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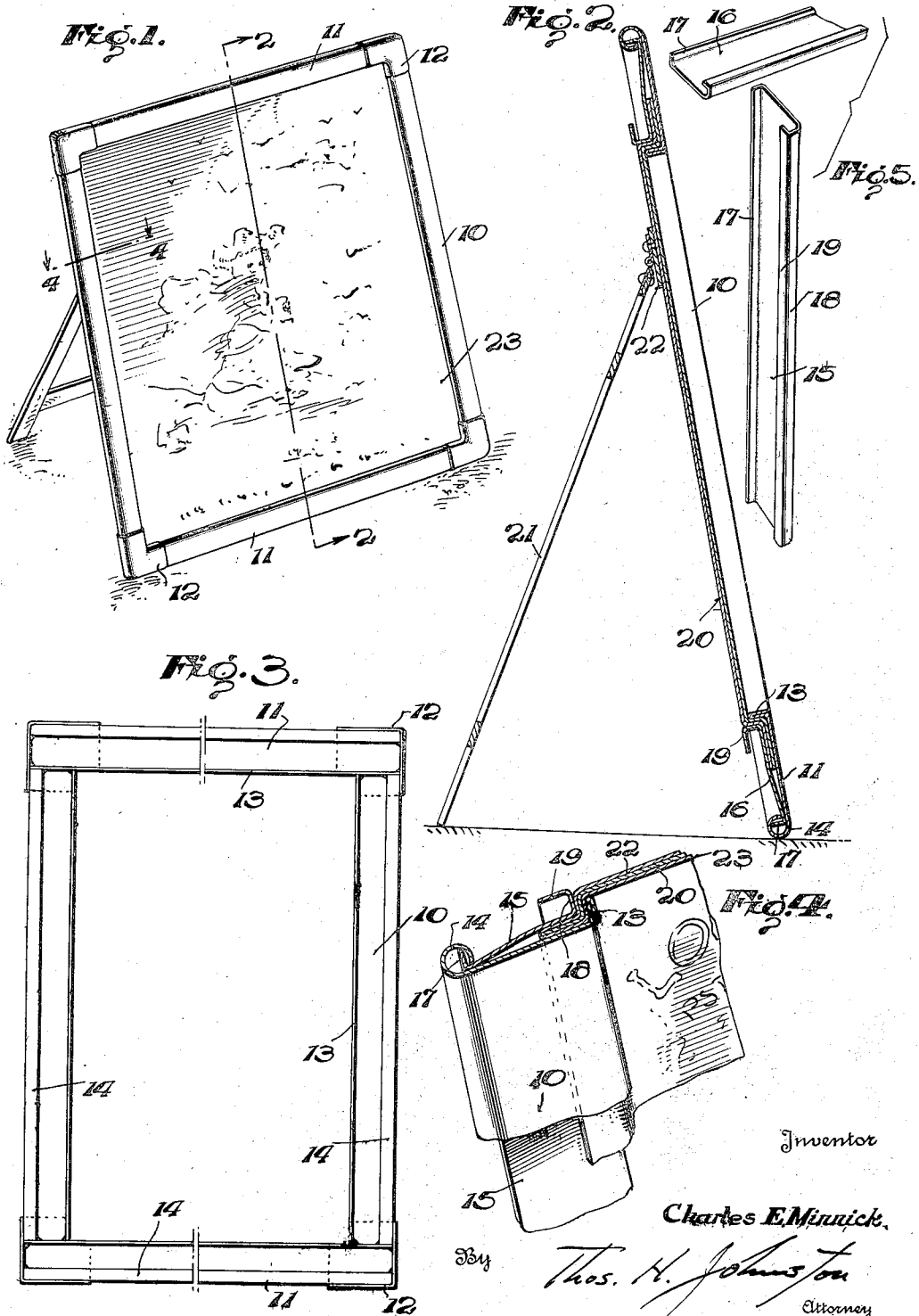
C. E. MINNICK

2,249,663

PICTURE FRAME

Filed Oct. 26, 1939

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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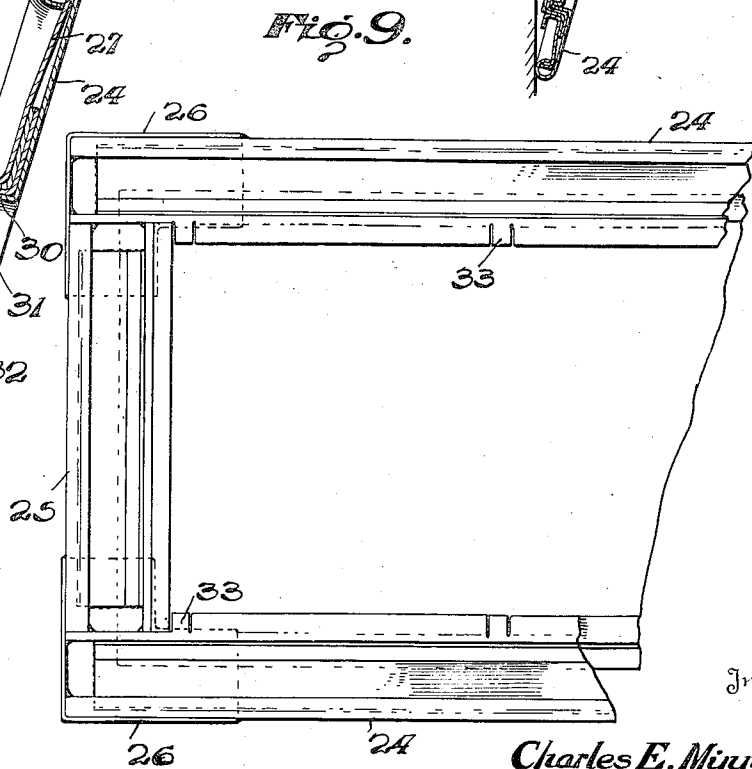
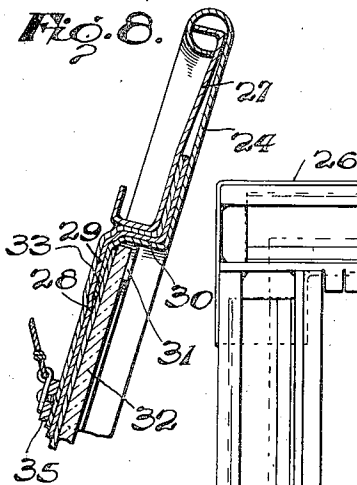
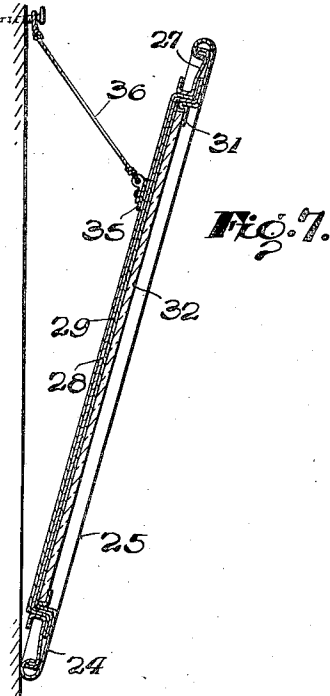
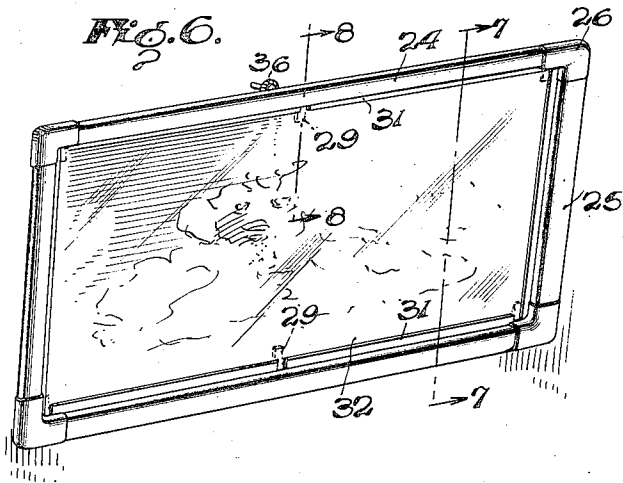
C. E. MINNICK

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PICTURE FRAME

Filed Oct. 26, 1939

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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PICTURE FRAME

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6 Claims. (Cl. 40—154)

This invention relates to an improved picture frame.

As is well known, moving picture theaters practice the custom of displaying at the entrance to the theater or in the lobby thereof, so-called "stills" of the actors featured in the current picture offered as well as "stills" of certain sequences taken from said picture. Furthermore, it is the custom to display "stills" of coming attractions. The practice mentioned involves the use of easels and picture frames and creates the necessity of changing the "stills" displayed very frequently. In so far as known, easels and picture frames now used for the purpose mentioned more or less conform to old types which are not primarily fashioned to accommodate frequent change of "stills" displayed, with the result that not only are the "stills" mutilated but also, the easel or frame itself is damaged through the difficulty experienced in changing "stills."

An object of the present invention, therefore, is to provide a frame especially constructed for the purpose mentioned and wherein "stills" may be readily installed in the frame or removed therefrom without hurt to the "stills" or accretive damage to the frame.

A further object of the invention is to provide a frame wherein a display sheet will be employed, wherein a backing sheet will be provided to protect the display sheet, and wherein resilient clamping strips will be employed to tautly stretch and bind the sheets in place.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a frame wherein the clamping strips may be manually removed with ease or as easily replaced without injury to the sheets or the frame while, however, said strips will not spring out of place or accidentally become loosened or ineffective.

A further object of the invention is to provide a frame wherein the resiliency of the clamp-receiving parts of the frame will coact with the resiliency of the clamping strips themselves for yieldably accommodating, binding and frictionally holding the strips in place.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a frame of metal fabrication which may be cheaply produced, which, therefore, may be offered at an economical price and which will fulfill the demand of the present scattered and multiplying number of moving picture theaters for a device of this kind.

And the invention seeks as a no less important object to provide a frame which may be readily

embodied in an easel or fashioned to be hung upon a wall.

Other and incidental objects of the invention will be grasped as the description proceeds and in the drawings which form a part of this application:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the invention embodied in an easel.

Figure 2 is a vertical section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a rear elevation of the connected rails of the frame, other parts being omitted.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary detail section on the line 4—4 of Figure 1 and showing the function of the clamping strips and how the leg strap of the easel is secured.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of typical clamping strips.

Figure 6 is a perspective view showing the invention embodied in a picture frame for use upon a wall.

Figure 7 is a vertical section on the line 7—7 of Figure 6.

Figure 8 is an enlarged detail section on the line 8—8 of Figure 6.

Figure 9 is an enlarged fragmentary rear elevation of the frame shown in Figure 6, parts being omitted.

Referring now more particularly to Figures 1 to 5 inclusive of the drawings, I have shown the invention embodied in an easel. In carrying the invention into effect, I employ side rails 10 and end rails 11 suitably joined at their meeting ends by corner unions 12 to define a display opening. As seen in Figure 3, the end rails 11 overlies the ends of the side rails 10 and the whole may be spot-welded or otherwise secured into a fixed rigid unit, all of the parts being of suitable resilient sheet metal.

The inner margins of the side and end rails are folded upon themselves to provide flanges 13, as seen best in Figure 4, while at their outer margins, said rails are rolled to provide cylindrical anchoring beads 14 each open at the mouth thereof. As will be perceived, the flanges 13 and beads 14 impart a more or less channel shape to the side and end rails.

Extending substantially from end to end of the side and end rails 10 and 11 are removable side and end channel shaped clamping strips 15 and 16 of suitable resilient sheet metal. At their outer margins, these strips are provided with upturned flanges 17 while at their inner margins said strips are formed with upturned walls 18 somewhat wider than the flanges 17 and pro-

vided with inturned overhanging flanges 19. The clamping strips are thus substantially identical, the only difference being a matter of length.

In conjunction with the clamping strips 15 and 16 I also provide a back sheet 20 which may be of any tough paper or other approved material and to adapt the structure for use as an easel, I further provide a leg 21. Mounting the leg is a flexible cross strap 22 of canvas or the like, the upper ends of the side members of the leg being swingingly connected to said strap by suitable hinges. The exact construction of the leg as well as the construction of said hinges is not important. It should be noted, however, that the leg may be swung to lie flat at the back of the side and end rails 10 and 11.

In the drawings I have conventionally shown a display sheet at 23. So-called "stills" as used by moving picture theaters are prevalently lithographed or otherwise imposed upon such a sheet while a single sheet often carries several pictures showing different individuals or different sequences. However, as a conventional variation, the sheet 23 is not infrequently formed with openings through which separate photographs at the rear of the sheet are displayed.

To mount the sheet 23, the strips 15 and 16 are first removed when said sheet is manually positioned to overlie the free edges of the flanges 13 of the side and end rails 10 and 11 to extend within the channels of said rails, when the back sheet 20 is positioned over the display sheet at the back thereof. The supporting strap 22 of the leg 21 is then arranged to extend against the back sheet between the side rails 10 near the upper ends thereof when one of the clamping strips 15, for instance, is engaged within one of the side rails 10, as will be later explained, for securing the corresponding margins of the sheets as well as one end of the strap 22. The other of the clamping strips 16 is then engaged with the remaining side rail 11 for securing the opposite corresponding margins of the sheets as well as the other end of the strap 22 when, in like manner, the end strips 16 are engaged with the end rails 11 for securing the end margins of the sheets. Thus, the sheets will be fastened at their several margins so that the sheet 23 will be supported to display the pictures thereon at the display opening provided by the rails 10 and 11 while the strap 22 will be anchored at its ends for supporting the leg 21 so that, as seen in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings, the leg may function to sustain the device in operative position.

As the clamping strips 15 and 16 are alike, except as to length, as previously noted, function alike and are installed or removed in like manner, it is necessary to make explanation in connection with a single strip only, the showing of Figure 4 being chosen for convenience.

As will be appreciated, the adjacent margins of the sheets 20 and 23 and the adjacent end of the strap 22 initially extend limply across the edge of the flange 13 into the channel of the adjacent rail 10 so that the coacting clamping strip 15 may be readily positioned thereover. Initially, the strip is tilted so that the flange 17 thereof may be inserted through the mouth of the bead 14 of the rail 10 when the strip is manipulated to engage said flange within the bead. The flange 19 is then grasped and the strip swung to seat in active position within the rail. Thus, the margins of the sheets 20 and 23 as well as the end of the strap 22 will be clamped between the flange 13 of the rail 10 and the wall 18 of

the strip 15 which flange and wall will coact to yieldably grip said margins and the strap. Furthermore, as the strip 15 is swung into active position, the wall 18 will drag against the back sheet 20 with constantly increasing friction for stretching the sheet as well as the sheet 23 taut so that the display sheet will be smooth throughout its area to properly display the pictures thereon. The back sheet 20 will, however, protect the sheet 23 against abrasion. Should one or more openings be provided in the sheet 23 to display photographs, as previously noted, said photographs will be confined between the sheets 20 and 23 while the sheet 20 will firmly clamp the photographs in proper position.

As the strip 15 approaches its seated active position, the wall 18 will coact with the adjacent margins of the sheets 20 and 23 for wedging the strip sidewise toward the bead 14 of the rail 10 with the result that the flange 17 will be caused to bind within the bead against the top and bottom portions thereof. Thus, when the flange comes to rest, further sidewise wedging pressure on the strip 15 will tend to cause the flange 17 to expand the bead so that the resiliency of the bead will be utilized along with the resiliency of the flange 13 and wall 18 for yieldably gripping the margins of the sheets 20 and 23 as well as the adjacent end of the strap 22 between said flange and wall.

As will be seen, the bead 14 of the rail 10 and flange 17 of the strip 15 provide a loose hinge connection between said strip and rail so that said strip will not likely become displaced accidentally. However, by inserting the fingers beneath the flange 19 and pulling rearwardly thereon, the strip may be readily swung up out of the rail 10 and, if so desired, completely detached when, of course, the sheets 20 and 23 as well as the strap 22 may be readily displaced.

In Figures 6 to 9 inclusive of the drawings I have shown a picture frame constructed to be hung upon a wall. The side and end rails employed are indicated at 24 and 25, the corner unions at 26, the clamping strips at 27, the display sheet at 28 and the back sheet at 29, all of these parts corresponding to like parts of the embodiment of the invention first described and functioning in like manner.

The flanges at the inner margins of the rails 24 and 25 are indicated at 30, these flanges corresponding to the flanges 13, and formed on the flanges 30 are lateral lips 31 projecting into the display opening provided by the rails 24 and 25. Seated against the lips 31 is a pane 32 of glass, against the rear face of which the display sheet 28 lies, and struck from said lips as well as from the flanges 30 are overhanging tongues 33 centering the display sheet in position upon the glass pane 32. The display sheet may, of course, be a photograph or other picture and is of a size corresponding substantially to the size of the glass pane.

In this variation, I employ a pair of straps 34 corresponding to the strap 22 first described, and extending between the straps 34 is a like cross strap 35 to which, as shown in Figure 7, a suspending cord 36 may be attached for hanging the device upon a wall. Except as noted, this variation of the invention is identical with the prior embodiment thereof and further description is accordingly believed unnecessary.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A picture frame including resilient channel shaped side and end rails connected to form a

display opening for a display sheet, certain of said rails being provided at their inner margins with flanges and at their outer margins with beads, a back sheet overlying the display sheet at the rear thereof, and resilient channel shaped clamping strips removably wedged within said certain rails and provided at their outer margins with flanges engaged in said beads and at their inner margins with walls clamping interposed margins of the back sheet between said walls and the flanges of said certain rails for securing the display sheet in position.

2. A picture frame including resilient channel shaped side and end rails connected to form a display opening for a display sheet overlying certain of said rails at the rear thereof, said certain rails being provided at their inner margins with flanges and at their outer margins with beads, and resilient channel shaped clamping strips removably wedged within said certain rails and provided at their outer margins with flanges engaged in said beads and at their inner margins with walls clamping interposed margins of the display sheet between said walls and the flanges of said certain rails.

3. A picture frame including resilient channel shaped side and end rails connected to form a display opening for a display sheet overlying certain of said rails at the rear thereof, said certain rails being provided at their inner margins with flanges and at their outer margins with beads, resilient channel shaped clamping strips removably wedged within said certain rails and provided at their outer margins with flanges engaged in said beads and at their inner margins with walls clamping interposed margins of the display sheet between said walls and the flanges of said certain rails, a strap removably secured at its ends by said clamping strips, and a supporting leg carried by said strap.

4. A picture frame including resilient channel

shaped side and end rails, certain of said rails being provided at their outer margins with beads and at their inner margins with flanges having lips projecting laterally therefrom, a transparency seated against said lips and adapted to receive a display sheet thereagainst at the rear thereof, a back sheet overlying the rear face of said display sheet, and resilient channel shaped clamping strips removably wedged within said certain rails and provided at their outer margins with flanges engaged in said beads and at their inner margins with walls clamping interposed margins of the back sheet between said walls and the flanges of said certain rails for securing the display sheet in position.

5. A picture frame including channel shaped side and end rails connected to form a display opening, certain of said rails being provided at their inner margins with means forming yieldable flanges and at their outer margins with stop means, and channel shaped clamping strips engaged within said certain channel shaped rails to coact with said stop means and provided at their inner margins with means forming yieldable flanges limited by said stop means to cooperate with the former flanges and wedge interposed margins of a sheet between the yieldable flanges of the rails and the clamping strips.

6. A picture frame including side and end rails connected to form a display opening, certain of said rails being provided at their inner margins with means forming yieldable flanges, and clamping strips engaged with said certain rails and provided at their inner margins with means forming yieldable flanges to cooperate with the former flanges and wedge interposed margins of a sheet therebetween, said certain rails and the strips being provided at their outer margins with means hingedly connecting the parts.

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