Sept. 30, 1952 E. F. SWANSON 2,612,548

PORTABLE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND THE LIKE

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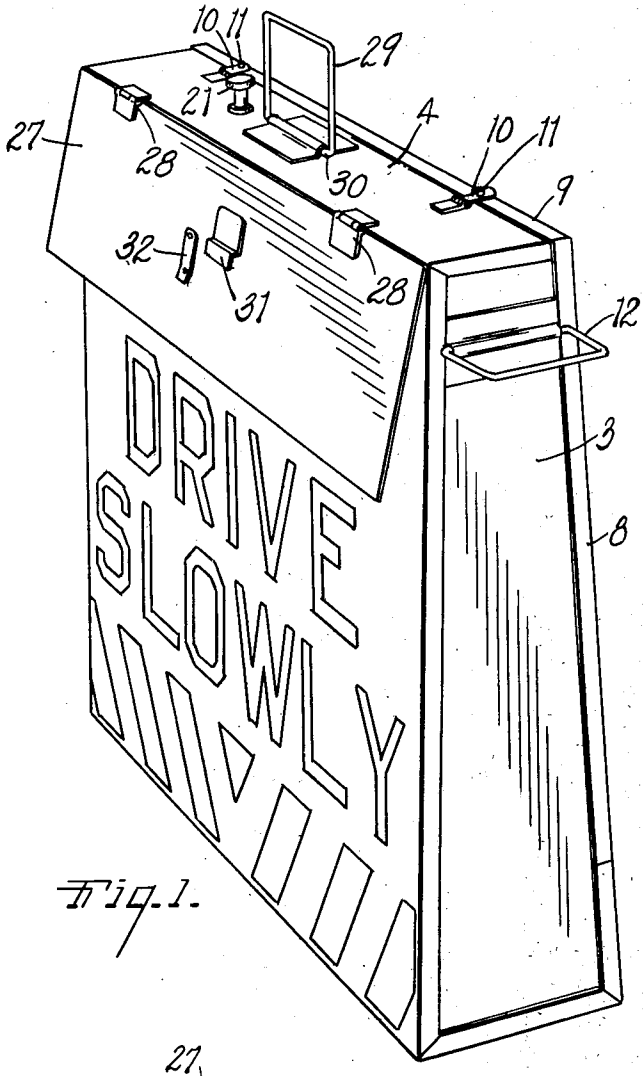


Fig. 1.

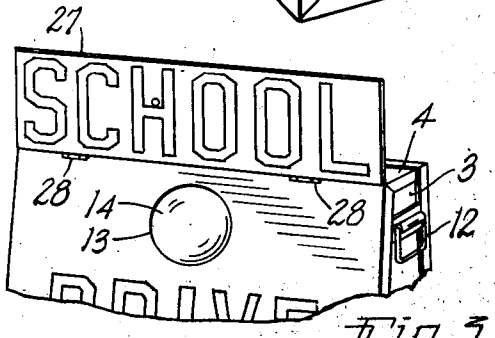


Fig. 3.

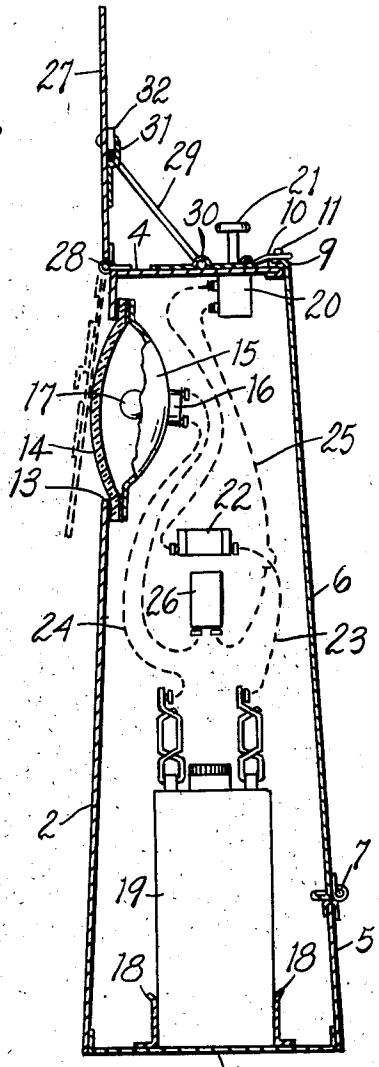


Fig. 2.

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PORTABLE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND THE LIKE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 177—329)

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This invention relates to improvements in portable traffic signals and the like.

The main objects of this invention are:

First, to provide a portable traffic signal constituting a complete unit which is well adapted for use in school zones, parked truck signals, blocked or defective highway signals and the like.

Second, to provide a signal of this character which is compact and light in weight and at the same time stable.

Objects relating to details and economies of the invention will appear from the description to follow. The invention is defined and pointed out in the claims.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a portable signal embodying my invention with the supplementary indicia signal collapsed.

Fig. 2 is a view mainly in vertical transverse section with the supplementary panel in erected position and shown in collapsed position by dotted lines.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary front perspective view with the supplementary panel in erected position.

The embodiment of my invention illustrated comprises a housing preferably formed of sheet metal having a bottom 1, front wall 2, upwardly tapered end walls 3, and top 4. The rear wall consists of a fixed bottom section 5 and a swingable door section 6 hinged at 7 to the upper edge of the bottom section. The door section is provided with side flanges 8 which close over the end walls 3 and a top flange 9 which closes over the top 4. The top is provided with pivoted latches 10 which engage over the stud-like keepers 11 on the top flange 9.

The end walls, only one of which is illustrated as the other is a duplicate, are provided with handles 12. The front wall is adapted to receive signal indicia, the words "Drive Slowly" appearing in the embodiment illustrated. The front panel is provided with a window opening 13 which is provided with a translucent closure 14 desirably colored red or amber, red being the color commonly used. The lamp reflector 15 is mounted in opposed relation to the closure 14 and is provided with a lamp socket 16 to receive the lamp indicated at 17.

The bottom 1 is provided with supports 18 for the battery 19. The switch 20 is mounted on the inner side of the top with the switch button or

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control 21 projecting through the top. A fuse 22 is interposed in the connection 23 for the battery to the switch. The lamp is connected to the battery through the connection indicated at 24 and the switch is connected to the lamp through the connection 25 having a flasher 26 interposed therein. These connections are shown conventionally.

In the interest of compactness, I preferably provide a supplemental indicia panel 27 which is hinged at 28 to the housing to collapse forwardly over the window opening as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 2. In the embodiment illustrated this supplemental panel has the word "School" on its face. It is held in erected position by means of the bale-like strut 29 which is pivoted to the top at 30 and is engageable with the keeper 31. A turn button 32 is provided and positioned to be swung into the keeper above the strut engaged therewith for retaining the parts in erected position.

While the embodiment of my invention is specially designed for use in school zones and is light in weight so that it can be carried about by children, it is, with proper indicia, well adapted for use as road block signals or may be carried by truckers for use instead of flares which are now largely used.

I have illustrated and described my invention in a highly practical embodiment thereof. I have not atempted to illustrate or describe other embodiments or adaptations as it is believed that this disclosure will enable those skilled in the art to embody or adapt my invention as may be desired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a portable traffic signal and the like, a housing comprising a bottom, a top, a front wall, end walls and a rear wall, said front wall constituting an indicia panel and having a window adjacent the top thereof provided with a translucent closure, a lamp mounted within said housing in opposed relation to said window closure, a supplementary indicia panel hingedly mounted on said housing on a horizontal axis parallel to the plane of the front wall to be swung to erected position to constitute an extension for said front wall or to collapse forwardly over said window, the indicia on the supplementary panel being disposed forwardly in view when the panel is erected and rearwardly out of view when the panel is collapsed, and a bale-like supporting strut pivotally mounted on the top, said supple-

mentary panel being provided with a keeper on its rear side with which said strut may be engaged when the panel is in erected position.

2. In a portable traffic signal and the like, a housing comprising a bottom, a top, a front wall and end walls, said front wall constituting an indicia panel and having a window adjacent the top thereof provided with a translucent closure, a lamp mounted within said housing in opposed relation to said window closure, a supplementary indicia panel hingedly mounted on said housing on a horizontal axis parallel to the plane of the front wall to be swung to erected position to constitute an extension for said front wall or to collapse forwardly over said window, the indicia on the supplementary panel being disposed forwardly in view when the panel is erected and rearwardly out of view when the panel is collapsed, and a supporting strut pivotally mounted on the top, said supplementary panel being provided with a keeper on its rear side with which said strut may be engaged when the panel is in erected position.

3. In a portable traffic signal and the like, a housing comprising a bottom, a top, end walls, a front wall and a rear closure member, said housing being adapted for receiving a battery, a lamp and control elements therefor, battery supporting means in the lower portion of the housing, said front wall having a window opening, a lamp in the housing for illuminating the opening, a panel member having indicia associated with one side thereof, said panel member being pivotally supported on the housing on an axis disposed horizontally and parallel to the front wall to permit the panel member to be swung upwardly to an erected position and downwardly to a collapsed position overlapping the front wall, said indicia on the panel member being disposed forwardly in view when the panel member is erected and rearwardly out of view when collapsed, and means associated with the housing for releasably retaining the panel member in erected position.

4. In a portable traffic signal and the like, a housing comprising a bottom, a top, end walls, a front wall and a rear wall, said housing being adapted for receiving a lamp and control elements therefor, said front wall having an opening therein, a lamp in the housing for illuminating the opening, a panel member pivotally supported on the housing on a horizontal axis parallel to the front wall to permit the panel member to be swung upwardly to an erected position and downwardly to a collapsed position, said front wall and panel having indicia associated therewith, said indicia being in view when the panel member is erected and out of view when collapsed, and means associated with the housing for releasably retaining the panel member in erected position.

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