

INVENTION

Patents of the Week

The U.S. Patent Office has recently issued 1,361 patents in one week, the largest number for any week during 30 years. Another record week occurred in 1930 with 3,174 patents.

► THE U.S. Patent Office has recently granted the highest number of patents issued in 30 years for a one-week period—1,361. This is five less than granted one week in 1932, but both fall far short of the 3,174 granted in one such period in 1930, just before the fee for patents was increased.

The people of the United States, through the Government, are regularly one of the major recipients of patent rights. One patent assigned to the Government was for a system for controlling the detonation of underwater mines from a shore installation easily moved from place to place. Application for the device was made in 1946 by Edwin L. Lowe, then of the U.S. Army, Schuylkill Haven, Pa., and James T. Duzan, then also in the Army at Lynchburg, Va.

The inventors developed an improved system for protecting harbors and bays by detonating a mine either instantly or after a time delay. A mine in this system can also be disarmed from the remote shore installation, according to patent No. 3,033,113.

The following four patents were also assigned to the Government:

Device Makes Sound Waves

A device for producing sound waves, invented by Harold E. Sawyer of Falmouth, Mass., who was granted patent No. 3,033,157. The invention consists of a toggle switch so modified that the points of action are replaced by cantilever springs.

Determine Missile Misses

An improved and accurate method for determining by means of radio telemetry the distance by which a missile, detonated by a proximity fuze, misses its target. This won patent No. 3,034,115 for five inventors from Maryland who applied for the patent in 1958. They are Rodney E. Grant-ham of Bethesda, Samuel J. Raff of Silver Spring, Henry C. Hoffman Jr. of Catonsville, Samuel B. Pulliam of Silver Spring and Philip Yaffee of Kensington.

Radiation Dosimeter

A dosimeter that tells the amount of electromagnetic radiation to which any material has been exposed, for which Ben Petree of Silver Spring, Md., was awarded patent No. 3,033,985. The device uses the temperature rise caused by the radiation to measure the energy absorbed by the material.

Locating Light Beam

The method of locating the position of a light beam for which Rose A. Shuttle-

worth of Matawan, N.J., received patent No. 3,033,073. The device has an output of electrical current that varies with the position of the light source.

Other patents of interest included:

Determine Chemicals

A chromatographic method for automatically determining the amounts of different chemicals in an unknown mixture when there is a radioactive tracer in the mixture. Eric B. Fowler of Los Alamos, N. Mex., and Wayne A. Rhinehart of Ames, Iowa, developed the method. They assigned rights to patent No. 3,033,986 to Iowa State College Research Foundation, Inc., Ames, Iowa.

Cooling System

A cooling system for transistors, for which Lake D. Brown Jr. of Torrance, Calif., was granted patent No. 3,033,537. Mr. Brown assigned rights to Pacific Semiconductors, Inc., Culver City, Calif. His method is to mount the transistors or other

GENERAL SCIENCE

Charter Youth Activities

► CONGRESS was asked to charter SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., of Washington, D.C., a privately supported non-profit organization, to work with the U.S. Office of Education in encouraging youngsters in science.

Rep. Francis E. Walter (D-Pa.) introduced a bill, H.R. 11711, which will charter the organization to carry out activities which it has sponsored for 21 years.

In 1958, Public Law 85-875 was passed by Congress which was to view the ultimate chartering of a corporation, similar to the Future Farmers of America, to sponsor science clubs and fairs and promote in other ways the interest in science by the nation's youth, Rep. Walter explained.

The Congressman said he feels SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., meets all of these qualifications as it is a ready-made organization with vast experience in this field. Its board of trustees, the Congressman said, represents the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, the journalistic profession and the Scripps Estate.

"Under the direction of this fine board of trustees," Rep. Walter said, "SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., has been operating a continually broadening science program for the nation's youth since 1941." It is the parent organization of the National Science Fair-

semiconducting devices on a material that radiates the heat.

Transmit Infrared Light

An optical system that transmits infrared light, which was given patent No. 3,033,701. Inventor Raymond L. Wozniak of Rochester, N.Y., assigned rights to Eastman Kodak Company, also of Rochester. He developed a method to overcome the usually unsatisfactory adherence of the optical coating to windows, prisms and lenses made of glass.

Optical Image Transfer

A method for transferring optical images from one place to another by fibers, granted patent No. 3,033,071. Rights were assigned to American Optical Company, Southbridge, Mass., by John W. Hicks Jr., Fiskdale, Mass.

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Marked uneven bite closure in either normal natural teeth or artificial dentures can be the cause of conductive hearing loss and tinnitus (ringing in the ears).

As Tiros-IV, the latest meteorological satellite orbits the earth, its infrared instrument payload is supplying several million important measurements every day.

Two species of weevils that subsist only on the puncture vine have been imported from India as biological control agents for this troublesome weed in California.

International, Science Clubs of America and the national Science Talent Search.

A million young students in America's secondary schools completed and displayed science projects at science fairs across the country which culminated in this year's National Science Fair-International in Seattle, May 2-5, Rep. Walter pointed out.

The National Science Fair-International, now 13 years old, had representatives from fairs in 45 states and the District of Columbia. Earlier, about 1.5 million people viewed the student projects at the 208 regional fairs, at which 75,000 exhibits competed.

"The expenditures of these fairs throughout the country run into the millions each year, and to date not one cent of taxpayer's money has been used to put on these fairs," Rep. Walter said. Affiliation costs, transportation costs and other expenses incurred to send youngsters to the National Science Fair-International are paid by the sponsors, many of them newspapers of this country.

"With this type of background, I strongly believe that SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., is the only organization now in existence capable of fulfilling the obligations set forth by Congress when it passed Public Law 85-875," he stated.

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