

United States Patent [19]

[11] 4,025,851

Haselwood et al.

[45] May 24, 1977

[54] AUTOMATIC MONITOR FOR PROGRAMS BROADCAST

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[73] Assignee: A.C. Nielsen Company, Northbrook, Ill.

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[52] U.S. Cl. 325/31; 325/54

[51] Int. Cl.² H04J 9/00

[58] Field of Search 325/31, 51, 53, 54, 325/64, 308; 343/200; 178/5.1, DIG. 13; 340/147 R, 147 A, 167 R

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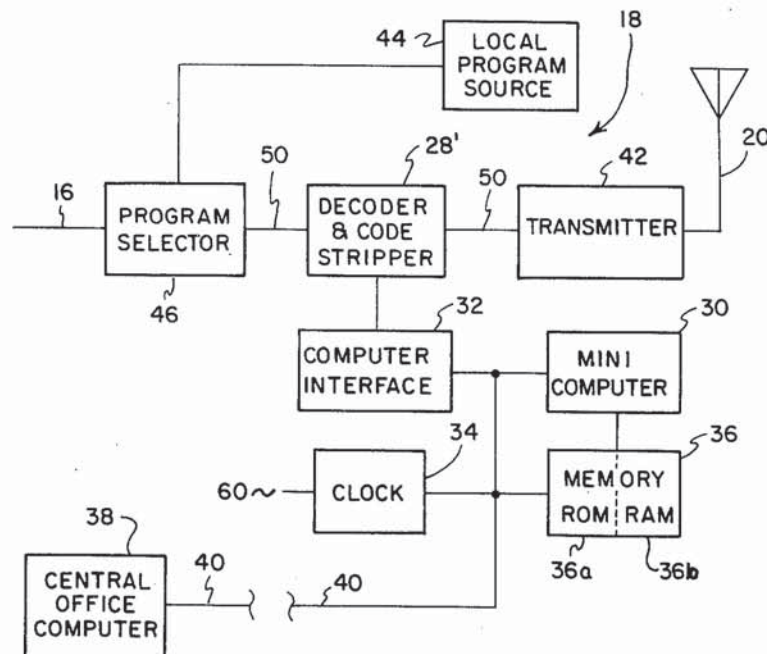
Primary Examiner—Benedict V. Safourek

[57] ABSTRACT

A system for automatically monitoring the programs broadcast by network affiliated broadcasting stations includes a plurality of remote monitoring sites and a central office for periodically interrogating the remote monitoring sites. Each remote monitoring site contains apparatus for monitoring time varying program identifying data, and for storing the data in a change format when the time varying data changes in an unexpected manner. An elapsed time clock in each remote monitoring unit generates a record of the elapsed time between the unexpected changes.

Each remote unit includes a minicomputer having a read-only memory and a random-access memory. The data in the read-only memory serves to establish communications with the central office and permits the central office to access the random-access memory. After the random-access memory has been accessed, it may be reprogrammed to alter the operation of the remote monitoring unit to accommodate different data formats or different information.

36 Claims, 9 Drawing Figures



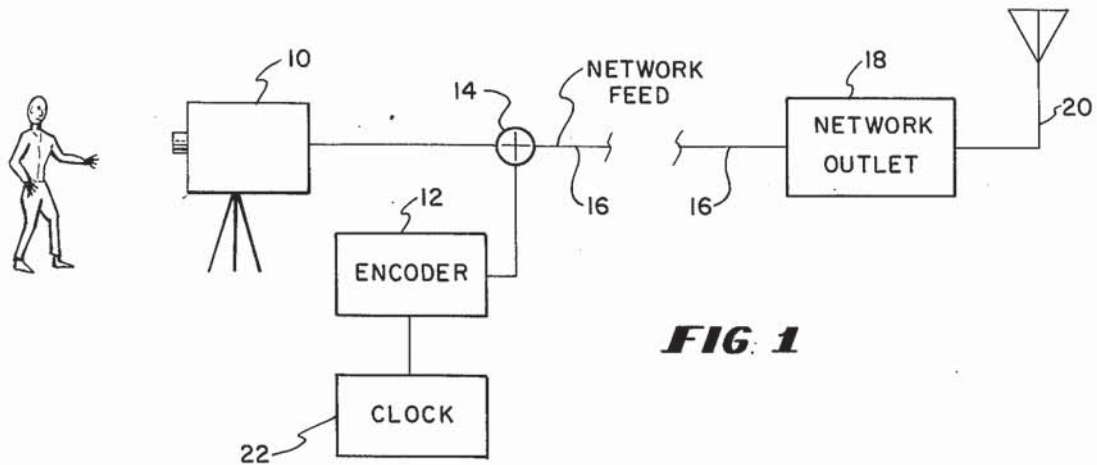


FIG. 1

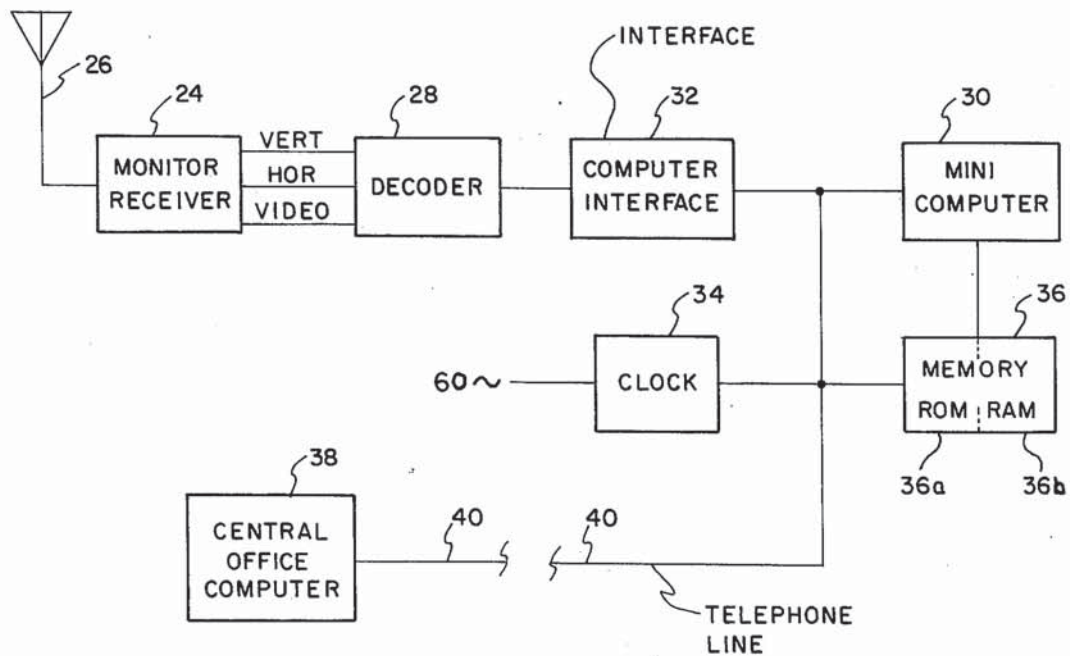


FIG. 2

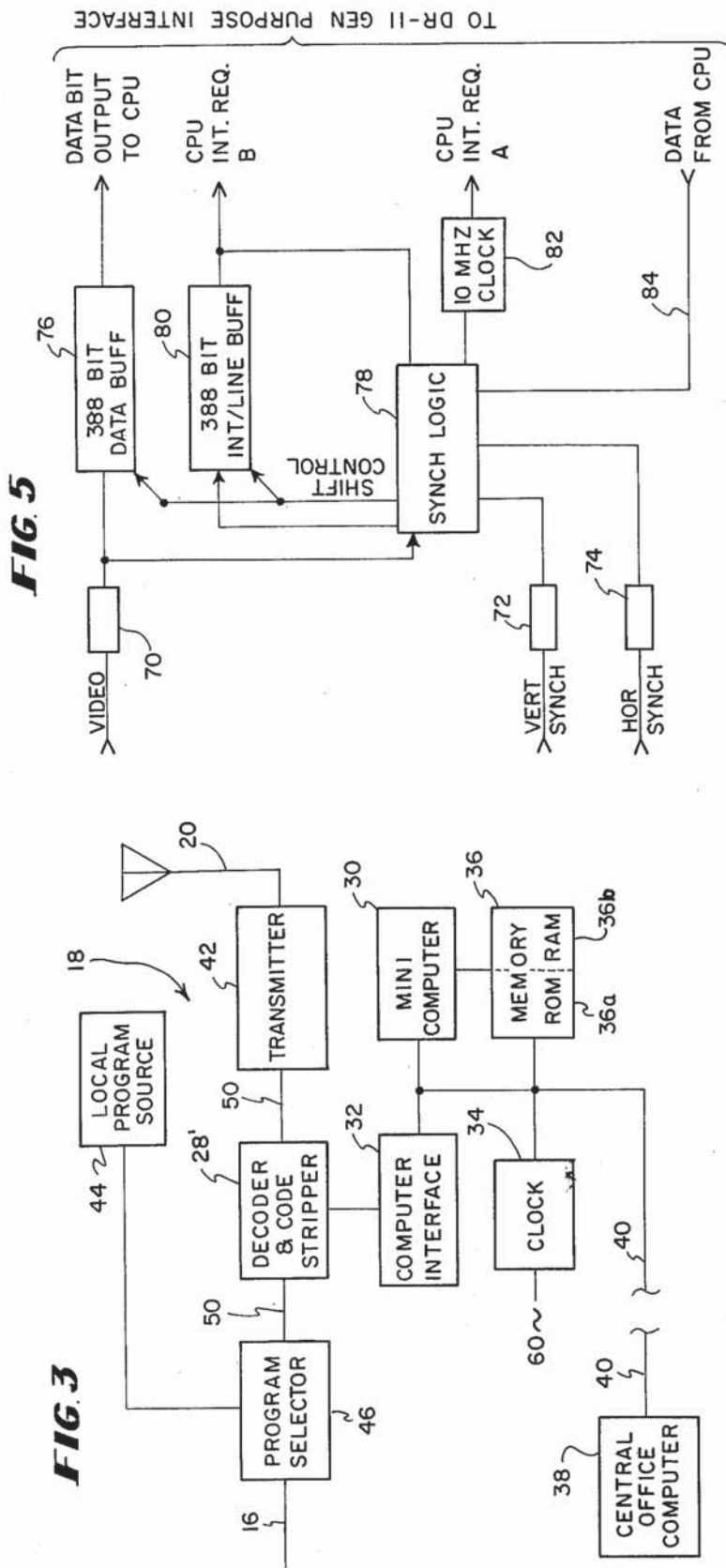
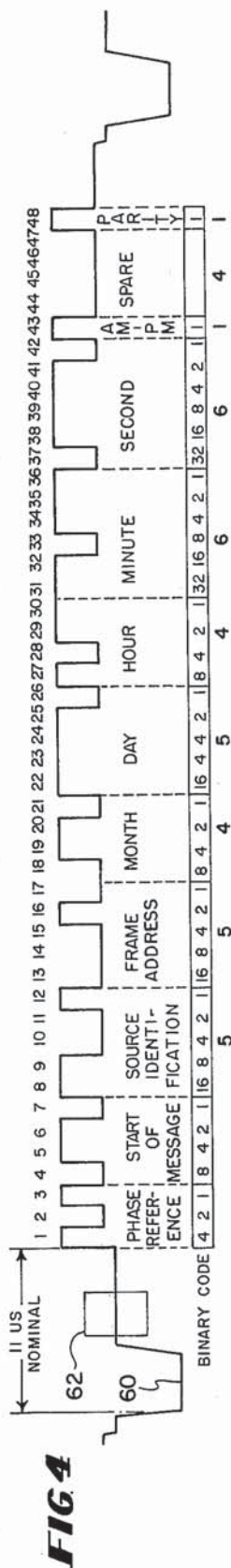


FIG. 6A

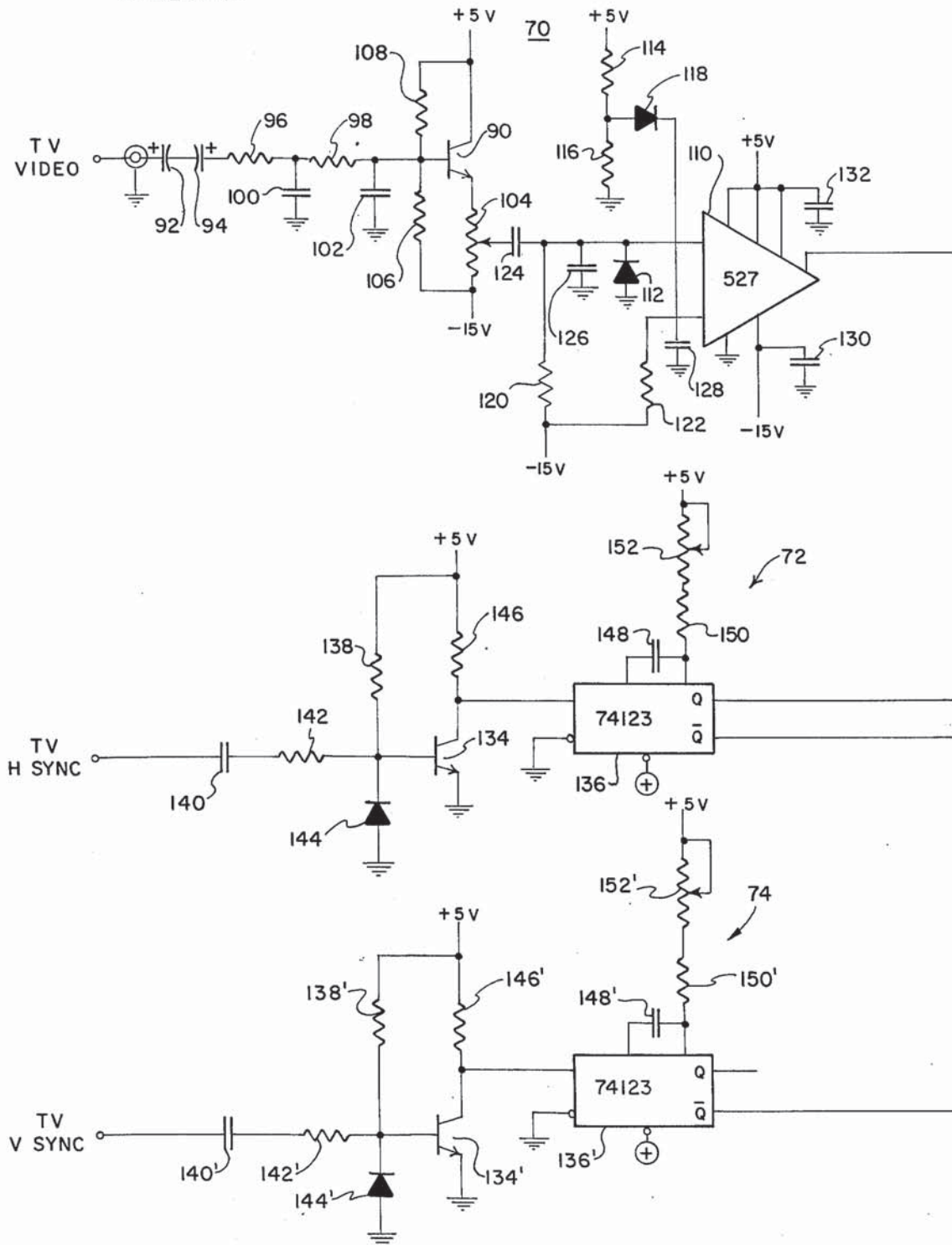
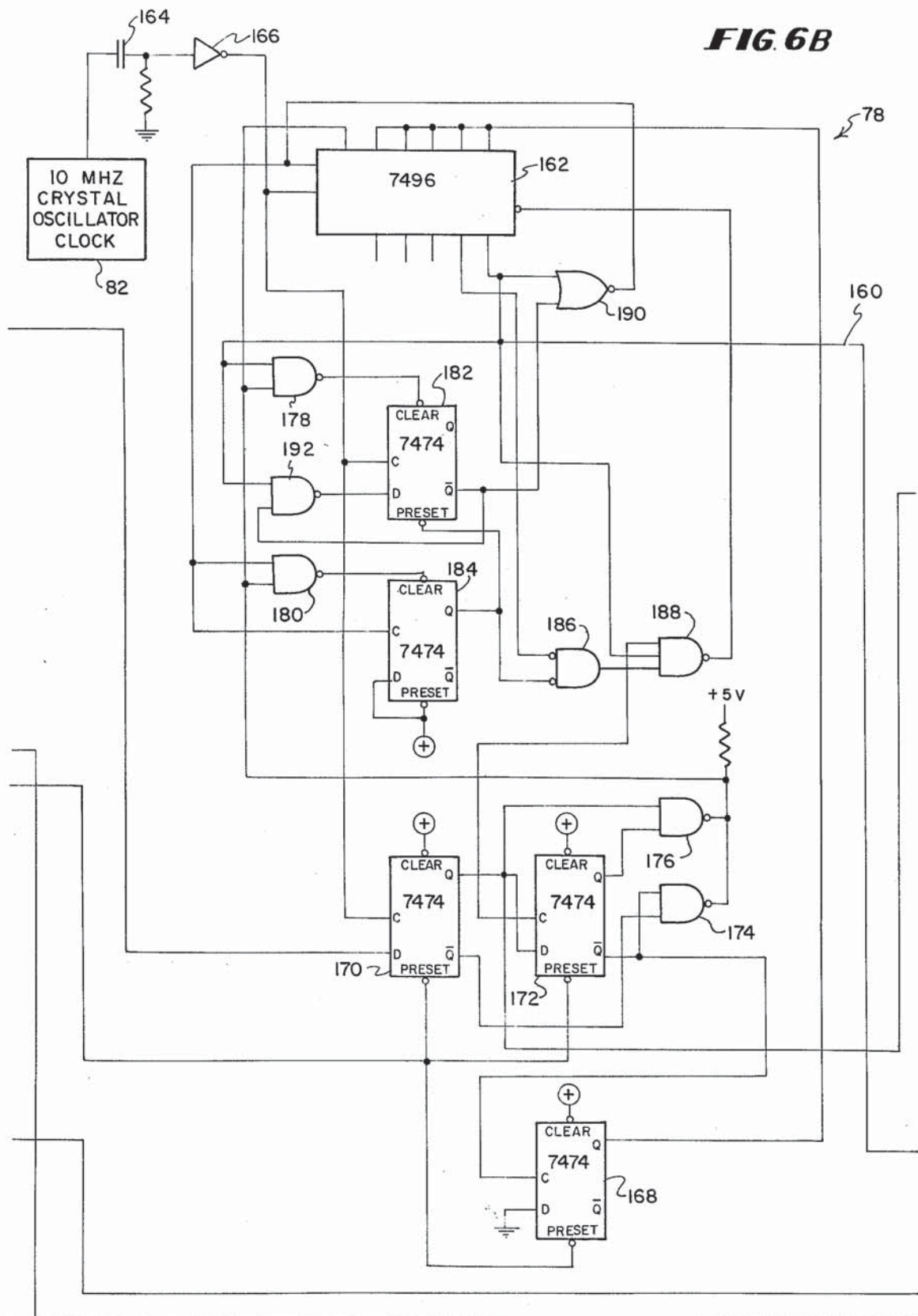


FIG. 6B



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