Nov. 26, 1963 E. B. QUIGLEY 3,111,782

EMERGENCY SIGNAL

Filed Sept. 30, 1959

FIG. 1

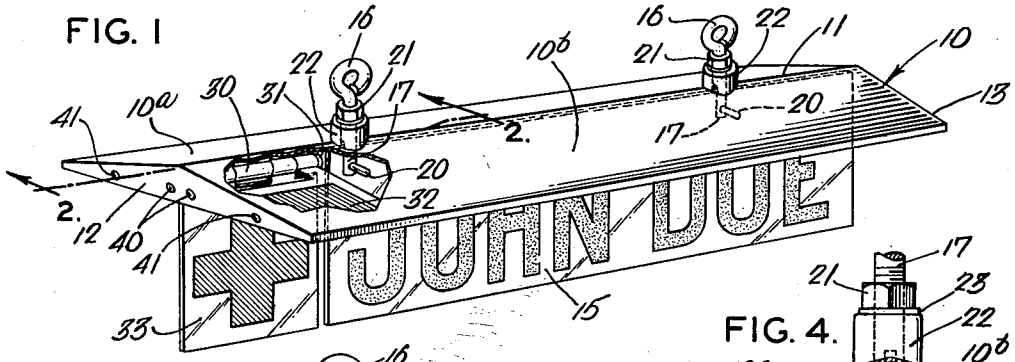


FIG. 2.

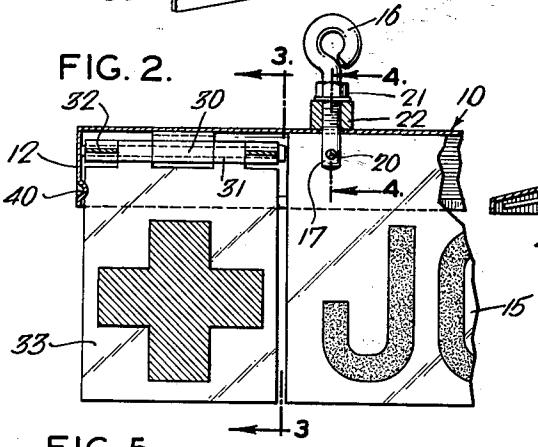


FIG. 4.

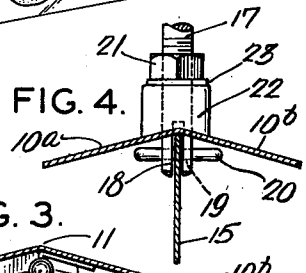


FIG. 3.

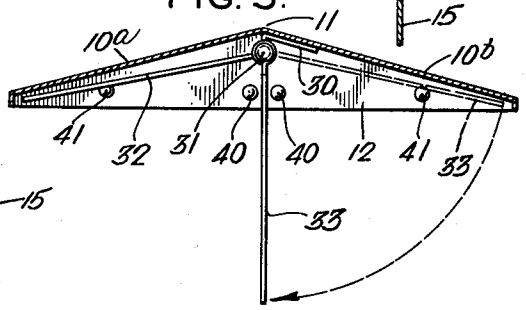


FIG. 5.

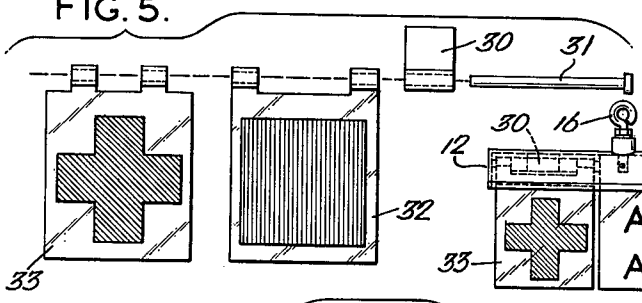


FIG. 6.

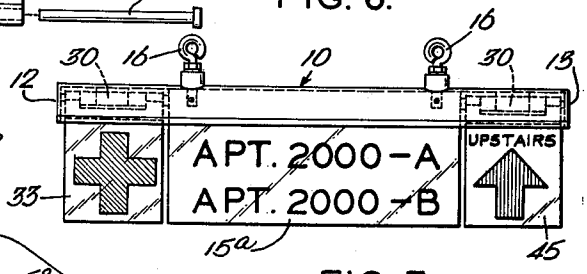


FIG. 8.

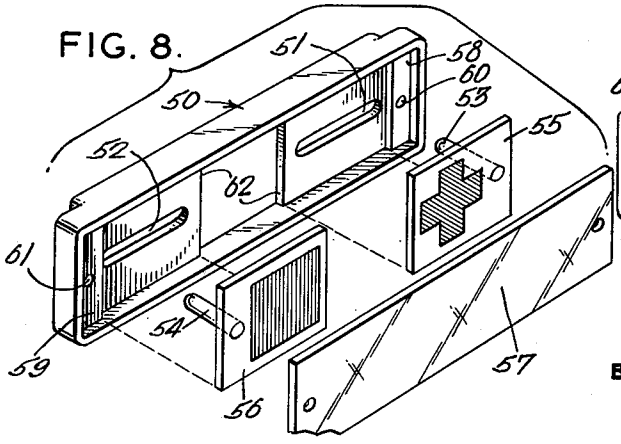
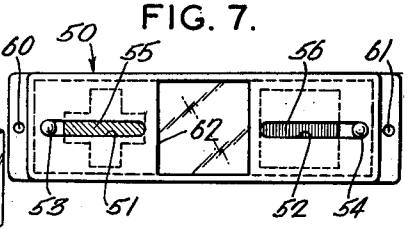


FIG. 7.



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EMERGENCY SIGNAL

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3 Claims. (Cl. 40—128)

This invention relates to distress location indicators and more particularly to a home or residence marker which not only indicates the name of the occupant, but also permits selective signals to be given to indicate the need for emergency help.

In rural and suburban areas a serious problem arises to direct needed help to the proper home or location from which it has been summoned, usually by telephone. With the ever-increasing shift in population and larger areas served by emergency equipment such as fire, ambulance, and police, it is generally impossible for any driver who may be called upon to know instantly the location of the home to which he has been summoned. Not only is this true in rural and suburban districts, but it also applies to multiple dwellings, such as apartment houses, where it may not be clear which apartment is in need of help.

The present invention has for its primary object, therefore, the provision of a combined name marker having flaps or tabs which can be selectively moved to a visible position to indicate that help of some sort is needed.

A further object of the invention is to provide a protected residence marker having selective tabs swingable from a concealed to a visible position to indicate some condition existing in the residence.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a distress location indicator in which selective panels can be moved from a concealed to a visible position in the event help of some sort is needed.

Further objects will be apparent from the specification and drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective of a combined residence marker and distress indicator constructed in accordance with the present invention,

FIG. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional detail as seen at 2—2 of FIG. 1,

FIG. 3 is a section as seen at 3—3 of FIG. 2,

FIG. 4 is a section as seen at 4—4 of FIG. 2,

FIG. 5 is an exploded view showing the assembly of the distress tabs or flaps,

FIG. 6 illustrates a slightly different embodiment having the flaps positioned at opposite ends of the marker,

FIG. 7 is a front view of a variation intended for use in apartment dwellings, and

FIG. 8 is an exploded view of the structure of FIG. 7.

The invention comprises essentially the provision of a canopy from which suitable indicia may be permanently suspended and in which at least some of the indicia can be moved or pivoted from a dependent visible position to an upper concealed position under the canopy. In a variation useful primarily in urban residences or apartment houses, the distress indicia take the form of sliding panels which may be moved from a concealed to a visible position.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the present invention has a canopy assembly **10** which comprises two sloping sides **10***a* and **10***b* joined together to form an apex or ridge section **11** and having end elements **12** and **13**. A relatively permanent or immovable panel **15** is suspended along the ridge **11** by means of two or more eyebolts **16**, **16** having threaded shanks **17** which at their bottom termini are slotted at **18** and drilled at **19**. The panel **15** fits into the slots **18** where it is secured by means of pins **20**, **20**. The panel **15** is drawn tightly against the ridge **11** of the canopy **10** by means of nuts **21**, **21** on the threaded shanks **17** and which can

be drawn down securely against V'd-out bushings **22**, **22** and washers **23**, **23**. This structure described above provides a relatively simple and inexpensive permanent sign for indicating the owner or occupant of a residence, as is shown in FIGURE 1. The panel **15** can be removed when desired simply by loosening the nuts **21**, **21** but when assembled and mounted on a post and arm or a wall bracket, it provides a secure permanent indication of the occupant's name.

Referring to FIGURE 1, it will be noted that the panel **15** does not extend for the full length of the canopy. One end of the canopy is provided with a fixed hinge element **30** which carries a pintle **31** on which two aligned distress flaps **32** and **33** are swingably supported. It will be noted in FIG. 2 that the pintle cannot be removed after the panel **15** has been installed since it is in alignment with the panel.

Flap **33** is provided with two eyes **34** and **35** through which the pintle **31** is inserted and these eyes are axially spaced with regard to eyes **36** and **37** on flap **32**. It will thus be understood that the flaps **32** and **33** are each individually swingable on pintle **31** and can be located in general alignment with each other.

The end **12** of canopy **10** is provided with a series of dimples **40**, **40**. The center pair of dimples shown in FIGURE 1 prevent undesired swinging of whichever flap may be suspended in a vertical position. When it is desired to have both of the flaps **32** and **33** concealed, they are swung upwardly and forced over the outside dimples **41**, **41** as shown in FIG. 3, thus holding both of the panels up underneath the canopy sides.

The particular type of indicia on the flaps depends upon the type of service which may be required. Preferably both sides of flaps **32** will be reflectively painted in red to indicate that either fire or police are needed or have been summoned. The other flap **33** hay have a reflective green cross on either or both sides to indicate the need for medical attention such as ambulance or doctor. Likewise any other indicia is desirably painted with reflective characters.

Where it is not desired to use the entire length for panel **15** as in the case of a large apartment house, it may be desired to have a shorter panel **15***a* on which two or more apartments are designated. One or more flaps **45** at the opposite end of the canopy may be pivoted to indicate which apartment is in need of help, for example, the upstairs or downstairs, as the case may be.

For apartment houses having reception foyers or in other circumstances where an outside hanging indicator would be desirable, it is contemplated to utilize the indicator shown in FIGS. 7 and 8. In this form a recessed body member **50** is provided with two horizontal slots **51** and **52** through which pins **53** and **54** protrude. The pins are secured to edges of slidable panels **55** and **56** respectively, panel **55** having the green cross corresponding to flap **33** to indicate the need of medical assistance, and panel **56** having the red block corresponding to flap **32** to indicate the need for fire fighting or police help. The panels **55** and **56** are retained in position by a back element **57** which is held in the body member **50** against ledges **58** and **59** by screws or bolts, not shown, passing through holes **60** and **61**. The center **62** of body member **50** is either open or provided with a transparent element so that when either of the panels **55** or **56** is moved into alignment with the opening **62**, it will clearly indicate the location to which the emergency help must go.

It will be understood that the present invention is not limited to the particular types of emergency help needed and the movable flaps or panels may also be changed to indicate the need for various other supplies or services as circumstances may warrant. Examples of such other services would be the delivery of food, the need for the

collection of trash, or any other type of generally known public service. Another purpose would be indicated when electric service such as power failure, telephone service, or the like, is needed. The device is simple to manufacture, easy to operate, and fulfills a badly needed function which in real emergencies will save many thousands of dollars and lives.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. An emergency signal assembly which comprises, a shallow inverted V-shaped canopy, end elements closing the open ends of said canopy, a vertical extending rigid main indicia panel bisecting the apex of said V-shaped canopy, means for rigidly securing said panel along the apex of said canopy in a position to extend downwardly below said canopy to expose indicia on said panel, said means including at least one securing element for the panel extending upwardly through the apex of the canopy, an elongated pin passing through said securing element and the panel, means on the securing element for drawing the panel against the apex to an elevated position in which the pin is prevented by the canopy from moving endwise to become disengaged from the panel, a hinge, said hinge being positioned at one end of said rigid panel under the canopy bisecting the apex of said canopy, a second panel suspended from said hinge, indicia on said second panel visible below said canopy when the second panel hangs in a vertical position, and means for retaining the second panel in a raised position under the canopy when said second panel is removed from view.

2. An emergency signal assembly which comprises, a shallow inverted V-shaped canopy, end elements closing the open ends of said canopy, a vertical extending rigid main indicia panel bisecting the apex of said V-shaped canopy, means for rigidly securing said panel along the apex of said canopy in a position to extend downwardly below said canopy to expose indicia on said panel, said means including at least one securing element for the panel extending upwardly through the apex of the canopy, an elongated pin passing through said securing element and the panel, means on the securing element for drawing the panel against the apex to an elevated position in which the pin is prevented by the canopy from moving endwise to become disengaged from the panel, a hinge,

said hinge being positioned at one end of said rigid panel under the canopy bisecting the apex of said canopy, a second panel suspended from said hinge, indicia on said second panel visible below said canopy when the second panel hangs in a vertical position, and means for preventing said second panel from swinging when said second panel is in viewable position.

3. An emergency signal assembly comprising a shallow inverted V-shaped canopy, end elements closing the open ends of said canopy, said end elements having at least two pairs of spaced inwardly disposed dimples, a vertically extending rigid main indicia panel bisecting the apex of said V-shaped canopy, indicia disposed in a viewable position below said canopy, at least one slotted eye bolt extending upwardly through said apex with the slotted portion straddling said main panel, an elongated pin passing through said bolt and panel for securing said panel to said bolt, means on the bolt for drawing the panel against the apex to an elevated position in which the pin is prevented by the canopy from moving endwise and disengaged from said panel, at least one hinge secured to the canopy and aligned therewith at the end of said panel, a second panel suspended from said hinge, emergency indicia on said second panel visible below said canopy when suspended in vertical position, said second panel positioned between a first pair of said dimples when in vertical position, said second panel being held in a raised non-viewing position by one of said dimples of the second pair, said second panel being vertical and exposed during emergency conditions.

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