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N. ACHS

2,655,419

REFRIGERATOR APPARATUS

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FIG. 1

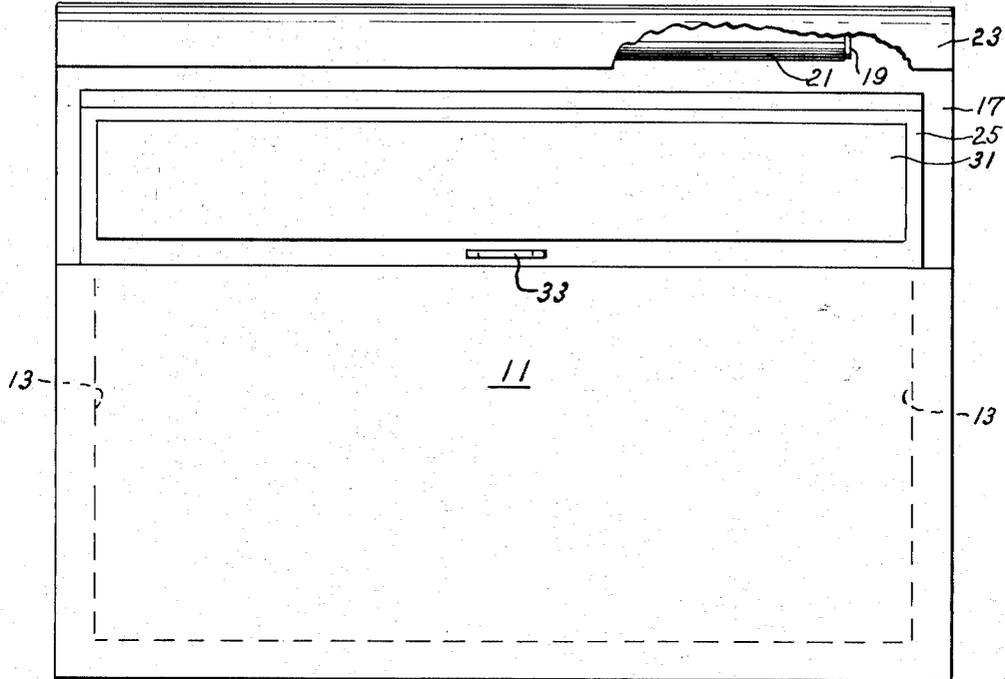


FIG. 2

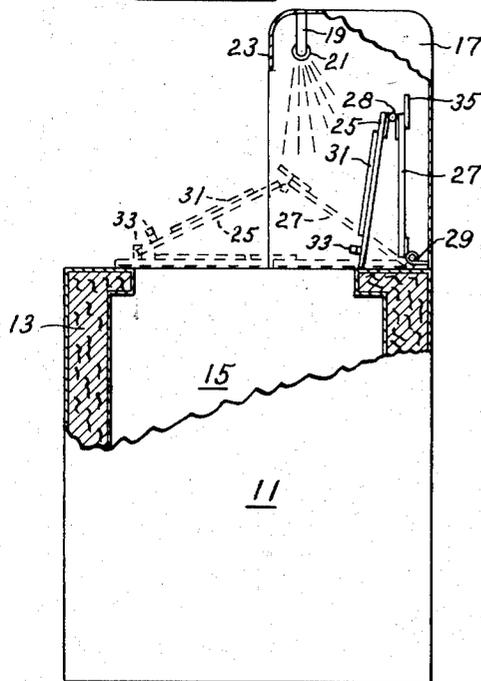
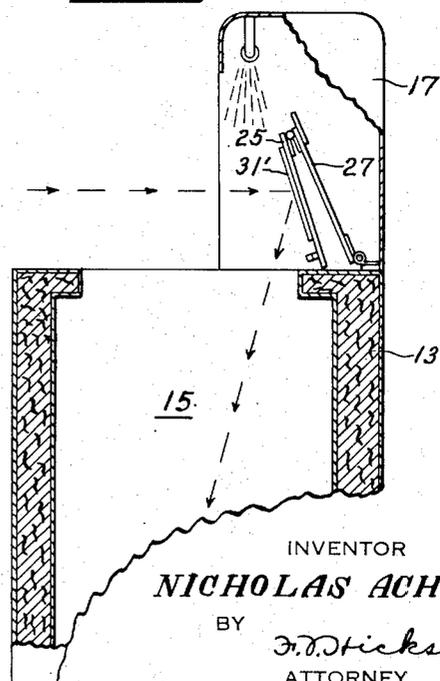


FIG. 3



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REFRIGERATOR APPARATUS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 312-227)

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The invention pertains to open top refrigerators and more particularly to a convenient door opening and viewing arrangement for top opening refrigerators.

It is an object of the invention to provide a top opening refrigerator with a door which is convenient to open and close, and which in the open position holds viewing means up in a conspicuous and easily observed position.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a top opening refrigerator with such a view presenting door in a well illuminated arrangement.

It is a further object of my invention to provide such a door opening and view presenting arrangement in which the viewing means is on an outer surface of the door so as to be exposed to room air, rather than to the cold air in the refrigerator, when the door is closed.

Another object of the invention is to provide a top opening refrigerator with such a door opening and viewing arrangement in which the viewing element is a display card or sign.

A further object of the invention is to provide such a door opening and viewing arrangement in which the viewing element is a mirror or reflector suitably disposed for presenting a convenient view of the contents of the top opening refrigerator.

Further objects and advantages are within the scope of my invention, such as relate to the arrangement, operation and function of the related elements of the structure, to various details of construction and to combinations of parts, elements per-se, and to economies of manufacture and numerous other features as will be apparent from a consideration of the specification in conjunction with the drawings disclosing specific embodiments of the invention, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view showing a top opening refrigerator provided with a door opening and viewing arrangement in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an end elevational view thereof, partially broken away; and

Fig. 3 is a similar view showing another embodiment of the invention.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 1 and 2 it will be seen that my invention is illustratively disclosed as installed on a conventional top opening refrigerator 11 having thermal insulating walls 13 enclosing a storage compartment 15, open at the top.

Rising from and above the rear portion of the refrigerator cabinet 11 is an overhead or hood structure 17 provided with suitable conventional

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sockets 19 for supporting an electric light source 21, which may be a conventional fluorescent tube type of electric lamp. The hood comprises a front shield 23 to aid in reflecting the light downwardly and which protects the eyes of the operator from directly looking into the light.

In accordance with my invention, the door provided for the top opening refrigerator comprises a front door or closure panel 25 and a rear door or closure panel 27. These door panels are of a length greater than the length of the top opening to the storage compartment and the widths of these door panels is such that the combined width is greater than the width of the top opening of the storage compartment. The front edge of the rear panel is pivotally secured to the rear edge of the front panel by hinges 28. The rear edge of the rear door panel 27 is secured on the top of the refrigerator cabinet, by hinge means 29, at a position sufficiently spaced back of the rear side of the top opening of the storage compartment so that both door panels can be folded back from the top opening to stand upon the cabinet, as shown. The width of the front door panel 25 may be made slightly greater than the width of the rear door panel 27, so that when folded back the two door panels will stand substantially like the legs of an inverted V, as shown, for effectively exhibiting a viewing element 31, which is mounted or secured on the outer surface of the front door panel. Not only is the viewing means 31 thus held up in a conspicuous position for observation, but in this position it is also more effectively illuminated by the light from the light source 21. A handle 33 is provided on the outer side of the front edge of the front door panel, for convenience in drawing the door down to flat closed position as represented by dotted lines in Fig. 2. Also, the handle 33 facilitates starting to open the door to the partially open position, as represented by dotted lines in Fig. 2, after which it is merely pushed back to stand in folded position on the rear ledge, as shown in full lines. A strip 35 is secured along the edge of one door panel to close the joint between the two door panels.

Or the viewing element 31 may be a mirror or reflector 31', for showing a conveniently reflected view of the interior of the storage compartment and the contents thereof, as shown in Fig. 3. For this purpose the width of the front door panel 25 is made slightly less than the width of the rear door panel 27 so that when folded back the panels will stand in a position to lean, the front

panel inclining forward and downwardly to hold the mirror 31' at a suitable angular position for observation, as shown in Fig. 3, where the dotted lines and arrows represent the line of vision. To close the refrigerator, the handle 33 on the edge of the front door panel is merely pulled forward and the two door panels are closed down flat as in the first embodiment, previously described. The "widths" of the door panels previously discussed has reference to the dimensions which lie in coextensive relation from front to back, when the cabinet is closed thereby.

It is apparent that within the scope of my invention modifications and different arrangements may be made other than herein disclosed, and the present disclosure is illustrative merely, the invention comprehending variations thereof.

What is claimed as the invention is:

1. In a door opening and viewing arrangement for a top opening refrigerator the combination of, thermal insulating wall means enclosing a cabinet having a storage compartment with a top opening, a front door panel, a rear door panel, the length of each of said door panels being greater than the length of the top opening of the cabinet from side-to-side, the combined co-extensible widths of the two door panels being greater than the width of the top opening from front-to-back for covering said top opening when closed down in a coextending relation thereon, hinge means pivotally securing the rear edge of the rear door panel on the top of said cabinet at a position spaced rearwardly from the rear edge of the top opening suitably to provide space for receiving both door panels folded back from said top opening, hinge means pivotally joining the front edge of the rear door panel to the rear edge of the front door panel so that by laying the two joined door panels coextensively upon the top of the cabinet the top opening can be closed and it can be opened by turning the pivotally joined edges of the panels up, the dimensions of said panels having relative widths which facilitate folding the two panels back upon the top of the cabinet in an up-standing relation to the rear of the opening for convenient access into the storage compartment, and viewed means on the outer surface of the front door panel for exposure to room air when the door is closed down upon the cabinet and exposed frontwardly for convenient observation when the door is opened up and folded back in an up-standing position upon the cabinet.

2. A door opening and viewing arrangement for a top opening refrigerator in accordance with claim 1 and further characterized by said viewed means being a display to be held up for conspicuous exhibition when the cabinet is opened, and the width of the front door panel being sufficiently great compared to the width of the

rear door panel so that when opened the front door panel is exposed to the front and slightly inclined upwardly with the two panels standing in an inverted V relation.

3. In a door opening and viewing arrangement for a top opening refrigerator the combination of, thermal insulating wall means enclosing a cabinet having an open top storage compartment, a front door panel, a rear door panel, the length of each door panel being greater than the length of the top opening and the combined co-extensible widths of the door panels being greater than the width of said top opening from front to back for covering said top opening when closed down in a coextending relation thereon, hinge means pivotally securing the rear edge of the rear door panel on the top of said cabinet at a position spaced rearwardly from the rear edge of the top opening suitably for providing sufficient space to receive both door panels in up-standing relation thereon and folded back from the top opening, hinge means pivotally joining the front edge of the rear door panel along the rear edge of the front door panel so that the door can be opened by turning the pivotally joined edges of the panels up and folding the two panels back in an up-standing relation upon the top of the cabinet to the rear of the top opening for convenient access into the storage compartment, reflecting means on the outer surface of the front door panel to be disposed to the room air when the door is closed and to be exposed for convenient and clear observation when the door is opened and folded back on the cabinet, and the widths of the two door panels from front to back being selected with the front door panel sufficiently narrower than the rear door panel so that when the door is folded back in an upstanding position on the cabinet the front door panel is exposed to the front and tilted to the front and down suitably to provide a convenient reflected view of the contents of the storage compartment in said reflecting means.

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