

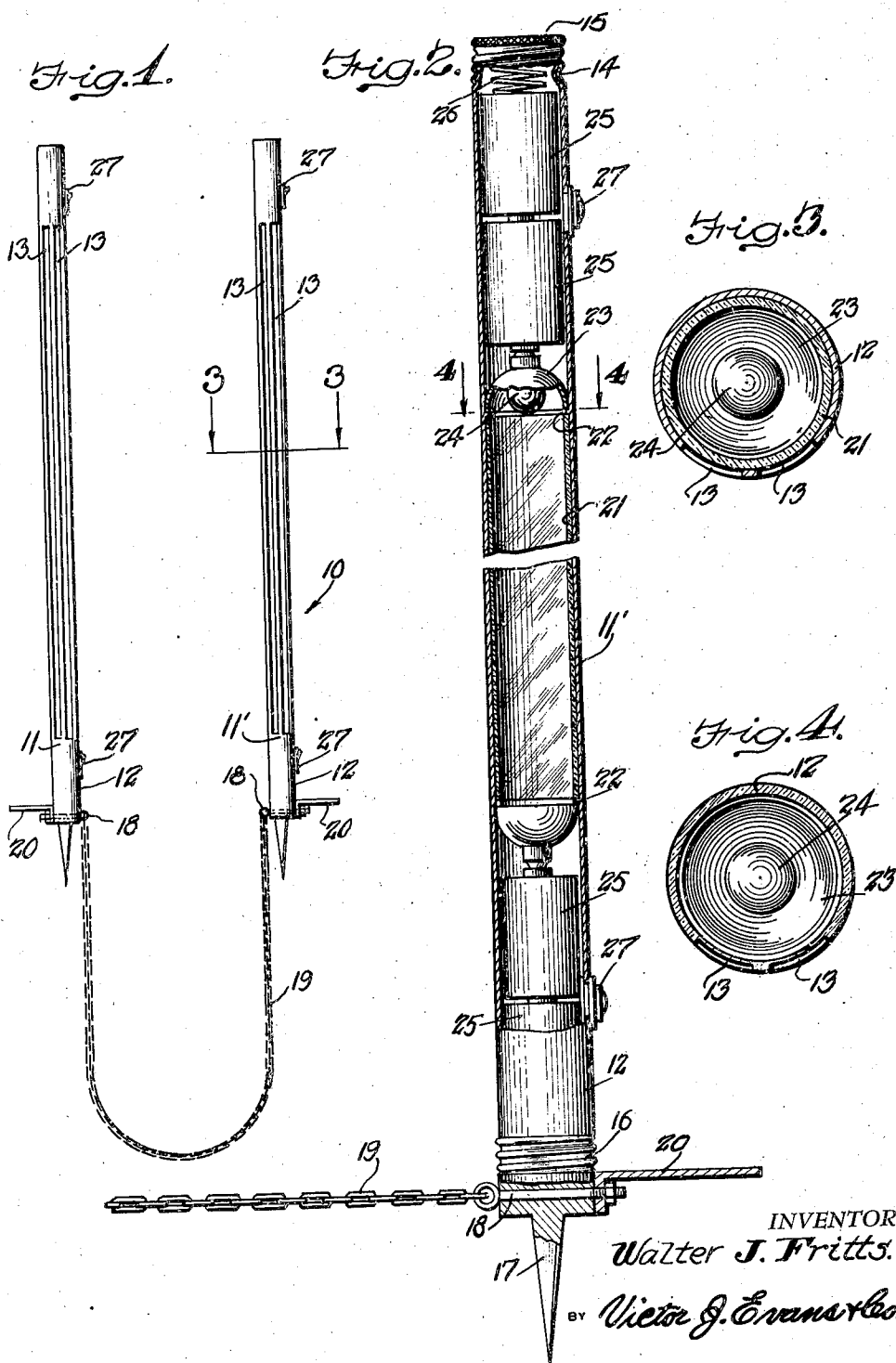
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ILLUMINATED TEN YARD MARKER STICK

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ILLUMINATED TEN YARD MARKER STICK

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1 Claim. (Cl. 240-6.42)

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This invention relates to yardage marking sticks for football games, and more particularly to an illuminated stick that is adaptable for use when the game is played at night.

An object of the invention, therefore, is to provide an illuminated marking stick that will be visible to the spectators and players at night when the games are played under artificial light.

Another object of the invention is to provide a yardage stick that is adapted to be illuminated and is self-contained, since it carries its own current source.

A further object of the invention is to provide a yardage stick that is simple in construction, easy to operate, is durable and inexpensive to manufacture for the purpose designed.

With the above and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists of the novel details of construction, arrangement and combination of parts more fully hereinafter described, claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of the assembly embodying the invention;

Figure 2 is a vertical, elevational and partial sectional view of one yard stick marker;

Figure 3 is a sectional view on the line 3-3 of Figure 1 and

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

Referring more in detail to the drawing, there is shown the yardage marker assembly 10 which comprises the pair of marker sticks 11 and 11' respectively, and since the sticks are identical in construction, it is believed that a description of one will be taken to properly describe the other.

Each yard stick comprises a tubular body 12, which is provided with longitudinally extending relatively spaced slots 13, which extend for substantially the entire length of the body 12.

The slots are used if the body is opaque, as when made of aluminum or similar materials. Should the body be made of a transparent plastic, the slots would not be necessary.

The upper end of each body is provided with threads 14, to receive the removable screw cap 15, and the lower end of the body is provided with threads to receive the screw cap 16 carrying the ground penetrating spike 17.

The cap 16 carries the eye bolt 18, which is connected to the ten yard marking chain 19, by which the yardage is marked, and the sticks are joined in assembled form.

At its opposite end, the bolt 18 also carries the foot bracket 20, whereby the lineman may put his

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foot on the bracket to press the spike into the ground.

The body of the sticks is provided with a transparent tube 21, which is positioned in the body to the rear of the slots 13, and lugs 22 formed in the body retain the tube in place therein.

Engaging the lugs 22, on the side thereof, opposite to the tube 21, are the semi-spherical reflectors 23, which carry the flashlight bulbs 24. Current is supplied to the bulbs in the conventional manner, by the dry cells 25 placed at the top and bottom ends of the body of the sticks. Both of the caps also carry the pressure springs 26 whereby the batteries are pressed into engagement with each bulb in the usual manner.

Each stick, at each end, is provided with a switch 27, whereby the current from the batteries to the bulbs is controlled in the usual manner.

Each stick, therefore, is constructed similar to a flashlight, so that the completion of the circuit to each bulb is the same as in an ordinary flashlight.

The bulbs can be used simultaneously or only one bulb illuminated at a time. Thus the batteries will usually last through an entire game without replacement.

The use of such a yardage marker assembly permits both the players and the fans to know the exact yardage to be made at night time, and thus keep both apprised of the approximate position of the ball during the game.

The yardage marker assembly is used in the conventional manner, except that it can be illuminated at the right time for the purpose previously set forth.

It is believed that the construction of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art, and it is to be understood that changes in the formation and arrangement of the various parts may be resorted to, provided they fall within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claim.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

A yardage marker stake comprising a tubular body, a removable cap at the upper and lower ends of the body, a ground engaging spike on the lower cap, a plurality of parallel longitudinally extending and relatively spaced slots in the body, inwardly directed lugs on the inner surface of said body positioned at the opposite ends of the slots, a transparent tube in said body rearwardly of said slots and supported by said lugs, semi-spherical reflectors engaging the opposite sides

of the lugs, bulbs carried by said reflectors, batteries engaging said bulbs at both ends of said body and a switch at each end of the body interposed into the battery circuit for controlling the illumination of the bulbs.

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