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United States Patent [19]

Allard et al.

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[54] **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MARKING TEXT ON A DISPLAY SCREEN IN A PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE**

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[21] Appl. No.: **576,834**

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Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 279,639, Jul. 25, 1994, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.^{6}** **G09G 5/00**
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **345/173**; 345/179
[58] **Field of Search** 345/156, 173, 345/179, 174, 180, 175, 158, 157, 168; 178/18, 19; 379/96; 341/22, 33, 34; 359/803

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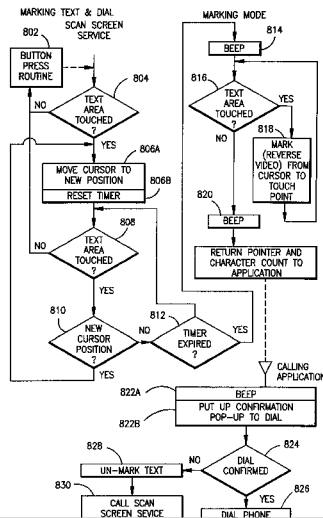"Simon" from Bell South Designed by IBM.

Primary Examiner—Dennis-Doon Chow
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Pollock, Vande Sande & Priddy; George Grosser

[57] **ABSTRACT**

In a personal communications device having a touch sensitive display screen, text may be marked by a user to be used with different applications. In particular, to begin marking, a user has to maintain his touch at a location on the screen for a short predetermined period of time until the system detects that the position is held over the same character for a delayed period, at which time the system beeps to provide an indication that there has been a change of operation mode. The marking mode continues in operation until the user removes his contact from the touch screen. Thus, text over which the contact point passes after the initiation of the marking mode is marked, until the user removes his contact point from the touch screen. A second beep is sounded to alert the user of the termination of the marking mode, and the appearance of a menu of operations on the screen. The menu of operations echoes the marked text for user confirmation. The marked text may be used by the user in a number of applications, among which include a calling application whereby the marked text is used to place a call.
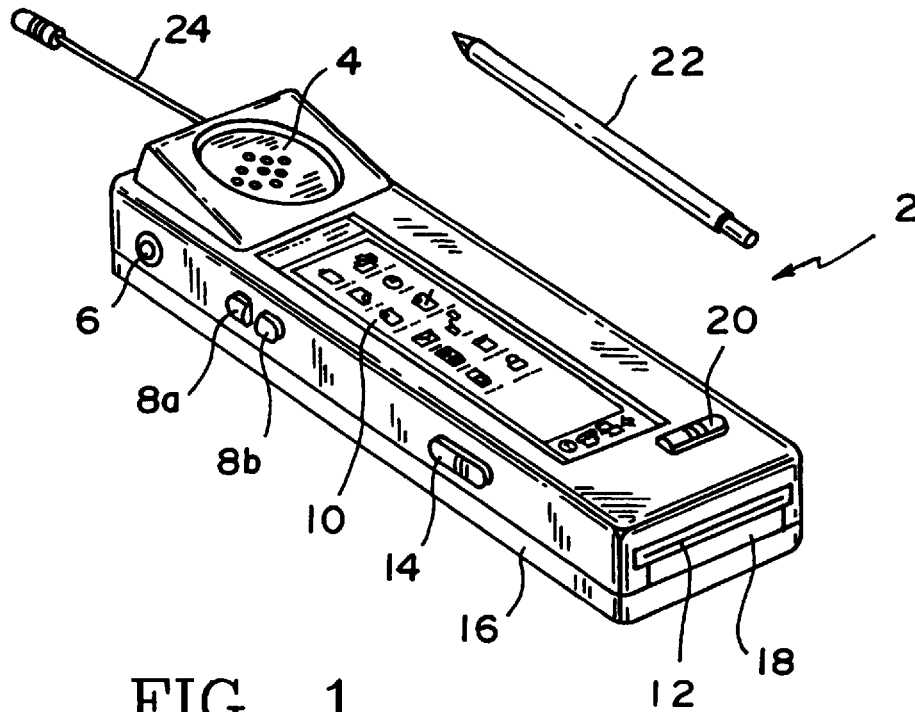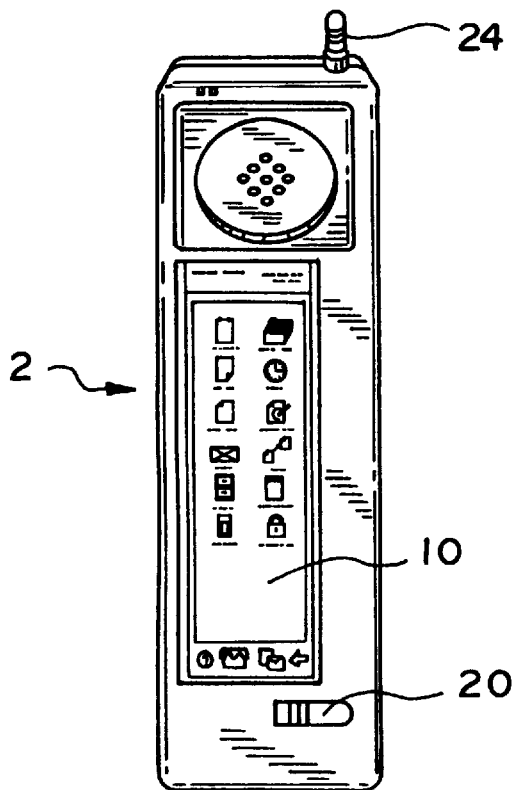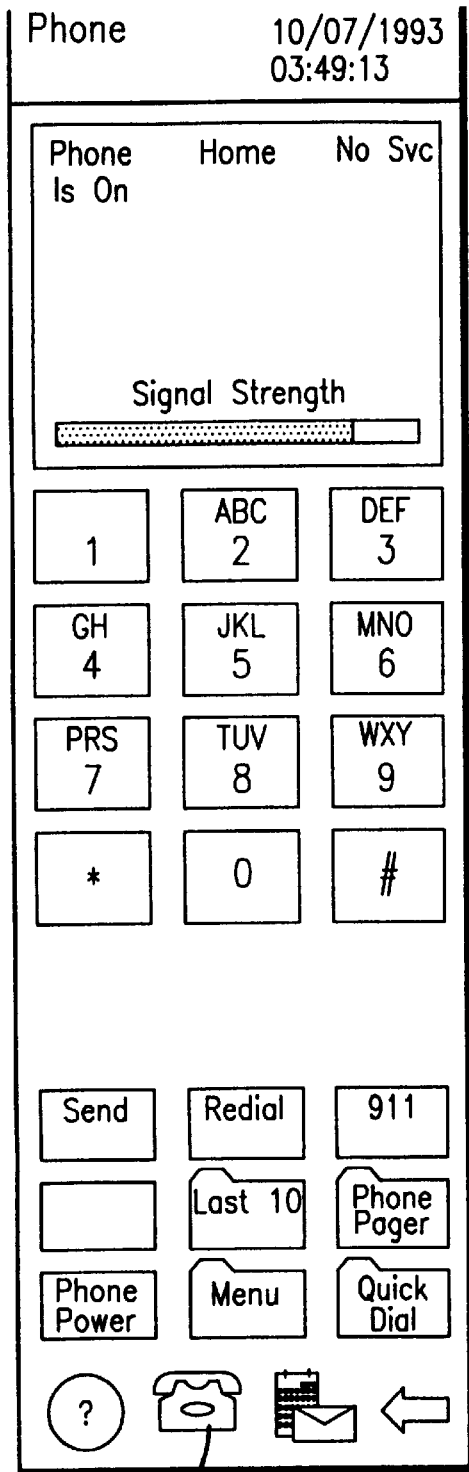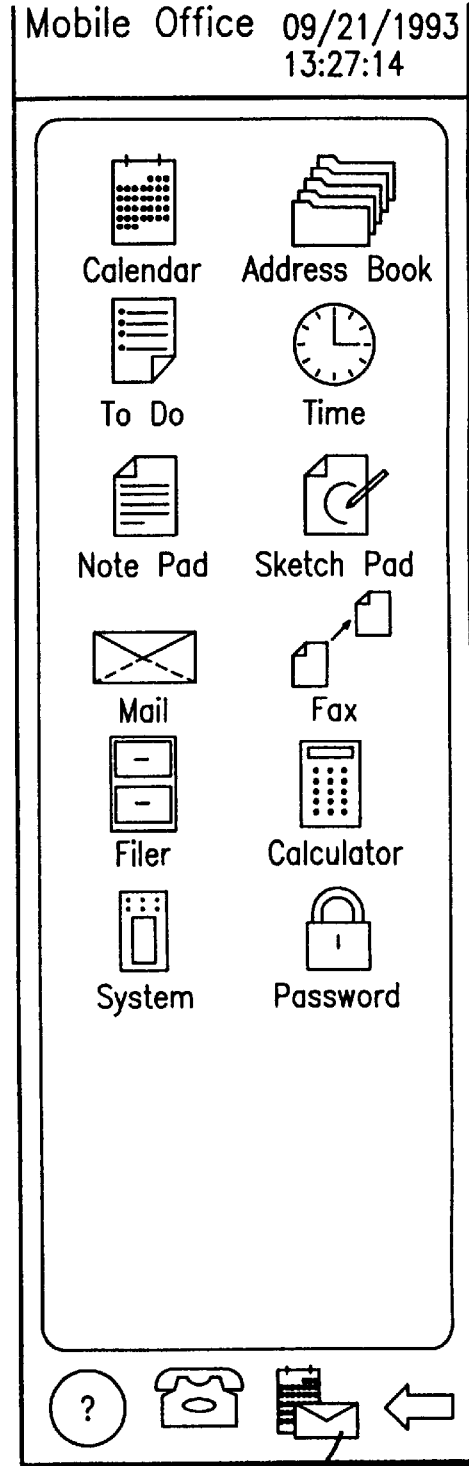
1 Claim, 6 Drawing Sheets

FIG. 1

FIG. 2

Phone   10/07/1993
03:49:13

Phone Home No Svc
Is On

Signal Strength

	ABC	DEF
1	2	3
GH	JKL	MNO
4	5	6
PRS	TUV	WXY
7	8	9
*	0	#

Send	Redial	911
	Last 10	Phone Pager
Phone Power	Menu	Quick Dial

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The Phone Screen

FIG. 3

Mobile Office   09/21/1993
13:27:14

Calendar   Address Book

To Do   Time

Note Pad   Sketch Pad

Mail   Fax

Filer   Calculator

System   Password

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The Mobile Office Screen

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

ADDITIONAL MEMORY — 38

CPU — 32

RAM — 34

EPROM — 36

30

INTEGRATED CELLULAR & PSTN INTERFACE — 50

52

COUNTER — 42

TOUCH SCREEN CONTROLLER — 40

TOUCH OVERLAY — 46

TONE GENERATOR — 44

LCD DISPLAY — 10

FIG. 6

DOCKET ALARM
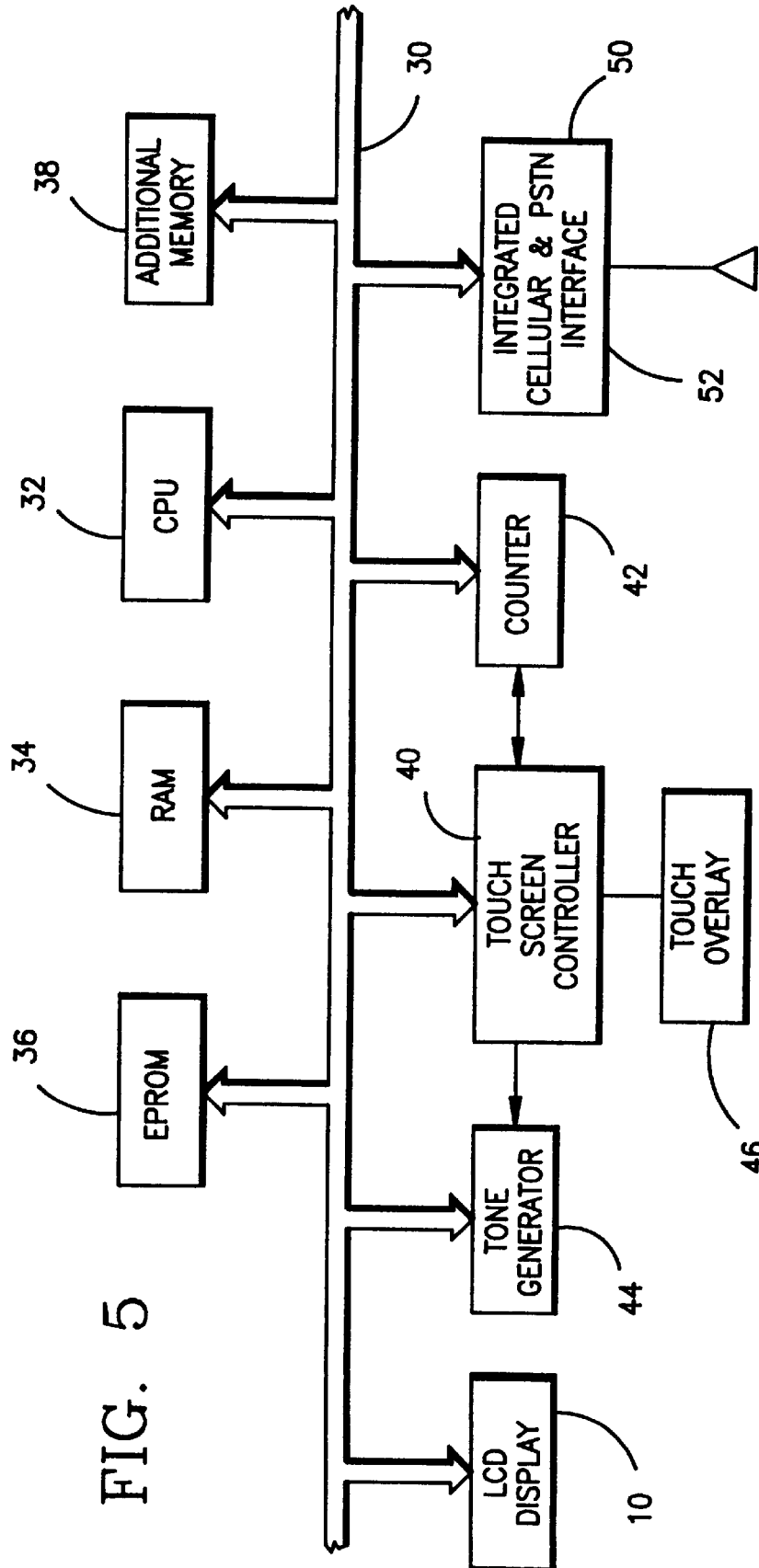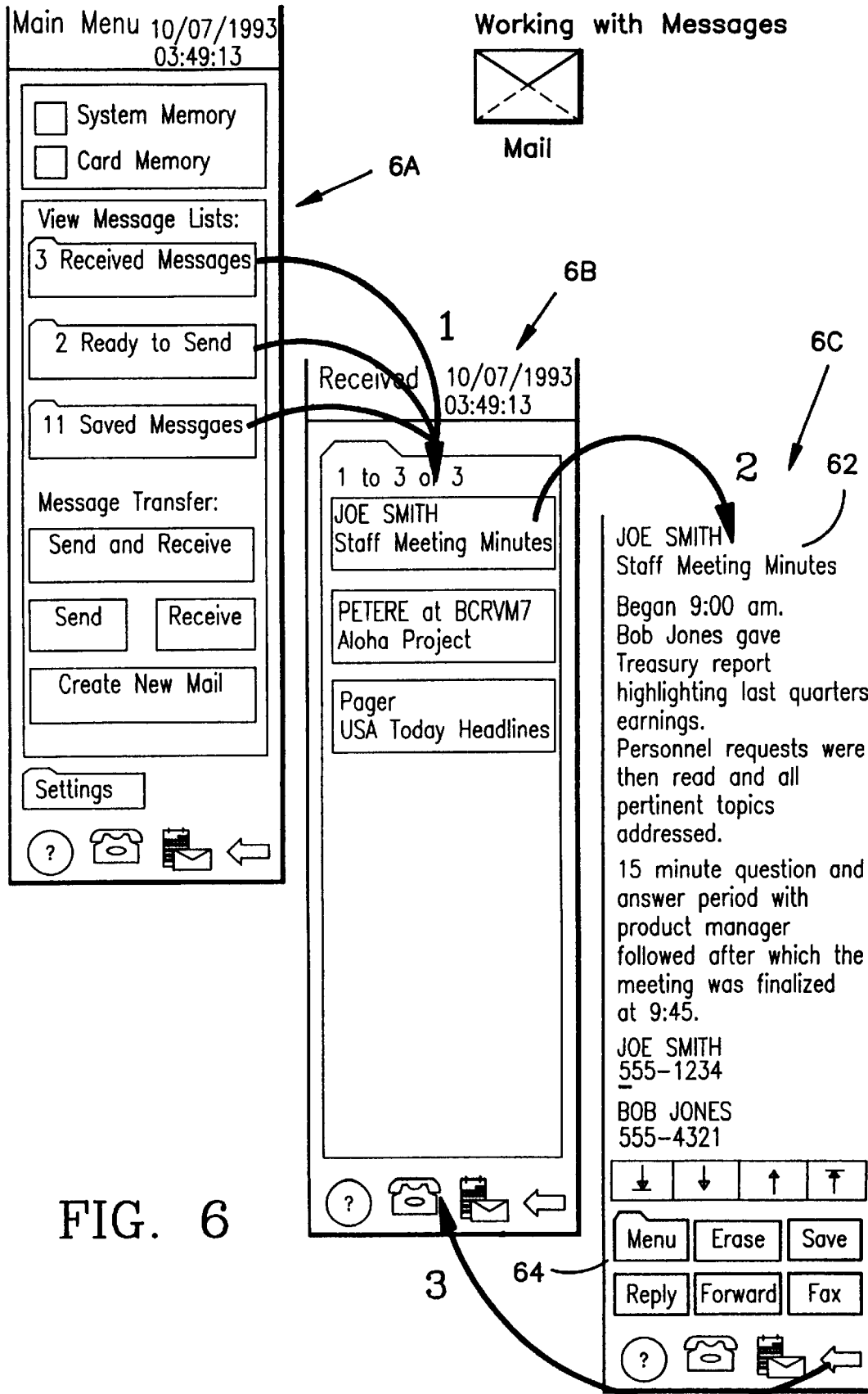
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