

No. 619,639.

Patented Feb. 14, 1899.

W. A. ULREY.
SIGN HOLDER.

(Application filed Nov. 13, 1897.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 2.

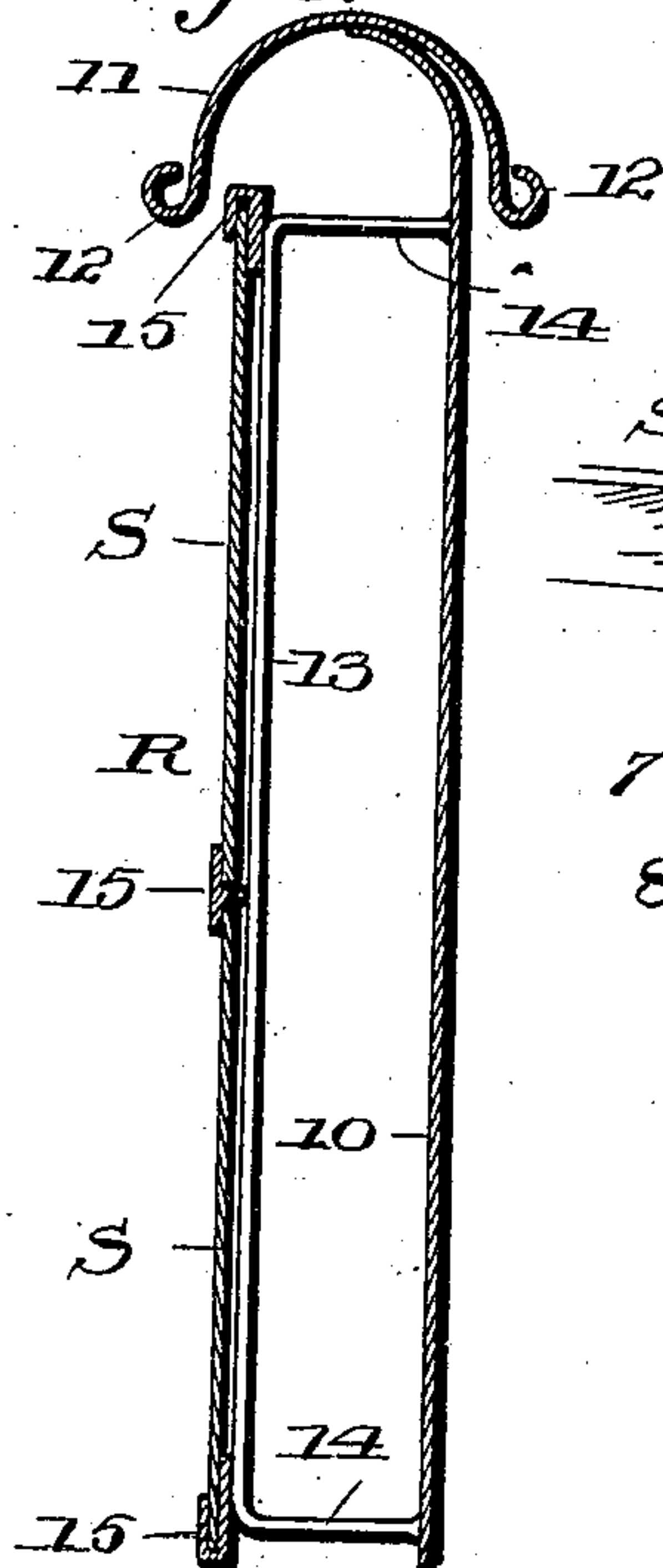


Fig. 1.

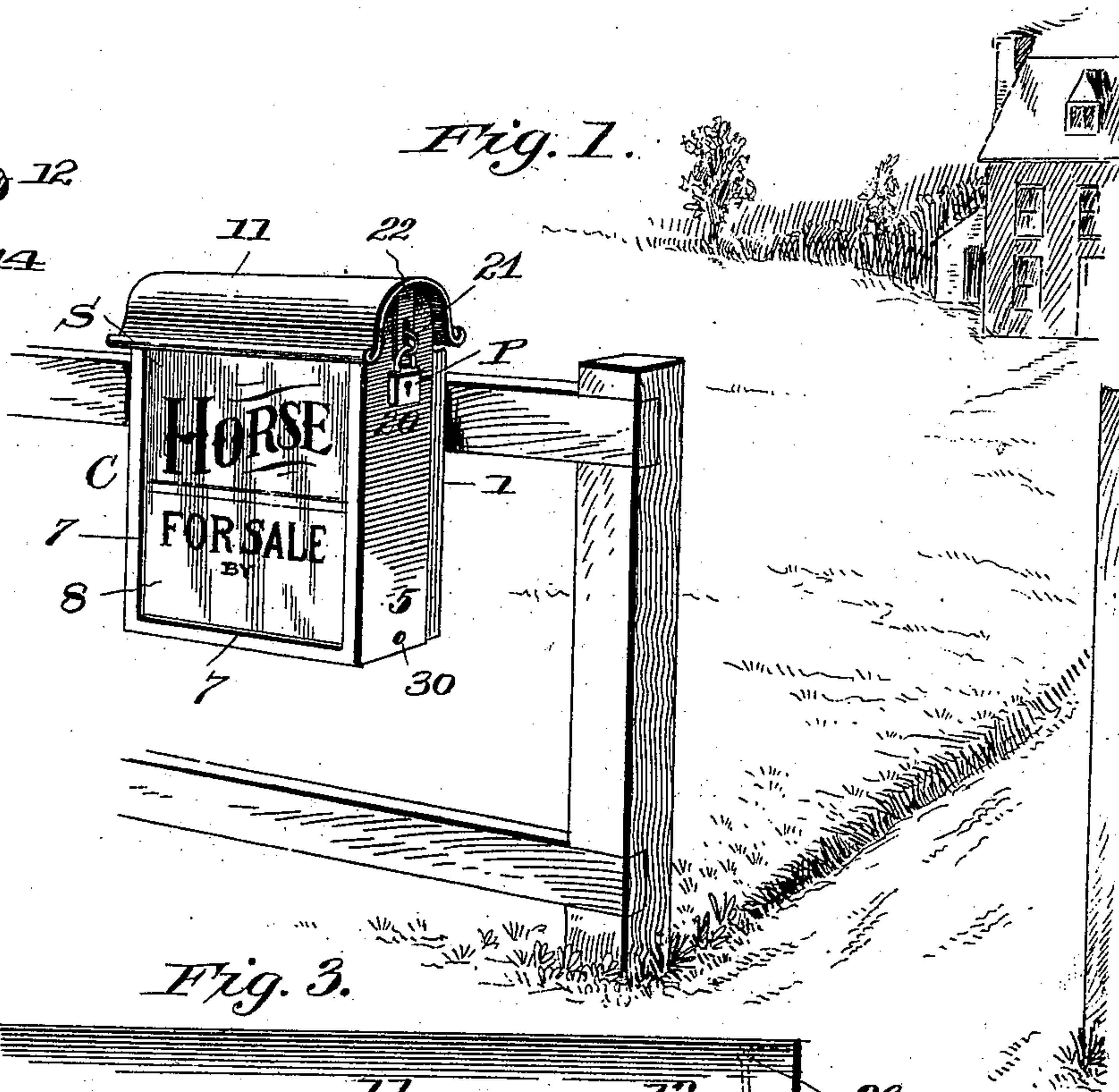
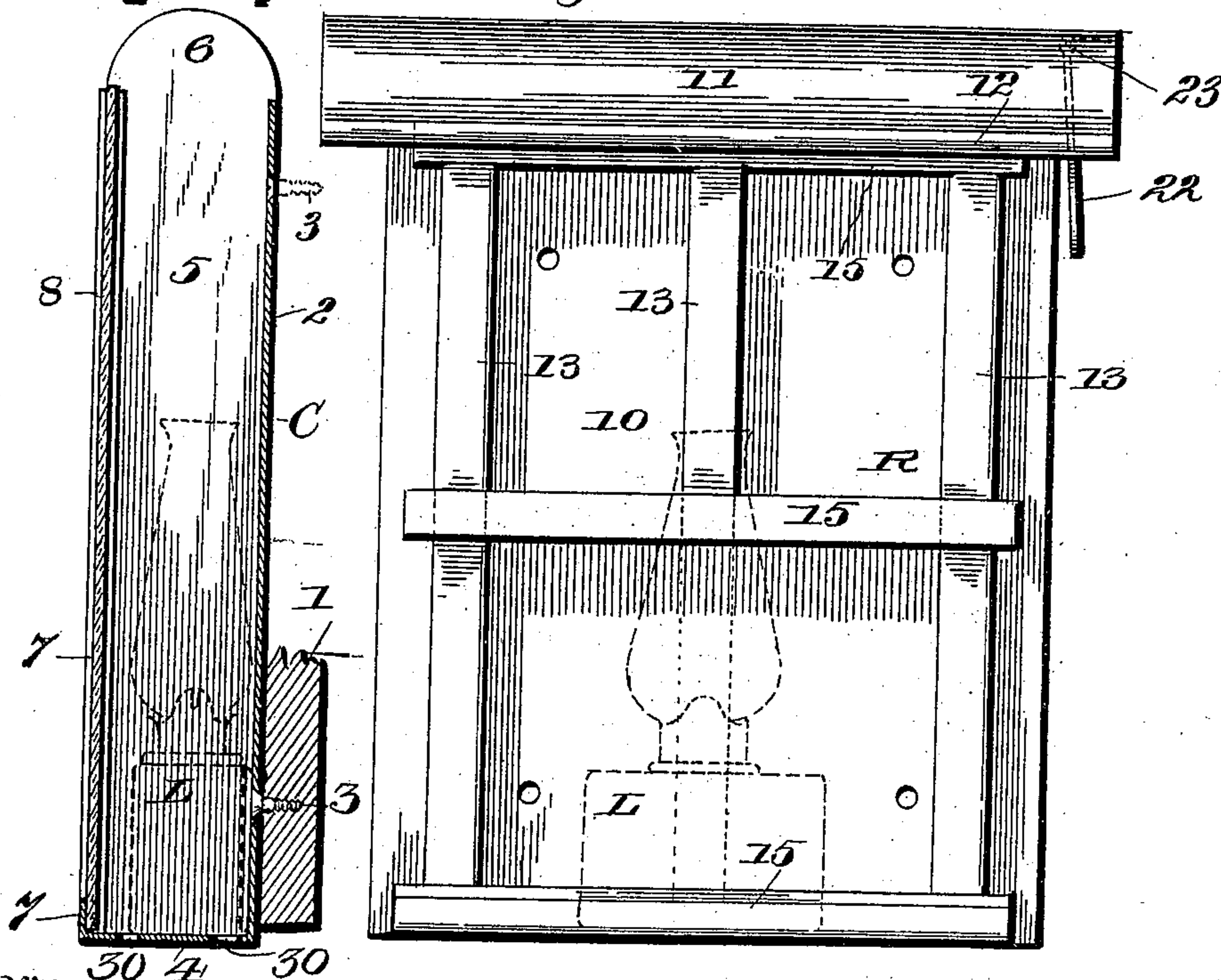


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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Inventor:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. ULREY, OF PIPESVILLE, OHIO.

SIGN-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 619,639, dated February 14, 1899.

Application filed November 13, 1897. Serial No. 658,503. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. ULREY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Pipesville, Knox county, State of Ohio, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sign-Holders; and my preferred manner of carrying out the invention is set forth in the following full, clear, and exact description, terminating with claims particularly specifying the novelty.

This invention relates to advertising, and more especially to that class of devices used for exhibiting purposes, known as "card-exhibitors;" and the object of the same is to produce an improved article of this kind particularly adapted to the use of farmers, stock-raisers, and the like living off the main road, so that they can have a constant advertisement within sight of passers-by.

To this end the invention consists in the construction hereinafter more fully set forth, and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of this invention in place. Fig. 2 is a vertical section with the parts separated. Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the card-rack, partly broken away, and this view shows in dotted lines the position a lamp would occupy when the parts are assembled, provided transparent cards were used.

This invention comprises a support, a casing, a card-rack, (preferably held in the casing by a lock,) the signs or cards, and a suitable lamp, if it is desired to use one in connection with transparent signs. These parts will now be described in detail as illustrated in the drawings, although it will be understood that considerable change may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention. While the various parts are of any desired sizes, shapes, proportions, and materials such as will effect the desired ends, I reserve the right to make such alterations and improvements as come within the scope of this my specification, describing only the preferred form of the whole and its parts.

The support is an upright piece of board or plank 1, attached to a tree or post standing
50 alongside the roadway and within convenient sight of passers-by, whereby the sign may be read by all who pass, although the residence

or place of business of the advertiser may be remote.

The casing C is preferably of galvanized iron or some metal treated with a coating of heavy paint, japan, or the like to render it weatherproof. It comprises a closed back 2, through which pass screws or bolts 3, that attach it to the board 1, closed bottom 4, and closed sides 5, preferably rounded, as at 6, at their upper ends, so as to form upwardly-extending ears for a purpose to appear below. At the front edges of the bottom and sides are formed grooves 7, constituting guides for receiving the edges of a pane of glass 8, which can be slipped in or removed from the top, as for cleaning or replacing when cracked or broken. The whole is water-tight excepting at its top, which is open.

The card-rack R may be of tin or other light metal. It comprises a closed back 10, surmounted by an upwardly-curved cover 11, shaped so as to fit closely over the ears of the casing and extending lengthwise for some distance beyond them, so as to prevent rain or sleet from beating in under it, and the lower edges of this roof or cover has eaves 12 for carrying off the water that falls upon the cover itself. The rack R also has an open-work front, preferably composed of upright strips 13, standing at some distance in front of the back 10 and connected therewith at their upper and lower ends by rearwardly-bent feet 14, and across these strips are soldered or otherwise secured grooved strips 15, open at their ends and forming guides for the reception of the signs. The whole is of a size to be passed down into the open upper end of the casing, so that the cover or roof shall thoroughly protect it from the elements.

P designates a lock, here shown as a pad-lock 20, taking through an eye 21, projecting from the end of the casing, while a hasp 22 is hinged, as at 23, under one end of the roof in convenient position to fall over such eye. The lock prevents the separation of the parts by unauthorized persons, and as the rack and glass must be removed before the screws 3 can be reached the lock also prevents the removal of the entire device from the support.

The signs S are preferably of stout card, inscribed on one or both faces with proper or desirable reading matter and conveying the leg-

end desired to be read by all who pass. I have here shown the device as containing space for two of such cards—the upper bearing the names of such articles or kinds of stock as are for sale and the lower bearing the words “For sale by,” followed by the name of the owner and possibly by the price, terms, directions to his place of business or house, and such other reading matter as desired. As soon as one of the articles is sold the merchant unlocks and opens this sign-holder, removes the card bearing the article already disposed of, and inserts another with the name of something new or additional which he yet has for disposal. It will be obvious, however, that the reading matter on the signs forms no part of the present invention, for by properly changing it this improved device could be made to serve a multitude of purposes, all of which are contemplated by me.

As a slight modification I might make the signs of some transparent material, such as glass with opaque letters, (or the reverse,) omit the central upright strip 13, and also possibly the ears, pierce the casing with air-inlet holes, as at 30, and seat a small lamp L within the casing before inserting the rack and signs. Then the light from the lamp would at night shine through the transparent portions of the signs and through the glass front of the casing and the nocturnal traveler or passer-by could read. I also wish to include the possible use of signs painted with phosphorous letters or those rendered luminous in any manner.

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

1. In a sign-holder, the combination with a casing having closed transparent front and open only at its top; of an independent rack carrying the signs proper and adapted to enter the upper end of the casing, a roof on the rack wider and longer than the other parts, and a lock for connecting the casing and rack, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a sign-holder, the combination with a casing having closed back, bottom, and sides and upright grooves in the front edges of said bottom and sides, the top of the casing and upper ends of the grooves being open, and a pane of glass removably seated in said grooves; of an independent rack carrying the signs proper and adapted to enter the open end of the casing, and a roof fixed to the rack and wider and longer than the parts it covers, as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a sign-holder, the combination with a substantially rectangular casing with a transparent front, and upwardly-extending ears on its sides rounded at their upper edges; of an independent rack carrying the signs proper and removably inserted within the casing, an upwardly-rounded roof carried by the rack and fitting closely over the upper edges of said ears, the roof being wider and longer than the parts it covers, and eaves along its lower side edges, all as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a sign-holder, the combination with a suitable casing; of a rack removable therefrom and comprising a back, upright strips having rearwardly-projecting feet secured to the back, and transverse grooved strips attached to said upright strips; and signs removably inserted in the grooves thereof, as and for the purpose set forth.

5. In a sign-holder, the combination with a casing having a transparent front, and a lamp within such casing; of an independent rack adapted to be inserted from the top into such casing and comprising a back to go behind the lamp and a front to go in front of it and having grooved strips, and transparent signs proper removably mounted in the grooves of said strips, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my signature on this the 11th day of November, A. D. 1897.

WILLIAM A. ULREY.

Witnesses:

W. M. EARLYWINE,
J. M. FAWCETT.