

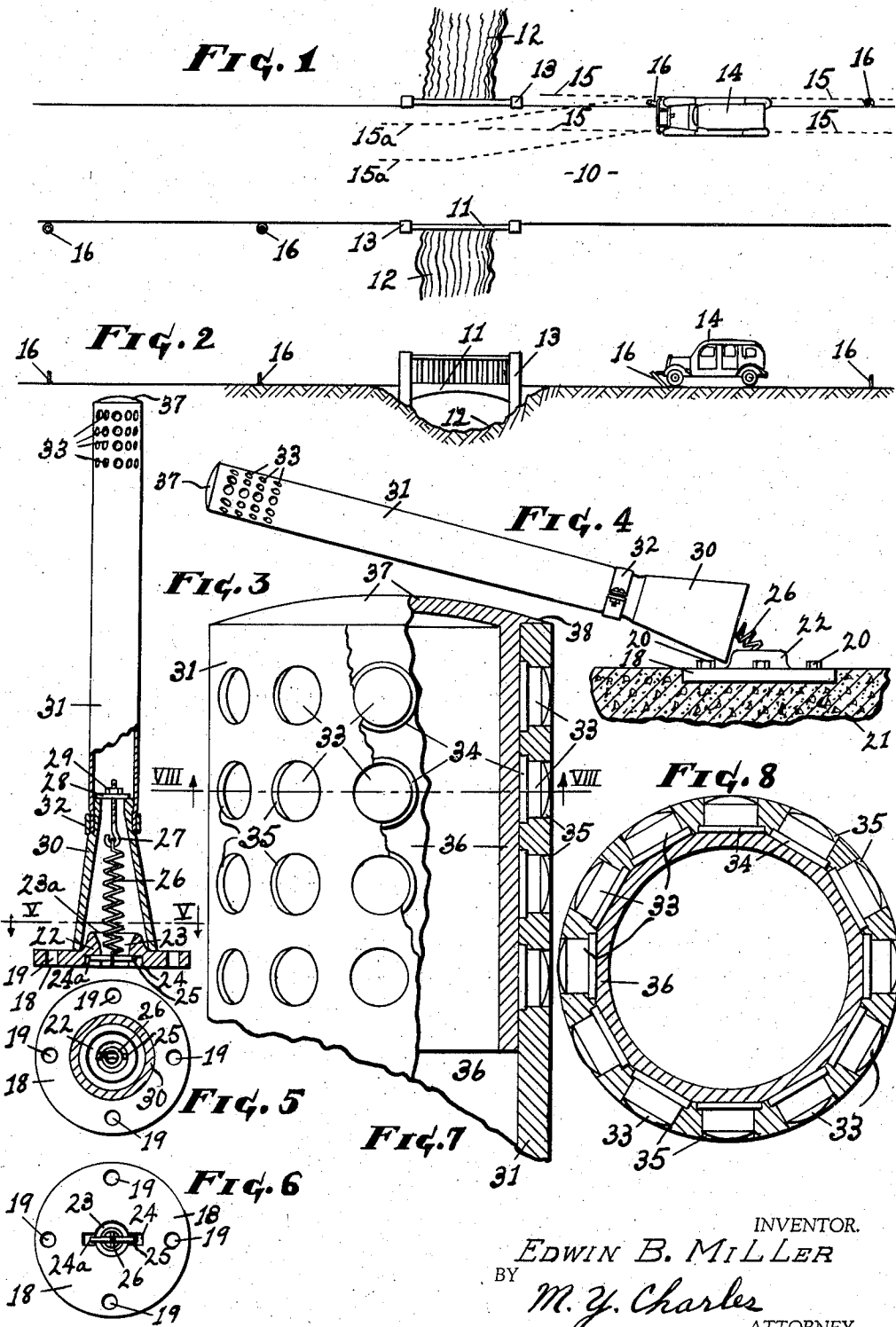
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SAFETY MARKER FOR TRAFFIC LANES

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SAFETY MARKER FOR TRAFFIC LANES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 189—23)

My invention relates to an improvement in safety markers for traffic lanes. Many accidents have occurred as a result of people driving too close to, or off of, the edge of the roadway and running into culverts, bridge abutments, and the like; also accidents have occurred as a result of people driving off the edge of the roadway and running into piles of sand or rock or other material that may have been put along the side of the road for constructions or road repair purposes. Therefore it is the object of my invention to provide a signal that will serve as a warning to the driver of a vehicle when he is out of the regular line of traffic and advising that he is in danger; and he will therefore return to the regular safe line of travel.

Now referring to the drawing in which the same numerals of reference refer to the same parts throughout the several figures; Fig. 1 is a top view of a roadway in which there is a bridge having abutments and showing how my improved safety markers for traffic lanes are employed. Fig. 2 is a side view of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a side view of my safety marker, parts of which have been broken away for convenience of illustration. Fig. 4 is a side view of my safety marker showing it in a tilted position. Fig. 5 is a sectional view as seen from the line V—V in Fig. 3. Fig. 6 is a plan view of the bottom of Fig. 3. Fig. 7 is an enlarged detail view of the upper end of the signal which is shown, partly in section, and with parts broken away for convenience of illustration. Fig. 8 is a cross section as seen from the line VIII—VIII in Fig. 7.

In the drawing is shown a roadway 10 and a bridge 11 across a stream 12, the bridge having abutments 13, at 14 is a vehicle traveling in the path of the dotted lines 15 which if the vehicle continues in its path, it would strike the abutment 13 and cause an accident. At 16 is shown the position of my safety markers, one of which the vehicle 14 has struck and the impact therefrom acts as a warning to the driver of the vehicle, therefore he turns back to the regular line of travel as indicated by the dotted lines 15a and the accident is averted.

My safety marker comprises a base plate 18 having a series of holes 19 therethrough, through which bolts, or screws 20 or the like may be inserted as a means of fastening the signal to a foundation of concrete 21 or to any other material such as the top of a wood piling driven into the ground, or long pins may be driven in the ground as a substitute for the screws 20 to hold the signal on the ground as a temporary warning

where the signal would be used for temporary purposes as above mentioned.

Integral with the plate 18 and at the central portion thereof is an upwardly extending portion 22 through which is a hole 23 that flares outwardly at the top portion there as indicated at 23a. At 24 is a countersunk portion in the bottom of the plate 18 and in which is seated a pin 25 around which is looped one end of a helical spring 26, the opposite end of said spring 26 being looped over a hook element 27, the upper end of which is passed through a washer 28 and is threaded into a nut 29. The washer 28 rests on the upper end of a hollow conical shaped element 30, the lower end of which rests on the base plate 18 and loosely receives, or houses, the upwardly projecting portion 22 of the base plate 18. The nut 29 rests on the washer 28, therefore the spring 26 is tensioned between the base plate 18 and the upper end of the element 30 and functions to yieldably hold the element 30 in a vertical position on the base plate 18.

At 31 is a tubular element, that is made preferably of some yieldable material such as a piece of stiff fabric and rubber hose. The tube 31 is slipped over the upper end of the conical element 30 and rigidly clamped thereto by means of a clamp element 32. At 33 is a series of glass reflector buttons, each button having a flange 34. The buttons are set in holes 35 in the tubular element 31 with the flanges 34 resting against the inner wall of the tubular element 31. At 36 is a second tubular element adapted to fit snugly within the first tubular element 31 and press against the backs of the reflector elements 32 so as to hold them in place in the holes 35. Integrally formed on the upper end of the tubular element 36 is a cap like portion 37 having a flange 38 extending outwardly around the tubular element 36 and fitting over the end of the tubular element 31, said cap and flange forming a closure for the upper end of the tubular element 31.

The signal as I have described it provides a device having a vertically standing shaft that is provided with reflector elements that will reflect light from motor vehicle light so that the signals are visible to a driver at night. It is also obvious, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, that if a vehicle should strike the signal it will lay over and the vehicle may pass on, after which, by the action of the spring 26 the signal will straighten up and stand in its normal vertical position as shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

Such modifications of my invention may be employed as lie within the scope of the appended

claim without departing from the spirit and intention of the invention. Now having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

5 In a signal device, said device comprising a base plate, a flexible tubular signal element, and a mounting element for said flexible tubular signal element, said base plate having a centrally positioned opening therein with an upwardly extending flange therearound beneath which is positioned a recess in the bottom of said plate; said
10 mounting element being hollow, one end of said

mounting element being positioned over and housing the flange on said base plate, and also housing a spring, one end of said spring being supported from the upper end of said mounting element, the other end of said spring being attached to a retaining element positioned in said annular recess so as to retain the said mounting element in an erect position under spring tension on said base element, said flexible tubular element being rigidly attached to the upper end of said mounting
10 therefor.

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