

[54] COMMUNICATION NETWORK AND PROTOCOL FOR REAL-TIME CONTROL OF MAILING MACHINE OPERATIONS

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[58] Field of Search ..... 371/32, 37.1; 364/464.02, 464.03, 200 MS file, 900 MS file

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[57] ABSTRACT

The communication network is comprised of a first, second, third, and fourth node. Each node has a transmit pin, a receive pin and a programmable microprocessor for generating messages to the transmit pin and for receiving messages presented at the receive pin for processing. The transmit pin of the first node is in line communication with the receive pin of the second node and third node and the transmit pin of said fourth node. The receive pin of the first node is in line communication with the transmit pin of the second node and third node and the receive pin of the fourth node. The microprocessors of the respective nodes are programmed to receive a message at the receiving pin uniquely addressed to the respective node and enabled thereby to respond only to the uniquely addressed messages.

17 Claims, 43 Drawing Sheets

