

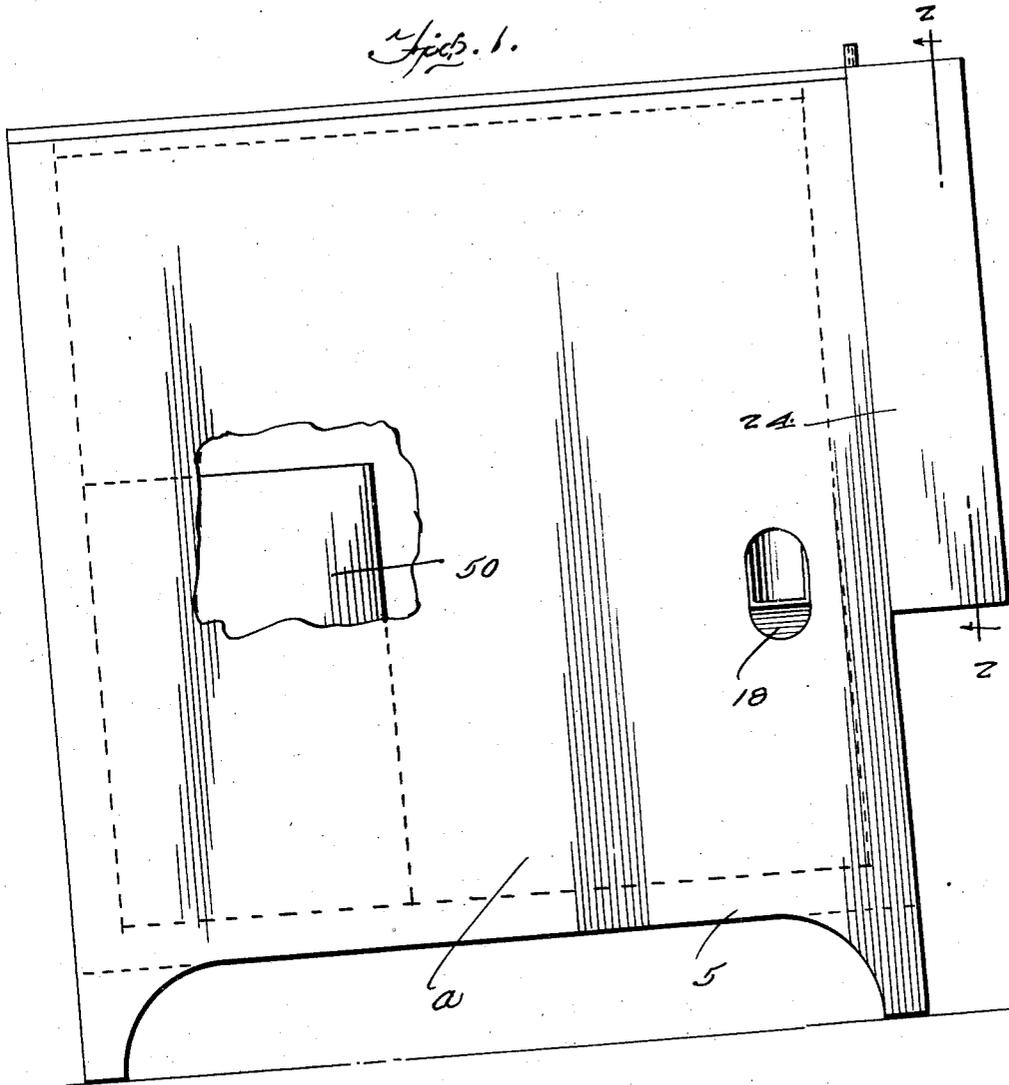
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J. M. REYNOLDS  
DISPENSING APPARATUS  
Filed June 19, 1943

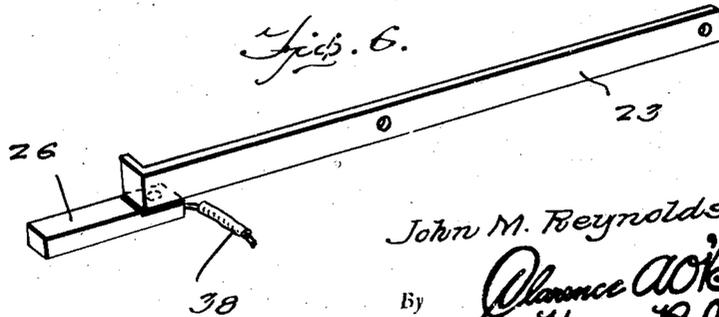
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*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 6.*



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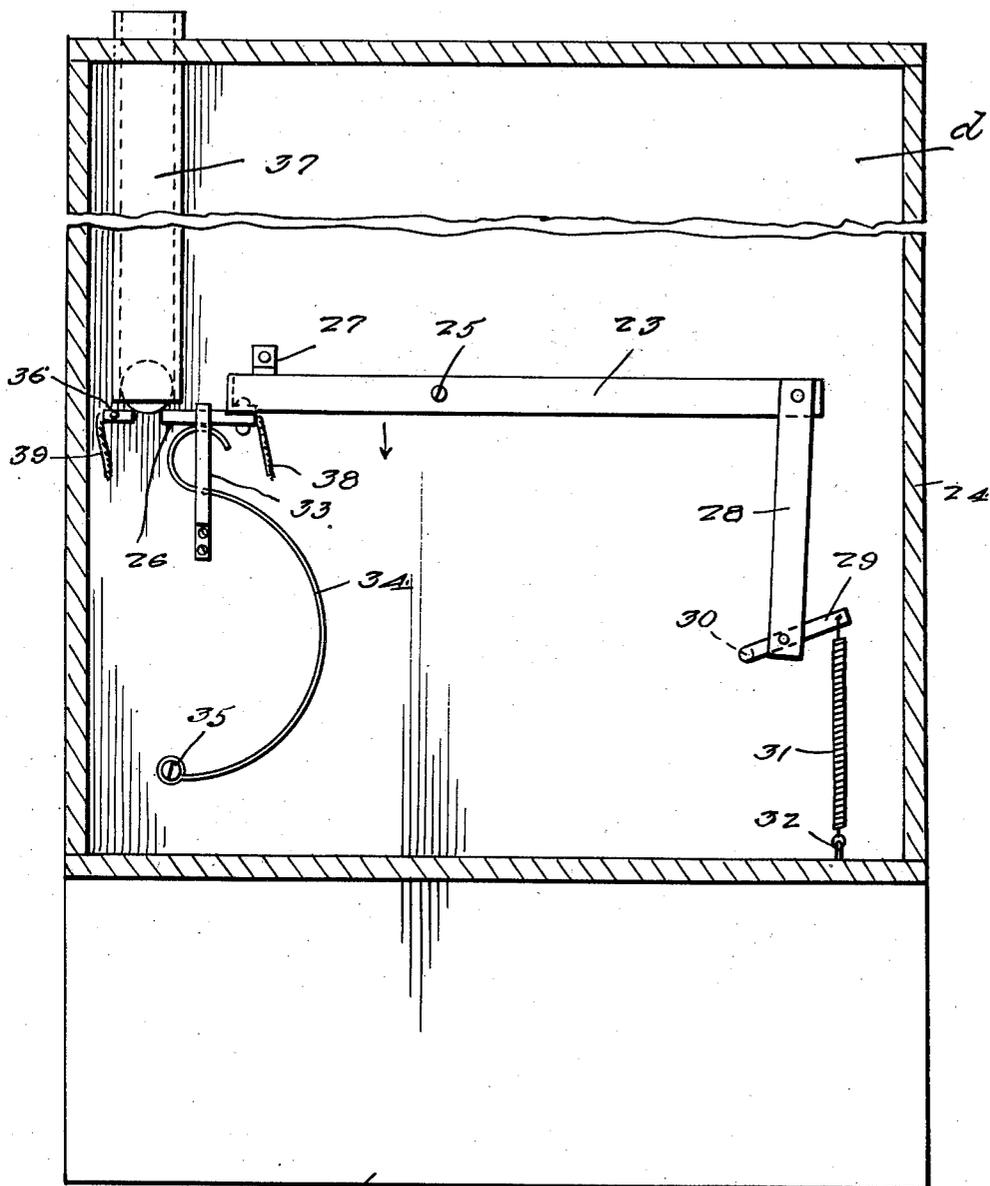
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Fig. 2.

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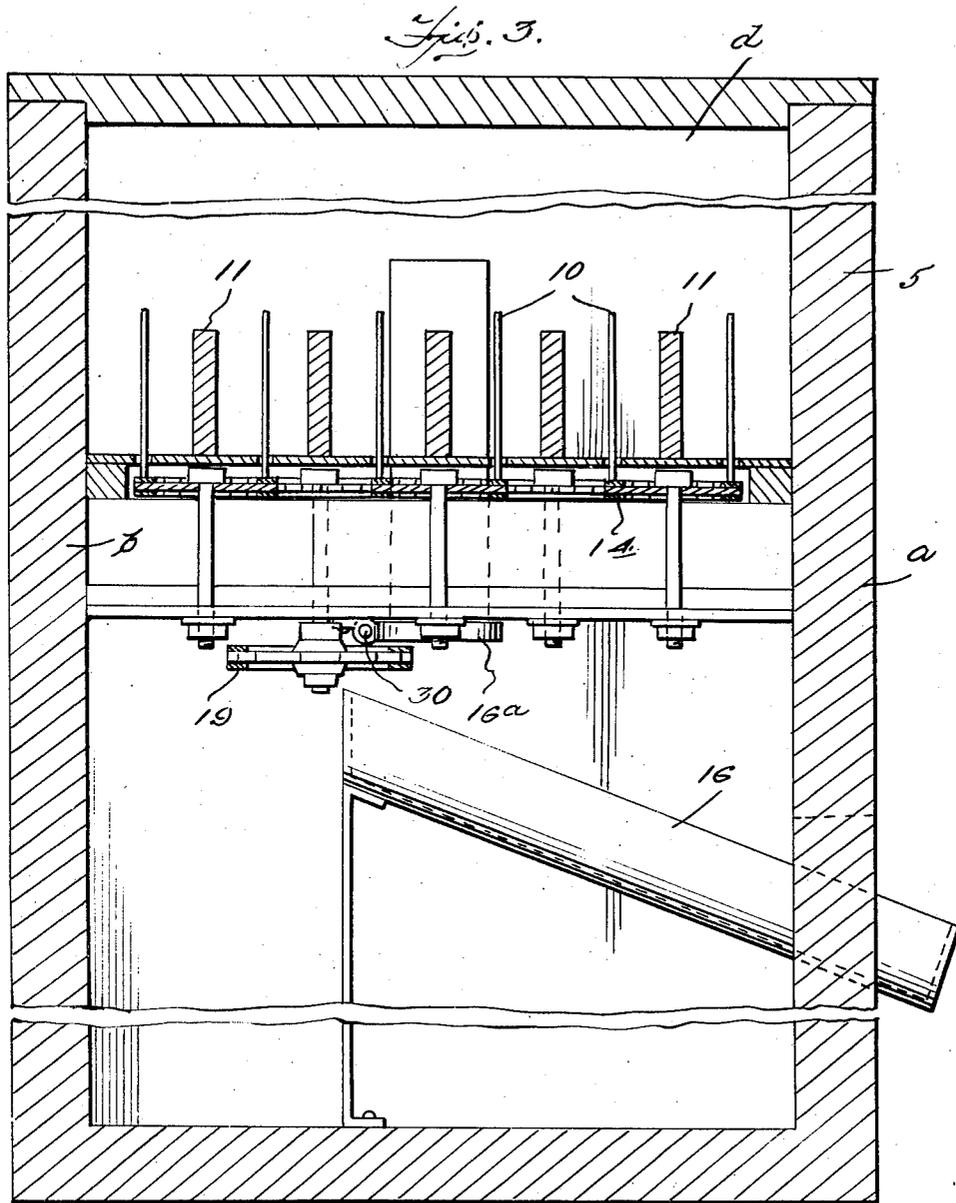
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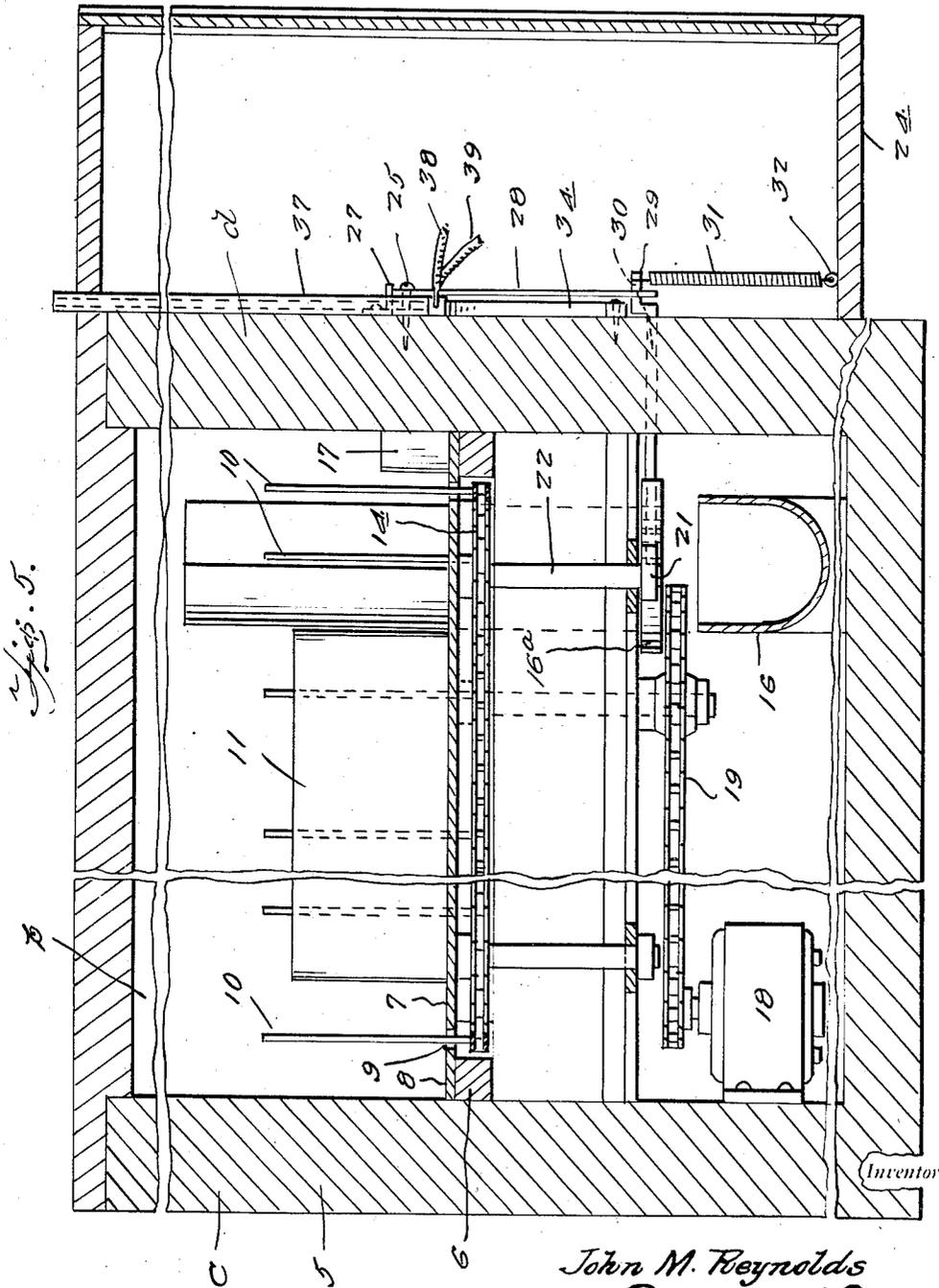
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,374,896

## DISPENSING APPARATUS

John M. Reynolds, Paragould, Ark.

Application June 19, 1943, Serial No. 491,543

2 Claims. (Cl. 194—7)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in dispensing machines and more particularly to a machine for dispensing receptacles such as containers of beverage and the like.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a simplified mechanism whereby containers of beverage can be positively dispensed to the purchaser upon deposit of the proper denomination coin or check.

Another important object of the invention is to provide a dispensing mechanism of the character stated which is substantially automatic in operation.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent to the reader of the following description.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 represents a front elevational view of the dispenser.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view transversely through the mechanism.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the mechanism with the top removed.

Figure 5 is a vertical sectional view through the mechanism.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the coin release arm and contact carrier.

Referring to the drawings wherein like numerals designate like parts, it can be seen that numeral 5 denotes a cabinet having a front wall *a*, back wall *b* and side walls *c* and *d*. A frame 6 is located midway between the top and bottom of the cabinet and above this is a platform 7 which is slightly spaced from a shelf 8 to define a slotway 9 in which upstanding container pushing pins 10 can move. Walls 11 are provided on the platform 7, as shown in Figure 4, to define guideways for the containers 12.

Under the platform 7 and underlying each end of each of the walls 11 is a sprocket wheel 13 and over these sprocket wheels is trained an endless chain 14 upwardly from which the pins 10 project. As is apparent in Figure 4, the chain takes on the tortuous appearance of the slotway 9 and also passes under a return slot 15. This slot 15 passes the upper end of a chute 16 and adjacent this chute is a deflector 17. In other words, when a can is moved along the guideway by the pins 10 and against the deflector 17, the can is deflected into the chute 16 and comes down the same and through a trap door 16*a* to a stop 18 where it is available to the purchaser.

As can be seen in Figure 5, an electric motor

18 is employed for driving the chain 14. The motor 18 drives a sprocket chain 19, which, in turn drives a gear 20 and this, in turn, drives a pinion 21 on a shaft 22 with one of the sprocket wheels 13.

For controlling the motor 18, a rockable arm 23 is provided in a side compartment 24. This rocker 23 is fulcrumed as at 25 and carries a contact 26 at one end thereof. This end of the rocker 23 being operative against a stop 27 and having its opposite end connected by a link 28 with a lateral arm 29 on a shaft 30 which extends inwardly and carries the aforementioned trap door 16*a*. A coiled tension spring 31 has one end connected to the arm 29 and the other end anchored as at 32.

A guide 33 on the wall *d* acts to guide an elongated strip spring 34 which is secured as at 35 to the wall *d*.

A second contact 36 is provided and this is secured fixedly to the wall *d* in spaced opposed relation to the contact 26 carried by the rocker 23.

The space between the contacts 26, 36 underlies the lower end of a coin chute 37. From the contacts 26, 36 conductors 38 and 39 extend to the motor 38 any suitable source of current (not shown).

It can now be seen, that when a coin has been inserted in the chute 37 and the same drops, it bridges the contacts 26, 36 and results in the energization of the motor 18. As the motor drives the apparatus, moving a container 12 to the chute 16, the container drops down the chute and rocks the trap door and shaft 30, with the result that the end 20 of the shaft lifts the link 28 and actuates the rocker 23. This lowers the contact 26 and allows the coin to fall therefrom.

Thus the circuit to the motor is broken resulting in the stopping of the mechanism, as the rocker 23 regains its position as shown in Figure 2, due to the action of spring 31.

A suitable refrigerant unit 50 is provided in the cabinet, or this may be an ice chest.

While the foregoing specification sets forth the invention in specific terms, it is to be understood that numerous changes in the shape, size and materials may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed hereinafter.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A dispensing apparatus comprising an endless chain, container engageable pins on the chain, a platform having a slot therein through which the pins project and in which the pins

move to push containers on the platform, a chute adjacent the slot and depending from the platform, a deflector adjacent the chute for deflecting containers into the chute, operating means for the chain, a coin closable switch including a rockable member operative to hold and release a coin, respectively, a trap door in the chute operative to open under the weight of a container thereon, a shaft operated by opening of the trap door and adapted to operate the rockable member to release a coin when the weight of a container opens said trap door.

2. A dispensing apparatus comprising an endless chain, container engageable pins on the chain, a platform having a slot therein through

which the pins project and in which the pins move to push containers on the platform, a chute adjacent the slot and depending from the platform, a deflector adjacent the chute for deflecting containers into the chute, operating means for the chain, a coin closable switch including a rockable member, a trap door in the chute operative to open under the weight of a container thereon, a shaft operated by the trap door and adapted to operate the rockable member in one direction when the weight of a container opens said trap door, and spring means opposing operation of the rockable member in said one direction.

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