

# A. C. SHELDON. Passenger Ticket.

No. 208,933.

Patented Oct. 15, 1878.

Issued by the New York and San Francisco R.R.

**GOOD for ONE FIRST-CLASS PASSAGE**

FROM  
**NEW YORK to DENISON, TEX.**  
AND RETURN,

When stamped by the Company's Agent, and presented with Coupons attached.

**SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRACT:**

In consideration of the New York and San Francisco Railroad Company having sold me this ticket at a reduced rate, it is hereby bargained, agreed, and understood that this ticket is to be good only for the one person named and described, and that same is not to be good for passage after the day and date fixed for its expiration. If transferred to any other person it shall be void. Execution of holder's signature, when requested by Conductor and in his presence, is necessary for verification of original signature hereon, and final identification; on failure of passenger so to do, Conductor shall take up ticket, and no right to passage shall accrue to the holder. That the above-named Company assumes no responsibility beyond its own line. That none of the Companies represented in this ticket is to assume any liability on baggage, except for wearing apparel, and then only for a sum not exceeding \$100.

The coupons belonging to this ticket are not to be received for passage if detached. Conductors are not to honor this ticket if conditions are unaccepted or description is not blank.

Form F, 97. *A. C. Sheldon*  
No. 77. *Gen'l Pass Agt.*

*I accept the above conditions.*  
[SIGNATURE:]

**Description of Person for whom only this Ticket will be good:**

Form,	Medium.	Stim.	Scout.	Crapsman.	Fireman.					
Weight,	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Height,	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	0
Age,	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

**NOTE.**

The figures punched out and the dot or star punched directly over the printed word indicate the ones used to express the description.

Any additional punches hereon, or alterations will invalidate the Ticket.

Color of Hair,	Black.	Brown.	Gray.	Light.	Auburn.
Color of Eyes,	Black.	Brown.	Gray.	Blue.	Hazel.
Beard,	None.	Full.	Side.	Chin.	Mustache.

A

B

C

Issued by New York and San Francisco R.R.

NEW YORK & SAN FRANCISCO R.R.

**WASHINGTON TO ST. LOUIS.**

Form B. **One FIRST CLASS.**  
31 S. Not Good If Detached.

Issued by New York and San Francisco R.R.

ST. LOUIS & WYOMING R.R.

**ST. LOUIS TO DENVER.**

Form B. **One FIRST CLASS.**  
31 S. Not Good If Detached.

WITNESSES  
*W. C. Johnston*  
*Wm. B. ...*

INVENTOR  
*Albert C. Sheldon*  
*By Hill & Ellsworth*

His ATTORNEYS

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT C. SHELDON, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

## IMPROVEMENT IN PASSENGER-TICKETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **208,933**, dated October 15, 1878; application filed February 21, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALBERT C. SHELDON, of the city and county of St. Louis, and State of Missouri, have invented a new and Improved Railroad Passenger-Ticket; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains or with which it is most nearly connected to make and use the same.

This invention has for its object the prevention of frauds upon railway companies and other carriers; and it consists in a passenger ticket, pass, or check combined with a novel and peculiar descriptive list of the passenger, substantially as I will now proceed to describe.

The said descriptive list consists of a full set of words and figures printed upon the ticket, from which to select the particular words and figures applicable to describe each individual, all being arranged in lines or columns sufficiently near the margin of the ticket to be reached by an ordinary conductor's punch, and so spaced that any figure can be punched out, or a hole can be punched or mark made adjacent to any word without interfering with the other words and figures near, the figures and words being printed clearly in the ordinary characters, so that the passenger can readily detect any error in his description and have it corrected before using the ticket.

To insure accuracy in punching, the figures are arranged in regular series of units, and small indicating-marks—such as a \* or a †—are placed over or under each word, and preferably in line with each other, through which the punch is to pass.

Directions for using the punch may be printed upon the ticket.

The advantages of printing in the full descriptive list, leaving the particular items in each case to be selected and indicated by the punch or other equivalent means, without the necessity for writing them out, are very great. Besides saving the time and labor of writing out each term in every case, it prevents all erasures or alterations of the terms, and, in case the agent at the station should, in his hurry, omit to fill out the descriptive list, it

enables the conductor of the first train whereon the ticket is used to fill out the necessary terms as he proceeds through the car collecting fares—a thing which would be practically impossible if the spaces were left to be filled in by writing.

The time requisite for punching out or marking the necessary terms of the descriptive list will be only a moment, and will cause no appreciable delay or inconvenience, either to the agent, conductor, or passenger.

The drawing herewith filed represents a ticket having my improved descriptive list, whereon all necessary words and figures from which to select terms descriptive of each individual passenger are plainly printed in the ordinary and well-known characters.

The passenger's contract with the carrier is shown at A, a space adapted for his signature, if desired, at B, and the descriptive list at C. The lines and columns of words and figures are arranged, as here shown, parallel to the margin of the ticket, a portion thereof on each side, so as to be accessible to an ordinary conductor's punch.

The manner of selecting and indicating the terms will be readily understood. Assuming, for example, that the purchaser is forty-five years of age, weighs one hundred and ninety pounds, is five feet nine inches in height, is of stout form, with black hair, gray eyes, side whiskers, and mustache, the agent would, in the line of figures representing "age," punch out the figures 4 and 5; in the line representing "height," the figures 5 in the division "feet" and 9 in the division "inches;" in the line representing "weight," 1 and 9 and 0, and would punch out the marks over "stout," "black," "side," and "mustache" in their appropriate lines.

Other words may be added to the descriptive list, indicating race, sex, or any other term or terms of description which it may at any time be considered advisable to employ.

The descriptive list may be arranged around the margin of the ticket, or on its reverse side; but such arrangement would not be so convenient and practicable as that shown in the drawing.

My improved descriptive list will be of great

value for stop-over checks issued by conductors on the trains.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new—

A railroad ticket, pass, or check having a descriptive list with all the necessary words and figures for all classes of persons printed in full, said words and figures being so arranged with reference to the edges of the

ticket and spaced with reference to each other and the other matter on the ticket that the terms necessary for any individual description can be punched out or indicated by holes or marks, substantially as described.

ALBERT C. SHELDON.

Witnesses:

M. CHURCH,

WM. BLACKSTOCK.