Jan. 31, 1928. 1,657,967

W. A. KICHLINE

NIGHT AND DAY HOUSE NUMBER

Filed Jan. 22, 1923

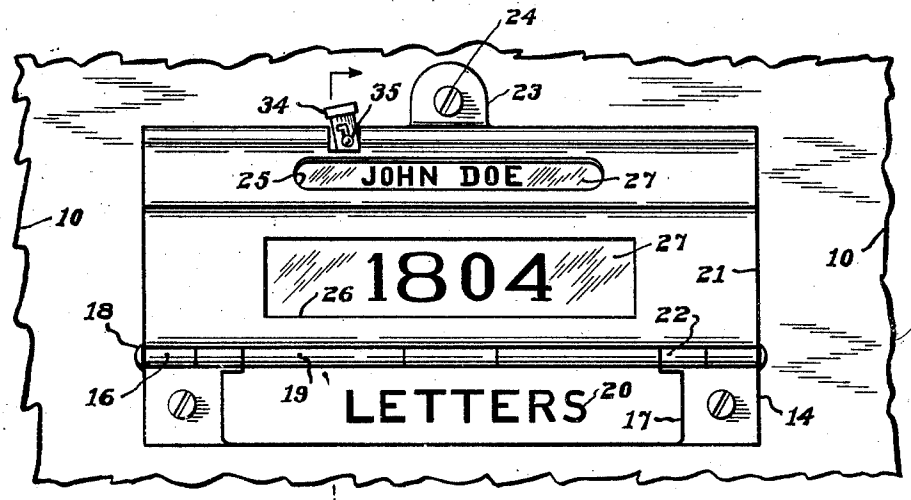


Fig. 1.

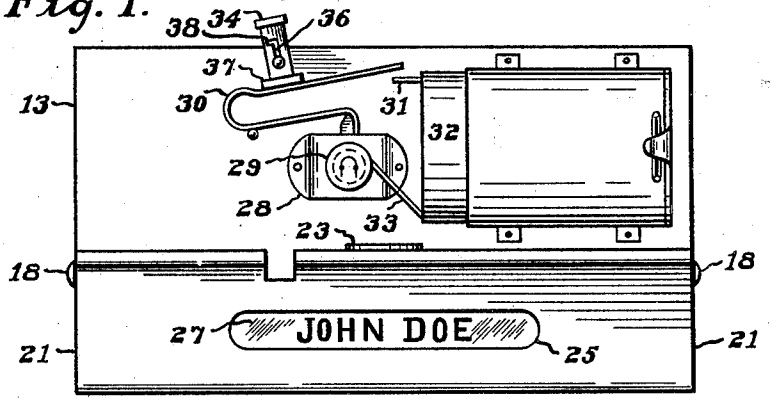


Fig. 3.

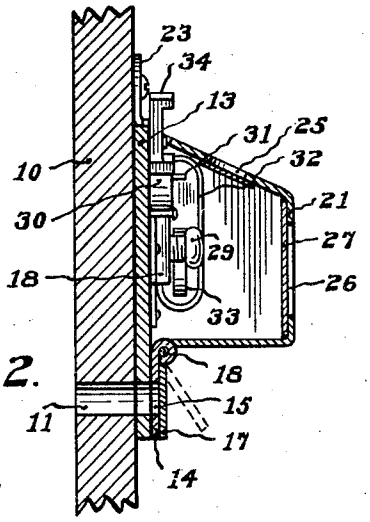


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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NIGHT AND DAY HOUSE NUMBER.

Application filed January 22, 1923. Serial No. 614,303.

This invention relates to a device for indicating house numbers visually both by day and night, and contemplates the inclusion of all necessary elements in a single housing so that the same may be readily attached to or detached from a door or post of a house and without any noticeable injury to the door or woodwork.

One of the principal objects of the invention is to produce a device of this nature which shall be simple of construction, consisting of few parts, cheap to manufacture, easily assembled and highly efficient for the purpose for which it is designed.

Another object is to produce a unit which may be secured to a house and which will normally during the day show the owner's name and the house number, and which at night may be illuminated by any one wishing to obtain the same information.

Another object of the invention is to combine this mechanism with the ordinary letter-drop of a door so as to form a unit therewith whereby no peculiarly noticeable change of appearance may be effected in the door.

Another object is to produce a device of this nature which shall lend a graceful, artistic and attractive appearance to that to which it is attached.

With these and other objects in view as will be more apparent, the invention consists in certain novel construction and combination and arrangement of parts, the essential features of which are hereinafter fully described, are particularly pointed out in the appended claims, and are illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my device as applied to a door.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same.

Figure 3 is a front elevation of the device with the housing moved on its hinge so as to expose the interior arrangement.

Like characters of reference refer to like parts in all the views.

Referring to the drawing in detail, 10 represents a door of a house through which is provided the ordinary letter-drop 11. While the device here shown is indicated as attached to the door of the house, it is to be understood that it may be attached to the door-frame or to any other suitable portion of the house, and that while it is here shown as arranged in a horizontal position, it may by obvious changes be arranged for application in a vertical position to the house.

The unit itself is secured to the door by screws 12 or other suitable fastening means which pass through a rear wall or back plate 13. Attached to the wall 13 is a metallic strip 14 which is formed with a letter-aperture 15 which registers with a similar aperture in the rear wall 13 and with the aforesaid letter-drop 11 in the door. The upper end of the plate 14 is provided with hinge elements 16 which are preferably formed as an integral part of the said plate 14. A cover or flap 17 of metal or other suitable material is hingedly secured to the hinge pin 18 which passes through the aforesaid element 16 and also through elements 19 formed on the said flap 17. The flap 17 is provided with suitable lettering or other indicia 20 to indicate the presence of the letter-drop.

A metallic case 21 is formed with hinge elements 22 which are also co-operative with the hinge-pin 18 as clearly shown in Figure 1. The upper edge of the case 21 is provided with a finger 23 through which a thumb screw 24 passes into the door to hold the case in its normal closed position. The case is provided with an upper slot 25 and a front slot 26 in which are mounted transparencies 27 carrying respectively the name of the owner and the number of the house.

Secured to the back plate or rear wall 13 is a socket 28 carrying a bulb 29. A contact from the socket forms a spring loop 30, the end of which normally stands over and disconnected from one of the poles 31 of a battery 32 also secured to the rear plate 13. The other pole of the battery is shown at 33 and extends into contact with the bulb socket so that when elements 30 and 31 are connected a circuit is completed through the lamp 29 and the same is lighted up whereby an illumination of the name and number shown on the transparencies 27 results.

A finger-piece 34 is mounted slidably on a pin 35 secured to the rear wall 13 and passes through a slot or guideway 36. Formed in the upper edge of the metallic casing 21 the lower end of finger-piece 34 is formed into a toe 37 which rests against the spring loop 30.

In operation, the various data which it is desired to impart is obviously readily discernible during the day time, and when it is desired to obtain this information at night,

the party desiring the information merely presses the finger-piece 34 down until the element 30 is brought into contact with the pole 31. The lamp now being illuminated through the closing of the circuit renders the data at 27 readily discernible. Particular emphasis is laid upon the fact that the entire device is self-contained, that it requires but a few moment's work by even an unskilled hand to place the device in proper position, and that if it is later removed from the door or woodwork, the same is not permanently injured in anyway, and can be readily repaired by the use of a little putty and varnish.

It is at times desirable that the owner of the building be able to set the device to constantly illuminate the numbers, and for this purpose the slot 36 is of that class known as a bayonet-slot provided with an upper horizontally extending leg 38. By forcing the finger-piece inwardly and moving it horizontally so as to bring the pin 35 into the leg 38, the finger-piece will be held in operative position and the circuit will be held closed. It is of course understood that the slot or way 36 is made sufficiently broad to permit of the necessary lateral movement of the finger-piece 34.

While I have described what I deem to be the most desirable embodiment of my invention, it is obvious that many of the parts may be varied without in any way departing from the spirit of my invention, and I therefore do not limit myself to the exact details of construction herein shown nor to anything less than the whole of my invention limited only by the appended claim.

What I claim is:—

In a device as set forth, the combination with a back plate having a slot parallel with and adjacent its lower edge, of a letter receiving plate secured to the back plate and provided with a slot registering with the first slot, the upper edge of the letter receiving plate having hinge elements, a lettered cover plate having hinge elements, a closure casing housing an illuminating means supported on the back plate, said casing having hinge elements on its lower free edge, a single hinge pin operatively connecting all three sets of hinge elements, thereby pivotally connecting the cover plate and the casing to the letter receiving plate, a transparent number and name plate carried by the casing to be illuminated by the illuminating means, the upper free edge of said casing having an upstanding attaching ear for securing said casing to said back plate in normal closed position, and means for causing the illuminating means to effect a continuous illumination of the transparent name and number plate carried by the closure casing.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILSON A. KICHLINE.