United States Patent [19]

Wortham

[54] **VEHICLE LOCATING AND COMMUNICATING METHOD AND APPARATUS**

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[52] U.S. Cl. 364/460; 340/990; 340/995; 364/449
[58] Field of Search 364/448, 449, 460; 340/990–995; 342/450, 451, 457, 463; 379/58, 59, 200, 60; 455/67, 92, 99, 33

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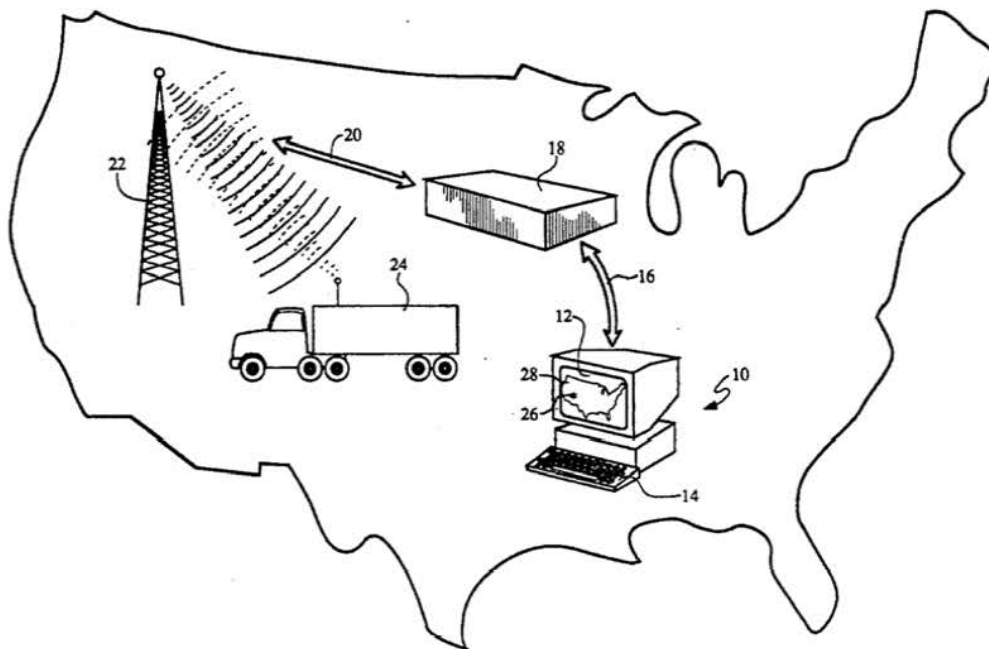|		
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Primary Examiner—Parshotam S. Lall
Assistant Examiner—Michael Zanelli
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Harold E. Meier

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for locating and communicating with vehicles is provided, including at least one mobile cellular unit connected to at least one microprocessor and installed within a vehicle. The microprocessor interrogates the mobile cellular unit to obtain location information from an overhead message stream transmitted from cellular telephone transmitter sites. The location is displayed on a display located in the vehicle or the microprocessor periodically instructs the mobile cellular unit to initiate a call to a host controller and, upon receipt of transmitting instructions from the host controller, transmits the location information for display on a screen connected to the host controller.
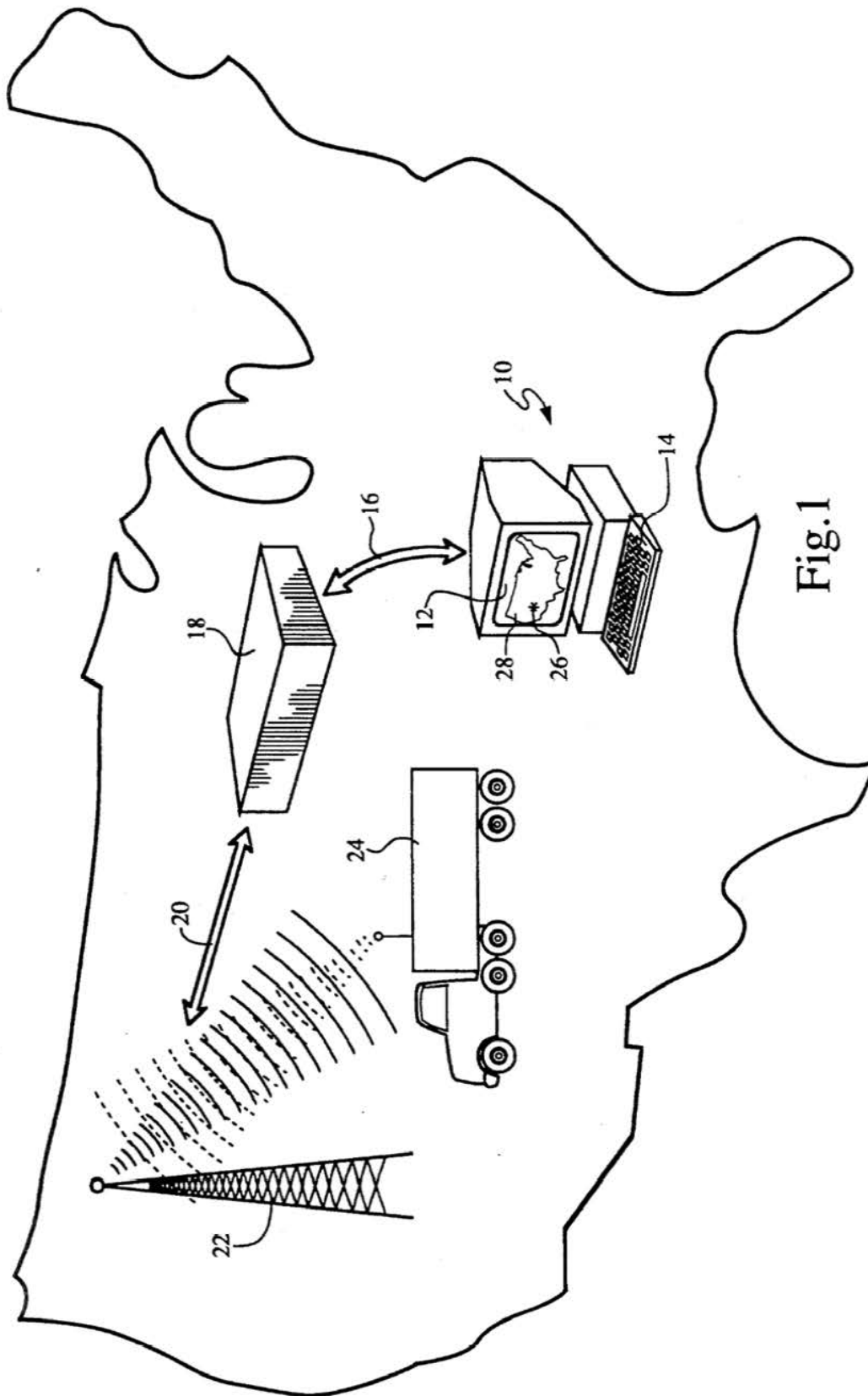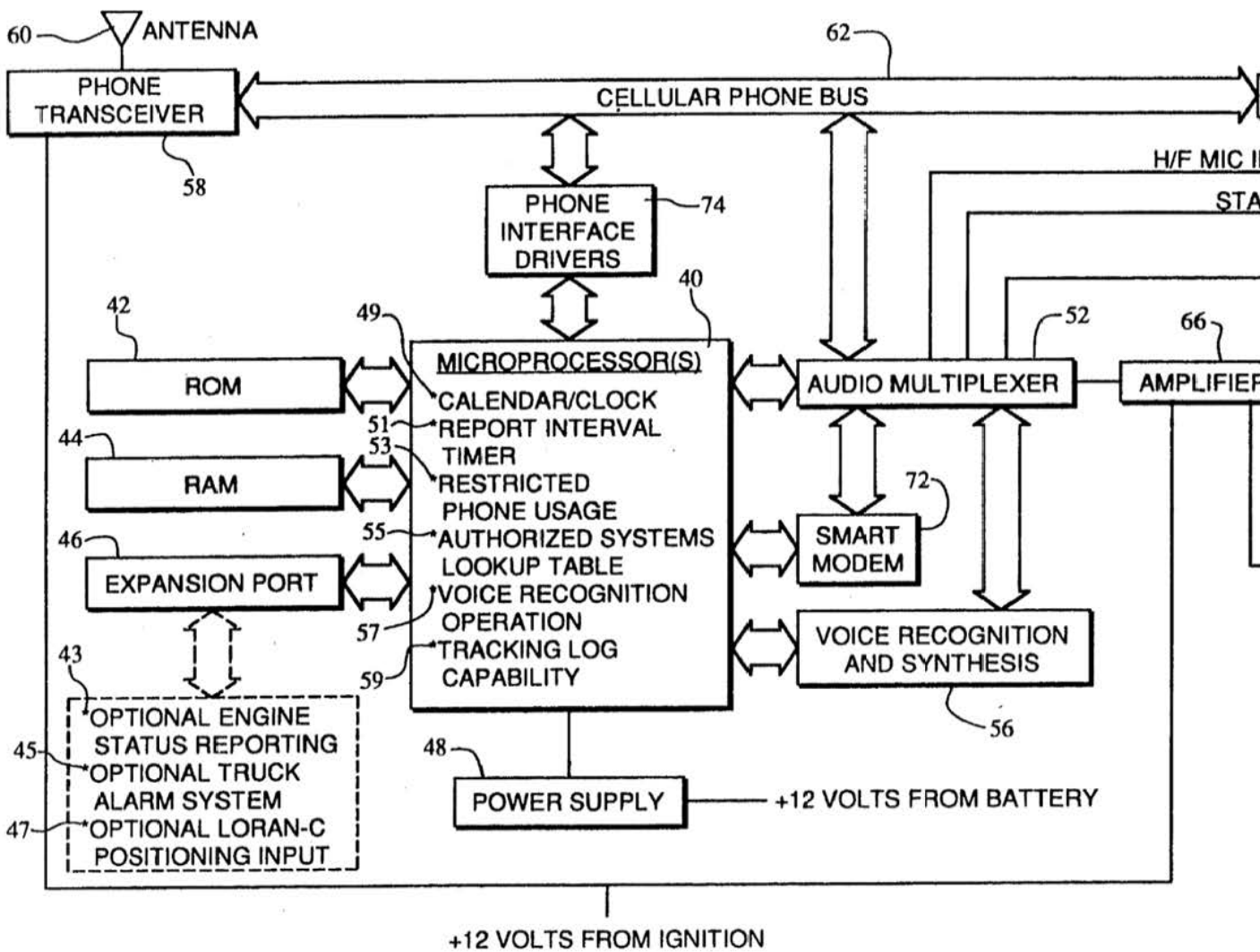
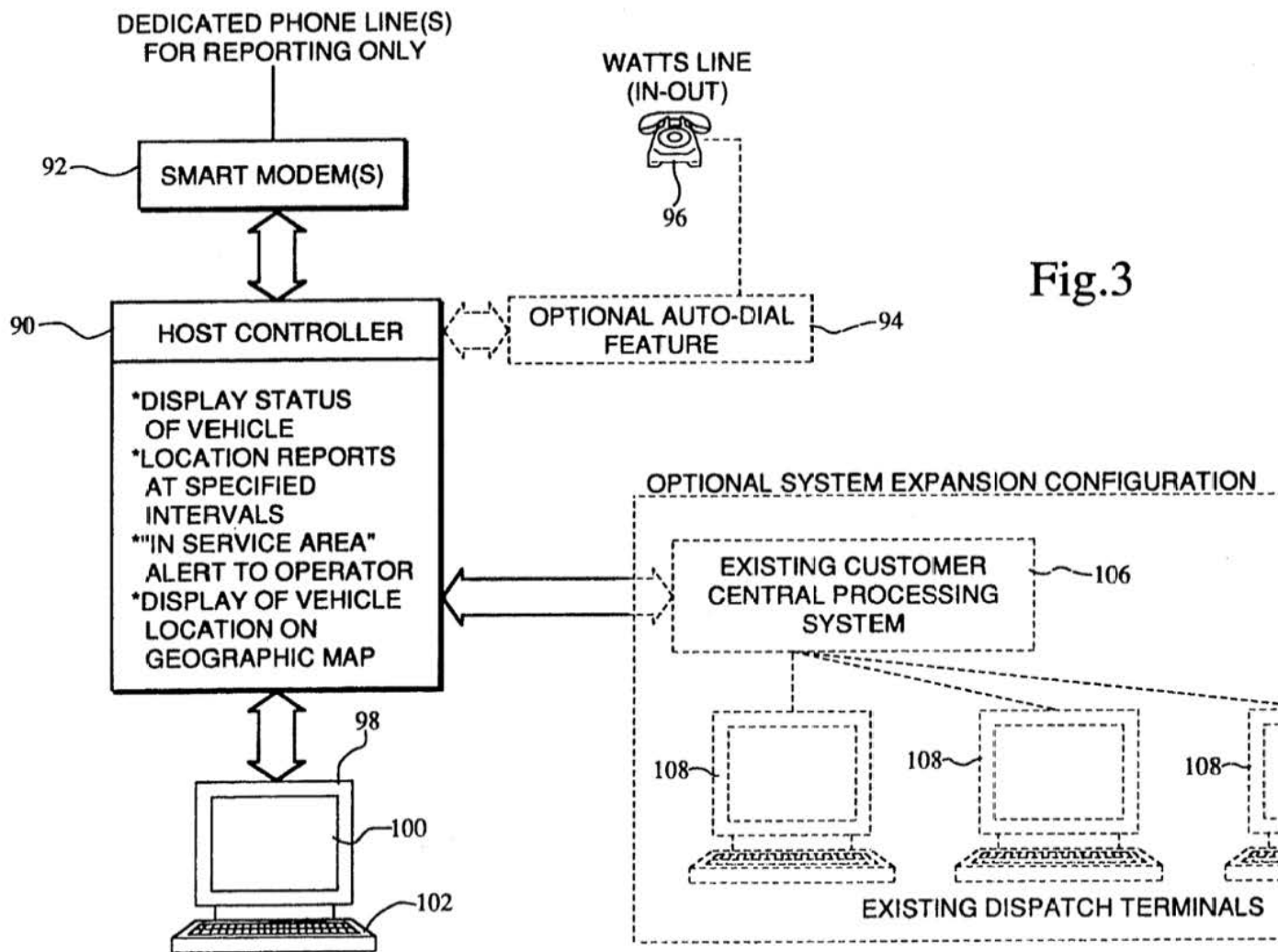**31 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**

Fig.1

DEDICATED PHONE LINE(S)
FOR REPORTING ONLY

WATTS LINE
(IN-OUT)

Fig.3

92 — SMART MODEM(S)

96

90 — HOST CONTROLLER

OPTIONAL AUTO-DIAL
FEATURE — 94

*DISPLAY STATUS
 OF VEHICLE
*LOCATION REPORTS
 AT SPECIFIED
 INTERVALS
*"IN SERVICE AREA"
 ALERT TO OPERATOR
*DISPLAY OF VEHICLE
 LOCATION ON
 GEOGRAPHIC MAP

OPTIONAL SYSTEM EXPANSION CONFIGURATION

EXISTING CUSTOMER
CENTRAL PROCESSING
SYSTEM — 106

98

100

102

108 — 108 — 108 —
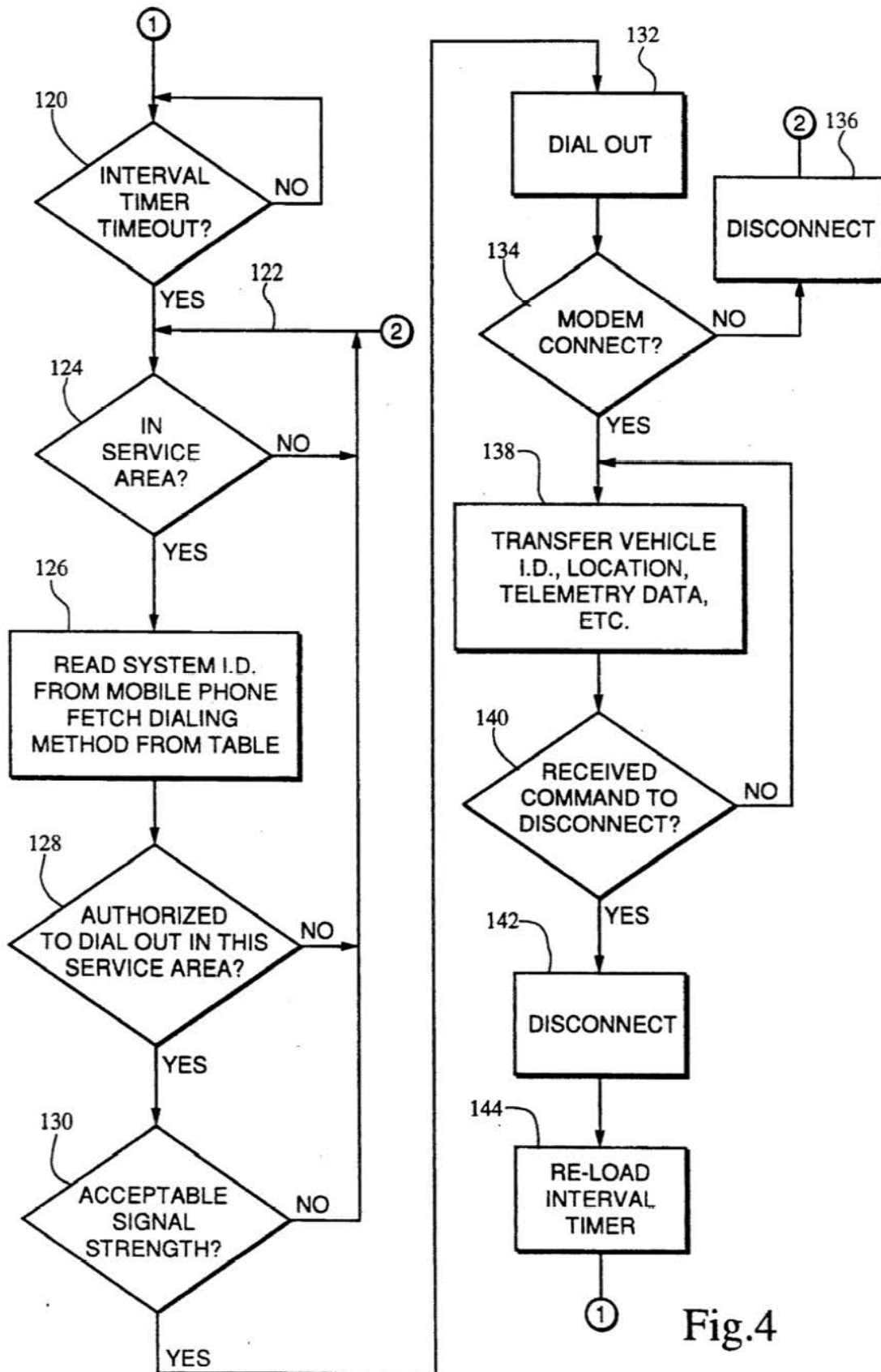
EXISTING DISPATCH TERMINALS

Fig.4

DOCKET ALARM

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