

Dec. 15, 1936.

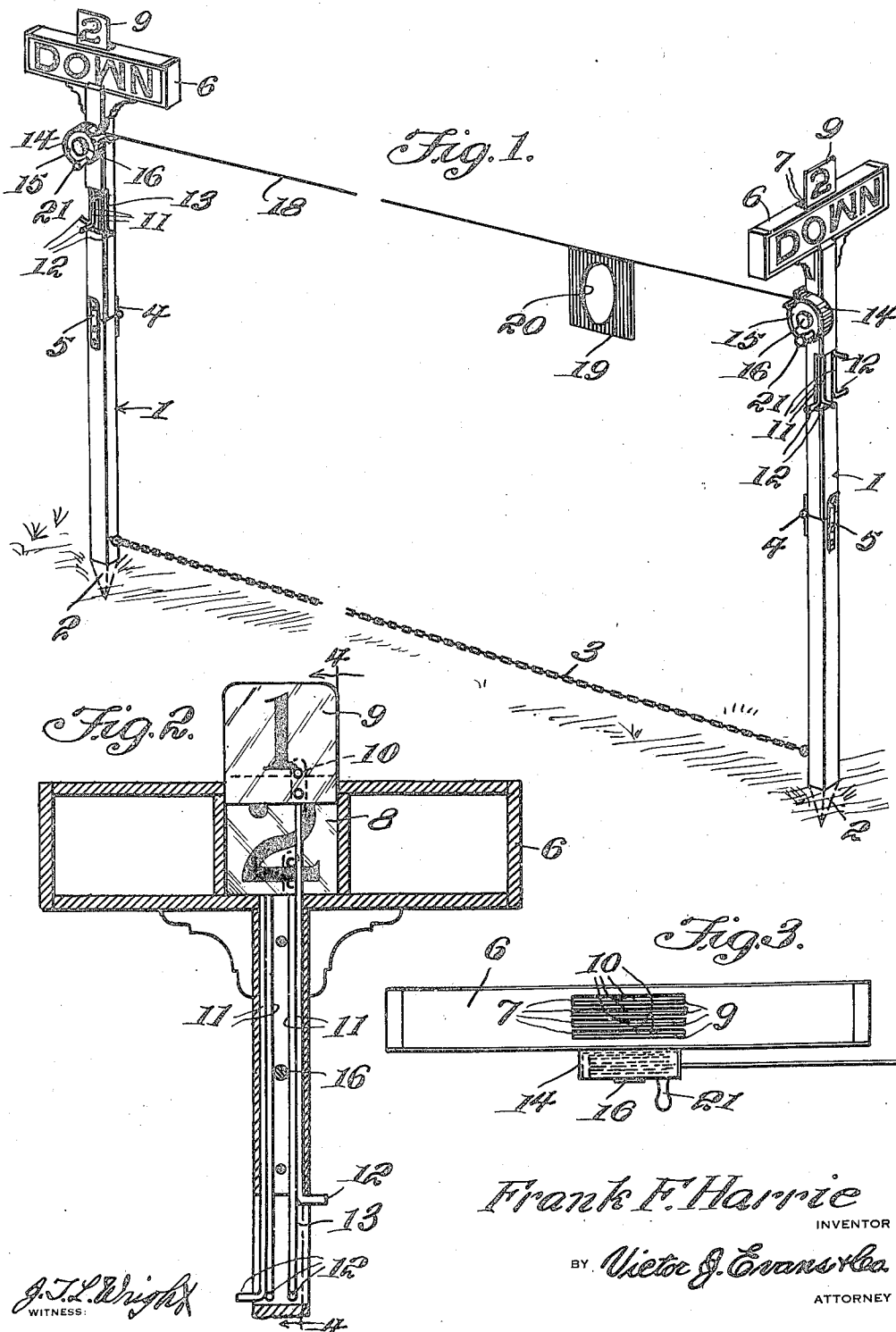
F. F. HARRIE

2,064,745

GAME PLAY INDICATOR

Filed Sept. 18, 1933

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Dec. 15, 1936.

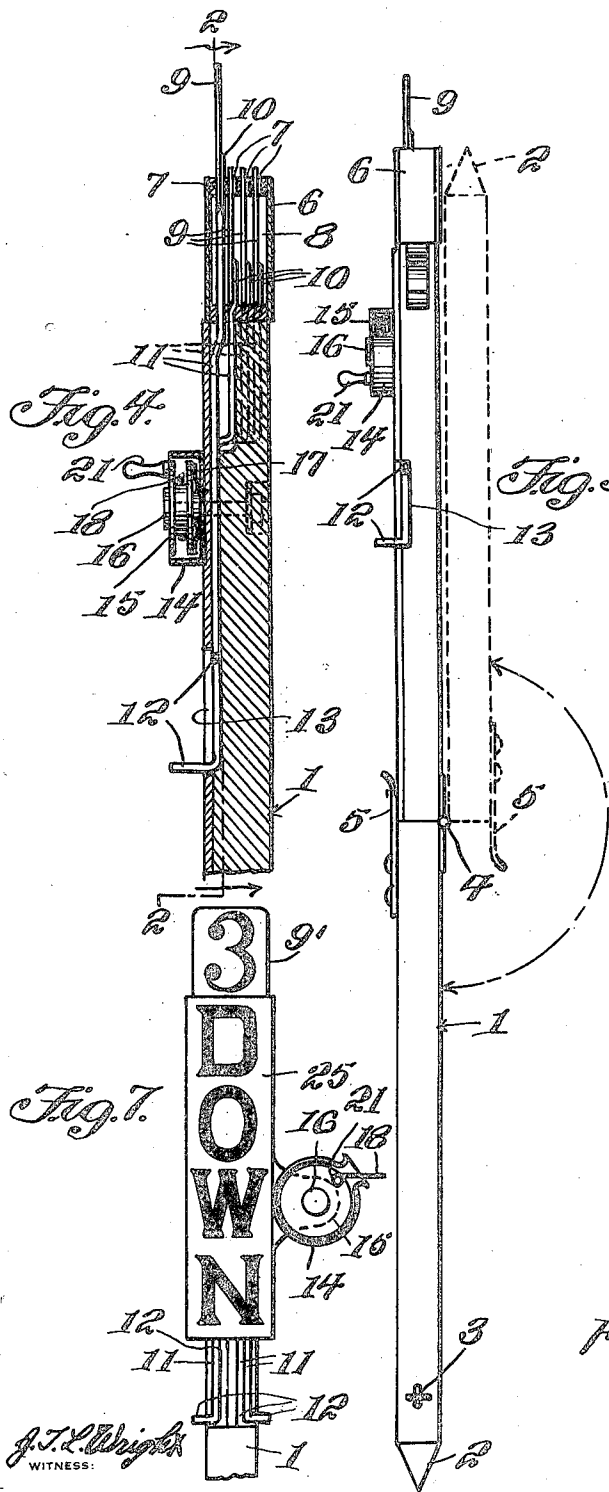
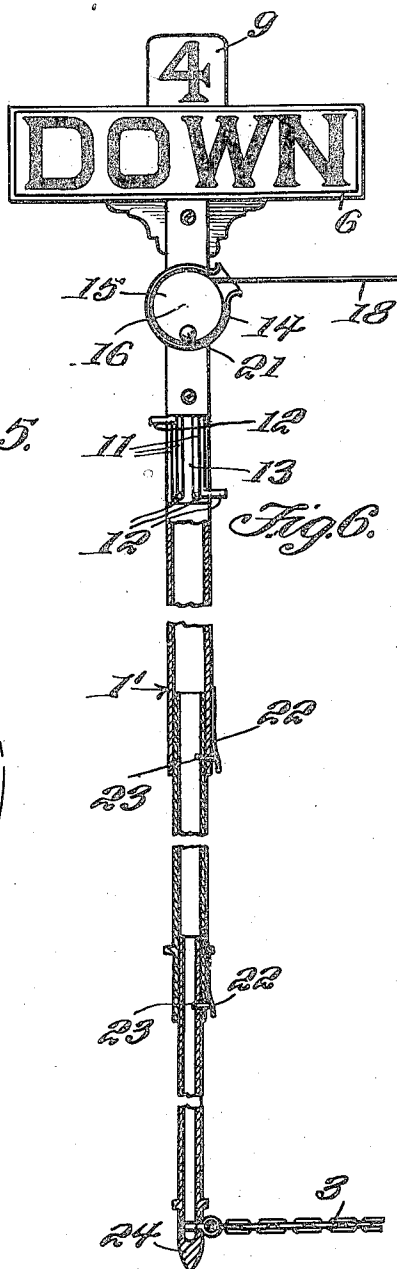
F. F. HARRIE

2,064,745

GAME PLAY INDICATOR

Filed Sept. 18, 1933

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



Frank F. Harrie
INVENTOR
BY Victor J. Evans & Co.
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,064,745

GAME PLAY INDICATOR

Frank F. Harrie, Jeannette, Pa.

Application September 18, 1933, Serial No. 690,012

4 Claims. (Cl. 33-137)

My present invention has reference to a game indicator and is especially designed for use on a field when the game of "football" is being played and has for its object the provision of a device for this purpose which will enable the spectators, referee and players to accurately follow the various plays of the game.

The invention will be fully and comprehensively understood from a consideration of the following detailed description when read in connection with the accompanying drawings which form part of the application, with the understanding, however, that the improvement is capable of extended application and is not confined to the exact showing of the drawings nor to the precise construction described and, therefore, such changes and modifications may be made therefrom as do not affect the spirit of the invention nor exceed the scope thereof as expressed in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved device.

Figure 2 is a sectional view through the upper and headed portion of one of the posts to illustrate the arrangement of the sliding signal plates therein, one of which being in display position.

Figure 3 is a plan view thereof.

Figure 4 is a sectional view approximately on the line 4-4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a side elevation of one of the posts, the dotted lines in the said figure showing the post collapsed or folded.

Figure 6 is a front elevation of a post which is constructed of telescopic sections.

Figure 7 is an elevation looking toward the upper portion of a post in which the head thereof is arranged in the same longitudinal plane as the post proper.

The device is designed to be handled by two men, and to be moved along the playing field and placed along the different lines of the field as the game progresses. The device essentially comprises two posts, each being of a similar construction and each, in Figures 1 to 5, being designated by the character 1. The posts have their lower ends pointed, as at 2, so that the same can be readily inserted in the ground and the posts have their confronting faces, adjacent their said pointed ends, provided with eyes to which are attached the ends of a flexible element preferably in the nature of a chain 3, and this chain is of a length to space the posts 10 yards away from each other.

As shown by the drawings the posts comprise

upper and lower members, the latter being formed with the pointed ends. The post sections are connected together by hinges 4 and are held in longitudinal alinement by latches 5.

The upper end of the sectional post 1 is provided with the laterally extending enlargement in the nature of a head 6. By reference to Figure 1 of the drawings it will be noted that the heads 6 on the respective spaced posts 1 are arranged at a right angle to each other and that the opposed faces of each of the heads have heavily inscribed thereon the word "Down". These signals will be visible from all points of the playing field.

Each head 1 is hollow and has its top, at the center thereof, provided with spaced slots 7, four in number, and slidable through these slots, but normally received in the central compartment 8 in the respective heads 6, there are number-bearing signal plates 9. The plates have both of their faces numbered from 1 to 4 respectively and each of the plates has fixed to one side thereof and adjacent to its lower edge the flattened end 10 of a rod 11. Preferably the flattened ends 10 of the rods frictionally contact with the opposed longitudinal walls provided by the slots 7 so that each of the plates, when elevated by the movement of the rod 11 will be held in exposed position without liability of dropping into the compartment 8. Obviously other means may be provided for latching the signal plates 9 when the same are in raised or display position. The rods 11 are connected to the respective plates at different points so that the said rods may pass through openings therefor in the upper sections of the posts 1, the lower ends of the said rods being offset and extended through the posts to provide handles 12, and these handles are movable through slots 13 that communicate with the openings that afford the passages for the rods. The openings 13 are of such length that when the handles 12 contact with the upper walls provided thereby the outward movement of the signal plates 9 to display position will be limited.

On the upper face of each of the posts, below the heads 6 thereof, there is fixed a casing 14 for a grooved wheel or drum 15, a pivot 16 passing centrally through the drum and being fixed on the post. Arranged around each of the pivots 16 and exerting a pressure against the inner face of each of the drums 15 there is a concavo convex friction disc 17, (Figure 4). The drums 15 have wound therearound and secured thereto a cable 18. On the cable 18 there is fixed a depending ball position indicator plate 19. The plate 19 has inscribed prominently thereon the

representation of a football, as indicated by the numeral 20, and each of the drums 15 has on its outer face a handle 21 that projects through the open face of a split cylindrical casing 14. The spring discs exert a sufficient tension or pressure against the drums to hold the said drums from accidental turning and for likewise holding the cable 18 in a taut condition. The cable 18 is of a length and has its ends sufficiently wound around the drums to permit of either of the drums when turned to draw the ball indicator plate 19 to any position between the posts 1. The down signals are operated successfully from 1 to 4 as long as one of the teams holds the ball before being "down", when the other team is given possession of the ball. The ball position indicator 19 is moved between the posts to indicate the exact position of the ball and the light chain 3 is employed to positively measure 10 yards when there is a doubt on the part of the referee with respect to the distance the ball has been taken by a player.

In Figure 6 the difference between the post construction and that previously described resides in constructing the post 1' of telescopic sections. Any number of such sections may be employed. Certain of the cooperating telescopic sections carry spring latches 22 having pins 23 to pass through alining openings in said sections when the posts are extended and these latches are, of course, removed when the sectional post is collapsed. The lower and reduced post section has its outer end pointed, as at 24.

In Figure 7 the upper section of the post has its head 25 arranged in the same plane as the post proper, the head being hollow and being provided with a compartment for the "Down" signal plates 9' and the head having its opposite faces prominently inscribed with the word "Down".

Of course, two cooperating posts are employed similar to those disclosed by Figures 6 and 7, and the said posts have mounted thereon the split or open mouth casings for the drums that carry the cable to which the ball position indicator is

attached and it is believed that when the foregoing description has been read in connection with the accompanying drawings the construction and advantages of my improved device will be fully understood and appreciated by those skilled in the art to which such invention relates and that further detailed description will not be required, it being obvious that the posts may be collapsed or folded upon themselves and arranged one against the other to provide a small package when the device is not required for use.

Having described the invention, I claim:

1. A game signal device comprising a pair of spaced posts to be moved along the playing field in a football game, and means movable between the posts to indicate the position of the ball on the field, said means comprising a cable, a drum mounted on each post and around which the terminals of the cable are wound.

2. A game signal device comprising a pair of spaced posts to be moved along the playing field in a football game, means movable between the posts to indicate the position of the ball on the field, said means comprising a cable, a drum mounted on each post and around which the terminals of the cable are wound, and spring friction means for controlling the free rotary movements of the drums.

3. A game signal device comprising a pair of spaced posts to be moved along the playing field in a football game, means movable between the posts to indicate the position of the ball on the field, said means comprising a cable, a drum mounted on each post and around which the terminals of the cable are wound, and means for preventing any free rotary movement of the drums and retaining the cable in a taut position.

4. A linesman's indicator for football games comprising a pair of posts, a chain connecting the posts together, a reel device at the upper end of each post, a cable having its ends connected with said devices, and a marker connected with the cable intermediate the reel devices.

FRANK F. HARRIE. 45