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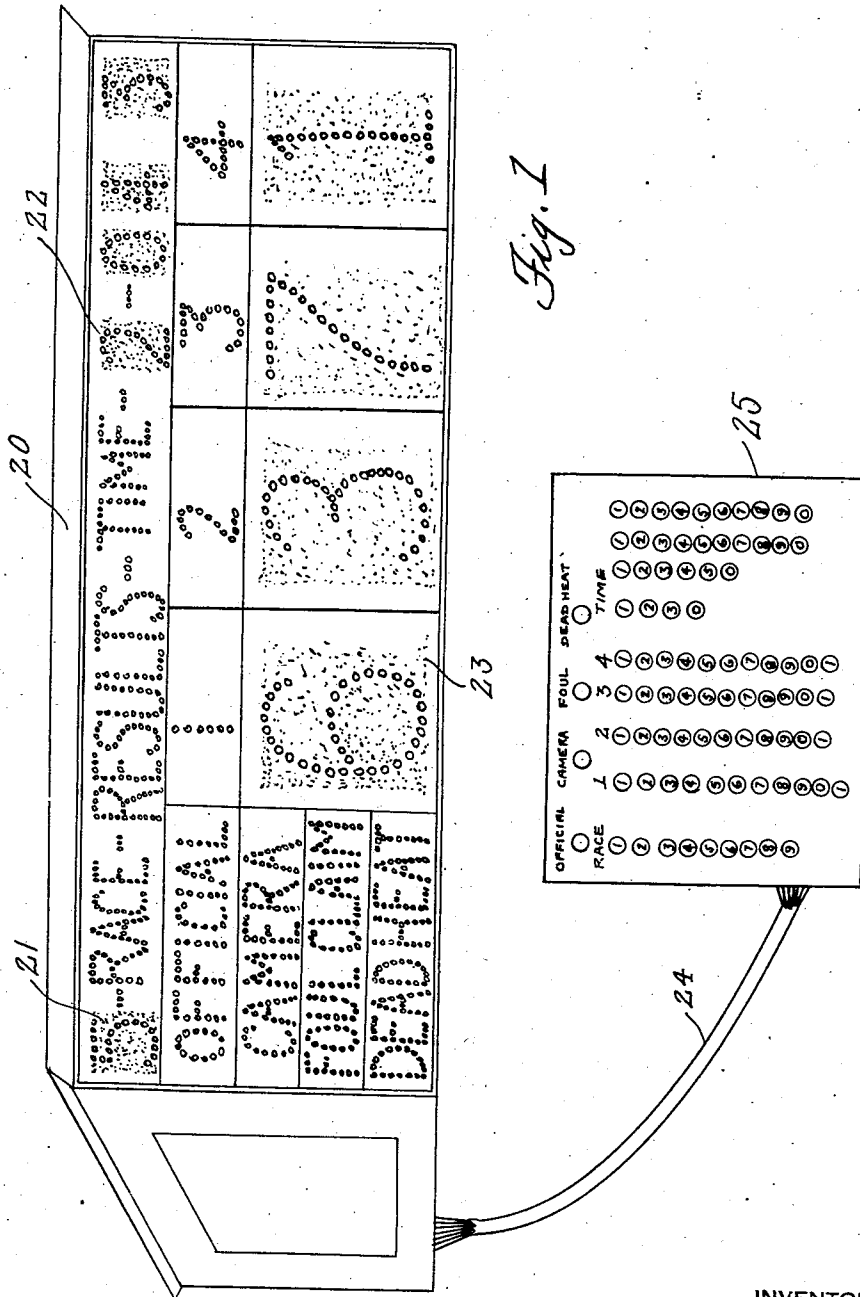
H. WILLIAMS

2,132,912

ELECTRICALLY CONTROLLED RACE TRACK INDICATOR BOARD

Filed July 6, 1936

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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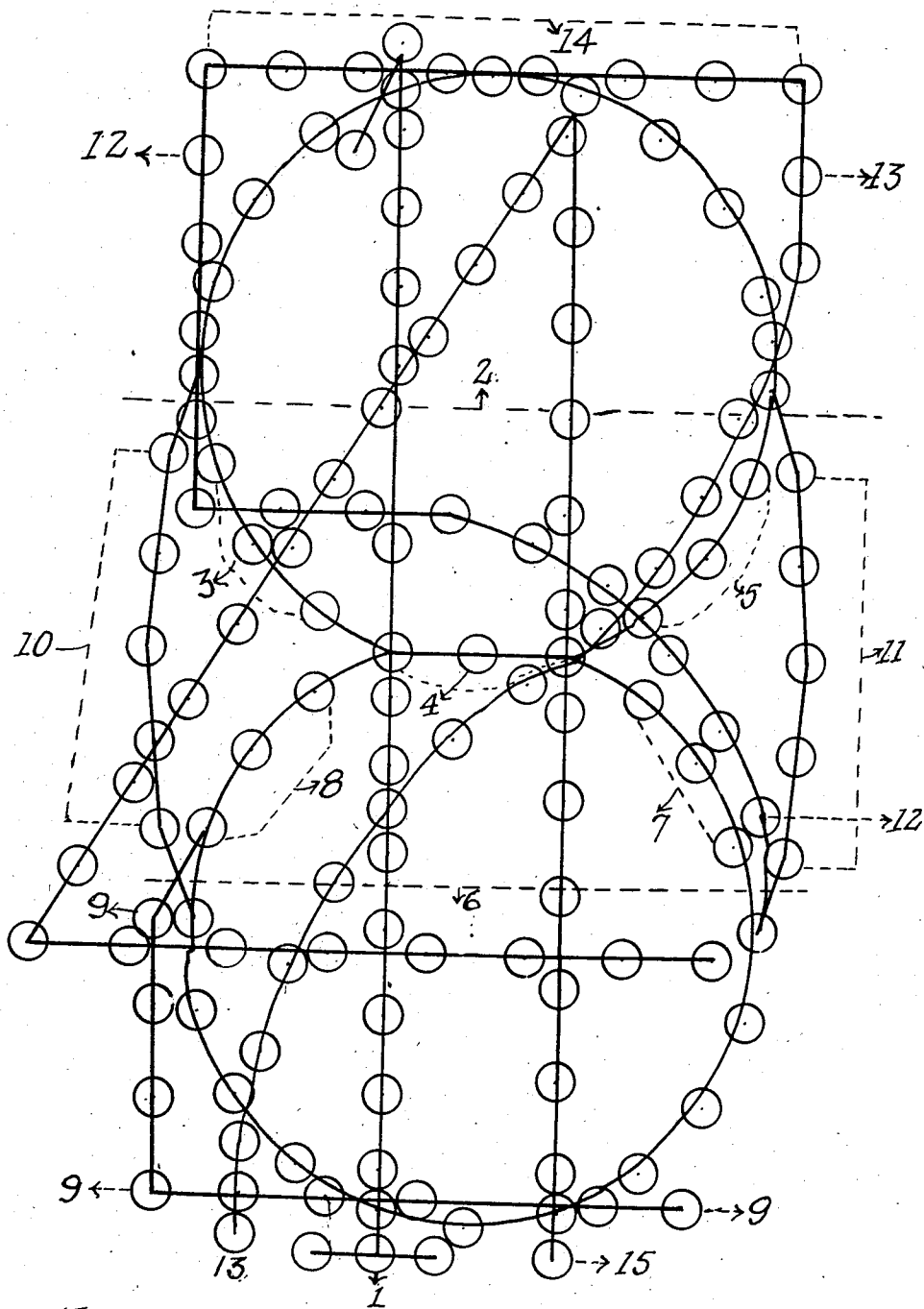


Fig. 2

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2,132,912

ELECTRICALLY CONTROLLED RACE TRACK
INDICATOR BOARDHarold Williams, New York, N. Y., assignor to
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Application July 6, 1936, Serial No. 89,263

1 Claim. (Cl. 177-384)

This invention relates to an apparatus for indicating the progress of races, especially at horse racing tracks.

The usual horse race track is generally at least one mile in circumference, and it is often difficult to distinguish the positions of the horses at points remote from the grandstand. Heretofore, no means have been provided for informing the spectators the relative positions of the horses during the progress of the race.

It is, therefore, an object of this invention to provide an apparatus by means of which the spectators are kept posted as to the four leading horses, at least, throughout the race.

A further object is the provision of a remote controlled electrically operated apparatus by means of which the spectators can be informed precisely as to the positions of the horses at the finish of the race. In many instances the spectator views the finish of a race from an angle which often gives him a false idea as to which horse is the winner. At present, at race tracks, when a dead heat is run, or a foul is claimed, or it is necessary to resort to a photograph to determine the winner, the spectators are kept in suspense for an appreciable time before an attendant manually raises a painted sign on a standard announcing what is going on. Obviously, such manual announcing is inconvenient, tedious and highly unsatisfactory due to the delay connected therewith, especially in view of the fact that at all race tracks today considerable sums of money are bet on each race.

In accordance with my invention, there is mounted in full view of the grandstand and spectators, a result board having electric signs thereon designating "Official" when the final official result of the race is announced; "Camera" when it is necessary to resort to a photograph to determine the winner; "Foul claimed" when such is the case; and "Dead heat" when the winner can not be determined. These electric signs can be controlled by push buttons mounted on a remote control panel. The board is also equipped to designate various numbers at will by simply pressing buttons on the control panel. By means of the changeable numbers, the number of the race, the numbers of the first four horses, and the time, can also be conveniently and readily flashed on the board by pressing button switches on the control panel.

It is therefore a further object of this invention to provide a method of indicating the progress and result of a race, which comprises essentially the closing of switches on a remotely posi-

tioned control panel to close circuits through sign devices and changeable numerals on a result board.

A further object is the provision of a plurality of novel circuits for electrically producing numerals from 1 to 9 and 0 from a field of electric incandescent lamps having certain groups of lamps thereof common to various numerals.

These and other objects are attained by the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and shown in the accompanying drawings, constituting a material part of this disclosure, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a view showing a result board and control panel embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a wiring diagram for a field of incandescent lamps, showing the various circuits and combinations of groups of lamps for producing various numerals.

Referring to the drawings, in Fig. 1 the result board 20 is shown to have a top row of sign devices, in which the upper left hand field 21 of incandescent lamps can be varied to designate the number of the race. The same row on the board also shows the time of the race at 22. The next row on the board has the sign "Official", which is flashed when the final result is given; and also the numbers for the 1, 2, 3 and 4th position. On the left hand side of the board are provided signs for "Camera", "Foul claim" and "Dead heat"; and below the numerals 1, 2, 3 and 4, are mounted fields of incandescent lamps, each field comprising a plurality of circuits as shown in Fig. 2, for selectively combining certain groups of lamps to designate a desired numeral. For example, in Fig. 1, the board shows that the first horse was No. 6; the second horse, No. 3; etc.

The sign devices and fields of incandescent lamps are connected by a group of wires 24 to a control panel 25, upon which are mounted a plurality of push button switches for closing circuits through the various sign devices and for forming the combinations of circuits for producing various numerals. The panel 25 and the method of selecting the various circuits is preferably of the type disclosed in United States Letters Patent No. 1,160,416 issued in 1915 to Kliegl; however, the arrangement of circuits and groups of lamps, see Fig. 2, for producing various numerals from a single field of lamps, is considered a decided improvement of the Kliegl arrangement, in that the arrangement shown in Fig. 2 herein produces more distinct numerals and there is no chance for confusion, which obviously, would be very unsatisfactory at a race track.

Referring to Fig. 2, it will be seen that in accordance with my invention, a field of incandescent lamps is provided with fifteen circuits or selectable groups of lamps to produce numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 0. The various circuits are indicated by dotted lines.

To produce numeral 1, the button 1 is pressed on the panel to close a circuit through circuit 1. Numeral 2 is produced by combining the upper half of the circle 2 with circuits 4, 5, 8 and 9. Numeral 3 comprises circuits 2, 4, 5, 7 and 6, which is the lower half of the lower circle. Numeral 4 is formed by closing circuit 15; numeral 5 comprises circuits 6, 12 and 14; numeral 6 comprises circuits 2, 10 and the bottom circle including 6; number 7 comprises circuits 13 and 14; numeral 8 is formed by circuits 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; numeral 9 comprises circuits 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 and 6; and zero is formed by circuits 2, 10, 11, and 6.

From the above, it will be seen that several circuits are necessary to form some numerals; for example, the formation of number eight requires seven circuits.

In operation, to give the final result of a race, the operator presses the button "Official", and then presses the numbered buttons in rows 1, 2, 3, 4 on the panel to produce on the result board the illuminated numerals indicating the first, second, third, and fourth horses. The operator then

presses the proper buttons to indicate on the board the time of the race.

The foregoing disclosure is to be regarded as descriptive and illustrative only, and not as restrictive or limitative of the invention, of which obviously an embodiment can be constructed including modifications without departing from the general scope herein indicated and denoted in the appended claim.

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

An annunciator for horse races comprising at least three sets of selectively illuminable numbers, each number of a set corresponding to the number of a different horse in a race, an indicia adjacent each set indicating the running positions respectively of first, second and third, electrically controlled means for illuminating a number in one set to indicate the number of the horse running in the leading position in the race at a predetermined time, and similar means for illuminating a number in each of the other sets to indicate the numbers of the horses running in other positions in the race, said control means being operable during the progress of the race to change the numbers appearing in said sets as the numbers of the horses in said positions change during the progress of the race.

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