June 3, 1969 L. DAVIDSON 3,447,274

SCENERY SYSTEM

Filed June 14, 1967

FIG. 1.

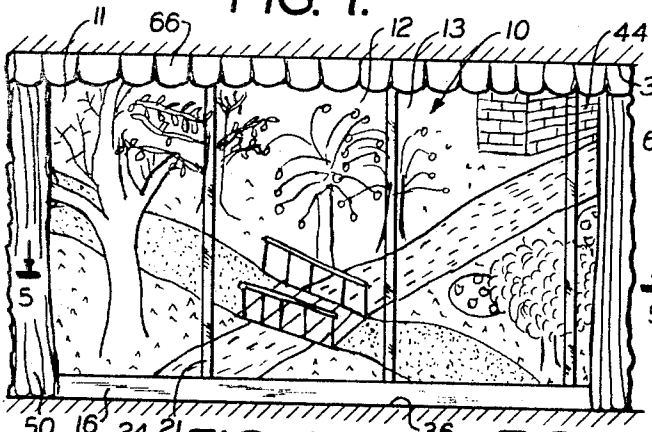


FIG. 2.

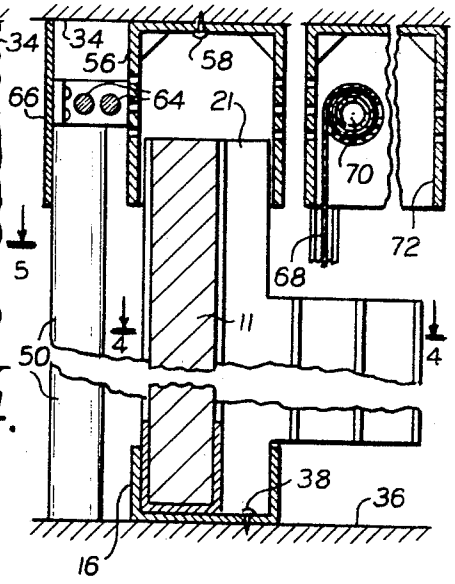


FIG. 2A.

FIG. 3.

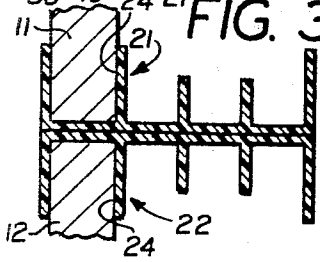


FIG. 4.

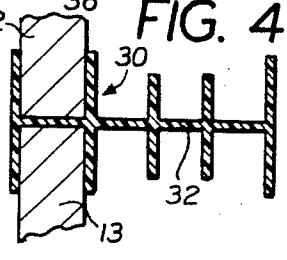


FIG. 5.

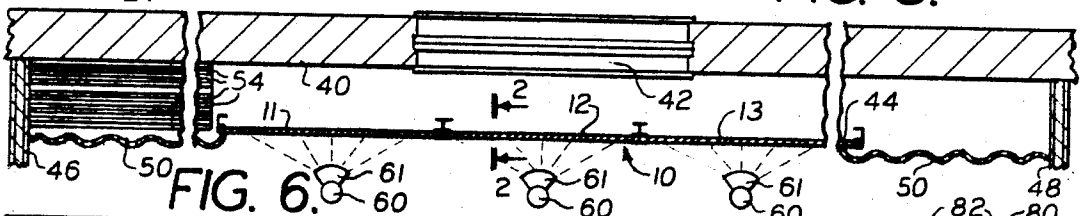


FIG. 6.

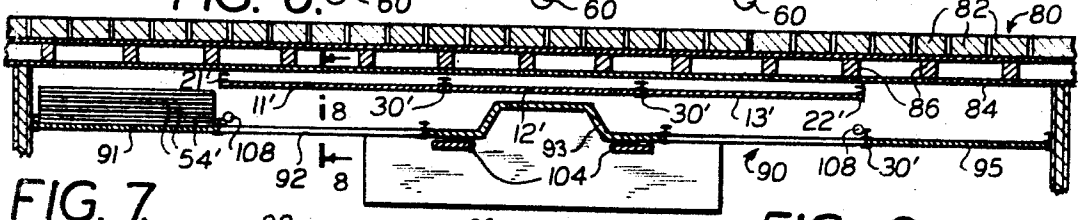


FIG. 7.

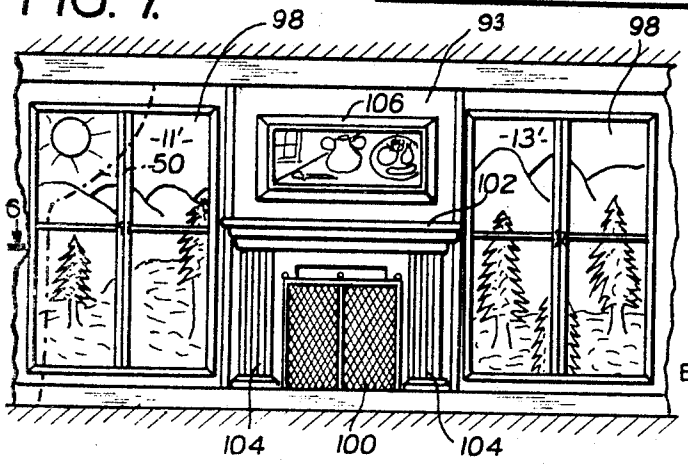
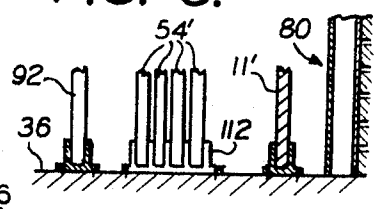


FIG. 8.



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SCENERY SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This specification discloses improved apparatus for assembling large scenery pictures, with or without a partition having openings through which the scenery is viewed. The scenery is made up of modular picture panels that are assembled into a continuous picture by connectors that hold the panels straight and with a minimum of interference with the visibility of the scene. The parts of the connectors that extend over the fronts of the edges of the panels are preferably transparent so as not to hide those areas. Space is provided behind the picture for the storage of other modular panels that can be substituted for those in the picture to obtain a change of scene. The specification discloses a partition in front of and spaced from the continuous picture of an outdoor scene with windows and/or doors through which the outside scene can be viewed. Other features relate to the holders for the panels including those in storage; the latter fitting into the channels that keep the panels out of contact with one another for protection when stored.

Brief description of the invention

This invention is for the purpose of creating an outdoor atmosphere in a room by assembling large color pictures of summer gardens or winter scenes of substantially the full height of the room and for widths of twelve feet or larger. The pictures are made up of modular panels about four feet wide with the edges assembled close together.

The invention provides means for holding the panels in place and for preventing lateral displacement caused by any bending of the panels. By using channel-holding means on the floor, and other vertical channels that receive the vertical edges of the panels, it is practical to use panels of less stiffness. In the preferred construction, the portions of the vertical channels which extend over the front surfaces of the edge portions of the channels are made transparent so as to interfere as little as possible with the visibility of the picture.

One feature of the invention is in providing for changes in scene. Unlike murals, which remain the same at all times, the assembled panel construction of this invention makes practical the replacement of panels; and provision is made for storage space for the additional panels in a space behind the assembled panels that make up the continuous picture. Channels are provided for connection with the floor in the storage space for holding the stored panels with their surfaces out of contact with one another.

A flexible panel on a roller, preferably a horizontal roller, can be used for getting a change of scenery. Also the invention is made in a modified form with a partition of modular panels in front of and spaced from the outdoor picture, and this partition has a window, door, or other optical openings through which the outdoor picture can be seen. The partition may include ornamental room features such as a mantle and a fireplace.

More realistic effects are obtained by bright lighting with lights having reflectors and directed toward the picture. When there is a partition in front of and spaced from the picture, the light is applied to the picture from behind the partition so that the reflected light from the picture comes into the room through the optical openings

of the door or window to produce the effect of light from outdoors.

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will appear or be pointed out as the description proceeds.

Brief description of the drawing

In the drawing, forming a part hereof, in which like reference characters indicate corresponding parts in all the views:

FIGURE 1 is a front view of a garden scene made up of modular panels connected together to form a continuous picture;

FIGURE 2 is a greatly enlarged fragmentary sectional view through the construction shown in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 2A is a fragmentary sectional view showing a modification of a part of the structure of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 3 is a greatly enlarged sectional view through the connectors between successive panels of the picture shown in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 4 is a view similar to FIGURE 3 but showing a modified form of the invention;

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 6 is a view similar to FIGURE 5 but showing a modified form of the invention, the section being taken on the line 6—6 of FIGURE 7;

FIGURE 7 is a front view of the modified form of the invention shown in FIGURE 6; and

FIGURE 8 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 8—8 of FIGURE 6.

Detailed description of the invention

FIGURES 1 and 5 show a continuous picture **10** which is made up of three modular panels **11**, **12** and **13**. These panels are held in place in their lower ends by a channel **16** which is preferably attached to the floor of the room in which the panels are used. Other means for holding the bottom edges of the panels **11–13** can be used but the channel **16** has the advantage of holding the bottom edges of the panels flat and against bending or warping.

The panels **11** and **12** fit into vertical edge guides **21** and **22**, respectively. These edge guides have channels **24** with a fore-and-aft thickness sufficient to receive the edge portions of the panels **11** and **12**. The panels preferably fit into the channels **24** closely enough so that the channels serve to hold the vertical edge portions of the panels against bending or warping and this provision for holding the edges of the panels in stiff guide means throughout substantially the entire length of the panel edges make practical the use of panel materials of less stiffness than would otherwise be necessary.

The picture panels **11–13** may be made of corrugated paper board, plywood, plastic board or other inexpensive sheet material. The pictures can be printed directly on the stiff material of the panels or can be printed on flexible material which is bonded to the panels to obtain the necessary stiffness. For some purposes, flexible panels, preferably rolled on a horizontal roller, can be used with this invention, as will be explained later in connection with FIGURE 2A.

The portions of the vertical edge guides **21** and **22**, which extend vertically from floor to ceiling of the panels near the edges of the panels, are preferably made of transparent material such as plastic so as to interfere as little as possible with the visibility of the picture. In the preferred construction, the entire vertical edge guides **21** and **22** are made of plastic, so as to use a one-piece construction.

The panels **12** and **13** are connected together by a vertical edge guide **30** which is the same as the edge guides **21** and **22** except that it is constructed with channels on both sides and the panel **12** extends into the

channel on one side while the panel **13** extends into the channel on the other side. Thus the vertical edge guide **30** has channels extending in both directions from a center web **32**, whereas each of the edge guides **21** and **22** has channels extending in one direction only.

In FIGURE 1 the ceiling of the room is represented by the reference character **34** and the floor of the room is represented by the refernce character **36**. The channel **16** is attached to the floor by fastening means **38**, as shown in FIGURE 2.

The panels **11**, **12** and **13** are located in front of a wall **40** (FIGURE 5) and are generally parallel to and spaced some distance in front of the wall **40**. There is a window **42** in the wall **40**. This window may be opened for ventilation if the room is not air-conditioned, but in the illustrated construction, the continuous picture formed by the panels **11**, **12** and **13** is placed across the window **42** so as to obtain a large picture.

The continuous picture shown in FIGURES 1 and 2 can be as long as desired within the space available in the room, and a portion of a fourth panel **44** is shown in FIGURES 1 and 5. It is desirable, however, not to have the continuous picture extend all the way to both of the end walls **46** and **48** of the room. In order to utilize the storage space behind the panels **11–13** and **44**, space is left at one or both ends of the picture and a curtain **50** is hung over the space. Either curtain **50** or a rigid panel can be pulled back in order for a person to gain access to the space behind the panels. The curtains or drapes **50** can be constructed so that they can be pulled across the entire width of the picture, if desired.

A plurality of substitute panels **54** are shown stored in the space behind one of the curtains **50**, or can be stored behind the panels. These substitute panels can be used to replace the panels **11–13** and **44** when a change in scene is desired. The substitute panels **54** are preferably of the same size as the panels **11–13** and **44**. Where the space behind the curtain **50** is narrower than the length of a panel **54**, the substitute panels can be stored with a portion of their width extending behind the panel **11**.

In addition to storing the panels **54** at a location such as shown in FIGURE 5, and preferably with means for holding the lower ends of the panels, as will be explained in connection with FIGURE 8, the substitute panels can also be stored directly behind the continuous picture panels **11–13** and **44**. For example: the vertical edge guides **21**, **22** and **30** have a plurality of vertical channels in addition to the most forward channels in which the continuous picture panels are held. The substitute panels can be placed in these additional channels of the vertical edge guides. This provides a means for holding the substitute panels with their edges braced against bending, and the panels can be protected during shipment by placing up to four panels in closely-spaced parallel relation to one another with their edges in the channels of the guide **21** or **22**.

Access to the rearward substitute panels **54** can be obtained easily by pulling off the vertical edge guide of an endmost panel of the continuous picture. This makes it then possible to remove the forward panel and any other panels behind it in order to gain access to a desired panel which is to be substituted for the forward panel. It will be understood that the vertical edge guides are not connected to the bottom channel **16** or to any other fixed supports. The bottom channel **16**, and a corresponding top channel **56** (FIGURE 2), prevent fore-and-aft lateral displacement of the vertical edge guides **21**, **22** and **30** but do not prevent movement of these edge guides in a direction in the plane of the picture.

The upper guide channel **56** is attached to the ceiling **34** by fastening means **58**. Lights **60** for brightly illuminating the panels **11–13** and **44**, are provided with reflectors **61** which direct the light toward the picture panels but do not permit any of the light to be thrown back toward the observer. These lights may be located near the ceiling **34** and there are preferably enough lights **60** at spaced locations across the width of the picture to obtain uniform illumination.

FIGURE 2 shows one of the curtains **50** with a supporting pole **64** attached to the front of the upper guide channel **56**; and there is a valance **66** for concealing the curtain rod. A second pole **64** is provided for the curtain **50** at the other side of the picture so that the curtains can have their edges pass one another when used as drapes for the full width of the picture; or the second pole **64** can be used for hanging a moving picture screen.

For some purposes, scenery can be provided on a flexible curtain **68** which winds up on an overhead horizontal roller **70** located in a supporting channel **72** attached to the ceiling **34**. In special circumstances, the roller **70** can be a vertical roller, but horizontal rollers are more convenient.

FIGURE 6 shows a modified construction with a building wall **80** made up of blocks **82** and a plaster wall **84** firred out from the block wall by firring strips **86**. A group of picture panels **11′**, **12′** and **13′** is generally parallel to the wall **84** and spaced a slight distance from the wall. The panels **11′–13′** are preferably of the same construction as the panels **11–13** previously described, and they have vertical edge guides **21′**, **22′** and **30′** which are of a construction similar to the edge guides **21**, **22** and **30**, previously described.

A partition **90** is located in front of the continuous picture formed by the panels **11′–13′**. This partition **90** is made up of panels **91–95** which are of modular construction similar to the picture panels previously described and with vertical edge guides **21′**, **22′** and **30′**.

The panels **91–95** represent an inside wall of a building and they have optical openings, such as transparent windows and door panels through which the outdoor scene on the panels **11′–13′** can be viewed.

FIGURE 7 shows a window **98** in the panel **92** and a similar window **98** in the panel **94**. The panel **11′** is visible through the left-hand window **98** and the panel **13′** is visible through the right-hand window **98**. A curtain or drape **50** can be used on one or both of the windows **98**.

To provide additional ornamentation in the room, the middle panel **93** is constructed with an artificial fireplace **100** and with a mantle **102** supported by columns **104** on opposite sides of the fireplace **100**. A picture **106** is shown over the mantle **102**. The fireplace panel **93** can be of composite construction with three or four sections so that when disassembled, it can be stored flat. The sections can be paper board, corrugated paper, plastic, wood, or combinations of these.

Because of the fact that there are two spaced lines of panels in the constructions shown in FIGURES 6 and 7, the rearward panels **11′–13′** are located close to the wall so as to reduce the amount of space taken from the room. All of the space for the storage of additional panels **54′** is behind the partition **90** at locations where the stored substitute panels **54′** are not visible through the windows **98**. Lights **108** with reflectors to limit the lighting to the panels **11′–13′**, are also located behind the partition **90**. These lights illuminate the outdoor scene brightly and cause brightly and cause the room to be lighted by light coming in through the windows, as with real outdoor windows.

The substitute panels **54** can be stored loose or they can be held in position when stored. FIGURE 8 shows a channel support **112** attached to the floor **36** and provided with parallel channels into which the lower ends of substitute panels **54′** extend. The sides of the channels between the channel depressions are of a width to hold the panels **54** out of contact with one another while in storage.

What is claimed is:

1. A composite picture including frame structure adapted to be secured to a support, said frame structure comprising vertically extending channel-shaped holding means with transparent edge portions that overlie portions of front surfaces of removable panels and through which the continuous picture is visible, a plurality of said removable panels, each of which contains a portion of the composite picture, edges of the panels being mounted in the channel-shaped holding means, in sufficiently close relation to each other so as to form a continuous picture, and so as to prevent lateral displacement of said panels.

2. The composite picture described in claim 1 characterized by the channel-shaped holding means having portions extending rearwardly beyond the parts that hold the panels to stiffen the structure laterally and to increase the strength of the channel-shaped holding means for supporting vertical loads.

3. The composite picture described in claim 1 characterized by said composite picture including representations of windows, and scenic panels behind the window secured in fixed relation to said composite picture and in position to be viewed through the windows.

4. The composite picture described in claim 1 characterized by the channel-shaped holding means comprising an integral structure of vertically-extending fins connected to a web and spaced from and parallel to one another so as to form front channels for receiving the edges of the picture panels, and the structure including also other channels behind the front panel-receiving channels.

5. The combination described in claim 1 characterized by the panel holding means being located in a room and spaced from a wall of the room, the picture panels that make the continuous picture facing away from said wall, and the space between the wall and the picture panels that make the continuous picture being large enough for storage of other similar picture panels.

6. The combination described in claim 5 characterized by the continuous picture being spaced from a side of the room, and the continuous picture being spaced from at least one end wall of the room by a distance sufficient for passage of panels between the part of the room in front of the picture and said space between the side wall and the panel.

7. The combination described in claim 1 characterized by other panels located generally parallel to but spaced from the first picture panels, said other panels forming a partition with a window therein through which are visible portions of the continuous picture formed by the first panels.

8. The combination described in claim 7 characterized by the other panels including enough opaque area to shield a storage space between the first picture panels and said other panels large enough to store a group of substitute picture panels for use when the scene visible through the window is to be changed.

9. The combination described in claim 1 characterized by the panel holding means including a channel for connection with the floor of a room, the channel being of a fore-and-aft width to receive the lower ends of adjacent panels for holding them in a common plane.

10. The combination described in claim 9 characterized by the vertically extending channel-shaped holding means including a plurality of other parallel channel-shaped holding means behind the first channel-shaped holding means and of a fore-and-aft width to receive the edges of panels of the composite picture, said plurality of parallel channel-shaped holding means being used to receive the edge portions of additional and substitute picture panels that are stored behind the continuous picture panels.

11. The combination described in claim 1 characterized by lights at spaced locations across the continuous picture and spaced ahead of the picture for illuminating it, space beyond the continuous picture at one end thereof, a curtain hanging over said end of the picture and beyond the picture and affording access to space behind the continuous picture, and means in said space for holding a group of additional picture panels stored in spaced relation to one another.

12. The combination described in claim 11 characterized by the means for holding the additional picture panels including parallel channels for attachment to a floor and with the channels of a fore-and-aft width to receive the bottom edges of the additional picture panels of the same modular size and of the same thickness as the continuous picture panels, the depressions of the channels for attachment to the floor being spaced by intervening walls of a thickness to prevent the stored additional panels from being in contact with one another while so stored.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

40—152; 52—38, 238; 156—63; 161—18, 37, 413