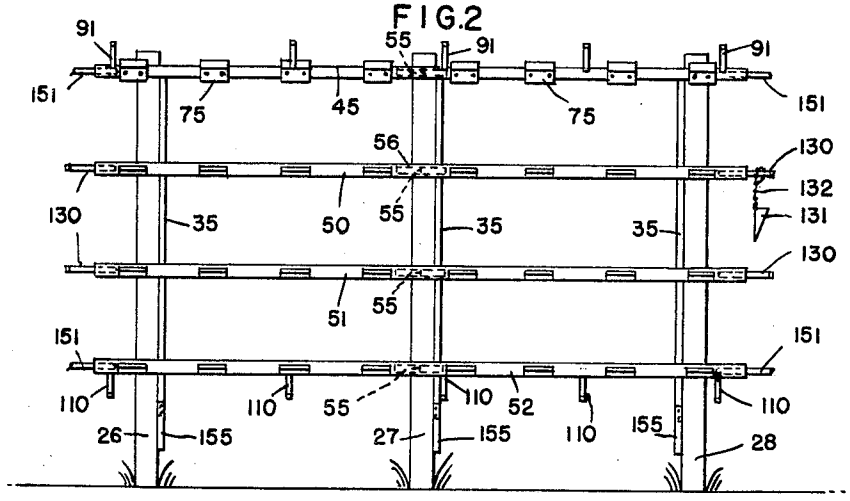


FIG.5

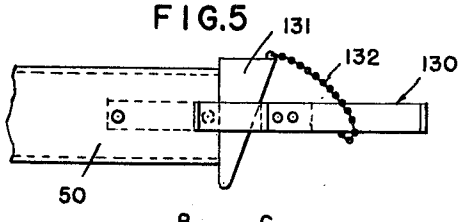
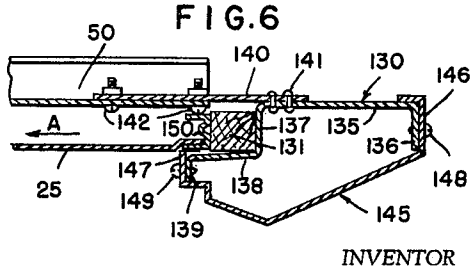


FIG.6



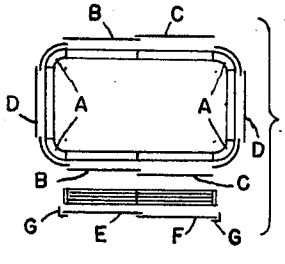


FIG.4

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SIGNBOARD APPARATUS AND METHOD OF ASSEMBLY

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FIG.3

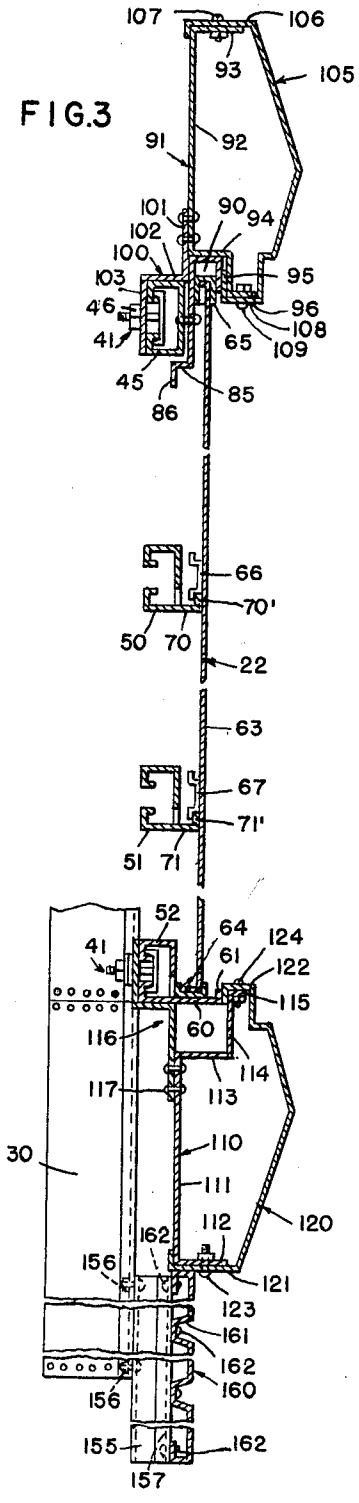


FIG.7

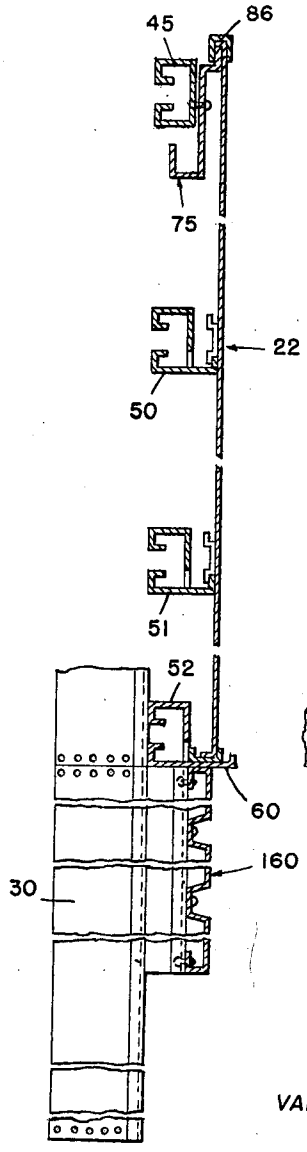


FIG.8

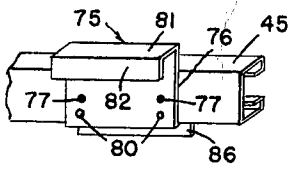
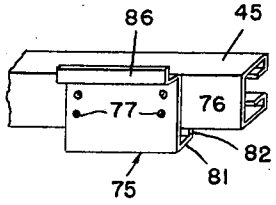


FIG.9



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SIGNBOARD APPARATUS AND METHOD OF ASSEMBLY

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FIG.10

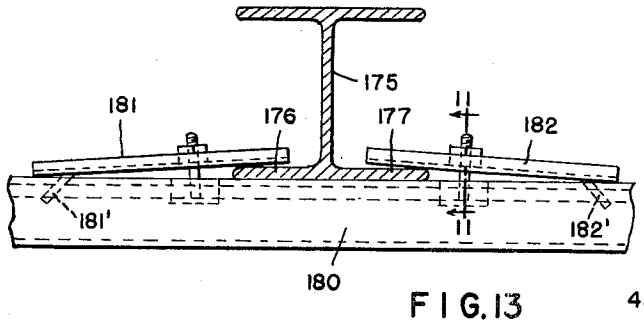


FIG.12

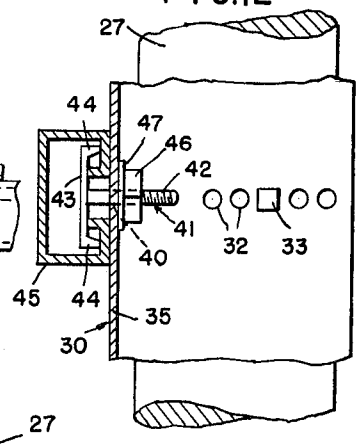


FIG.13

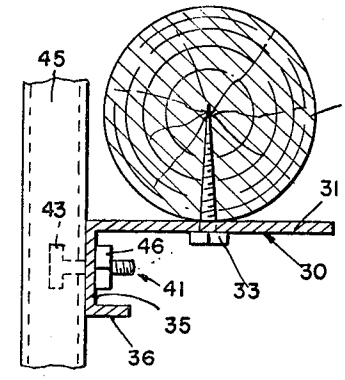


FIG.11

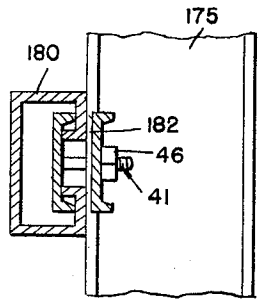


FIG.14

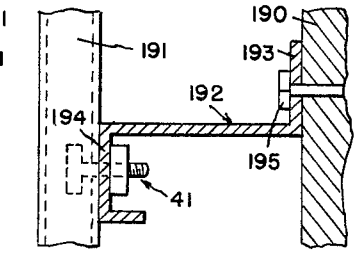
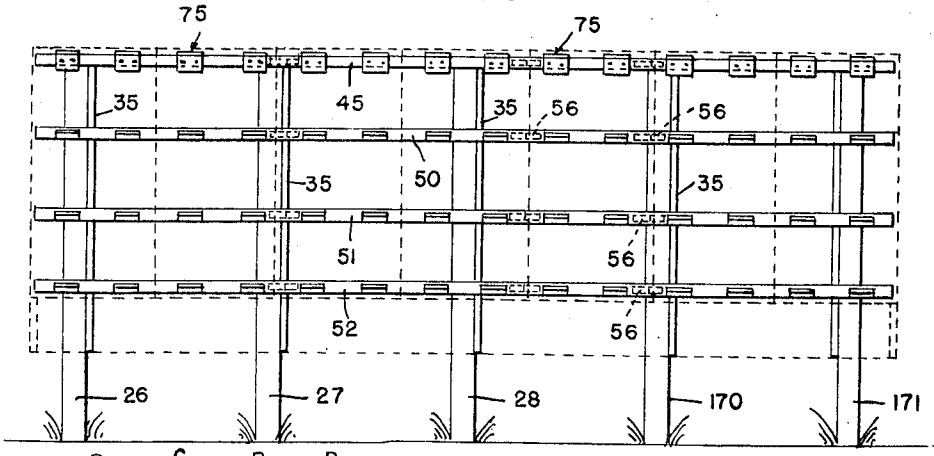


FIG.15



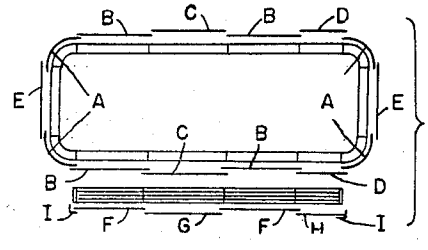


FIG.16

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3,176,418

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3,176,418

SIGNBOARD APPARATUS AND METHOD OF ASSEMBLY

Vardry D. Ramseur, Jr., 212 Riverside Drive, Greenville, S.C.

Filed July 25, 1960, Ser. No. 45,117
7 Claims. (Cl. 40—125)

The present invention relates to new and novel signboard apparatus and method of assembly and disassembly thereof, and more particularly to a signboard apparatus which in effect provides a completely portable kit type arrangement whereby the components may be easily transported from place to place and the signboard can be erected with a minimum of effort and in a minimum period of time.

For many years, the outdoor advertising industry has employed signboards of heavy duty construction which have been permanently fixed in position, and wherein posting of the signboards was of necessity carried out at the signboard location, thereby requiring the workmen to carry all the necessary posting equipment to the location of each particular signboard. In addition, such signboards are so constructed that they cannot be easily moved from one location to another, and it has not been economically feasible to disassemble and move this type of signboard to various locations.

There has accordingly arisen a large demand for a signboard of the type contemplated by the present invention wherein the signboard is composed of light-weight, easily separable components which may be quickly and easily assembled and disassembled for erecting a signboard at any desired position. The individual components are of such a size that they can be easily handled by individual workmen, and furthermore can be easily stored or transported when so desired.

The signboard construction of the present invention also employs removable panel portions which are so lightweight that they can be lifted even from the larger signboards by a pair of workmen, and accordingly, it is completely feasible to post the panel portions in a workshop, and then transport the posted panels to the signboard locations and then quickly install the signboard panels in place. This of course results in substantial savings in labor since in-shop posting or painting of the panel sections is a highly efficient method of accomplishing the posting procedures, and delays which ordinarily occur with conventional outdoor posting due to bad weather are completely avoided.

An important factor of the present invention is the concept of providing a structural arrangement which permits the signboard to be easily converted from a conventional standard bulletin signboard having trim disposed peripherally about the posted portion of the signboard to a trimless or so-called "full-bleed" signboard. In this manner, the structure provides greater versatility and enables the apparatus to serve a dual function. The convertible feature of the present invention is highly advantageous since it permits the apparatus to be employed in the most efficient manner according to the particular advertising display to be exhibited on the signboard panels, and it eliminates the necessity of having two completely separate signboard structures for performing the individual functions of the present invention. This of course results in a substantial saving in cost, and provides a greater sales power for a given investment.

While the standard bulletin type signboard with trim is very popular in the trade, the trimless type of signboard structure is enjoying increased popularity since the absence of the trim gives the effect of unframed bigness which adds attention-impact to the signboard. In addition, the trimless type of signboard provides a smooth, modern, clean look which has great appeal in the advertising field. Although the overall appearance of the two types of signboard is quite different, the structural arrangement of the present invention permits conversion of even very large signboards by two men in less than an hour.

A further advantage of the simple and effective arrangement of the present invention is the fact that the signboard may be easily adapted for cutouts and special effect components since there is no special trim to build around or over as is encountered in conventional signboard structures. Furthermore, the light-weight components of the present invention may be quickly and easily assembled and disassembled in operative position either in the standard bulletin trim arrangement or in the trimless full-bleed arrangement.

Trim bracket members may be detachably secured to the framework for supporting more or less standard trim members in position thereon as desired, and additionally a movable skirt means is supported at the lower portion of the framework to provide the desired finished appearance.

An object of the present invention is to provide a new and novel signboard apparatus which substantially reduces the equipment costs by serving as a dual function convertible arrangement which may be employed either as a trimless or a trim signboard.

Another object of the invention is the provision of signboard apparatus which substantially reduces labor costs by permitting in-shop painting or posting of the panels and which employs a lightweight easily handled and transported construction which can be assembled or disassembled in a minimum amount of time.

A further object of the invention is to provide signboard apparatus which is easily adapted for cutouts and special-effect components.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide signboard apparatus which is quite simple and inexpensive in construction, and yet which is sturdy and provides a neat appearance.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a novel method of assembling a signboard structure which permits the structure to be assembled or disassembled in a very simple manner and with a minimum of effort.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a method of changing a signboard from a trim to a trimless arrangement or vice versa in a very simple and effective manner.

Other objects and many attendant advantages of the present invention will become more apparent when considered in connection with a specification and accompanying drawings wherein:

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is an elevation of a standard bulletin signboard with trim according to the present invention and employing four portable panels,

FIG. 2 is an elevation of the supporting framework of the signboard shown in FIG. 1,

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view partially broken away taken along line 3—3 of FIG. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows,

FIG. 4 is a schematic view illustrating the sequence of assembling of the trim members and skirt members of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1,

FIG. 5 is an enlarged elevation of a portion of the structure shown in FIG. 2,

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 6—6 of FIG. 5 looking in the direction of the arrows,

FIG. 7 is a view similar to FIG. 3 showing the reversible

bracket members in the reverse position as employed in a trimless full-bleed signboard arrangement,

FIG. 8 is a perspective view illustrating the position of the reversible bracket members when employed in a standard bulletin trim arrangement,

FIG. 9 is a perspective view illustrating the position of the reversible bracket members as mounted in a trimless full-bleed signboard arrangement,

FIG. 10 is a view partially in section illustrating the manner of mounting the horizontal stringers of the framework on an I-beam vertical support member,

FIG. 11 is a side view of the structure shown in FIG. 10,

FIG. 12 is a view partially in section illustrating the manner of securing the horizontal and vertical stringers to one another with the vertical stringer being mounted upon an upstanding wooden post or the like,

FIG. 13 is a top view partially in section of the arrangement shown in FIG. 12,

FIG. 14 illustrates the manner of mounting the horizontal stringers in a wall structure,

FIG. 15 illustrates the framework of a signboard of even larger dimensions than that shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, with the framework arranged for a full-bleed trimless signboard,

FIG. 16 illustrates schematically the sequence of mounting the trim members and skirt means on the framework as shown in FIG. 15 when the signboard is to be of the standard bulletin trim type.

Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, a standard bulletin signboard with trim is shown in FIG. 1 and is indicated generally by reference numeral **20**, the bulletin board including an outer peripheral trim indicated generally by reference numeral **21** surrounding the display area which comprises in this particular case four panels indicated by reference numerals **22**, **23**, **24** and **25**. These panels are formed of a lightweight portable construction, and are preferably of the type shown in co-pending U.S. application S.N. 726,883, now Patent No. 2,993,289.

The framework which supports the signboard shown in FIG. 1 is illustrated in FIG. 2 and includes three upstanding posts **26**, **27** and **28** which are supported in a substantially vertical position, and are fixedly secured in the ground or other supporting surface. The posts **26–28** may for example comprise typical wooden posts as employed in the signboard field.

The various components of the present invention including the framework members as well as the various brackets, trim members and panels employed are all preferably formed of a very lightweight, yet sturdy material. For example, the framework members are preferably formed of galvanized iron or the like which provides a lightweight arrangement and yet also ensure adequate structural strength to resist the loads which are normally encountered in the field. The portable panel members as well as the trim members may be formed of a lightweight material such as aluminum. With this construction, the entire arrangement is readily portable and the signboard apparatus may be effectively erected and dismantled by two men, and yet the apparatus is quite sturdy and rigid.

Referring now to FIGS. 12 and 13, one typical manner of supporting the horizontal and vertical support members of the framework is illustrated. In these figures, one of the posts **27** is illustrated, and a vertical support member **30** is provided, support member **30** having a first leg portion **31** with a plurality of openings **32** formed therethough. A typical fastener such as a lag bolt **33** is inserted through one of the openings **32** and extends into the post **27** for supporting the vertical support member in operative position.

Support member **30** also includes a normally extending leg portion **35** which terminates in an inturned flange portion **36**. Spaced openings are provided through the leg portion **35** of the vertical support member at elevations wherein it is desired to support the horizontal stringers or support members. One of these openings **40** is shown in FIGS. 12 and 13, and the fastening means indicated generally by reference numeral **41** extends through these openings **40**. The fastening means **41** comprises T-headed bolts including an elongated threaded shank **42** and a T-head portion **43** having stubby leg portions **44** at the opposite ends thereof.

Each of the horizontal stringers **45** has a channel-shaped configuration, and as seen clearly in FIG. 12, the T-head portion **43** of the fastening means **41** is disposed within the channel-shaped horizontal stringer with the leg portions **44** in engagement with portions of the horizontal stringer. A nut **46** is threaded on the shank **42** of the fastening means and engages against a washer **47** such that when the nut is drawn up as shown in FIG. 12, the horizontal stringer **45** is tightly clamped against the leg portion **35** of the vertical support member **30** thereby supporting the horizontal stringer in operative position relative to the vertical support member.

Referring back to FIG. 2 of the drawings, the vertical support members are each designated by reference numeral **35**, and the mode of attachment thereof to the associated posts will be clearly understood. The horizontal stringer **45** is illustrated, and it will be understood that the remaining horizontal stringers **50**, **51** and **52** are provided with the same cross-sectional configuration as stringer **45**, the remaining horizontal stringers having a slightly modified construction as hereinafter pointed out, but in each case the horizontal stringers are secured to the vertical support members by means of similar fastening means **41** as described in connection with FIGS. 12 and 13.

It is important to note at this point that the basic framework arrangement is such that the size of the signboard may be readily adjusted merely by adding additional similar components to the basic arrangement shown in FIG. 2 for example. In other words, it is evident that many additional posts may be provided in vertical spaced arrangement as shown in FIG. 2. The horizontal stringers are formed in sections, and as seen in FIG. 2 the individual sections terminate and are in abutting relationship with one another at points indicated by reference numeral **55**. The abutting horizontal stringer sections are connected to one another by stringer splice members indicated by reference numeral **56**, the splice members having a configuration substantially complementary to the internal channel shape of the stringer members, it being readily understood that these splice members can be slidably inserted in the adjacent end portions of abutting stringer members for securing the stringer members to one another. It is readily apparent that any number of horizontal stringers can be so interconnected with one another as desired.

Referring now to FIG. 3 of the drawings, the framework structure is shown in greater detail. Horizontal stringer **52** which as stated previously may be formed of any number of individually connected sections of similar construction includes an integral laterally extending bottom rail portion **60** terminating in a small upturned flange **61**. This bottom rail **60** is adapted to support the portable panel portions of the signboard in operative position, and as illustrated the panel portion **22** includes a face **63** upon which the advertising material may be posted. The panel also includes a lower channel member **64** which rests on the bottom rail **60**, and includes an upper channel portion **65** at the upper end thereof. The panel further includes spaced locking bracket portions indicated by reference numerals **66** and **67**.

The intermediate horizontal stringers **50** and **51** are of substantially identical construction and include laterally extending portions **70** and **71** respectively which terminate in lateral flanges **70'** and **71'**. These flanges **70'** and **71'** are adapted to engage the downwardly depending lip portions of the locking brackets **66** and **67** on the panel

for locking the panel to the horizontal stringers 50 and 51. It will be understood that each of the portable panels is of substantially identical construction and is supported in a similar manner with respect to horizontal stringers 50, 51 and 52.

As seen in FIG. 2, a plurality of reversible bracket members 75 are secured to spaced portions of the uppermost horizontal stringer 45. Referring to FIGS. 3 and 8, the cross-sectional configuration of the reversible brackets as shown in FIG. 2 will be more clearly understood. Each of the reversible brackets includes a main body portion 76 which is normally disposed in a substantially vertical position, the bracket being attached to the associated stringer 45 by means of metal screws 77 or the like which extend through a first pair of openings formed in body portion 76 and an aligned pair of openings formed in the horizontal stringer for securing the reversible bracket members in operative position. A second pair of openings 80 is also provided through the body portion 76 of the reversible bracket members for mounting the reversible bracket members in the reverse operative position from that shown in FIGS. 3 and 8.

The reversible bracket members are provided at one edge portion with a laterally extending integral leg 81 which terminates in a leg portion 82 extending substantially parallel to the main body portion 76 thereby defining a channel along this edge portion of the reversible bracket member. Along the opposite edge portion of the bracket member, a substantially normally extending leg portion 85 is provided which terminates in a leg portion 86 which also extends substantially parallel to the main body portion 86, but extends away therefrom thereby defining a lip extending along the opposite edge portion of the reversible bracket member.

In the operative position as shown in FIGS. 3 and 8, each of the reversible bracket members is so disposed that the channel portion thereof is adapted to receive the upper portion of the panels thereby retaining the upper ends of the panels in operative position. It will be noted that a space 90 is provided between the upper edge of the panel and the undersurface of the leg portion 81. This space permits the panels to be lifted upwardly thereby releasing the locking portions of the panel and enabling the lower end of the panel to be swung out away from the supporting rail 60 on the lowermost stringer 52. In this manner, the panels may be readily removed from the supporting framework, and it is obvious that the panels can be inserted into operative position by reversing the procedure.

Referring again to FIG. 2 of the drawings, it will be seen that a plurality of spaced upper trim bracket members 91 are secured to the uppermost horizontal stringer 45. As seen in FIG. 3, each of the upper trim bracket members 91 includes an upstanding leg portion 92 terminating in a laterally extending flange 93. Leg portion 92 also is provided with a laterally extending lower leg 94 which in turn is connected with a depending leg portion 95 which finally terminates in a laterally extending flange portion 96.

The upper trim bracket members also each include an attaching portion indicated generally by reference numeral 100 including a leg portion 101 which is riveted to the leg portion 92. Attaching portion 100 includes a laterally extending leg portion 102 and a depending leg portion 103 provided with an opening therethrough for receiving the shank of a T-headed fastening means 41 as previously described. It is apparent that the fastening means 41 serves to support each of the upper trim bracket members 91 from the uppermost horizontal stringer 45.

The trim members indicated generally by reference numeral 105 are of a relatively conventional configuration and have a cross-sectional configuration which provides a pleasant finished appearance when mounted in operative position. The trim members 105 include a first laterally extending portion 106 which is secured by nut and bolt members 107 to the leg portion 93 of the upper trim support bracket 91. The trim members 105 also include laterally extending portions 108 which are secured by nut and bolt assemblies 109 to the flange portions 96 of the upper trim support brackets.

Referring again to FIG. 2 of the drawings, a plurality of spaced lower trim bracket support members 110 are provided at spaced positions along the lower most horizontal stringer 52. Referring to FIG. 3, each of the lower trim bracket members 110 includes a vertically extending leg portion 111 which terminates in a laterally extending leg 112. A leg 113 extends normally from the upper portion of leg 111 and in turn is connected with a vertically extending leg portion 114 which terminates in a laterally extending flange 115. An attaching means indicated by reference numeral 116 is secured to leg portion 111 by rivets 117 and is substantially identical with the attaching means 110 previously described, and a fastening means 41 is provided for attaching each of the lower trim bracket members to the lowermost horizontal stringer 52 as will be well understood.

The lower trim members 120 are of the same general configuration as the upper trim members 105, but the lateral dimensions of portions 121 and 122 may be varied slightly in order to fit over the portions 112 and 115 of the lower trim support brackets. Portions 121 and 122 of the lower trim members are secured to the portions 112 and 115 respectively of the lower trim brackets by means of nut and bolt assemblies 123 and 124.

Referring again to FIG. 2 of the drawings, it will be seen that side trim bracket members 130 are secured to the outer ends of horizontal stringers 50 and 51. The uppermost side trim bracket 130 as seen on the right hand side of FIG. 2 is also provided with a wedge member 131 attached by means of a flexible chain member 132 such that the wedge member is always available and cannot be removed from the framework. The construction of the side trim members and the wedge members will be more clearly understood from an inspection of FIGS. 5 and 6. As seen in these figures, side trim members 130 include a laterally extending leg 135 which terminates in a forwardly extending flange 136. A leg 137 also extends forwardly from leg portion 135, and is connected with a laterally extending leg portion 138 which finally terminates in a forwardly projecting flange portion 139. An attaching member 140 is connected to a leg portion 135 by means of rivets 141, the inner portion of attaching member 140 being connected to the associated horizontal stringer 50 by means of nut and bolt assemblies 142.

Each of the side trim members 145 is of the same general configuration as the top and bottom trim members, and the portions 146 and 147 of the side trim members are connected to the portions 136 and 139 respectively of the side trim support brackets by means of nut and bolt assemblies 148 and 149 respectively.

As seen especially in FIG. 6, the panel 25 includes a side channel member 150, and it is evident that when the wedge 131 is driven downwardly between the leg portion 137 of the side trim bracket 130 and the channel portion 150 of the panel member 25, the panel member will be moved toward the left as indicated by arrow A. By so utilizing the wedge member, the panel members may be urged toward the left thereby causing the panel members to be moved into abutting edge-to-edge relationship to thereby produce a smooth finished surface to the completed signboard such that no cracks or crevices will appear between the adjacent panels.

Referring again to FIG. 2, similar corner trim brackets 151 are secured to the opposite ends of the uppermost horizontal stringer 45 and the lowermost horizontal stringer 52. These corner trim bracket members are similar in construction to the side trim bracket members 130, the corner trim bracket members having tapered ends for cooperating with sloping surfaces formed on the corner trim members. The corner trim members are

indicated by reference numeral **152** in FIG. 1, the corner trim members being formed as arcuate portions but having the same general cross-sectional configuration as the side trim members and the top and bottom trim members.

Referring again to FIG. 2 of the drawings, downwardly extending skirt support brackets **155** are secured to the lower ends of each of the vertical support members **35**. As seen in FIG. 3, each of these downwardly extending skirt support brackets **155** is secured to the vertical support member **30** by means of nut and bolt assemblies **156** and includes a laterally extending flange **157**. A skirt means indicated by reference numeral **160** has depressed channels **161** formed longitudinally thereon, and nut and bolt assemblies **162** operatively connect the skirt means **160** to the skirt support brackets. As seen in FIGS. 1 and 3, the skirt means is supported immediately below the bottom trim members such that the upper portion of the skirt means fits substantially flush with the undersurface of the lower trim members. It will be understood that when the skirt means is to be moved upwardly after the trim members are removed when the signboard is to be used as a trimless type, the skirt means will be attached to suitable openings provided in the leg portion **35** of the associated vertical support members.

When it is desired to employ the trimless arrangement, it is necessary to reverse the position of the reversible bracket members **75**. In order to reverse the position of the bracket members **75**, the screws **77** are removed, and the bracket members are turned over and placed in the operative position shown in FIGS. 7 and 9. In this position, the channel portion of the bracket member faces away from the associated panels, and the lip portion including flange **86** is so disposed that the lip portion extends into a groove formed in the upper portion of the panel for supporting the panel in operative position. The bracket members **75** are retained in this reverse position by means of screws **77** which extend through the second pair of openings **80** as previously described in connection with FIG. 8.

It is evident that when the portable panel **22** is supported as shown in FIG. 7, the locking portion of stringers **50** and **51** will perform the same function as previously described, and the lower portion of the panel will be supported on the lower rail portion **60** of the lowermost horizontal stringer **52**. Of course, when the device is to be employed as a full-bleed trimless signboard, the trim support brackets are removed, as well as the trim members, and as seen in FIG. 7, the skirt means **160** is moved upwardly such that the upper surface thereof is substantially flush with the undersurface of stringer **52**.

Referring to FIG. 15, a larger size signboard frame is illustrated wherein additional support posts indicated by reference numerals **170** and **171** have been added, and additional sections have been added to each of the stringers **45**, **50**, **51** and **52**. It is evident that additional splice members **56** are employed in this case to secure the stringer members to one another. The signboard panels as associated with this size signboard are indicated somewhat schematically by the dotted line portion which also indicates the extent of the lower skirt means in order that one may get a clearer picture of the outer extent of the signboard structure when employed as a trimless type signboard. It is of course evident that the trim support brackets have been removed from the framework in this instance, and the remaining structural components serve the same function as disclosed previously in the aforedescribed structure.

Referring now to FIG. 4 of the drawings, the sequence in which the various trim members and skirt members are assembled with respect to one another is schematically illustrated. The various trim sections are so dimensioned that they overlap one another whereby they provide a complete and continuous trim when disposed in operative position. The various members are overlapped in the sequence indicated by the letters applied to the various sections of the trim as seen in FIG. 4. The members are assembled in alphabetical sequence, or in other words the members indicated by A are first put in place, the members indicated by B are then put in place, and so on in alphabetical order. The members of the skirt assembly indicated by G are merely additional corner members for providing a neat finished corner edge for the skirt.

Referring now to FIG. 16 of the drawings, a schematic view similar to FIG. 4 is illustrated, the signboard indicated schematically in FIG. 16 being one assembled using the framework shown in FIG. 15. FIG. 16 may be interpreted in exactly the same manner as FIG. 4, it being apparent from an inspection of this figure as to the exact sequence of assembly of the various trim components which are mounted in operative position in alphabetical sequence as discussed previously.

Referring now to FIGS. 10 and 11 of the drawings, a modified means of mounting the horizontal stringers in operative position is illustrated. In this particular illustration, the vertical support means comprises an I-beam **175** of conventional cross section configuration and suitably mounted in vertical operative position. The I-beam has oppositely extending leg portions **176** and **177** formed at one side thereof and a horizontal stringer **180** is provided with the same cross-sectional channel configuration as the horizontal stringers previously described. In this case, a pair of attaching members **181** and **182** are provided, attaching members including a tongue **181'** and **182'** respectively which extends through the open slot of the channel-shaped stringer **180**. As seen in FIG. 11, the attaching members **181** and **182** have a substantially cup-shaped cross-sectional configuration, and attaching means **41** as previously described extend through suitable openings provided through members **181** and **182**. It is evident that when the attaching members **181** and **182** are clamped in the operative position shown in FIG. 10, the remaining portions **176** and **177** of the I-beam **175** are tightly clamped between the attaching members and the adjacent portions of the horizontal stringer **180**. In this manner, the horizontal stringer **180** is securely clamped to the vertical supporting I-beam **175**.

Referring now to FIG. 14 of the drawings, a further means of mounting a horizontal stringer in operative position is illustrated. In this case, it is desired to connect the horizontal stringer to some wall portion indicated by reference numeral **190**. This type of installation may typically occur when it is desired to mount a signboard on the side of a building, and of course a wall portion **190** may be either wood or masonry construction as the case may be.

In FIG. 14, the horizontal stringer is indicated by reference numeral **191**, and an attaching bracket **192** is provided, this attaching bracket being similar to the attaching bracket **30** provided in the modification shown in FIGS. 12 and 13 and being provided with an additional laterally extending leg portion **193**. A bolt **195** may be inserted through a suitable opening provided in leg portion **193** and extends into the wall portion **190**, thereby supporting the bracket **192** in operative position, it being understood that the bracket **192** may extend a considerable distance vertically for supporting all of the horizontal stringer members. It is also evident that a plurality of bracket members **192** may be provided each of which supports only one of the horizontal stringers, the bracket members **192** in such a case being spaced vertically from one another. Here again fastener members **41** are employed for securing the horizontal stringer to the vertical support member, fasteners **41** of course passing through a suitable opening provided in the laterally extending leg portion **194** of brackets **192**.

The manner of assembling the signboard will be readily apparent. Firstly, the vertical support members are mounted on suitable support portions. As described, the

vertical support members may be of various different constructions and may be supported from various types of supporting surfaces such as upstanding posts, wall portions and the like. The horizontal stringers are then rigidly attached to the vertical support members by means of the fasteners **41** to provide the rigid open framework of the present invention. Secondly, assuming that it is desired to erect a trimless signboard, the reversible bracket members **75** are then secured to the uppermost horizontal stringer in the position shown in FIGS. 7 and 9 of the drawings, and the skirt means **160** is mounted flush with the undersurface of stringer **52** as seen in FIG. 7.

The panels are then mounted in operative position as illustrated in FIG. 7 of the drawings. This provides the trimless signboard arrangement according to the present invention.

If it is then desired to convert the trimless full-bleed signboard to a standard bulletin signboard with trim, the portable panels are first removed. The reversible bracket members secured to the uppermost horizontal stringer are then turned over and reversed into operative position shown in FIGS. 3 and 8 of the drawings. The skirt means is then mounted in the lower position as seen in FIG. 3 of the drawings. The various trim brackets are then mounted in operative position and the trim members are mounted on the trim bracket members in sequence as seen in FIGS. 4 and 16 for example. The panel members are then replaced on the structure, and the complete standard bulletin type signboard is provided.

If it is desired to convert the standard bulletin signboard to a trimless signboard, the portable panels are first removed, and then the skirt means is detached from the framework. The trim and the trim brackets are removed from the framework and the reversible bracket members are turned upside down into the position shown in FIGS. 7 and 9 of the drawings. The skirt means is then again secured to the framework in the raised position shown in FIG. 7, and the portable panels are placed in the operative position shown in FIG. 7.

It is apparent from the foregoing that there is provided a new and novel signboard apparatus and method of assembly and disassembly wherein the equipment costs are substantially reduced by providing a basic framework structure along with particular bracket means which may be attached to or detached therefrom for quickly converting the signboard from a standard bulletin trim type to a trimless full-bleed type. The labor costs involved in handling such signboards are considerably reduced due to the lightweight construction which permits easy handling and transportation of the signboard components and further due to the fact that the posting of the panels may be done completely in a workshop.

The appearance of the complete trimless signboard is very modernistic and neat-looking, and the structure may be easily adapted for cutouts and special-effect components. The signboard is quite simple and inexpensive in construction, and yet is sturdy and neat appearing when in use.

The method of assembling the signboard is provided which permits the signboard not only to be assembled but also to be disassembled in a quick and easy fashion. In addition, a novel method is provided for efficiently changing from a standard bulletin trim type signboard to a trimless type signboard in a simple and effective manner.

As this invention may be embodied in several forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof, the present embodiment is therefore illustrative and not restrictive, and since the scope of the invention is defined by the appended claims, all changes that fall within the metes and bounds of the claims or that form their functional as well as conjointly cooperative equivalents are therefore intended to be embraced by those claims.

I claim:

1. Signboard apparatus comprising a lightweight rigid framework, said framework including means for supporting signboard panels thereon, said framework also including locking portions for engaging and locking signboard panels in place relative thereto, and reversible bracket means removably attached to said framework, said reversible bracket means being attached to an upper portion of the framework and defining along one edge portion thereof a channel for receiving a portion of a signboard panel, said reversible bracket means including along another edge portion thereof a supporting lip adapted to engage the upper part of a signboard panel.

2. Signboard apparatus comprising a framework including rigidly interconnected substantially horizontal and vertical support members, said support members including portions for supporting and locking signboard panels thereon, and reversible bracket means detachably secured to the uppermost of said horizontal members, said reversible bracket means including a main body portion normally disposed in a vertical plane, said reversible bracket means including a first channel portion extending to one side of the plane of said main body portion to receive a signboard panel, said reversible bracket means including a lip portion extending to the opposite side of the plane of said body portion for engaging a portion of a signboard panel.

3. Signboard apparatus comprising an open lightweight rigid framework comprising a plurality of spaced vertical support members and spaced horizontal support members, means detachably securing said vertical and horizontal members together, trim bracket means adapted to be removably secured to the outer portions of said framework for attaching trim means to the framework, one of said horizontal members including means for supporting signboard panels thereon, another of said horizontal members including locking portions for locking the signboard panels in operative position relative to the framework, and reversible bracket means detachably secured to an upper one of said horizontal members, said reversible bracket means including a channel portion adapted to receive a signboard panel and a lip portion attached to engage a signboard panel depending on the operative position of the reversible bracket means relative to the framework.

4. Signboard apparatus comprising an open lightweight framework comprised of a plurality of horizontal stringers, means detachably securing said horizontal stringers to a plurality of spaced vertical support members, and trim brackets secured to the end portions of said horizontal stringers, upper trim brackets secured to an upper horizontal stringer and lower trim brackets secured to a lower horizontal stringer, trim means attached to said trim brackets to provide a continuous peripheral trim about the framework, and reversible bracket means detachably secured to an upper horizontal stringer, said reversible bracket means including a channel portion extending along one edge thereof for receiving a signboard panel and including a lip extending along another edge thereof for engaging a portion of a panel, a lower horizontal stringer including support means for supporting a signboard panel thereon, and an intermediate horizontal stringer including a locking portion for locking a signboard panel in operative position.

5. Signboard apparatus comprising a framework including a plurality of spaced vertical support members, a plurality of spaced horizontal stringers, said horizontal stringers being of substantially channel shaped cross sectional configuration, means detachably securing said horizontal stringers to said vertical support members, a lowermost horizontal stringer including bottom rail portions for supporting signboard panels thereon, an intermediate horizontal stringer including locking portions for lock-

ing signboard panels in place thereon, trim bracket means adapted to be connected to said horizontal stringers adjacent the outer portions of the framework for supporting trim means in place relative to the framework, and reversible bracket means detachably secured at two spaced portions of the uppermost horizontal stringer, said reversible upper brackets each including a main body portion disposed in a plane, each of said reversible bracket means including a channel portion extending to one side of said plane, each of said reversible bracket means also including a lip portion extending to the opposite side of said plane, the channel portion being adapted to receive an upper portion of a signboard panel in one operative position of the reversible bracket means, and the lip portion being adapted to engage an upper portion of a signboard panel when the reversible bracket means is in the reverse operative position.

6. Signboard apparatus comprising a framework including vertical and horizontal stringers, means detachably securing said vertical and horizontal stringers to one another in rigid relationship, a lowermost horizontal stringer including rail portions for supporting signboard panels thereon, an intermediate horizontal stringer including locking portions for locking signboard panels in operative relationship to the framework, end trim bracket means secured to end portions of said horizontal stringers, upper trim bracket means secured to the uppermost horizontal stringer and lower trim bracket means secured to the lowermost horizontal stringer, trim means supported by said trim bracket means to

define a continuous peripheral trim for the signboard, skirt means detachably secured to said vertical stringers, and reversible bracket means detachably secured to spaced portions of the uppermost horizontal stringer, said reversible bracket means including a channel portion formed along one edge thereof for receiving the upper portion of a signboard panel in one position of the reversible bracket means, the reversible bracket means also including a lip portion formed along the opposite edge thereof for engaging an upper portion of a signboard panel in the reverse operative position of the reversible bracket means.

7. Apparatus as defined in claim 6 including a wedge means, said wedge means engaging a portion of one of said end trim bracket means and being adapted to engage an adjacent side portion of a signboard panel such that vertical movement of the wedge means relative to the framework produces a camming action tending to maintain the associated signboard panels in abutting edge-to-edge relationship with one another.

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