July 15, 1958 W. H. WHEELER 2,842,777

COMBINATION ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

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Fig. 1.

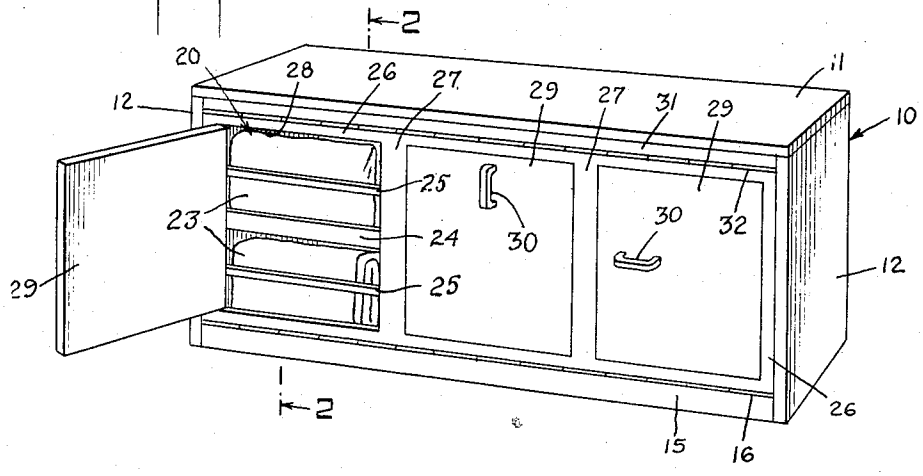


Fig. 2.

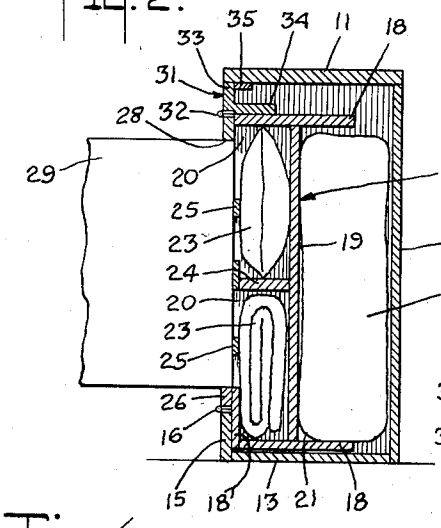


Fig. 3.

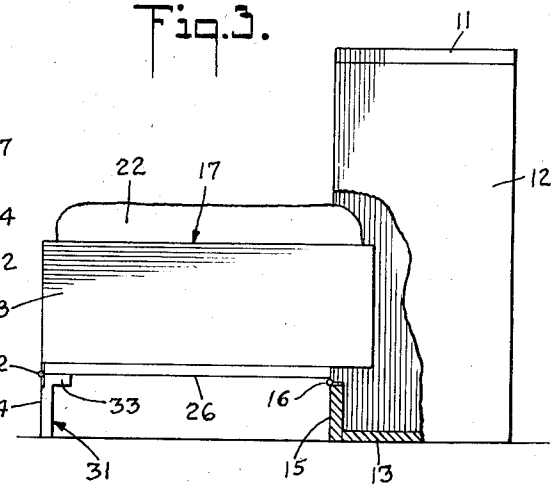
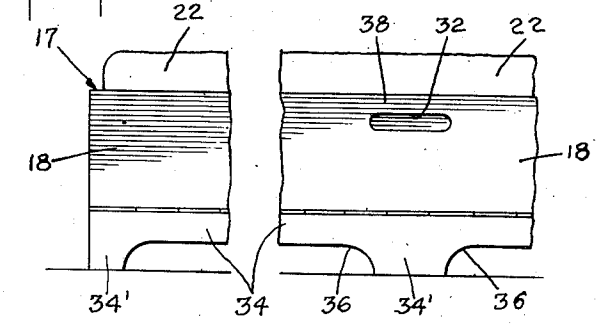


Fig. 4.



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COMBINATION ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 5—159)

This invention relates to a combination article of furniture embodying a fold-away bed unit. More particularly, the invention relates to a combination article of furniture of the class described having an elongated shelf or mantel portion and a movable front section forming storage compartments when in the vertical position, and providing a bed unit when in the horizontal position.

In the furnishing of modern homes, and particularly rooms which are to function as dual purpose rooms, for example as living or recreational rooms in the daytime and providing sleeping facilities at night, various types of convertible units have been available such as chairs, sofas, and the like which convert into beds to provide sleeping facilities. In general, however, convertible furniture of the type heretofore available has been rather awkward in use, both because of the need for rearranging at least part of the room in making the conversion and because the bed must generally be made up each time the furniture is converted for sleeping purposes.

There have of course in apartments and other confined quarters been various types of disappearing beds of what might be referred to as a built-in nature wherein a closet or alcove is provided in a room for storage of a bed during the daytime. This type of installation has the disadvantage of being in a fixed or definite location and requiring that the remainder of the room be planned and arranged to conform with the space required by the disappearing bed.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved type of furniture embodying in combination a wall cabinet including a relatively low shelf or mantel surface and a disappearing bed pivotally mounted in said cabinet. Another object of the invention is to provide a combination article of furniture of the class described in the form of a unit or assemblage which can readily be moved from place to place within a room, or from one room to another, and which lends itself to the creating of attractive room arrangements.

A further object of the invention is to provide a combination article of furniture which can be quickly and easily converted to a bed and in which the bed in the stored position can be completely made up and ready for use, and which may include supplementary storage compartments.

These and other objects of the invention will be more readily apparent from a consideration of the following description, together with the accompanying drawing illustrating one adaptation of my invention in which the various parts are identified by suitable reference characters in each of the views, and in which:

Fig. 1 is an isometric view from the front of the combination article of furniture showing the same in the normal daytime position, with one storage compartment thereof being open for illustrative purposes;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view substantially on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an end view of the unit as shown in Fig. 1

with part of the structure broken away and indicating the parts thereof oriented for night-time use as a bed; and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view of part of the unit as viewed in the direction of the arrows 4—4 in Fig. 3.

As shown in the drawing, my combination furniture unit comprises a cabinet 10 having a top wall or mantel surface 11, end walls 12, a bottom wall 13, a rear wall 14, and a front wall portion 15 at the lower portion only of the unit. The wall parts 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 are so fashioned and secured together as to provide a rigid boxlike unit which can be lifted and moved about in much the same manner as a bookcase, chest of drawers or the like. Arranged within the cabinet unit 10 and pivotally secured to the front wall portion 15 by suitable hinges 16 is a movable storage unit 17, comprising a peripheral frame 18 and partitioning means 19 centrally of said frame dividing the unit 17 into outer storage compartments 20 and an inner compartment 21 adapted to receive a conventional mattress 22. The mattress 22 preferably protrudes beyond the frame 18 (above the frame 18 as shown in Fig. 3) so as to minimize contact with the frame 18 by one reclining on the mattress.

The storage compartments 20 can be fashioned to store and support articles of different types and kinds and merely for purpose of illustration I have shown the compartments 20 as adapted for the storage of bedding, pillows, and the like as indicated at 23. For this purpose the compartments 20 are separated by means of a shelf 24 and transverse supports 25 may be employed to aid in the arrangement of articles in the compartments 20.

The outer side of the frame 18, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2, is provided with peripheral front wall parts 26 and a plurality of posts or wall parts 27 providing at the front of the unit a plurality of openings 28 adapted to be closed by swinging doors 29 in providing a neatly paneled front to the cabinet unit. The lower front wall part 26 is secured to a stiffening member 18' as seen in Fig. 2 which extends throughout the length of the frame 18.

The doors 29 are provided with suitable handles 30, which are preferably of the combination handle and latch type, to retain the doors in the closed position, particularly when the unit 17 is lowered as seen in Fig. 3. The handle 30 on a central door 29 is preferably arranged at the top of the door as shown in Fig. 1 to facilitate initial tilting movement or the unit 17.

While the foregoing description has referred to compartments 20 and swinging doors 29 for controlling access thereto at the front of the unit 17, it is to be understood that it is also within the scope of my invention to provide on the frame 18 a continuous front panel of a decorative nature and without any door openings therein. In this modification, the space within the frame 18 could then be utilized to house a deeper mattress or even a combination of a spring and mattress within the larger space provided by eliminating the partition 19 and compartments 20. This modified form of construction would be particularly advantageous in providing more comfortable sleeping facilities if the unit is to be used regularly as a bed.

A significant feature of my device, which provides means for properly supporting the tiltable unit 17 in both the vertical and horizontal positions thereof, is the combination leg and stop member 31 which is pivotally secured to the outer edge of the frame 18 by suitable hinges 32. The leg or stop member 31 is of L-shaped contour in cross section, as seen in Figs. 2 and 3, and extends throughout the length of the frame 18 as seen in Fig. 1. The leg and stop member 31 swings from a position as shown in Fig. 3 wherein the short rail 33 is in bearing engagement with the frame part 26 and the long rail 34 protrudes outwardly from the frame 18 to form a leg, to the position as shown in Fig. 2 in which the long rail 34

is in bearing engagement with the frame **18** and the narrow rail **33** protrudes upwardly from the frame **18** for bearing engagement with a stop member **35** secured to the underside of the shelf or mantel **11**. The engagement between the swinging leg and stop member **31** and the fixed stop **35** provides positive orientation of the swinging unit **17** when in the vertical tilted position as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

It will be apparent that the width of the wide rail **34** of the leg member **31** and the width of the front frame part **15** are so proportioned as to provide level support of the bed unit when in the horizontal position shown in Fig. 3. If desired the rail **34** may be provided with cut-out portions **36** as seen in Fig. 4 of the drawing forming spaced legs **34'** for contact with the floor. The cut-out portions **36** form space for the foot to extend under the unit, thus facilitating the making up of the bed. Legs **34'** can be positioned at the ends of the rail **34** or at the ends and center as indicated in the drawing.

The outer side of the frame **18** preferably includes an elongated cut-out portion **37** centrally thereof forming a hand grip **38** for grasping the unit **17** in raising it from the horizontal position to the vertical position. In this connection it will be noted that the elevation of the hinge **16** and the extension of the unit **17** inwardly of the cabinet **10**, beyond the hinge **16** provides a partial counterbalancing of the unit **17** so that relatively little effort is required in tilting the unit **17** from one position to the other.

The hinges **16** and **32** have for purposes of illustration been shown as the elongated "piano hinge" type. It is to be understood, however, that various types of hinges can be employed, and suitable hinges of the concealed type which are invisible from the front of the unit. The doors **29** can also be mounted by various types of hinges including those of the invisible type.

It is significant to note that my combination article of furniture is particularly suited for housing a mattress of twin size or day bed size to thus provide a shelf or mantel surface **11** which is elevated 45 inches or less from the floor. It will be evident that a broad shelf or mantel at this relatively low height fits well into the present day trends of home furnishing and interior decorating. Furthermore it will be apparent that the structural features of the unit permit wide variation in the external design and styling which can be employed in adapting the unit to different interior decorating schemes.

Various changes and modifications in the combination furniture device herein disclosed will occur to those skilled in the art and to the extent that such changes and modifications are embraced by the appended claims it is to be understood that they constitute part of my invention.

I claim:

1. A convertible bed and cabinet device comprising a cabinet part having a bottom member, end and rear walls, a narrow front wall portion transversing said cabinet part adjacent said bottom member, and an elongated and relatively low top shelf portion, the front of said cabinet comprising a panel section extending between and flush with said end walls and pivoted along one lower edge thereof to said narrow front wall portion for swinging movement from a vertical position to a horizontal position, movable means providing a vertical support for the free edge of said panel section when the same is in a horizontal position, a frame secured to said panel section forming a mattress compartment spaced inwardly from said panel section, said frame extending beyond the pivoted edge of said panel section when said panel section is in horizontal position and substantially to said bottom member when said panel section is in vertical position, and said mattress compartment being open at the side thereof opposed to said panel section exposing a mattress as a sleeping surface when in the horizontal position.

2. A convertible bed and cabinet device as defined in claim 1, wherein the movable means providing vertical support for the free edge of said panel section is an elongated member of L-shaped cross-sectional form extending the full length of said panel section, and pivotally secured thereto for swinging movement through an arc of 180°, one longer portion of said L-shaped member comprising leg means, and the other shorter position of said L-shaped member acting in one pivoted position thereof as a leg bracing means, and in the other position thereof as a closure and aligning means between the upper edge of said panel section and said top shelf portion.

3. A convertible bed and cabinet device as defined in claim 1, wherein the frame on said panel section includes partitioning means forming storage compartments between said mattress compartment and panel section, and said panel section having a plurality of doors providing access to said storage compartments.

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