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L. J. FORSYTH ET AL

INDEX SYSTEM

Filed Feb. 28, 1925

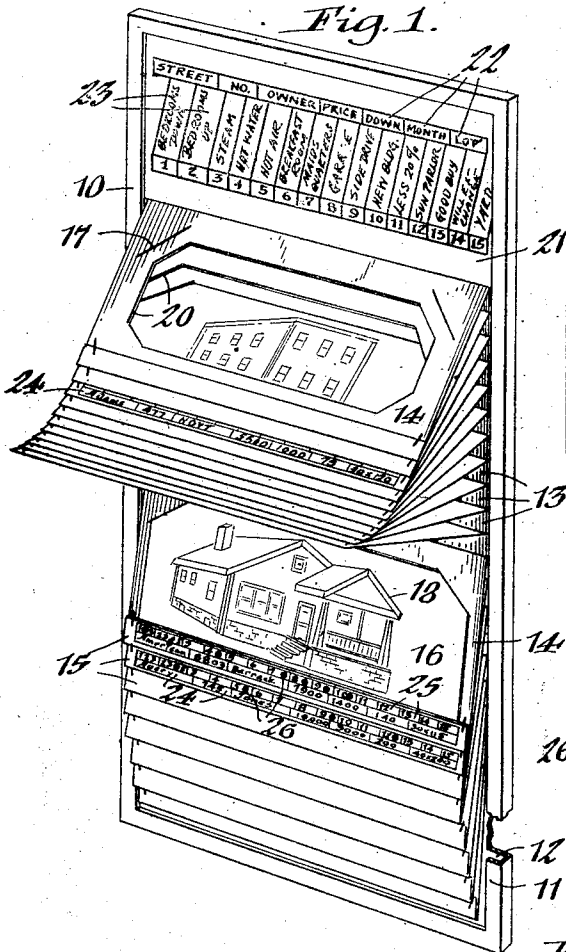
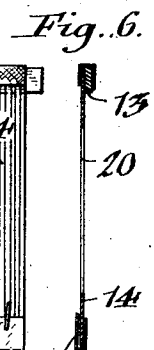
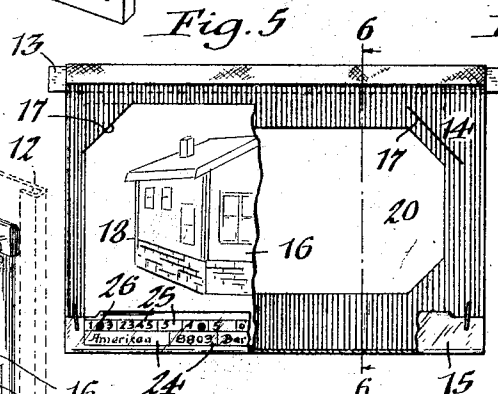
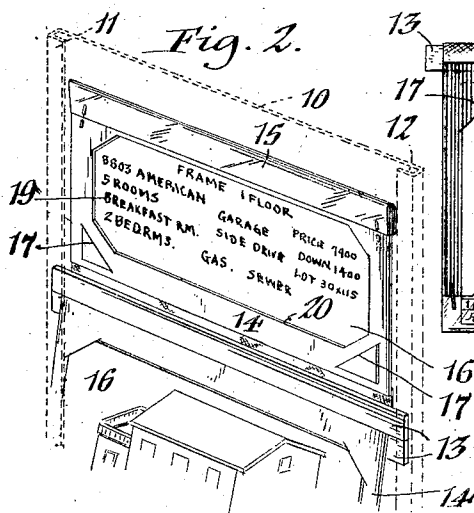
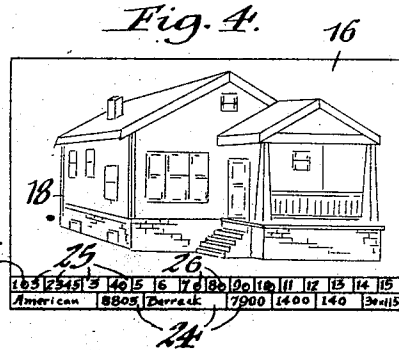


Fig. 3.

STREET	NO.	OWNER	PRICE	DOWN	MONTH	LOT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21



Inventor:
Lawrence J. Forsyth and
Michael John Joyce.
by *Seymour Seymour*
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAWRENCE J. FORSYTH AND MICHAEL JOHN JOYCE, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, AS
SIGNORS TO RAND COMPANY, INC., OF NORTH TONAWANDA, NEW YORK, A COR-
PORATION OF NEW YORK.

INDEX SYSTEM.

Application filed February 28, 1925. Serial No. 12,431.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, LAWRENCE J. FORSYTH and MICHAEL JOHN JOYCE, both citizens of the United States, and residents of Detroit, in the county of Wayne and State of Michigan, have invented new and useful Improvements in Index Systems, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in index systems, the same being more particularly designed for the listing or classification of real estate, although it may also be adapted for other purposes.

Its chief object is to provide a card index system of this character by which information concerning real estate of various kinds can be compiled or listed in a compact and simple manner so that interested parties can see at a glance the data concerning such properties.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a convenient, efficient and inexpensive real estate listing system whose parts are so organized and arranged as to not only facilitate and expedite the work of the realtor in connection with a prospect but also to aid the latter in his selection of properties in which he is particularly interested.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of an index frame embodying my preferred form of index system, showing some of the index cards partly folded back to disclose the front side of a given index card. Figure 2 is a fragmentary perspective view showing one of the index cards folded over to show the reverse side thereof. Figure 3 is a detached face view of the master card. Figure 4 is a similar view of one of the index or listing cards. Figure 5 is a detached face view, partly in section, of one of the card holders. Figure 6 is a transverse section thereof on line 6—6, Fig. 5.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

The supporting frame 10 of the index may be of any appropriate and well-known construction, such as a panel hinged to a revolving frame, or in the form of a slidable tray such as employed in index cabinets.

The frame 10 is provided with inwardly-turned side flanges 11 forming parallel guides or channels 12 for the customary sup-

porting bars or rails 13 whose ends are confined in said frame-guides. Hinged at their upper ends to the supporting bars are a series of overlapping card-supporting members or holders 14 which are arranged one above the other and spaced to leave their lower marginal portions exposed or visible as shown in Fig. 1, the bars 13 constituting spacers which determine the extent of these exposed margins. A transparent strip 15 of celluloid or similar material is folded about the lower or exposed marginal edge of each card-supporting member 14, thereby forming a transparent pocket for receiving the lower end of the index or listing card 16. The latter is detachably mounted on the front side of its supporting member with the lower edge thereof seated in the transparent pocket while the corners of its upper edge are engaged in corresponding diagonal slits 17 formed near the upper edge of said supporting member.

The listing card 16 is preferably in the form of a photograph having a picture 18 of a given piece of real estate or property on its front side and a detailed description 19 thereof on its rear side, thus giving the prospect a general idea of such property before actually visiting the site. The body of each card holder 14 is provided with a sight opening 20 through which the descriptive matter on the rear side of the corresponding listing card may be readily seen when the holder is swung back to the position shown in Fig. 2. Likewise, the picture on the front side of the card may be seen by lifting the succeeding card-holders to the position shown in Fig. 1.

Located at a convenient place on the index frame 10, preferably at the upper end thereof, as shown in Fig. 1, is a master or key card or sheet 21 having a row of horizontally-disposed spaces 22 containing general headings relating to any piece of real estate, such for example as "Street", "Number", "Owner", "Price", "Down", "Month" and "Lot". Beneath this row of general headings is a row of auxiliary spaces 23 containing descriptive details relative to the property, such as "Bedrooms (down and up)", "Steam", "Hot water", "Garage", etc.

Each listing card 16 has printed or otherwise produced on its exposed lower marginal portion a form consisting of two rows of

spaces 24, 25, corresponding to the general and auxiliary heading-spaces 22, 23, respectively, on the master card 21. The lower row of spaces 24 contains the general information concerning the property pictured on a given listing card, while the upper row of spaces 25 is adapted to receive discriminating marks, such as punch holes 26. Both rows of spaces are divided or spaced horizontally corresponding to the respective master card heading-spaces so as to be in vertical alinement therewith and thereby facilitate the reading of the desired information on a particular listing card as interpreted in combination with the master card. To further facilitate the reading of such information, the rows of spaces 23 and 25 on the master card and listing cards, respectively, are preferably correspondingly numbered or otherwise designated. Interpreting the general information of the property as illustrated in the drawing, it would indicate that such property was located at 8803 American St., Barrack, the owner; the price \$7900.00, the down payment \$1400.00, the monthly payment \$140.00; and the lot 30 x 115.

The numerically designated spaces 25 on the listing cards are adapted to be distinctly displayed by the punch holes 26 so as to form permanent visible signals indicative of the detailed information 19 contained on the rear side of said listing cards and displayed in the correspondingly numbered spaces on the master card. For this purpose, the card holders 14 are preferably of a different characteristic nature than the cards, say for instance, a red color, so that the punch holes stand out conspicuously in contrast to the listing cards. As shown in Figs. 1 and 4, the first, fourth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth spaces in the listing card are punched, indicating that the particular property photographed has "two bedrooms downstairs", "hot water heat", "maid's quarters", a "garage", a "side drive", and that it is a "new building".

In practice, the information form on the exposed margin of the listing card is preferably typed on a plain white piece of paper and then transferred to the film so that all photographs of the same property will have thereon the corresponding information. When the realtor receives the listing photograph with the detailed information printed on the rear side thereof, the holes 26 are punched where required to correspond to such information and to the designated spaces 23 on the master card, after which the same is inserted in its proper place in the index frame.

This improved index system is not only simple and compact in construction, but it gives at a glance the complete description of a listed piece of real estate. To this

end, it not only aids the realtor in giving his prospect a thorough examination of the properties he has for sale without taking him directly to the sites, but the prospect is likewise benefited to the extent that he can instantly eliminate such property that he knows he would not be interested in buying, thereby saving both parties considerable time and trouble.

It is to be understood that while this index system is adapted more particularly for listing real estate, it is likewise applicable to other uses, and we do not therefore wish to be limited to the particular embodiment of the invention herein shown and described and set forth in the appended claims.

We claim as our invention:

1. An index system of the character described, comprising a series of card-supporting members, listing cards carried by said members and each having an illustrative object thereon and spaces for receiving descriptive matter relating to the object, and a master card associated with said listing cards and bearing descriptive headings correlative to the matter on the listing cards.

2. An index system of the character described, comprising a series of card-supporting members, listing cards carried by said members and each having an illustrative object thereon, and a master card associated with said listing cards and bearing matter descriptive of the objects on the latter, the listing cards having indicia corresponding to the descriptive matter on the master card.

3. An index system of the character described, comprising a series of index cards, means for supporting the cards one above another with their marginal edges exposed, the bodies of the cards each bearing an illustrative object and their exposed marginal portions having spaces for receiving matter relating to the objects, and a master card arranged at one end of the series of index cards and bearing descriptive headings arranged in line with the corresponding spaces on the marginal portions of said index cards.

4. An index system of the character described, comprising a series of index cards, means for supporting the cards one above another with their marginal edges exposed, the bodies of the cards each having an illustrative object thereon and their exposed marginal portions having a row of spaces for receiving matter relating to the objects and a row of spaces for receiving discriminating marks, and a master card arranged at one end of the series of index cards and containing two rows of descriptive headings, one row corresponding to and arranged in line with the first-named row of spaces on the index cards and the other row corresponding to and in line with the second-named row of spaces on the index cards.

5. An index system of the character described, comprising a series of index cards, means for supporting the cards one above another with their marginal edges exposed, the bodies of the cards having an illustrative object on one side thereof and a detailed description of the object on its opposite side, the exposed margins of the cards each having a row of spaces for receiving discriminating marks, and a master card having a row of spaces containing headings embodying the combined descriptive detail appearing on all the index cards, the spaces on said index cards corresponding in number to and arranged in line with those of the master card.

6. An index system of the character described, comprising a series of card-supporting members arranged in overlapping relation and provided with transparent pockets at their exposed marginal edges, the body of each of said members having a sight opening therein, listing cards carried by the supporting members and having their marginal edges engaging said pockets, the body portion of each of said listing cards having an illustrative object on its front side and a detailed description of the object on its rear side visible through the sight opening of the respective supporting member, the exposed marginal portions of the cards each having a row of spaces for receiving discriminating marks, and a master card having a corresponding row of spaces containing headings embodying the combined descriptive detail appearing on all the index cards.

7. An index system of the character described, comprising a series of card-supporting members arranged in overlapping relation and provided with transparent pockets at their exposed marginal edges, listing cards carried by said supporting members and having their marginal edges engaging said pockets, those portions of the card-supporting members opposite their pockets being of a color contrasting with that of the listing cards, each of the latter having an illustrative object on its body portion and a row of spaces on its marginal portion for receiving punch marks through which the contrasting color on the supporting members is visible, and a master card having a corresponding row of spaces containing descriptive headings relating to all the objects illustrated on the listing cards, the spaces on the master card and the listing cards being correspondingly designated.

8. An index system of the character described, comprising a series of index cards each having an illustrative object thereon, and a master card having both general and detailed descriptive information relative to the several objects pictured on the index cards, each of the latter having spaces for receiving data concerning its object and corresponding to the general information on the master card and auxiliary spaces for receiving discriminating marks corresponding to the detailed descriptive information on said master card.

LAWRENCE J. FORSYTH.
M. JOHN JOYCE.