

United States Patent [19]

[11] 4,025,851

Haselwood et al.

[45] May 24, 1977

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375/10

- [54] **AUTOMATIC MONITOR FOR PROGRAMS BROADCAST**
- [75] Inventors: **Donald E. Haselwood**, Clearwater; **Carl M. Solar**, Largo, both of Fla.
- [73] Assignee: **A.C. Nielsen Company**, Northbrook, Ill.
- [22] Filed: **Nov. 28, 1975**
- [21] Appl. No.: **636,041**
- [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**

[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.

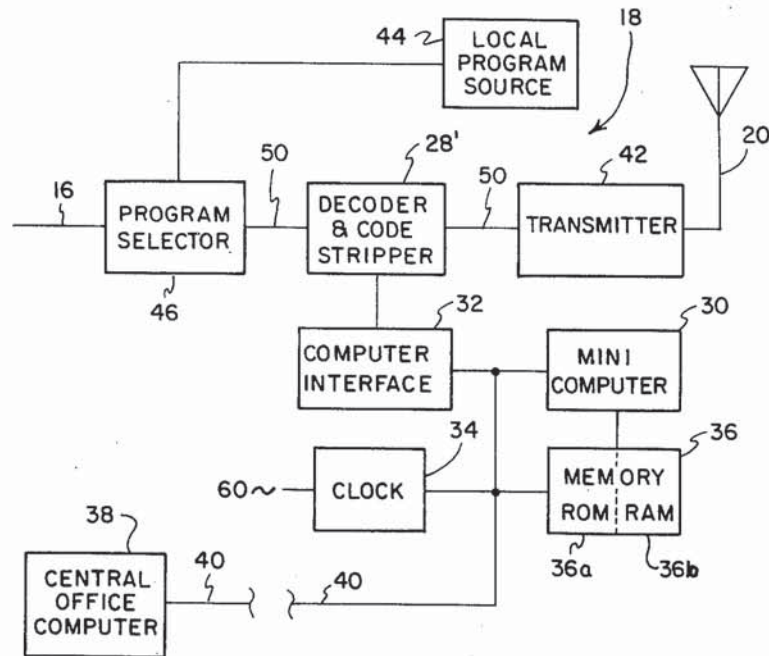
[56] References Cited

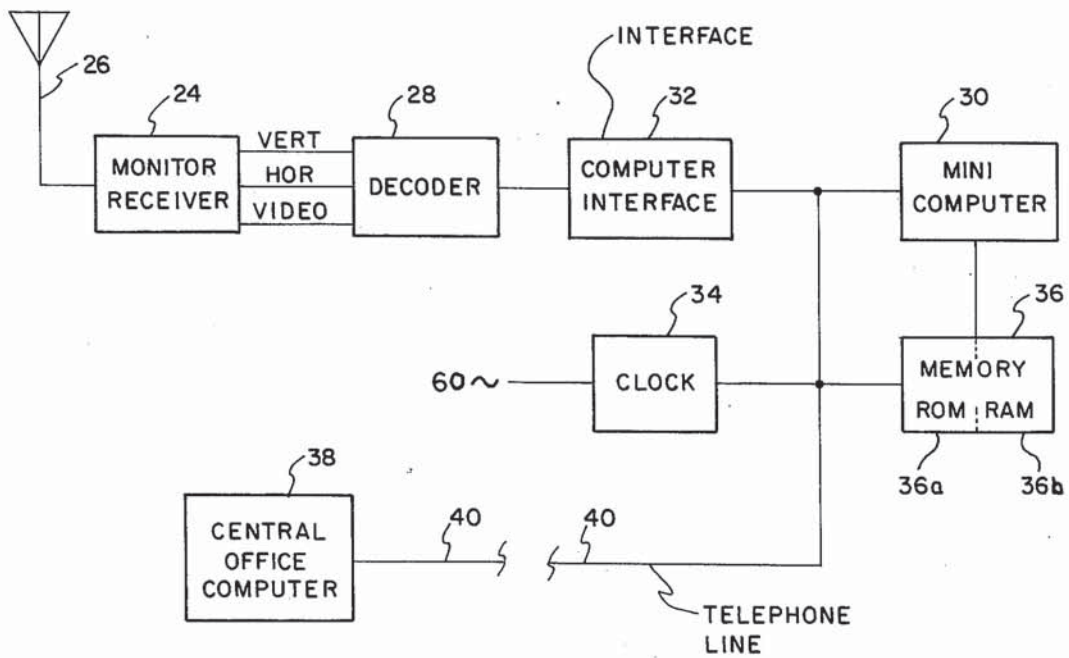
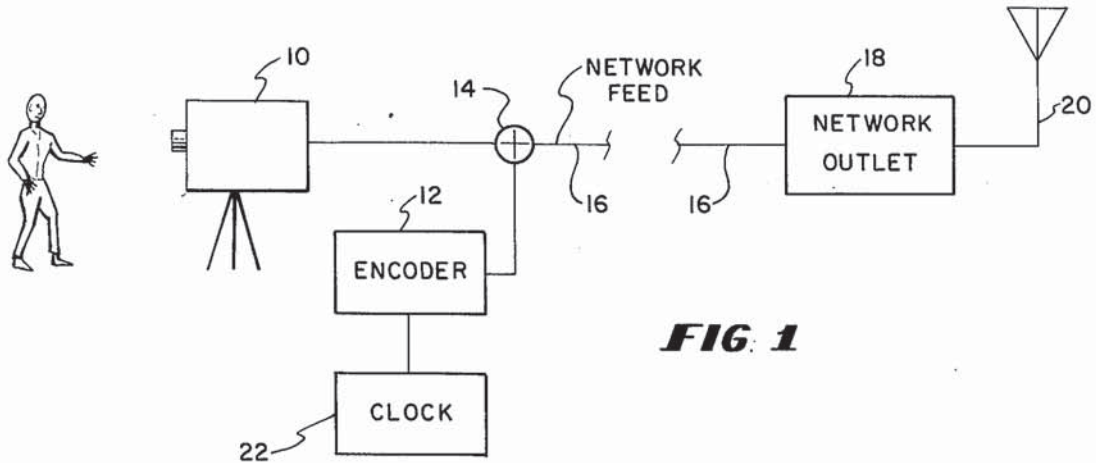
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Primary Examiner—Benedict V. Safourek

36 Claims, 9 Drawing Figures





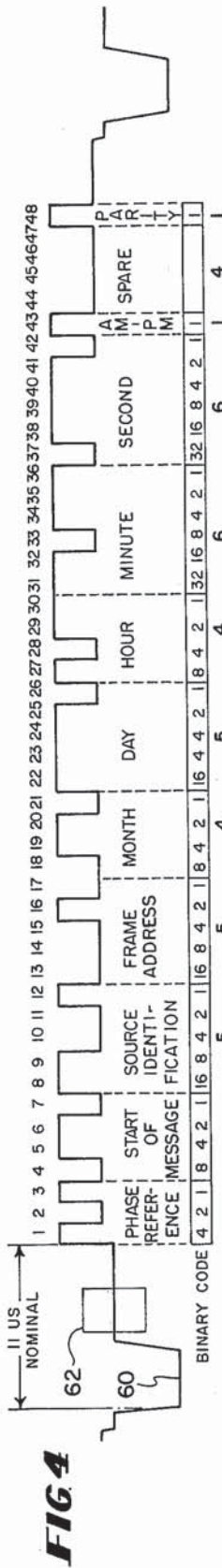


FIG 4

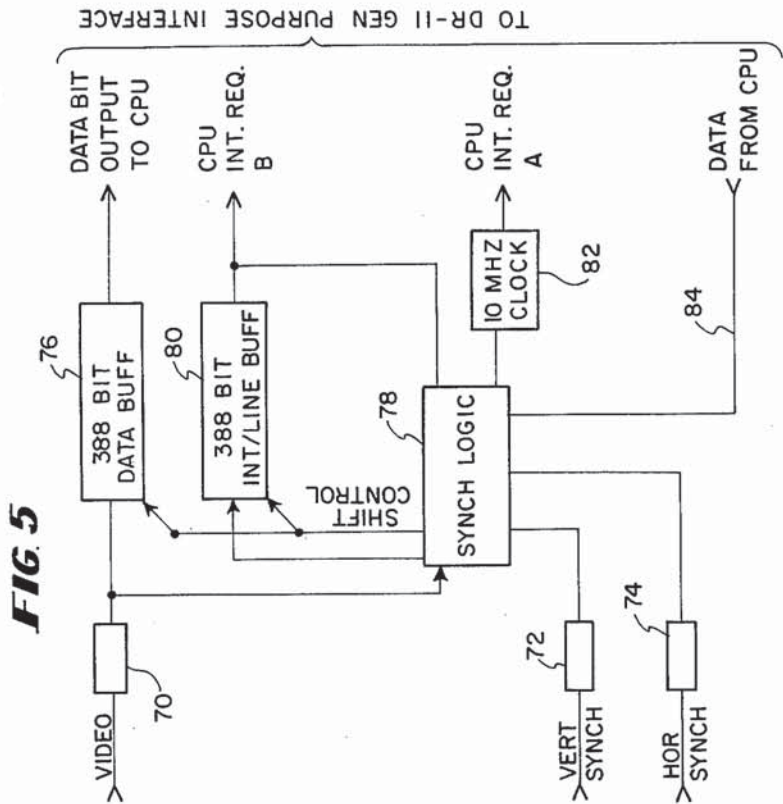


FIG 5

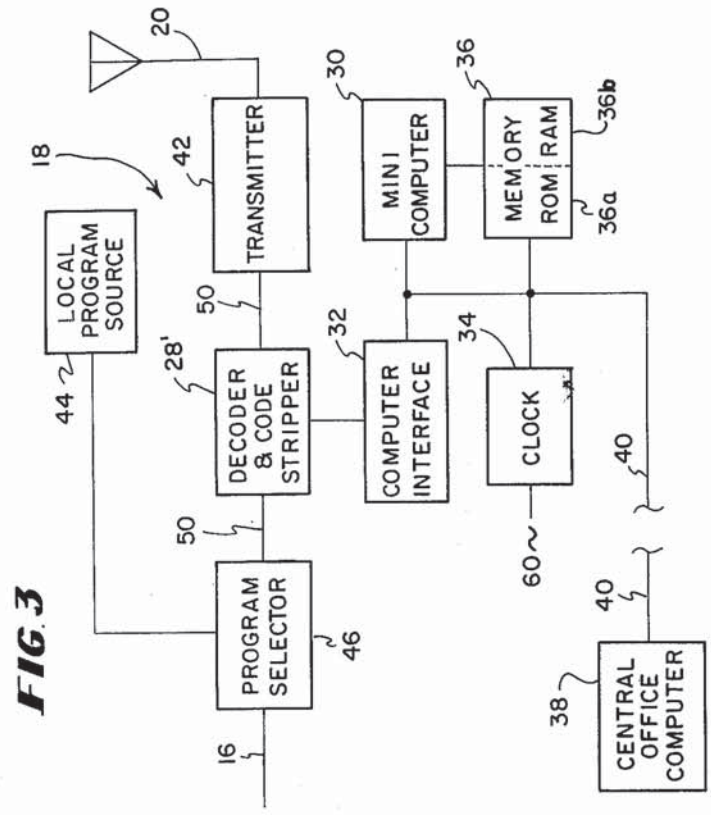
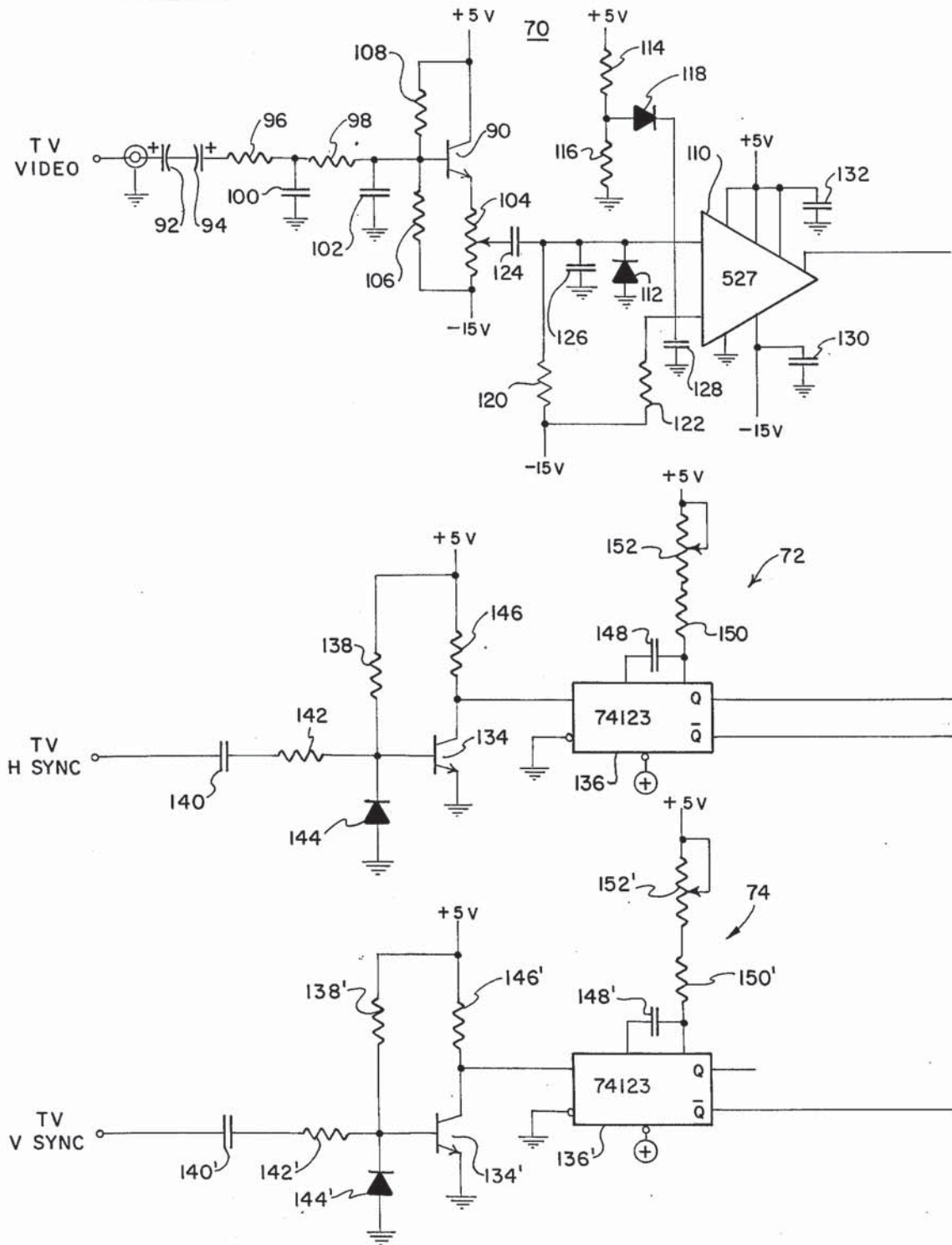
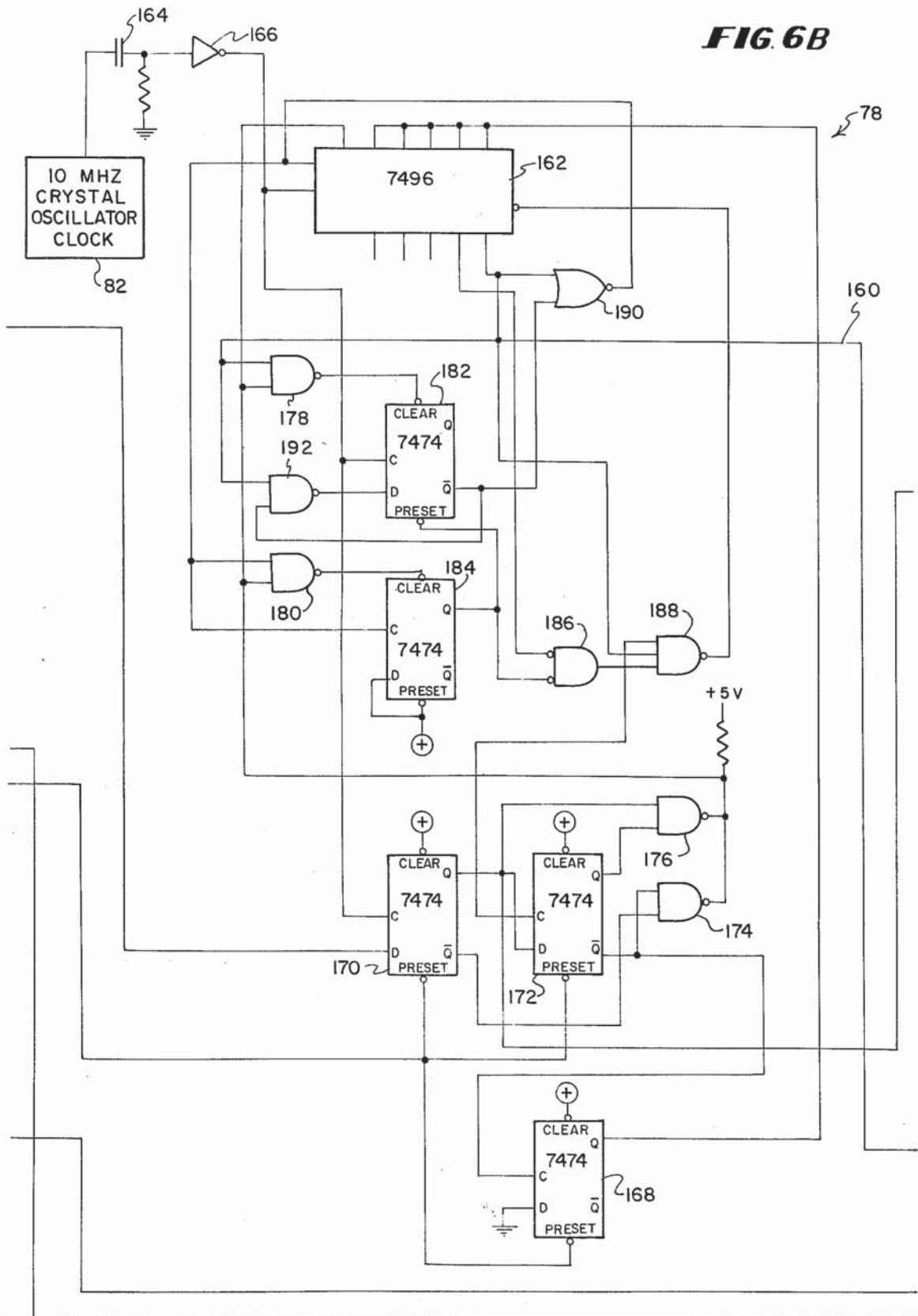


FIG 3

FIG. 6A





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