

Aug. 2, 1927.

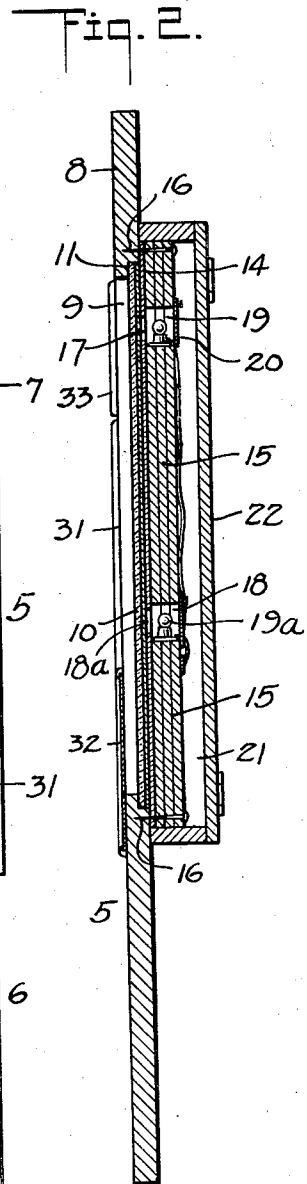
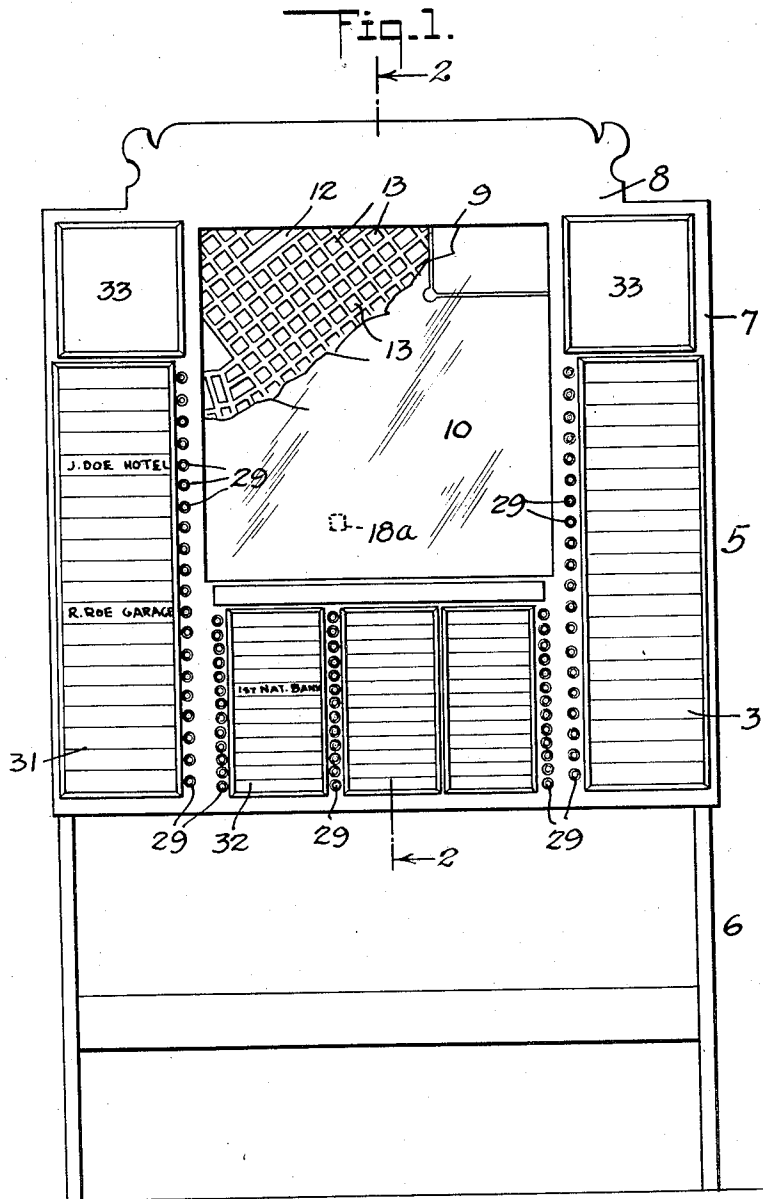
C. E. COWLES

DIRECTORY

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1,637,685

2 Sheets-Sheet 1.



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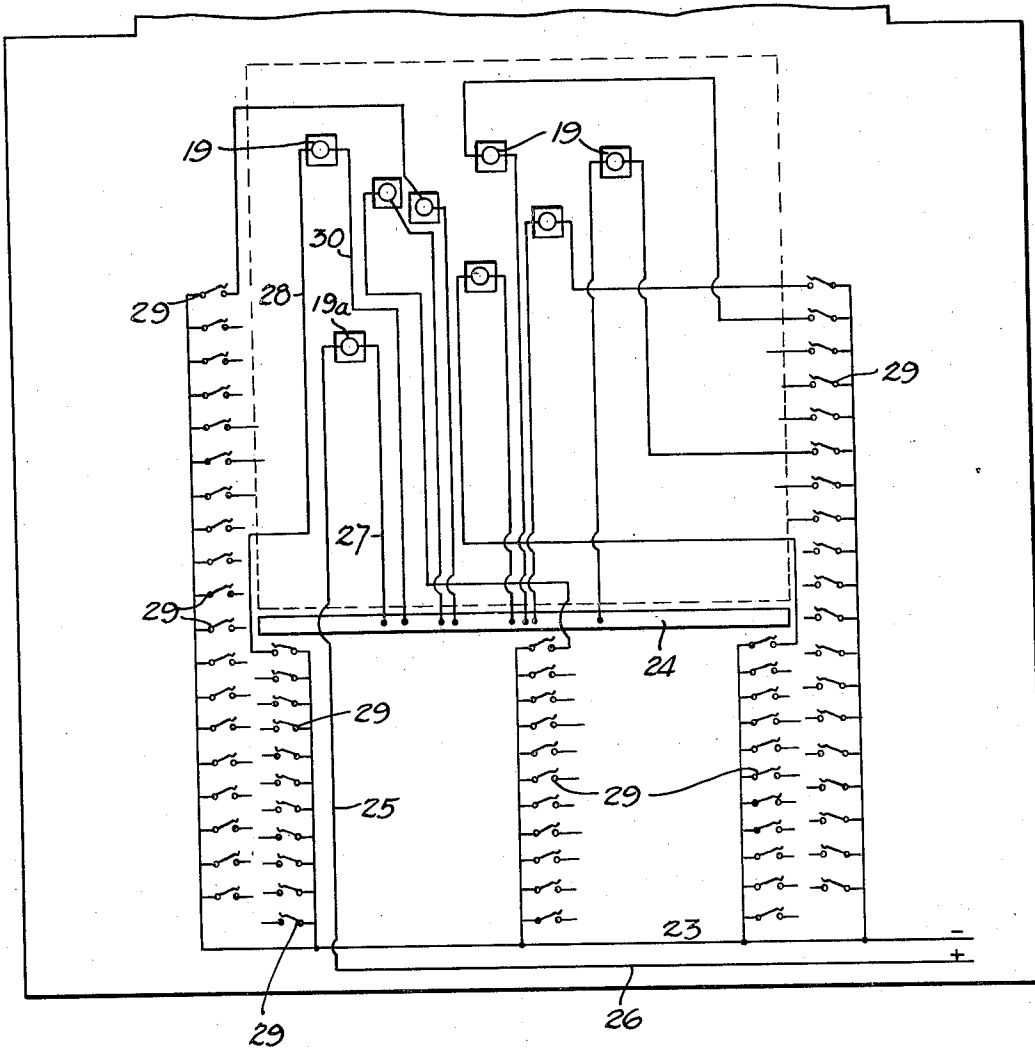
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Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES ESRALE COWLES, OF EL PASO, TEXAS.

DIRECTORY.

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This invention relates to city directories and has for its primary object the provision of means delineating a map or chart, as for instance, the configuration and position of any given portion of land, and means for effecting an easy, accurate and quick reading of a particular portion and the geographical location of such portion with respect to another portion or point, or the position of the located portion with relation to the place at which the directory is situated.

Another object of the invention is to provide a directory capable of functioning as above set forth wherein means are had for visually distinguishing the located portion of the map or chart from all other portions of the map, and for maintaining a clear visualizing interval for such time that will be under the direct control of the operator to the end that ample time for the study or reading of the map and for making all other calculation may be made without trouble.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a directory of this character which will be characterized by ornamental furniture suitable for use in the lobby of a theatre, hotel or other public place and be made to harmonize with its surroundings.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a directory of this type which can be employed for the functional purpose of determining and ascertaining locations and at the same time used to great advantage for advertising purposes.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a structure of this type of neat and attractive appearance; and which is simple of construction and easy of operation; positive of action; compact and thereby adapted to be accommodated in a small space, and one wherein the surface to be read is in clear view of the eye of the user.

The invention consists also in certain additional details of construction and advantages all of which will be fully described hereinafter and pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings forming a part of this specification, I have illustrated one embodiment of my invention, but it will be understood that changes or modifications can be made within the scope of the claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a face view of the directory; Figure 2 is a vertical section therethrough on line 2-2 of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a diagrammatic view of the light circuit.

In carrying the invention into practice, I employ a cabinet 5 which, in the present instance, is of the type adapted to rest upon a floor surface and for this reason, same is preferably formed with an underlying supporting base 6 for a super-structure or display portion 7.

The central part of the front panel 8 of the super-structure 7 is formed with an opening 9 over one side of which is mounted a transparent panel 10 such as plate glass, the same having its edges arranged in a rabbet 11 of the panel 8. Against the rear face of the glass 10, placed flat-wise with respect thereto is a map or chart 12 of translucent material having place designating portions 13. To the rear of the chart 12 and bearing flat-wise thereagainst is a backing or pressing member 14 arranged in front of a laminated body 15 secured to the panel 8 by fastenings 16. The member 14 is formed with openings 17 which coincide with the respective place designating portions 13 of the chart and which likewise coincide with receptacle forming openings 18 in the body 15. Mounted in these openings are a plurality of electric lamps one of which is shown at 19 in Figure 2 and is representative of the others and a single lamp 19^a shown in this figure. As shown, each of said openings is covered at its rear by a swinging closure 20.

The body 15 and mating adjuncts find accommodation in an enclosure 21 rearwardly of the panel 8 and in order that access can be readily had to the openings 18, said enclosure is provided with a swinging door 22.

23 designates an electric circuit wherein use is made of a metallic current distributing bar 24 and the aforementioned electric lamps 19 and 19^a. Any number of lamps 19 may be employed but, and in view of the end to be accomplished through use of my invention, it is only necessary to employ a single lamp 19^a and I shall therefore refer to this as a "house" or "station lamp" while the lamps 19 shall be called "location or position designating lamps". The single lamp 19^a is arranged in such one of the openings 18 as registers with a particular portion 18^a of the chart 12 which signifies the geographical location of the chart itself, i. e., the hotel or public place where the directory is stationed and the other of said lamps 19

are so distributed relatively, that they come behind the respective place designating or signifying portions 13 of said chart so that, and as will appear presently, any one of said portions 13 will be illuminated simultaneously, or in co-action with the process of illuminating said portion 18^a.

The lamp 19^a has its wire 25 connected with the positive wire 26 of the circuit 23 and its negative wire 27 connected with the current distributing bar 24. Each of the lamps 19 has its wire 28 connected through a switch 29 with the negative lead of the said circuit 23, while the other wire 30 of the lamp has connection with the bar 24. The switches 29 are preferably of the push button type adapted when pressed to close the circuit to a particular lamp 19 and, at the same time cause a lighting of the lamp 19^a.

The panel 8 is formed at its respective side portions with vertical series of spaces 31 adapted to contain the names of business houses with which certain of the place or position indicating portions of the chart are adapted to correspond. Beside each of these spaces is one of the aforementioned switches 29. Other of said place or position indicating portions of the chart correspond with mating spaces 32, the latter adapted to contain the names of public buildings, parks, etc. Other of the switches 29 leading to corresponding lamps 19 are arranged beside the respective spaces 32. At the upper corners of the panel 8 are spaces 33 adapted to contain matter of general information. Advertising signs may also be placed upon other appropriate parts of the structure if desired.

The manner of using the apparatus is described as follows:

It is assumed that the directory is located at a known place such as a public building, street corner or the like, and that one situated at such place desires to ascertain the directional location of some particular place appearing upon the chart 12, such as a department store, theatre, public building, park or residence, and the distance separat-

ing the place in situ with the directory. Upon glancing at the respective spaces 31 and 32, the operator on finding the name of the place whose point of location upon the chart 12 it is desired to ascertain, operates the switch 29 besides the space selected, which, in turn, causes the lamps 19 and 19^a, to be lighted and the "house" and "location" portions respectively upon said chart 12 to be illuminated. If desired, the lamp 19^a can be of a distinguishing color from the lamps 19. Upon closing of any one of the switches 29 a circuit will be completed to cause current from the source of supply to flow through conductor 26, lamp 19^a, distributing bar 24, and thence through the conductors 30 and 28 leading to and from the particular lamp 19 forming part of the circuit including the closed switch and thence through the closed switch back to the source of current through the return conductor 23.

I claim:

A directory comprising a cabinet including a frame having rabbeted edges, a transparent panel in the frame engaging the rabbeted edges, a map of translucent material positioned behind the panel, a backing plate behind the map, a second plate pressing against the backing plate for maintaining the map in flat formation, means for securing the second plate to the frame, said backing plate having openings therein at points to be designated on the map, said second plate having openings therethrough registering with the first openings, lamps mounted in the openings of the second plate and adapted to be selectively illuminated so as to illuminate that portion of the map in front of the corresponding opening in the backing plate, doors closing the openings in the second plate, said cabinet including side members, and top and bottom members secured to the frame and surrounding said plates and a door mounted on one of the members and closing the back of the cabinet and permitting access when opened to the first mentioned doors on the second plate.

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