

Oct. 16, 1956

L. T. HOLDEN ET AL
TELEPHONE COIN COLLECTOR

2,766,866

Filed May 31, 1952

4 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

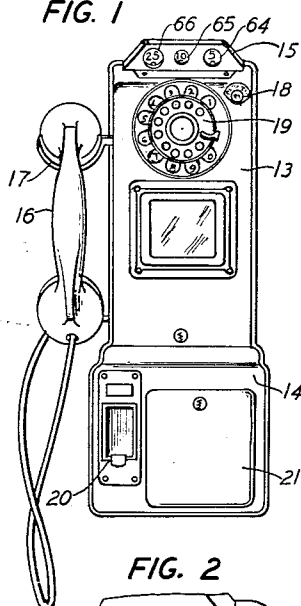


FIG. 2



FIG. 3

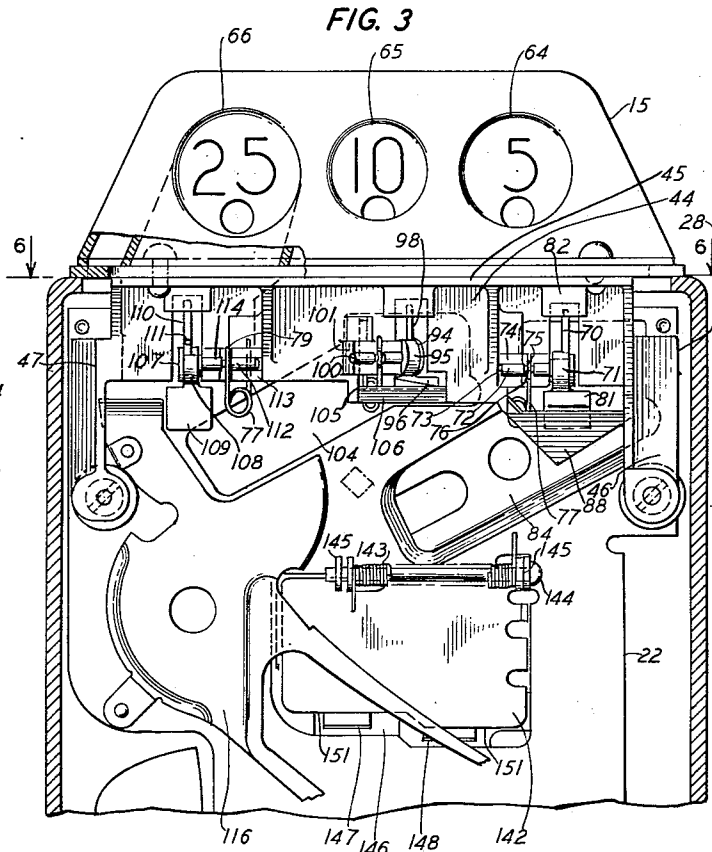
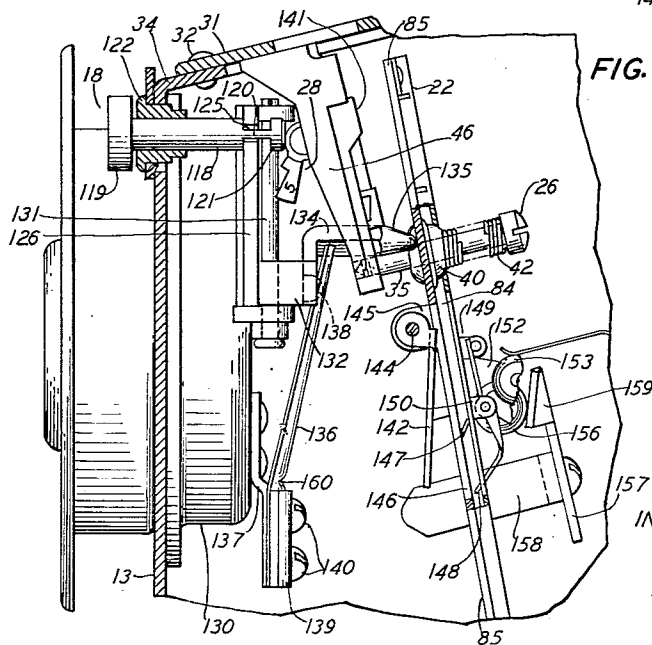


FIG. 10



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4 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 5

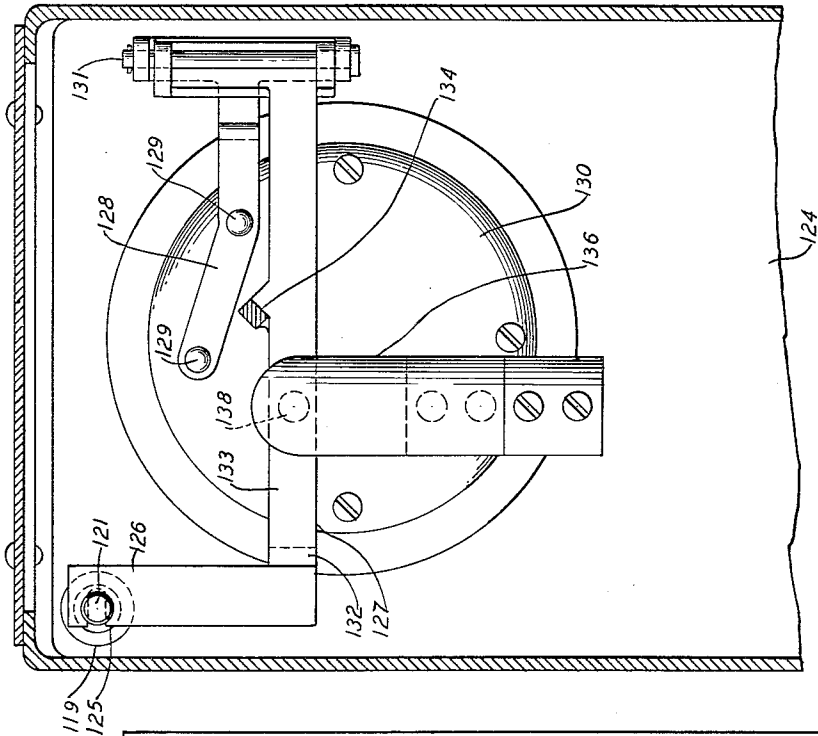
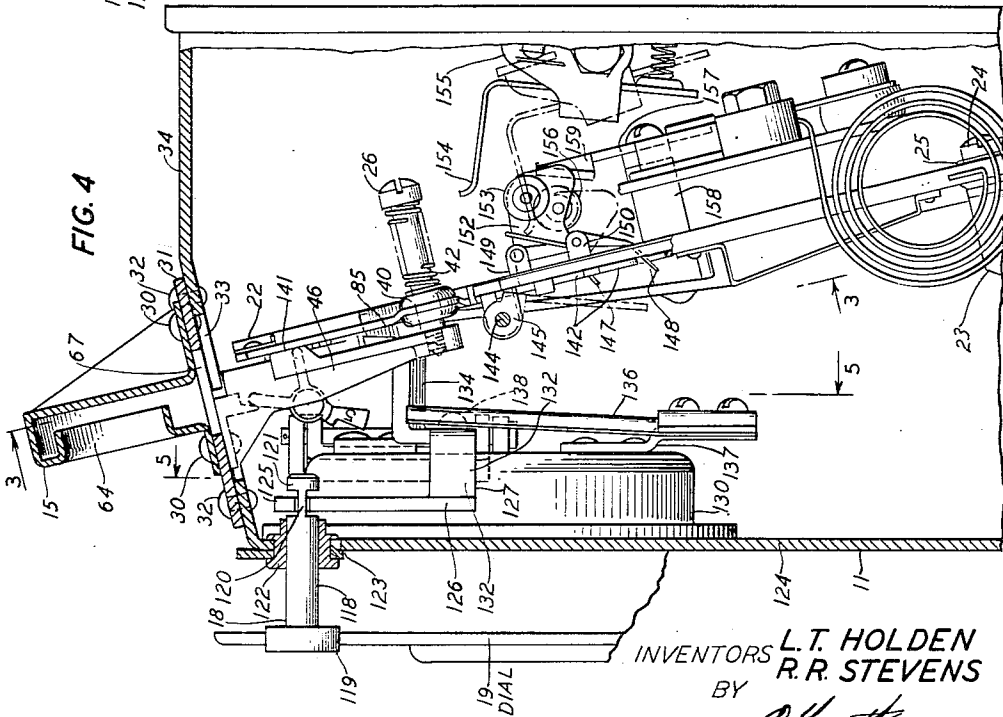


FIG. 4



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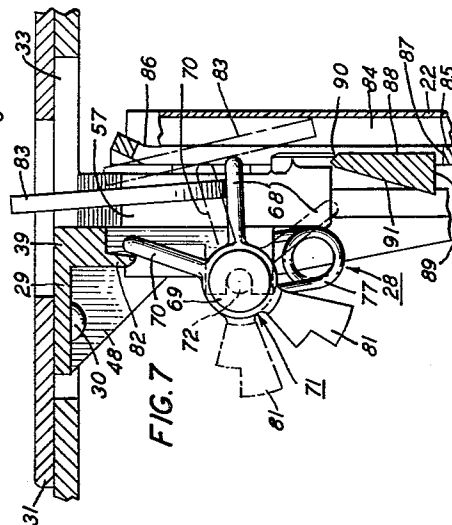
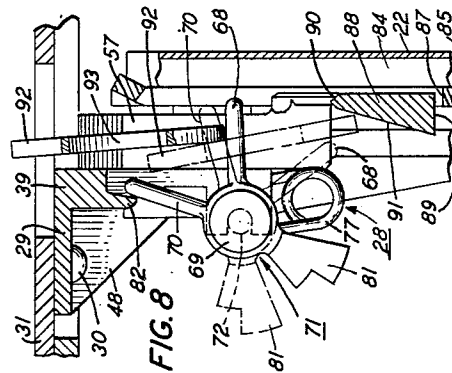
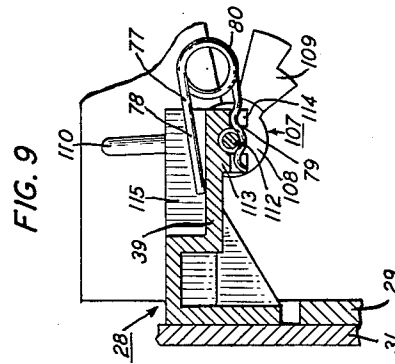
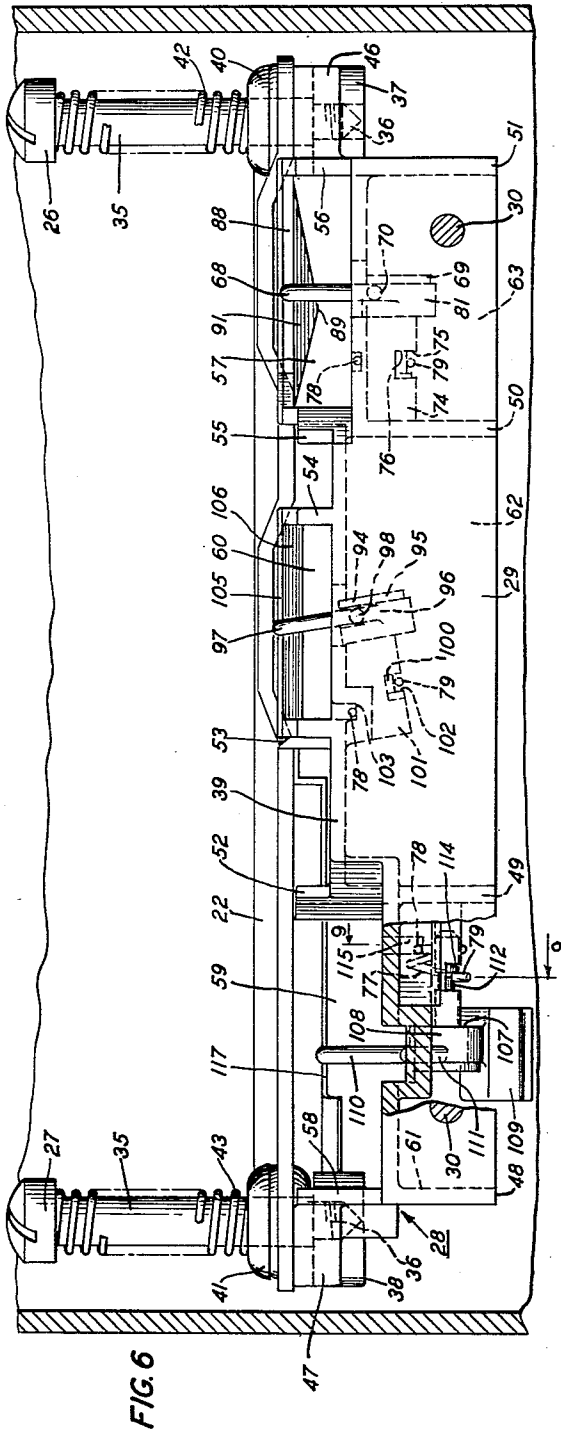
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TELEPHONE COIN COLLECTOR

Filed May 31, 1952.

4 Sheets-Sheet 3



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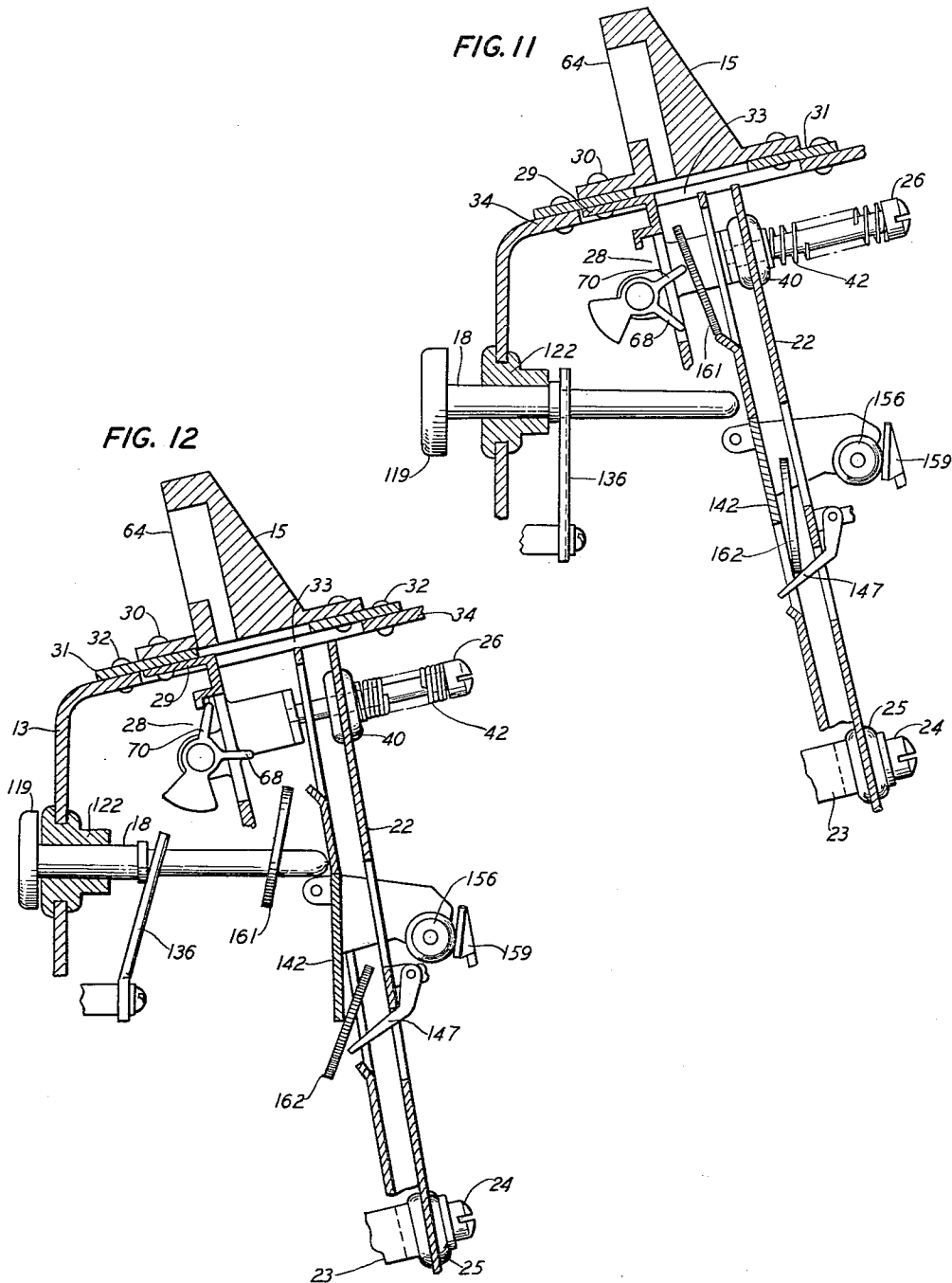
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L. T. HOLDEN ET AL
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2,766,866

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4 Sheets-Sheet 4



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1

2,766,866

TELEPHONE COIN COLLECTOR

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Application May 31, 1952, Serial No. 291,018

1 Claim. (Cl. 194—97)

This invention relates to coin collectors and more particularly to coin collectors including a coin chute to guide coins in their passage from an initial point of deposit to coin receptacles.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved coin collector which will operate to collect coins and reject washers and relatively lightweight slugs deposited in the coin collector. Although not limited thereto the invention is applicable particularly to telephone coin collectors.

A feature of the invention resides in a coin sorting and directing unit.

Another feature resides in a movable coin chute.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front face view of a telephone coin collector of a type to which the invention is applicable;

Fig. 2 is a view to an enlarged scale of the upper right corner portion of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view, partly in section, of an upper portion of the coin collector shown in Fig. 1 and with the front cover removed;

Fig. 4 is a side view, partly in section, of the portion of the coin collector shown in Fig. 3 and taken from the right side of Fig. 3 and with most of the right side wall removed;

Fig. 5 is a view, partly in section, of part of the upper portion of the coin collector and taken from the rear of the front wall and on the line 5—5 in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged view of the coin sorting and directing unit and the upper portion of the coin chute and taken on the line 6—6 in Fig. 3;

Figs. 7 and 8 are side views, partly in section, of portions of the coin sorting and directing unit;

Fig. 9 is an enlarged side view, partly in section, of a portion of the coin sorting and directing unit and taken on the line 9—9 in Fig. 6;

Fig. 10 is a side view, partly in section, of a portion of the coin collector structure shown in Fig. 4 but with the upper end of the coin chute thrust to the right from the position shown in Fig. 4; and

Figs. 11 and 12 are simplified side views, partly in section, of an upper portion of a coin collector, the simplified views being not strictly in accordance with the structure shown in the preceding figures in the drawings but illustrating how coins unduly lodged in the coin collector can be dislodged from the undesired positions.

In telephone coin collectors commonly employed at telephone pay stations, there is usually a coin gauge constructed to admit to the coin collector coins of denominations required in the payment of telephone calls. Below the coin gauge there is a coin chute down which the coins slide to positions for the collection or rejection of the coins.

The telephone coin collector shown in Fig. 1 and embodying the present invention comprises an upper housing 13, a lower housing 14, a coin gauge 15, a handset telephone instrument 16, a switchhook 17 and a push-button 18. Supported in the upper housing 13 is a call-

2

ing dial 19. The lower housing 14 is partitioned to provide a coin return compartment and a cash compartment the only portions of which are visible in the drawings being respectively a coin return receptacle 20 and a sash compartment door 21.

Within the telephone coin collector and located within the space defined by the upper housing 13 is a coin chute 22 down which coins may slide or roll on their way from the coin gauge 15 to the interior of the lower housing 14. The coin chute 22 is supported in a forwardly inclined position as is common in telephone coin collectors constructed along the lines of the telephone coin collector disclosed in the O. F. Forsberg Patent 1,043,219.

As shown clearly in Figs. 4, 11 and 12, the lower end portion of the coin chute 22 is supported on a fixed support 23 by means of a screw 24. The coin chute 22 is apertured to accommodate the screw 24 and a rubber grommet 25 which is dimensioned to accommodate the shank of the screw 24 and serve as a flexible support for the lower end portion of the coin chute 22. The upper end portion of the coin chute 22 is movably supported on posts 26 and 27 which, as shown in Fig. 6, are mounted on and project from a coin sorting and directing unit 28, an upper flange 29 of which is secured by rivets 30 to an apertured plate 31 which is mounted by means of rivets 32 over an opening 33 formed in the upper wall 34 of the upper housing 13 of the telephone coin collector. The posts 26 and 27, as shown in Fig. 6, have unthreaded shank portions 35 terminating at the lower end in reduced diameter and male threaded portions 36 which engage internally threaded apertures in the flanges 37 and 38 of the body portion 39 of the coin sorting and directing unit 28. The unthreaded shank portions 35 of the posts 26 and 27 extend through apertures in the coin chute 22 and serve as rods on which the upper end portion of the coin chute 22 is movably supported.

Within the apertures in the coin chute 22 and extending around the posts 26 and 27 are bushings 40, 41, respectively, to provide supporting means for the upper end portion of the coin chute 22. On the shanks of the posts 26 and 27 and located between the bushings 40, 41 and the head portions of the respective posts 26 and 27 are helical springs 42 and 43.

The coin chute 22 is normally in the position shown in Fig. 4 in which it will be seen that the upper portion is in parallel and overlapping relation with the coin sorting and directing unit 28. The coin chute 22 is normally urged into engagement with the coin sorting and directing unit 28 by the helical springs 42 and 43.

The coin sorting and directing unit 28 comprises the body 39 having the apertured upper flange 29 and downwardly extending apertured leg members 46 and 47 which are drilled and tapped on their lower end portions to receive the threaded end portions 36 of the respective posts 26 and 27. The body portion 39 extends like a web between the leg members 46 and 47. Spaced walls 48, 49, 50 and 51 are provided on the front portion of the body member 39 and spaced walls 52, 53, 54 and 55 are provided on the rear of the body member 39. A flange 56 on the leg member 46 cooperates with the wall 55 to form a passageway 57 for the guidance of coins. A flange 58 on the leg member 47 cooperates with the wall 52 in providing a coin passageway 59. A coin passageway 60 is defined by the spaced walls 53 and 54. Compartments 61, 62 and 63 are cooperatively formed on the front of the body 39 by the respective walls 48—49, 49—50 and 50—51, the walls 48 and 51 being gusset type walls extending downwardly from the top flange 29 to the respective leg members 47 and 46.

In each coin passageway 57, 59 and 60 in the coin sort-

3

ing and directing unit there is a pivotally supported lever to direct coins of a required denomination into a coin runway in the coin chute 22 and to direct washers away from the entrance opening in the coin chute. The pivotally supported lever comprises a central hub portion, two spaced fingers and a counterweight extending radially from the hub portion. The arrangement of the pivotally supported lever is such that normally one finger extends into the coin passageway while the other finger extends above the first finger but not into the coin passageway. When a coin comes down the coin passageway into engagement with the first finger, the pivotally supported lever rotates under the weight of the coin and the second finger comes into engagement with one side of the coin and thrusts the coin into the coin runway of the coin chute 22. If a washer is inserted in the coin collector the first finger of the pivotally supported lever is engaged by the washer and the lever is rotated under the weight of the washer. The second finger moves downward and passes into the aperture of the washer and has no side thrusting effect on the washer which thereupon falls toward the hub of the pivotally supported lever and away from the opening in the coin chute. The second finger is rotated by the washer and subsequently allows the washer to drop outside the coin chute and into a reject passageway in the coin collector.

Telephone coin collectors of the type shown in Figs. 1 and 3 constructed for use in the United States of America are designed to receive as payment for telephone services coins in the denominations of five, ten and twenty-five-cent pieces commonly known as nickels, dimes and quarters, respectively. For the purpose of illustrating the invention and not in the sense of a limitation thereof there is shown in the drawings a telephone coin collector designed to receive nickels, dimes and quarters. The coin gauge 15 is provided with an aperture 64 to receive nickels, an aperture 65 to receive dimes and an aperture 66 to receive quarters. The apertures 64, 65 and 66 are in communication with an aperture 67 which, as shown in Fig. 4, is in communication with an opening 33 in the upper wall 34 of the upper housing 11. The aperture 64 in the coin gauge is in register with the coin passageway 57 in the coin sorting and directing unit 28. The aperture 65 is in register with the coin passageway 60 and the aperture 66 is in register with the coin passageway 59.

Extending into the coin passageway 57 is a finger 68 of a pivotally supported lever 69 which has a second finger 70 spaced from and extending above the finger 68. The two fingers 68 and 70, as shown in Figs. 7 and 8, extend radially from an apertured hub portion 71 secured to a shaft 72 which is supported in a groove 73 formed in a block portion 74 extending from the body 39 in the compartment 63. The block portion 74 is transversely grooved at 75 in register with an annular groove 76 formed in the shaft 72. A U-shaped wire clip 77 comprising a straight leg portion 78, a corrugated leg portion 79 and a helically coiled closed end portion 80 is provided to retain the shaft 72 in required position in the block portion 74. When the clip 77 is applied the corrugated leg portion 79 extends into the groove in the block at 75 and in the annular groove 76 in the shaft 72. The straight leg portion 78 in the clip 77 extends against a portion of the body 39 opposite the position of the block portion 74. The counterweight 81 extends radially from the hub portion 71 in such position that it will outbalance the finger portions 68, 70 and normally keep the lower finger portion 68 in the coin passageway 57 and the upper finger portion 70 out of the coin passageway 57 and up against the stop lug 82 on the body 39. The counterweight 81 is also of such weight that it can be readily outbalanced by a five-cent piece impinging on the finger 68.

As shown in Fig. 7 when a five-cent piece 83 comes

4

into the coin passageway 57 and impinges on the finger 68, the lever 69 is rotated by the weight of the five-cent piece until the finger 68 reaches the position shown in dot-dash lines. During this operation the finger 70 moves against the five-cent piece 83 and to the position shown in dot-dash lines. The finger 70 in moving to the dot-dash line position thrusts the nickel 83 laterally out of the coin passageway 57 and into a five-cent runway 84 in the coin chute 22, the wall 85 in the coin chute 22 being apertured between the points 86 and 87 to allow coins to be thrust into the nickel runway 84 and also to accommodate portions of the coin sorting and directing unit 28, one portion of which is the dividing bar 88 extending across the base of the five-cent passageway 57. The dividing bar 88 as shown in Figs. 3 and 6 is triangular in form with the apex directed downward and as shown in Figs. 7 and 8 in cross-section is thicker at the base 89 than at the beveled top 90, the thickening of the structure being progressive from the top 90 to the base 89 and in a direction away from the coin chute 22 to provide a sloping face 91 to direct articles other than nickels but of substantially nickel size away from the coin chute 22. A nickel will be thrust to the right or the dividing bar 88 as shown in Fig. 7 and from thence will proceed to fall down the nickel runway 84 to eventually reach a point of activation of a trigger, not shown, for the obtaining of a telephone call.

As shown in Fig. 8, when a washer 92 is inserted in the telephone coin collector and the washer 92 comes into the nickel passageway 57 and impinges on the finger 68, the lever 69 rotates clockwise until the finger 68 is out of the coin chute 22 and almost clear of the base of the nickel passageway 57. During this operation the finger 70 moves into the aperture 93 in the washer 92 and is ineffective in applying any lateral thrust to the washer 92 which thereupon falls toward the hub 71 of lever 69. The washer 92 in falling away from the coin chute 22 and toward the hub 71 causes the lever 69 to further rotate. In this further rotation of the lever 69, the washer 92 moves downward and toward the left and into engagement with the sloping face 91 of the dividing bar 88. Further downward movement of the finger 68 to the dot-dash line position shown in Fig. 8 permits the washer 92 to slide off the finger 68 and downward away from the coin chute 22. The washer 92 therefore does not enter the coin chute 22 and cannot cause the telephone coin collector to give telephone service. When a coin or washer moves out of engagement with the lever 69 the counterweight 81 operates to restore the lever 69 to normal position.

Also provided in the coin sorting and directing unit 28 is a pivotally supported lever 94 to sort out dimes from washers of about dime size and to direct the dimes into the dime runway in the coin chute and direct the washers to the outside of the coin chute. The pivotally supported lever 94 is constructed along the lines of the pivotally supported lever 69 and comprises the hub portion 95, the counterweight 96 and the fingers 97 and 98, the finger 97 normally extends into the coin passageway 60, the second finger 98 being above the first finger 97. The hub portion 95 is supported on a shaft 100 supported in a longitudinally grooved block 101. A U-shaped wire clip 77 retains the shaft 100 in required position in the block 101 which is set angularly with respect to the plane of the body 39. The corrugated leg 79 of the clip 77 provided for the lever 94 extends into the transverse groove 102 and against the shaft 100. The straight leg 78 of the clip 77 for the pivoted lever 94 extends into a groove 103 formed in the body 39. The angle of extension of the finger 97 relative to the plane of the body 39 is off-normal and in the direction of travel of a dime into the coin chute. The counterweight 96 is of such weight that it can be readily outbalanced by a dime but still sufficiently heavy to restore the finger 97 to nor-

5

mal position after the dime has passed beyond the finger 97. When a dime comes into the coin passageway 60 and impinges on the finger 97, the pivoted lever 94 rotates to carry the finger 97 downward in the coin passageway 60 and to bring the finger 98 into engagement with a flat face of the dime. The finger 98 will laterally thrust the dime out of the coin passageway 60 and into the coin chute 22 through which it will proceed by way of the dime runway 104 to a trigger, not shown, but, provided in telephone coin collectors.

When a washer of about dime size is inserted in the aperture 65 in the coin gauge 15, the washer will fall into engagement with the finger 97 which under the impact and weight of the washer will move downward. The finger 98 in moving downward will have no lateral thrusting effect on the washer since the finger 98 will extend into the aperture in the washer which will then fall toward the hub of the pivotally supported lever 94. The dime size washer will hang on the finger 98 until the outer end of the finger 98 passes out of the coin chute 22 and extends toward the front of a dividing bar 105 provided on the coin sorting and directing unit 28 and extending across the base of the dime passageway 60. The dividing bar 105 has a sloping face 106 leading away from the coin chute 22 to direct dime size washers away from the coin chute 22. When the washer falls off the finger 97 and engages the sloping face 106 of the dividing bar 105, the washer is directed away from the coin chute 22 and does not go down through the coin chute 22 to operate the trigger or any other device operable to bring about the establishment of a telephone call connection.

In the coin sorting and directing unit 28 a pivotally supported lever 107 is provided to sort out and direct quarters from quarter size washers. The pivotally supported lever 107 is constructed along the lines of the pivotally supported lever 69 and comprises the hub portion 108, the counterweight 109 and the fingers 110 and 111 which like the fingers of the other pivotally supported levers are spaced about 72 degrees apart. The finger 110 normally extends into the coin passageway 59, the second finger 111 being above the first finger 110. The hub portion 108 is supported on a shaft 112 supported in a longitudinally grooved block 113. A U-shaped wire clip 77 retains the shaft 112 in required position in the block 113. The corrugated leg 79 of the clip 77 provided for the lever 107 extends into the traverse groove 114 and against the shaft 112 which is annularly grooved to receive the corrugated leg portion 79. The straight leg 78 of the clip 77 rests in the groove 115 formed in the body 39 as shown in Fig. 9. The counterweight 109 of the lever 107 is of such weight that it can be readily outbalanced by a quarter but still sufficiently heavy to restore the finger 110 to normal position after the quarter has passed beyond the finger 110. When a quarter comes into the coin passageway 59 and impinges on the finger 110, the pivoted lever 107 rotates to carry the finger 110 downward in the coin passageway 59 and to bring the finger 111 into engagement with a flat face of the quarter. The finger 111 will laterally thrust the quarter out of the coin passageway 59 into the coin chute 22 through which the quarter will then proceed by way of the quarter runway 116 to a trigger, not shown, but, which is operable in the establishment of a telephone call connection.

When a washer of about the size of a quarter is inserted in the aperture 66 in the coin gauge 15, the washer will fall into engagement with the finger 110 which under the impact and weight of the washer will move downward. The finger 111 in moving downward will have no lateral thrusting effect on the washer since the finger 111 will extend into the aperture in the washer. The washer will then fall toward the hub portion 108 of the pivotally supported lever 107. The washer will hang on the finger 111 until the outer end of the finger

6

111 passes out of the coin chute 22 and extends forwardly of a dividing bar 117 shown in Fig. 6, the dividing bar 117 being not a part of the body 39 but being a lip portion formed on the coin chute 22 and extending under the coin passageway 59. When the washer falls off the finger 110 forwardly of the dividing bar 117, the washer is directed away from the coin chute 22 and does not go down through the coin chute 22 to operate the trigger or any other device operable to bring about the establishment of a telephone call connection.

If legitimate coins of the required denominations are inserted in the coin gauge 15, the coin will be detected by the coin sorting and directing unit 28 and through operation of the pivotally supported levers the coins will be thrust laterally into the coin chute 22 to proceed downwardly therein to operate a trigger as required and to be subsequently collected in payment of a telephone call or to be directed to a refund outlet, the collection or return of the coins being under the control of a telephone central station. If washers of about the size of the required coins are inserted in the telephone coin collector the coin sorting and directing unit 28 will detect the washers and direct them away from the coin chute 22 and in such direction that they will go into the return receptacle provided in telephone coin collectors.

Coins or imitations thereof which are relatively light in weight and not of sufficient weight to fully operate the pivotally supported levers in the coin detecting and directing unit might become lodged between the dividing bar and the pivotally supported lever. For example, the lightweight coin might become lodged in such position that its lower edge is on the top 90 of the dividing bar 88 and one of the coin's faces in bearing against the upper end of the finger 70. In this case the coin chute 22 can be moved on its pivotal point of support to move the upper portion of the coin chute 22 relative to the coin sorting and directing unit 28 and to jar the coin sorting and directing unit 28 in such manner that the lightweight coin or coin imitation will fall from its point of lodgement in the coin sorting and directing unit.

To impart movement to the coin chute 22, the manually operable push-button 18 is provided comprising a longitudinally movable rod 118 having a push-button type head 119 on its outer end and a reduced diameter portion 120 near the inner end 121. The rod 118 is slidably supported in a bushing 122 extending through and mounted in an aperture 123 formed in the front wall 124 of the upper housing 11. The reduced diameter portion 120 of the rod 118 fits into a slot 125 formed in the upper end of an arm 126 of an L-shaped lever 127 which is pivotally supported at one end on a bracket 128 secured by means of rivets or other fastening means 129—129 to a cup-shaped recess 130 which is supported on the inner face of the front wall 124 of the upper housing 11. The lever 127 and the bracket 128 are pivotally connected to each other in the manner of hinge leaves by means of a pintle 131. The arm 126 is offset at 132 from the plane of the body portion 133 of the L-shaped lever 127 to accommodate the cup-shaped recess 130. Near the center of the body portion 133 of the lever 127 and extending rearwardly therefrom is an arm portion 134, the free end 135 of which is rounded and extending into engagement with the coin chute 22. A longitudinally curved spring 136 secured at its lower end in a fixed bracket 137 extends upward into engagement with a stud 138 secured to the body 133 of the L-shaped lever 127. A curved clamp plate 139 and screws 140 serve to affix the spring 136 to the bracket 137.

As shown in Fig. 4, the normal condition of the coin collector is such that the spring 136 is maintaining the arm 134 urged in a direction away from the coin chute 22 and through operation of the arms 127 and 126 the push-button 18 is pressed outward in the bushing 122. The springs 42 and 43 are urging the upper portion of the coin chute 22 against the coin sorting and directing unit

28, the points of contact between the coin chute 22 and the coin sorting and directing unit 28 being block portions 141 formed on the leg members 46 and 47. Under this condition, if the telephone handset 16 is off the switchhook 17, the gate 142 clearly shown in Fig. 3 is closed under the urge of a spring 143, the gate being hinge supported by a pintle 144 extending through apertured lugs 145 formed on the wall 85 of the coin chute 22. When the telephone is being used, the gate 142 normally closes an aperture 146 formed in the wall 85 so that coins going down the coin chute 22 will not normally drop out of the chute through the aperture 146. The coin engaging fingers 147 and 148 which are pivotally supported on apertured lugs 149 and 150, respectively, on the coin chute 22, extend across the nickel runway 84 and under the lower edge 151 of the gate 142. The finger 147 will stop a first deposited nickel from going through the coin chute 22 and is latched in position by the finger 148. The second deposited nickel will operate the finger 148 to unlatch the finger 147 and both nickels will then proceed down through the nickel runway 84 to the lower end of the coin chute 22. If the gate 142 is open a nickel coming down through the nickel runway 84 will fall out of the coin chute 22 by way of the aperture 146. The gate 142 is constructed and arranged to be operated to the open position by operation of the switchhook 17. It is also constructed and arranged to be operated to the open position by operation of the push-button 18. The gate 142 has a side flange 152 supporting a roller 153 engaged by an L-shaped spring 154 supported on a movable lever 155 operable by the switchhook 17. When the handset 16 is placed on the switchhook 17, the switchhook 17 is moved down under the weight of the handset 16 and the lever 155 swings downward to cause the gate 142 to open against the action of the spring 143.

If a coin is resting on one of the fingers 147 or 148 when the gate 142 is opened, the coin will fall through the aperture 146 and out of the coin chute 22. A coin falling out of the coin chute 22 by way of the aperture 146 will subsequently fall into the coin return receptacle 20 from which it may be removed by hand. The flange 152 also supports a roller 156, the position of the roller 156 being somewhat offset and inward of the position of the roller 153 and on an opposite side of the flange 152 from the roller 153. A stop bar 157 supported on a fixed support 158 is provided with a cam 159 extending into the path of movement of the roller 156 when the coin chute 22 is moved toward the right from the position shown in Fig. 4 to the position shown in Fig. 10. In this case and as shown in the figure the push-button 18 has been pushed inward to move the arm 126 and the L-shaped lever 127 and cause the arm 134 to thrust the coin chute 22 toward the right against the action of the springs 42 and 43. The gate 142 opens by virtue of the engagement of the roller 156 with the fixed cam 159. The movement of the lever 127 is also against the action of the spring 136 which is a snap-type spring. The spring 136 at first resists the inward push applied to the push-button 18 and then suddenly ceases most of its resistance due to the overcenter passing of the spring and the development of a kink at 160. When the resistance of the spring 136 suddenly decreases, the coin chute 22 is rather violently jarred and moved

by the arm 134. The sudden jar or movement imparted to the coin chute 22 will have a tendency to dislodge any coins or washers unduly lodged in the coin chute 22. When the push-button 18 is released the springs 42 and 43 operate to move the coin chute 22 back to normal position. The latter part of the return movement of the coin chute 22 is more rapid than the initial part by virtue of the characteristic of the spring 136 which when moved from the position shown in Fig. 4 to the position shown in Fig. 10, has a kink 160 developed therein rendering the spring little effective in restoring the push-button 18 to an original position but upon movement toward the left suddenly loses the kink 160 and comes into play to restore the push-button 18 to normal position thus allowing the springs 42 and 43 to move the coin chute 22 with appreciable and sudden force against the block portions 141 on the coin sorting and directing unit 27. The impact of the coin chute 22 against the block portions 141 is of sufficient magnitude to appreciably jar the coin chute 22. If a coin 161 or slug becomes unduly lodged in the coin collector as shown in Fig. 11, the coin or slug will be released to fall way from the coin chute 22 when the coin chute 22 is tilted away from the coin sorting and directing unit 28 as shown in Fig. 12. If a coin 162 is resting on the finger 147 as shown in Fig. 11, the coin 162 will be released to drop out of the coin chute 22 when the coin chute 22 is tilted to the position shown in Fig. 12 in which case the gate 142 is opened by virtue of the engagement of the roller 156 with the cam 159.

What is claimed is:

A coin collector comprising a housing, a coin gauge mounted on the exterior of said housing, a fixed wall extending downwardly below the coin gauge, a movable first wall in spaced relation with the fixed wall and defining a passage for the reception of coins, a second movable wall spaced from said first movable wall for defining an acceptable coin chute, said coin chute resiliently secured to said fixed wall and movable with respect thereto, a hub member having a pair of radially spaced upper and lower projecting fingers thereon rotatably mounted in said fixed wall and actuated by a coin, an opening in said first movable wall opposite said projecting fingers, said fingers projecting into said downwardly extending passage to guide an acceptable coin into said opening in said coin chute, the upper of said fingers projecting through an opening of a spurious coin to retain same between the fingers and movable chute, and a manually operated plunger projecting from said housing, extending rearwardly and in engagement with said coin chute for moving said coin chute out of operable engagement with said fixed wall to cause the release and rejection of spurious coins.

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