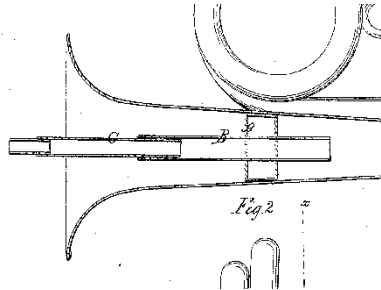


Harmon Mutes

Chicago

1865 John Stratton of NYC is granted patent #51,363 for a cornet practice mute consisting of a plug with an adjustable stem in the center (below)



1878 Patrick (Paddy) Thomas Harmon is born in Illinois (draft)

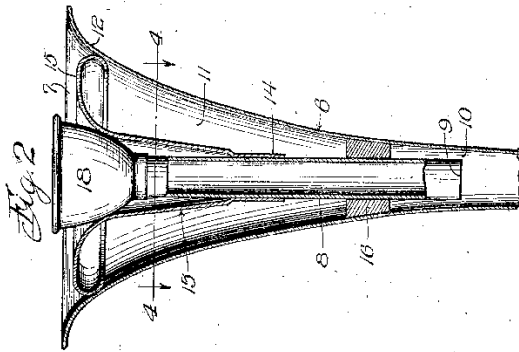
1910 roller rink manager (census)

1918 P. T. Harmon, b. 5-26-1877, self-employed in amusement business at #1701 St. Van Buren, Chicago (draft)

1918 George Schluesselburg, mechanical engineer, self-employed at #712 Masonic Temple, Chicago, citizen of Hamburg, Germany (draft; no other records found)

1920 P. T. Harmon, dance promoter (census)

1923 ad shows Harmon as the owner of the Arcadia Ballroom, #4444 N. Broadway, a popular place for black jazz bands to play; it is said that Harmon heard King Oliver at his club and got the idea to patent the mute design that he was using; the patent was filed on February 21st by George Schluesselburg (the builder) with half assigned to Harmon (the financier); no mention is made of the original Stratton patent; original Swingmaster mute at right



1926 Patent #1,578,763 granted to Schluesselburg & Harmon

1929 Harmon opens the Chicago Stadium, #1800 W. Madison

1930 Harmon, sports promoter, #3500 Sheridan Rd (census)



1930 Harmon dies in a car accident on July 22

1939 ad below

"Wow-Wow"
THE ORIGINAL HARMON
SWINGMASTER
CORNET, TRUMPET MUTE
Now Only \$5.75



● Copper with sliding brass tube and removable cup, "sweet as a nut" for recording, broadcasting, harmonizes with gold instrument bell; will not finger mark; a definite sensation. Continental approved. Endorsed by leaders.



Below is a Conn mute from an 1882 cornet which follows the same principle and is said to have a Harmon-like sound. Could this be what Harmon was copying?



I also read that Oliver used an old Conn cornet mute in combination with his hand or a plunger to make the sound. These "Pixie" mutes date back to the late 1800s (below).

