

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD BAMBECK AND WILLIAM A. VAN MALE, OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN,  
ASSIGNORS TO AMERICAN SIGN COMPANY, OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN.

SIGN.

1,100,415.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 16, 1914.

Application filed January 4, 1913. Serial No. 740,088.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, EDWARD BAMBECK and WILLIAM A. VAN MALE, citizens of the United States, residing at Kalamazoo, Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signs, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in signs.

Our improvements are particularly designed by us for embodiment in illuminated signs in which the characters or sign indicia are formed or outlined by lenses as shown for example in Letters Patent to Smith 962,724, dated June 28, 1910, and we have illustrated the same in the accompanying drawing as embodied in other types of signs where it is desirable to provide means for conveniently changing the same.

The main objects of our invention are: First, to provide an improved sign in which the sign indicia or characters may be quickly and easily changed. Second, to provide an improved sign in which the letters or sign indicia may be readily changed and one in which the joints between changeable panels are close when the panels are in position. Third, to provide an improved sign structure embodying these advantages which is comparatively simple and economical in structure and one which may be very conveniently changed as desired.

Further objects, and objects relating to structural details, will definitely appear from the detailed description to follow.

We accomplish the objects of our invention by the devices and means described in the following specification.

The invention is clearly defined and pointed out in the claims.

A structure which is a preferred embodiment of our invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure I is a front view of a structure embodying the features of our invention. Fig. II is an enlarged detail horizontal section on a line corresponding to line 2—2 of Fig. I. Fig. III is an enlarged detail vertical section on a line corresponding to line 3—3 of Fig. I. Fig. IV is a detail inside perspective view of one of the panels 2.

In the drawing similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout

the several views, and the sectional views are taken looking in the direction of the little arrows at the ends of the section lines.

Referring to the drawing, the frame of the sign is formed of suitable upright and horizontal pieces 1. We only illustrate the face wall of the sign as our improvements relate only to this portion. The face of the sign comprises a plurality of panels 2 having sign characters or indicia formed therein by means of the lenses 3. These panels 2 are formed of sheet metal and are provided with supporting flanges 4 at their top and supporting flanges 5 at their bottom edges.

The flange 4 is inclined downwardly, while the flange 5 is substantially horizontal and is provided with a downturned edge 6. The flange 5 is upwardly offset from the lower edge of the panel. At one side edge each panel is provided with an outwardly inclined joint member 7, while at the other it is provided with a channeled joint member 8, the channel being preferably V-shaped, as illustrated.

In the structure illustrated, the panels are provided with vertical reinforcing bars 9 arranged between the supporting flanges. The supporting flanges also serve to reinforce the panels. The flange 4 is extended or continued over the upper end of the channel joint member 8. See Fig. IV. The panels and their supporting flanges and joint members are preferably formed integrally of sheet metal, as illustrated. The panels are removably mounted on the supports 10 having downwardly offset flanges 11 provided with upturned edges 12 with which the supporting flanges 4 of the panels engage. See Fig. III.

The supporting flanges 5 are engaged over the upper edges of the support below. The supports 10 and the flanges 11 thereof are preferably formed integrally of sheet metal. The supports 10, are in the structure illustrated, shouldered at 13 to receive the lower edges of the panels so that the faces of the panels are substantially flush with the faces of the supports. The supports overhang the flanges 11 so that water drains from the supports onto the panels below.

In placing the panels, it is only necessary to engage the flanges over the supports in order to secure them in position. The joint

member 8 of each panel overlaps the joint member 7 of an adjacent panel, as clearly shown in Fig. II. Any particular panel may be removed or placed without disturbing the others. This is effected by lifting the panel upwardly and swinging laterally, the joint member 7 being cut away at the top to permit this upward movement. This allows the joint member 7 to be slipped under or removed from the channel joint member 8 of the adjacent panel without in any manner disturbing that panel. By this arrangement, the face of a sign provided with our changeable panels effectively excludes water, and at the same time, the panels may be changed as desired. With moderate care in forming the panels and the supports, the panels are supported so that they do not rattle.

We have illustrated and described our improvements in detail in a satisfactory construction. We have not attempted to illustrate or describe various modifications which we contemplate as we believe the disclosure made will enable those skilled in the art to which this invention relates to embody the same as conditions or taste dictate or require. We desire, however, to be understood as claiming our improvements specifically in the form illustrated as well as broadly within the scope of the appended claims.

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

1. In a sign, the combination with a frame, of panels each provided with inwardly projecting supporting flanges at its top and bottom, and joint members at its side edges, the top supporting flange being inclined downwardly, the bottom supporting flange being upwardly offset from the lower edge of the panel and having a downturned edge, said panels and their supporting flanges and joint members being formed integrally of sheet metal, and panel supports on said frame provided with downwardly offset flanges having upwardly inclined edges with which the top supporting flanges of the panels are engaged, the bottom flanges of the panels being engaged over the upper edges of the support below, said supports being shouldered to receive the lower edges of the panels above and being adapted to overhang the upper edges of the panels below, said supports and their respective flanges being formed integrally of sheet metal.

2. In a sign, the combination with a frame, of panels each provided with inwardly projecting supporting flanges at its top and bottom, and joint members at its side edges, the top supporting flange being inclined downwardly, the bottom supporting flange having a downturned edge, said panels and their supporting flanges and joint

members being formed integrally of sheet metal, and panel supports on said frame provided with downwardly offset flanges having upwardly inclined edges with which the top supporting flanges of the panels are engaged, the bottom flanges of the panels being engaged over the upper edges of the support below, said supports and their said flanges being formed integrally of sheet metal.

3. In a sign, the combination with a frame, of panels each provided with inwardly projecting supporting flanges at its top and bottom, and joint members at its side edges, the top supporting flange being inclined downwardly, the bottom supporting flange being upwardly offset from the lower edge of the panel and having a downturned edge, one joint member being outwardly inclined, the other being V-shaped to overlap the outwardly inclined joint member of the adjacent panel, the top flange being continued over the V-shaped joint member, and panel supports on said frame provided with flanges having outwardly inclined edges with which the top supporting flanges of the panels are engaged, the bottom flanges of the panels being engaged with the support below.

4. In a sign, the combination of panels each provided with inwardly projecting supporting flanges at its top and bottom, and joint members at its side edges, the top supporting flange being inclined downwardly, the bottom supporting flange being upwardly offset from the lower edge of the panel and having a downturned edge, one joint member being channeled to receive the meeting joint member of the adjacent panel, the top flange being continued over the channeled joint member, and panel supports with which said supporting flanges are removably engaged.

5. In a sign, the combination of panels each provided with inwardly projecting supporting flanges at its top and bottom, and joint members at its side edges, the top supporting flange being inclined downwardly, the bottom supporting flange being upwardly offset from the lower edge of the panel and having a downturned edge, one joint member being channeled to receive the meeting joint member of the adjacent panel.

6. In a sign, the combination of panels each provided with inwardly projecting supporting flanges at its top and bottom, the top flange being inclined downwardly, the bottom flange being upwardly offset from the lower edge of the panel and having a downturned edge, and panel supports provided with downwardly offset flanges having upwardly inclined edges with which the top supporting flanges of the panels are engaged, the bottom flanges of the panels being engaged over the upper edges of the support below, said supports being pro-

vided with shoulders adapted to receive the lower edges of the panels above and being adapted to overhang the upper edges of the panels below.

5 7. In a sign, the combination of panels each provided with inwardly projecting supporting flanges at its top and bottom, the top flange being inclined downwardly, and panel supports provided with downwardly offset  
10 flanges having upwardly inclined edges with which the top supporting flanges of the panels are engaged, the bottom flanges of the panels being engaged over the upper edges of the support below.

15 8. In a sign, the combination of panels each provided with inwardly projecting supporting flanges at its top and bottom, and panel supports provided with flanges with which the top supporting flanges of the  
20 panels are engaged, the bottom flanges of the panels being engaged over the upper edges of the support below.

9. In a sign, the combination with a frame, of panels provided with inwardly  
25 projecting supporting flanges at their top and bottom and joint members at their side edges, one joint member being channeled to receive the meeting joint member of the adjacent panel, the top flange being con-  
30 tinued over the channeled joint member, and panel supports on said frame with which

said supporting flanges are removably engaged.

10. In a sign, the combination of panels, each provided with inwardly projecting sup- 35  
porting flanges at its top and bottom and with joint members at its side edges, one joint member being outwardly inclined, the other being channeled to overlap the out- 40  
wardly inclined joint member of the adjacent panel, the channeled joint members being adapted to permit the engaging and disengaging of the co-acting joint member therewith with an edgewise and swinging  
45 movement without shifting the adjacent panel, and supports coacting with the flanges at the top and bottom of said panels permitting the engagement and disengagement thereof with a swinging and vertical move-  
50 ment, all coacting for the purpose specified.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands in the presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD BAMBECK.

WILLIAM A. VAN MALE.

Witnesses to the signature of Edward Bambeck:

FANNIE ROOT,  
HOMER BRUNDAGE.

Witnesses to the signature of William Van Male:

GUY A. BECKWITH,  
W. P. MCGLENN.

E. BAMBECK & W. A. VAN MALE.

SIGN.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

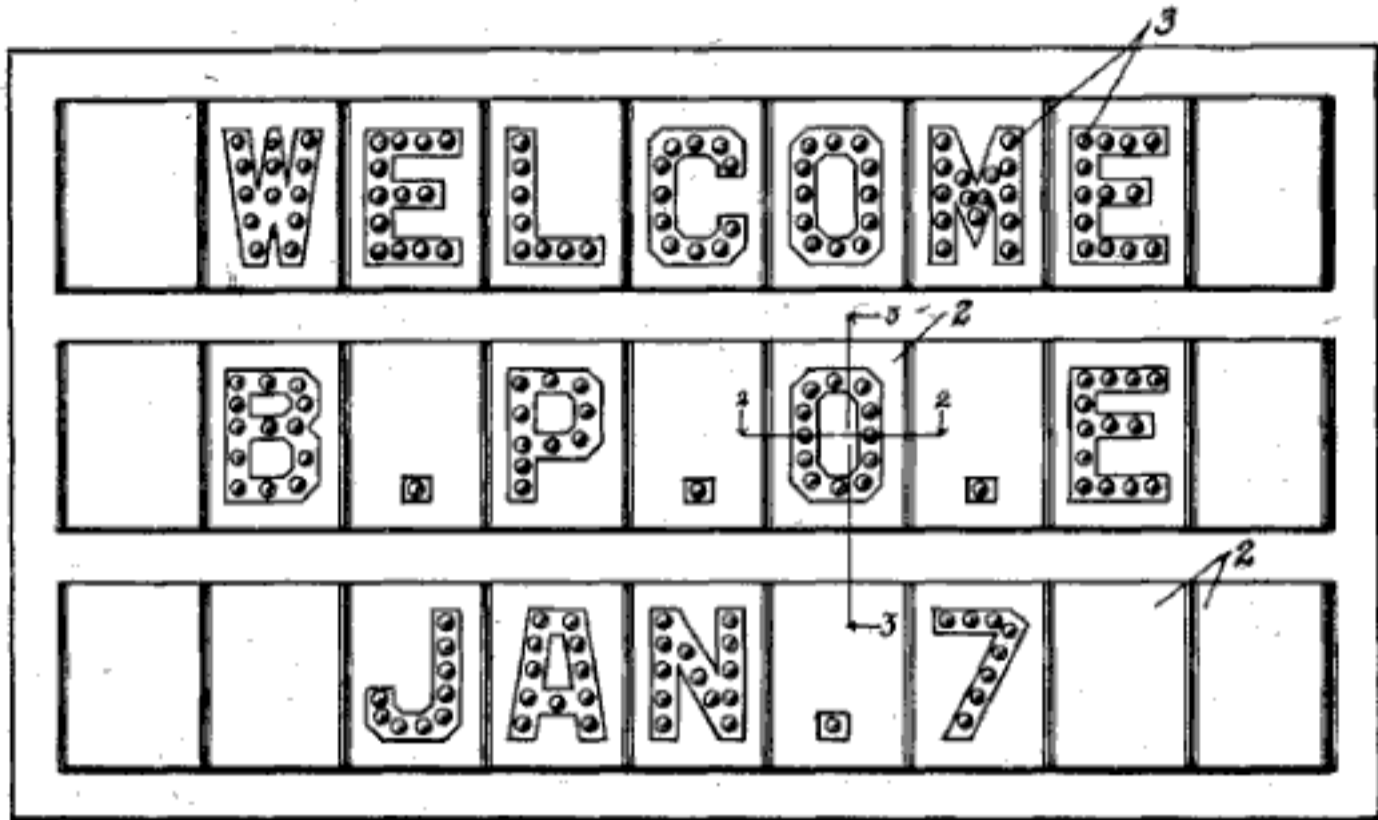


FIG. I.

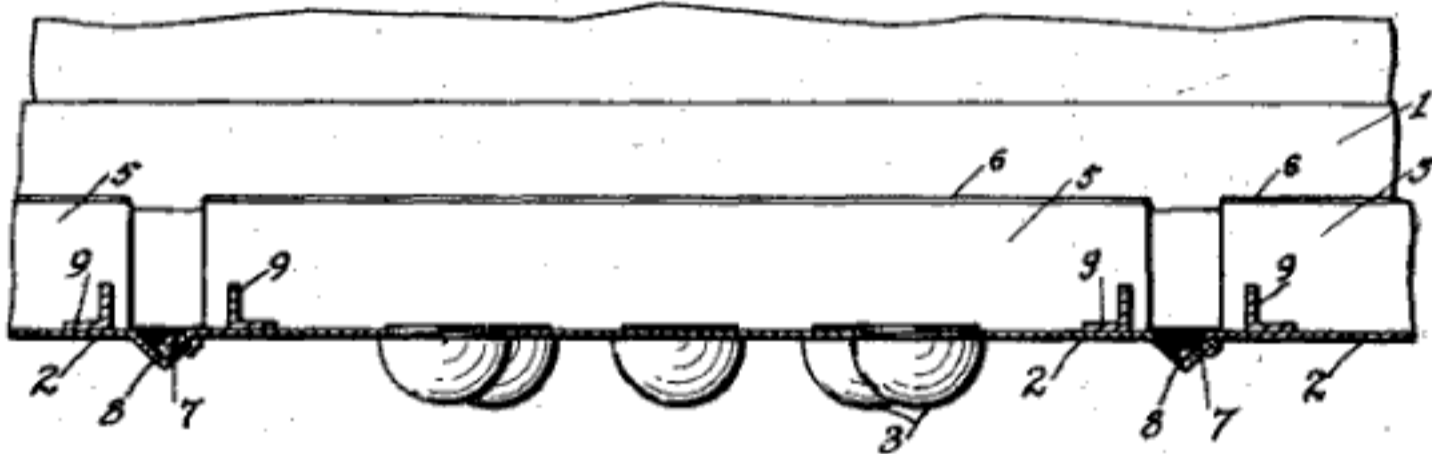


FIG. II.

Inventors

Edward Bambeck  
and William A. Van Male

Shappell Carl  
Attorneys

Witnesses

M. O. Lind Woodruff  
Margaret Glasgow

E. BAMBECK & W. A. VAN MALE.

SIGN.

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3 SHEETS-SHEET 2.

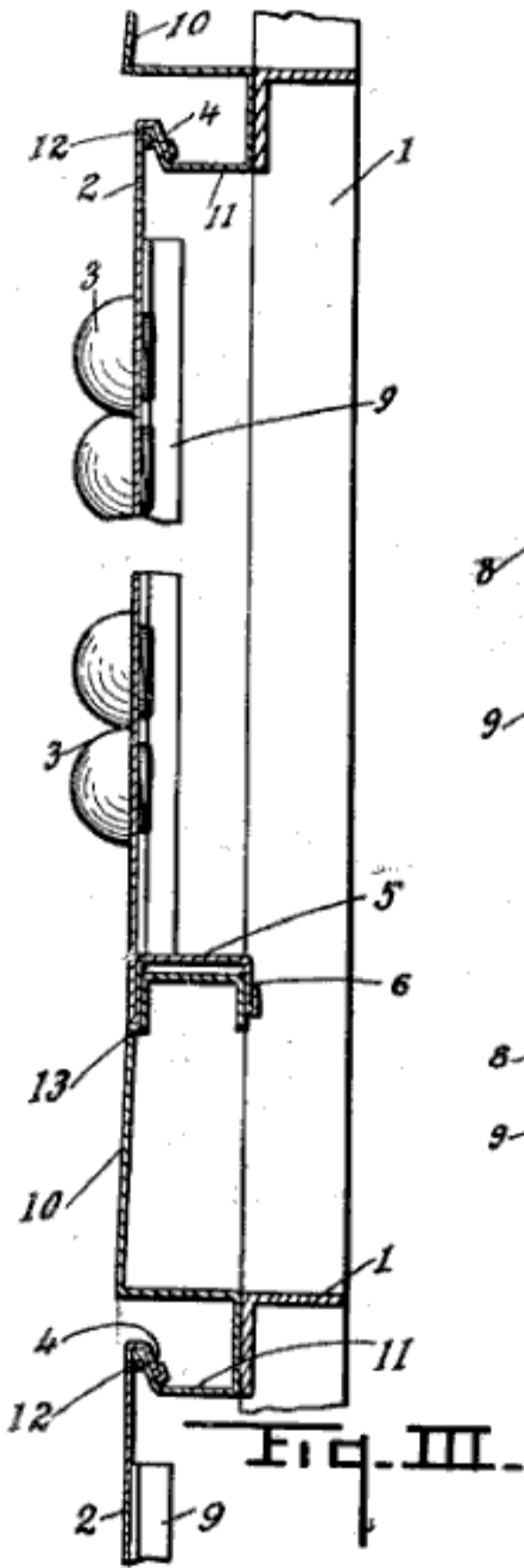


Fig. III.

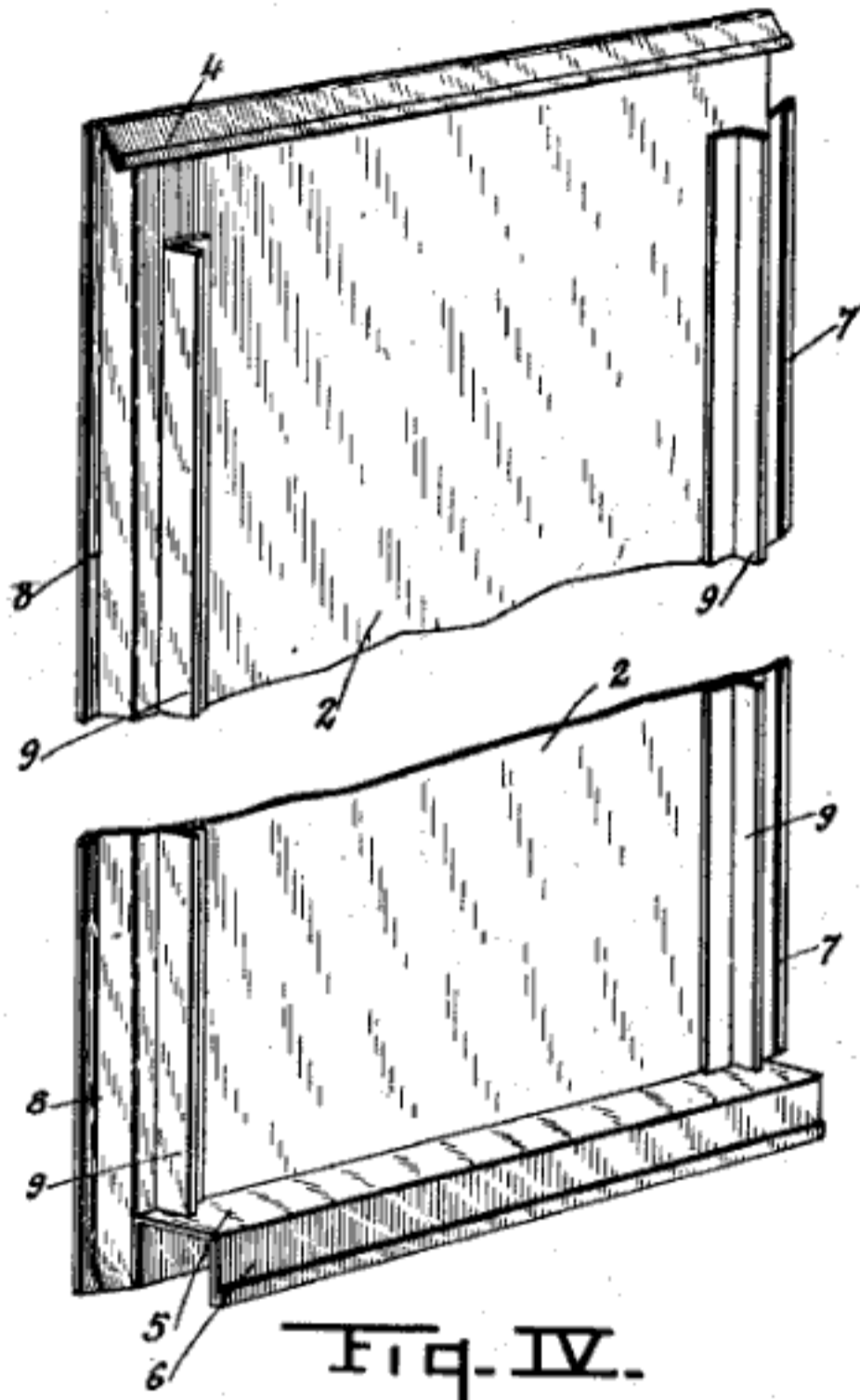


Fig. IV.

Witnesses  
 M. O. H. Woodruff  
 Margaret Glasgow

Inventors  
 Edward Bambeck  
 and William A. Van Male  
 by Chappell & Earl  
 Attorneys