

United States Patent [19]

[11]

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Mustapick

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[54] **AUTOMATED MERCHANDISING SYSTEM**

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Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 542,225, Jan. 20, 1975, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.²** E04H 3/04

[52] **U.S. Cl.** 186/1 C; 358/86; 358/93

[58] **Field of Search** 186/1 R, 1 C; 358/86 R, 358/93

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[57] ABSTRACT

A plurality of communication stanchions are arranged in a parking lot, spaced one from the other, so that each merchandise customer may park their automobile adjacent a stanchion close enough to be able to use communication equipment carried by the stanchion without leaving the automobile. The communication equipment interconnects with a remote warehouse type market and includes a video receiver which displays for the customer the merchandise available for sale. Keyboard and voice units also interconnected with the warehouse, are provided at the communication stanchion for customer use to transmit to the warehouse a merchandise order. Within the warehouse goods are stored for ready access, either by order clerks, or automatic order picking equipment. The order once picked is tabulated, bagged and forwarded either directly to the stanchion where the customer pays and the order is placed in the customer's automobile or to a central loading area which the customer moves to pay a cashier and have the goods loaded into the automobile.

8 Claims, 7 Drawing Figures

