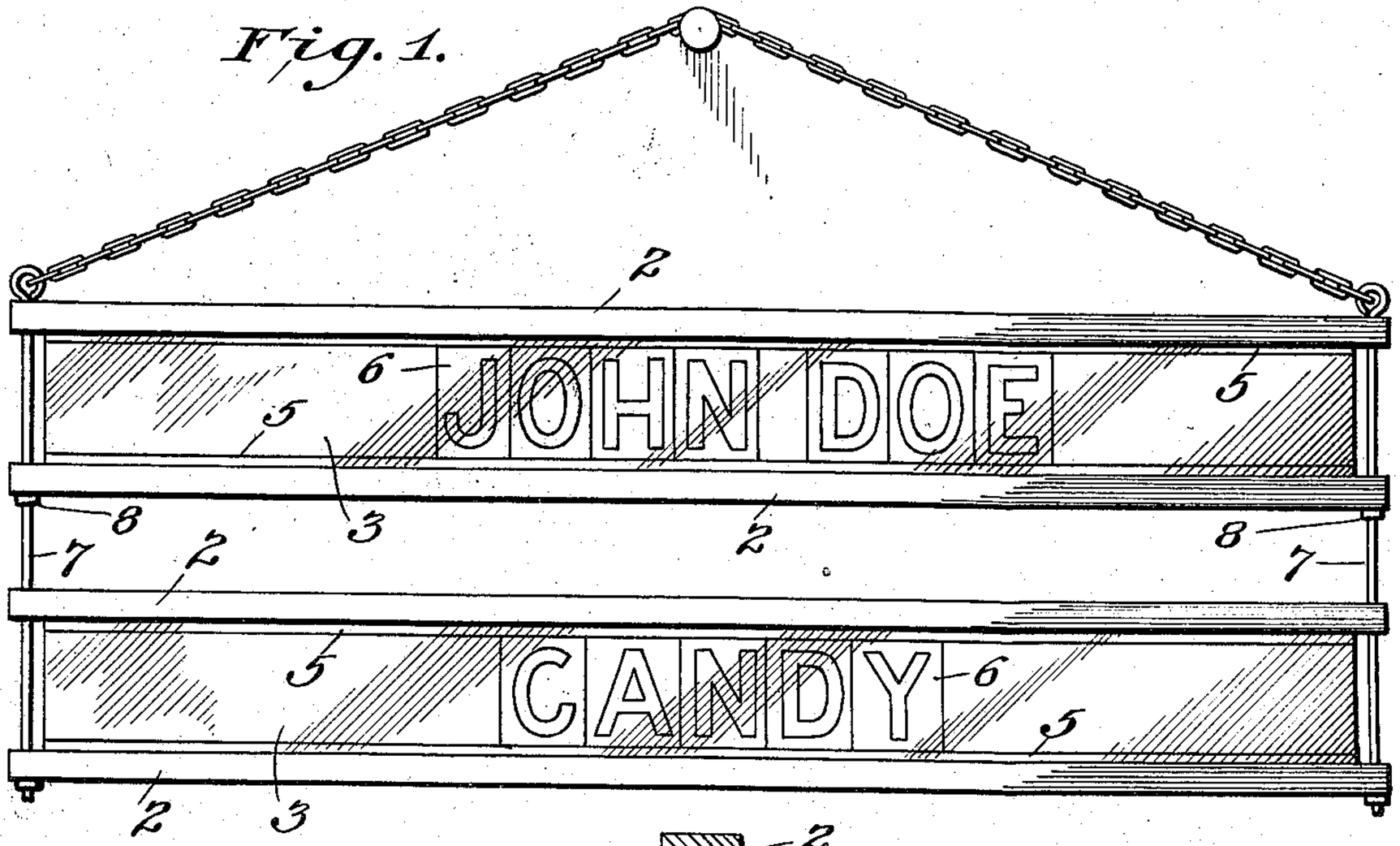
J. P. BRYAN.

CHANGEABLE LETTER SIGN.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 23, 1908.

919,816. **Patented Apr. 27, 1909.**

Fig. 1.



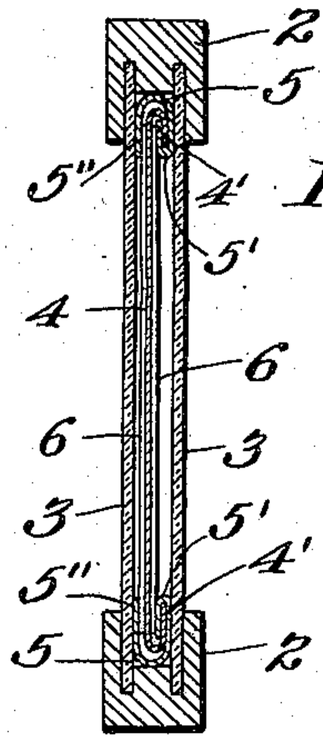
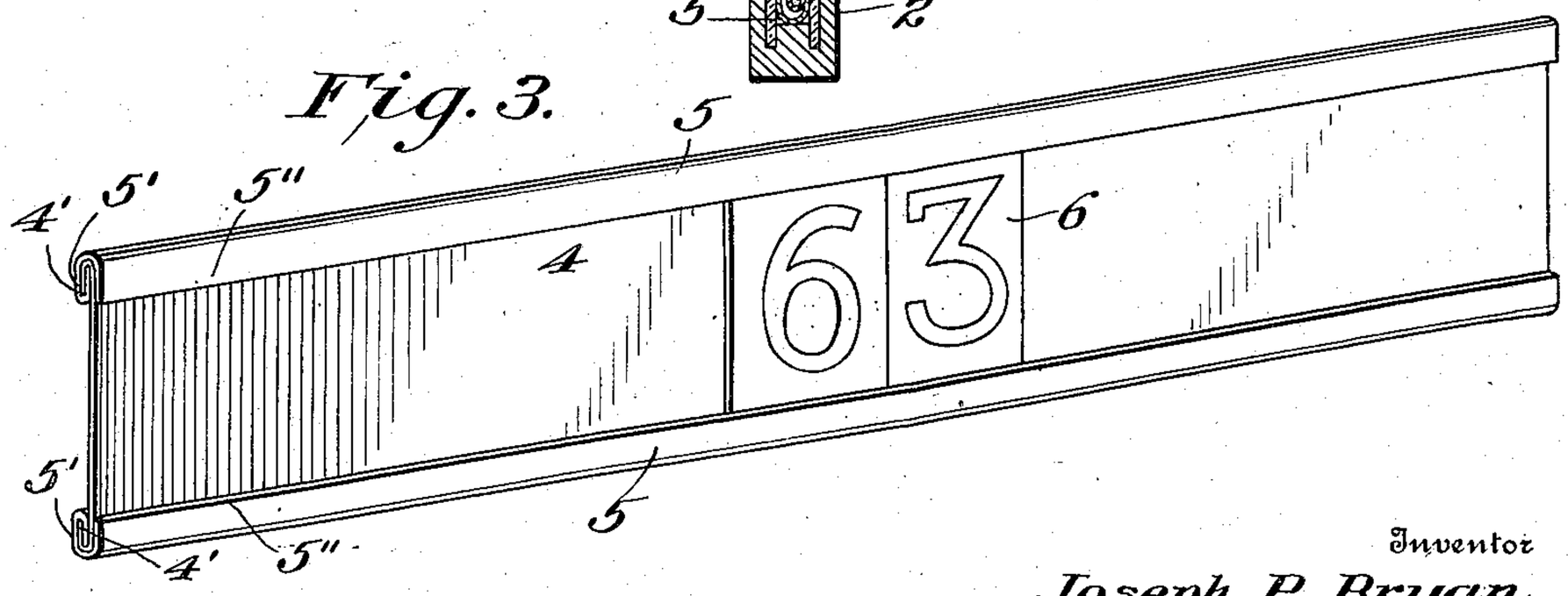


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



Witnesses

M. C. Lyddane

J. D. L. Mulhall.

Inventor

Joseph P. Bryan

By Joshua R. H. Potts

Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH P. BRYAN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

CHANGEABLE-LETTER SIGN.

No. 919,816. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented April 27, 1909.

Application filed May 23, 1908. Serial No. 434,498.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH P. BRYAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Changeable-Letter Signs, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to signs and particularly to those signs wherein removable letters are used to form words, such letters being printed upon cards and inserted within the frame of the sign, the separate cards being changeable or replaceable by others, so that the reading matter of the sign may be changed or altered at will.

The object of my invention is to provide a sign composed of sections supported one from another, these sections being adapted to receive letter-cards on both sides of a central background; one wherein the letter-cards are thoroughly protected from dust, dampness and the entrance of water; and one in which the letters may be arranged before inserting them into the sign and may be put in place without chance of the letters becoming displaced.

The invention consists in the arrangement of parts and details of construction as particularly set forth in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1, is a front view of my invention. Fig. 2, is an enlarged transverse section of one of the letter-carrying panels. Fig. 3, is a perspective view of the backing or letter-carrying panel removed from its frame.

Fig. 1, shows a sign composed of two sections, one section being suspended from the other. Each section consists of the upper and lower framing strips 2, 2, designed to hold a line of letters between them. Each strip 2, is longitudinally recessed on its inside edge as shown in Fig. 2, for the reception of the letter-holding panel 4.

The bottom of the recess on its margin is cut out more deeply than the middle of the recess bottom for the reception of the glass facing pieces 3, 3. Between these two panes of glass a letter panel is slidably held. The relatively deep grooves made for the glass pieces 3, 3, thoroughly prevents the entrance of water into the space between the glasses. As the glasses 3, do not have to be removed, they may fit very tightly into the framing strips, or the grooves may be filled with water tight material.

The letter panel is shown in Fig. 3. It comprises a backing piece 4, of paper, cardboard, sheet metal or the like, which not only supports but forms a background for the letters, and a binding strip of metal 5, which engages with the backing piece 4, by an interlocking fold. There are two of these binding strips 5, one on each edge of the backing 4. The backing piece is folded over along its edge as at 4′, one edge of the binding strip is inserted within this fold, and the material of the strip then bent around as at 5′, over the edge of the backing strip and down on the side thereof as at 5″. The interlocking fold thus made is pressed together so that while the binding strip and the backing are firmly engaged, yet they may yield slightly for the insertion, from one end, of letter-cards 6, between the turned over edge 5″, and the backing piece 4, or between the interlocking fold 5′, and the backing strip. It is also to be noted that while the turned over portions of the strip are easily raised from the backing piece when the panel is withdrawn from the frame, yet these turned over folds are held somewhat compressed against the edges of the letter-cards when the panel is in place between the glasses 3, 3. Thus the letters are held securely in position, not liable to be shifted by any inclination of the panel nor to be otherwise accidentally moved. A further function performed by the opposed folds on either edge of the backing strip, is to hold the panes of glass away from the letter-cards, so that in sliding the panel into place between the strips 2, of the frame, the letters will not become displaced through friction between the inside surface of the glass and the face of the letter-cards. This is of primary importance in signs of this character. The letters are liable to be displaced by accidental contact, and in signs in which the letters are covered with glass, there is difficulty in sliding the letters in place without displacing them. Both these objections are obviated by my construction and as a consequence the advertising matter of my sign may be arranged to much better advantage and with a neatness not possible in other constructions of this character.

There may be as many sections of the sign as desired, each section being used for a line.

I have shown two sections with rods 7, 7, passing through the ends of the framing strips 2, and clamping these strips together. It is of course, understood that the rods are to be arranged with stops 8, for the support of the section, and that these stops may be removable, so that the framing strips may be taken apart if desired. I do not wish however, to limit myself to this method of attaching the framing strips, or the separate panels to each other.

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

1. A display device of the character described consisting of sections supported from each other, each section comprising longitudinal framing strips recessed on their inside edges, two separated transparent facing pieces supported in said recesses of the framing strips, a backing piece removably held between said facing pieces, and letter-cards adapted to be held on said backing piece.

2. A display device of the character described consisting of longitudinal framing strips recessed on their inside edges, two separated transparent facing pieces supported in said recesses, a backing piece removably held between said facing pieces, said backing piece having on each edge an inwardly projecting portion and a letter-card adapted to be held between said backing piece and said turned over portion.

3. A display device of the character described consisting of longitudinal framing strips recessed on their inside edges, two separated transparent facing pieces supported in said recesses and a backing piece removably held between said facing pieces, said backing piece having on each edge a binding strip which projects inward over the margin of the backing piece and is adapted to hold a letter-card between it and the backing piece, said binding strips contacting with the inner sides of the facing pieces.

4. A display device of the character described consisting of longitudinal framing strips recessed on their inside edges having two longitudinal separated grooves extending from the bottom of said recess, transparent facing pieces fitting in said grooves and a backing piece removably supported between said facing pieces within the recesses of the framing strips, the upper and lower edges of said backing piece being bent over upon itself, and a binding strip, one edge of which projects up under said turned over portion of the backing piece, said strip being then bent around and over the edge of the backing piece and down upon the side thereof, thus forming guides on both sides of the backing piece for the reception of letter-cards.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH P. BRYAN.

Witnesses:
R. H. KRENKEL,
C. E. POTTS.