March 27, 1956 E. L. FISHER ET AL 2,739,857

FIXTURE FOR USE IN THE PARKING SPACE OF DRIVE-IN RESTURANTS

Filed Jan. 2, 1953 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

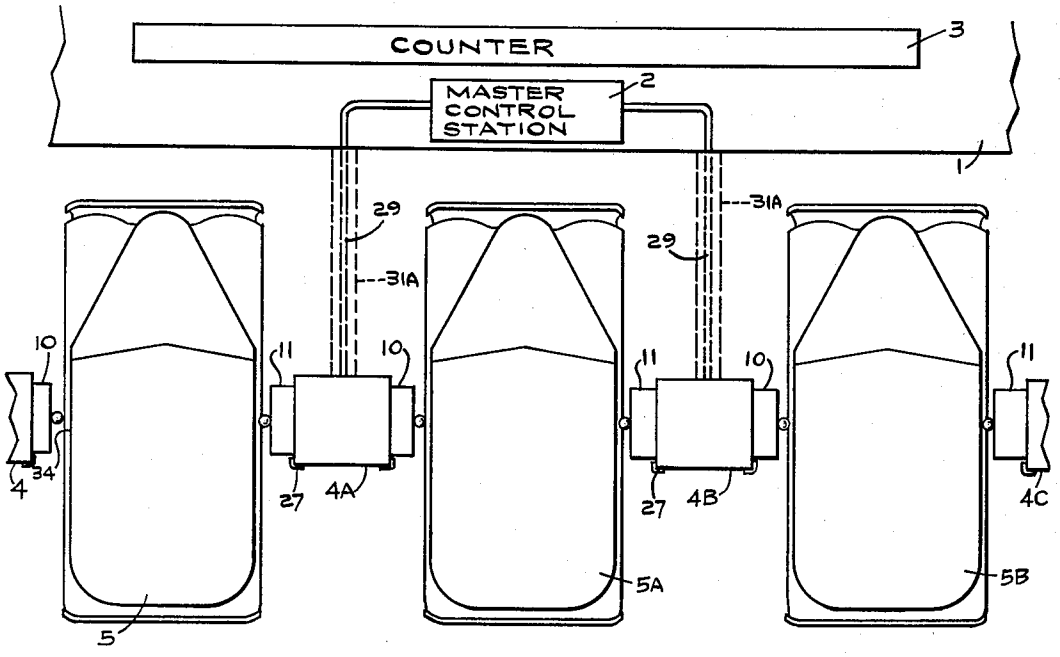


FIG. 1

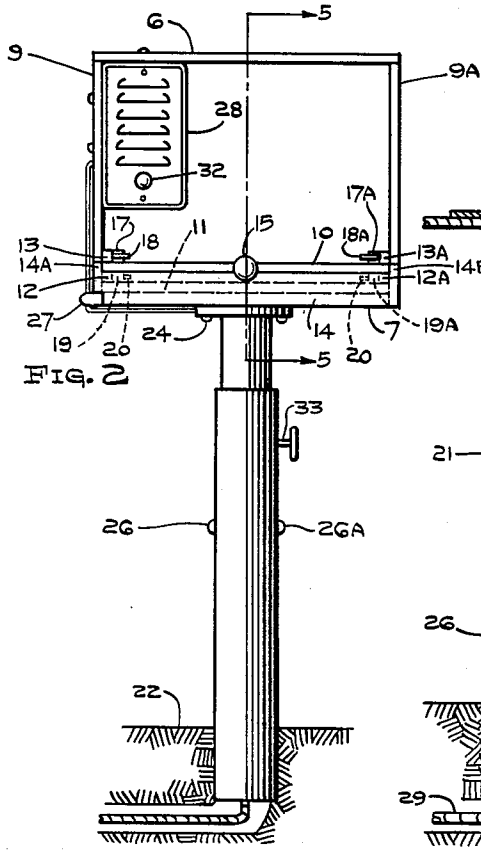


FIG. 2

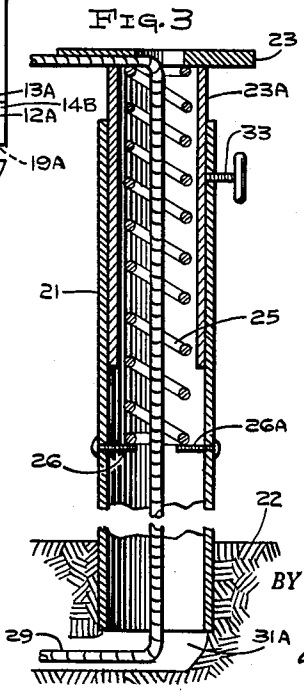


FIG. 3

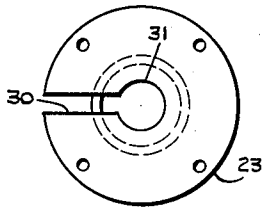


FIG. 4

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FIXTURE FOR USE IN THE PARKING SPACE OF DRIVE-IN RESTURANTS

Filed Jan. 2, 1953 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

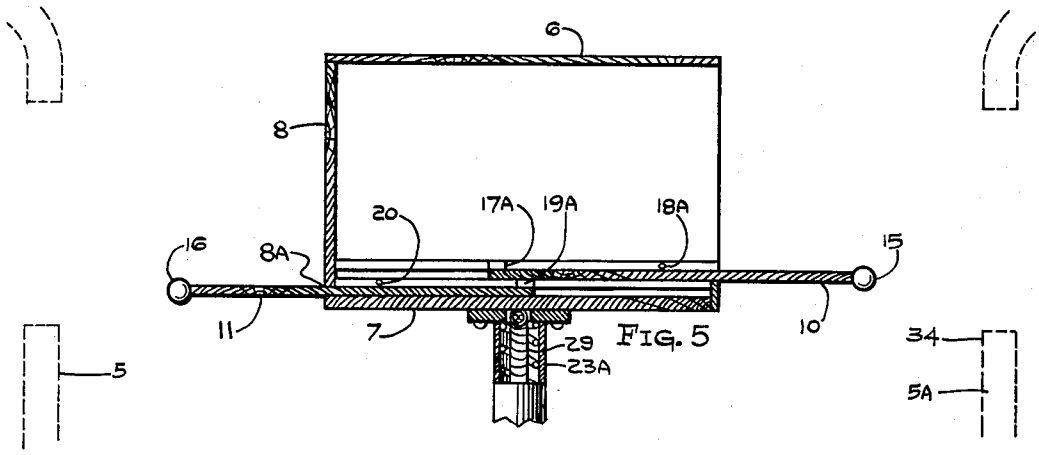


FIG. 5

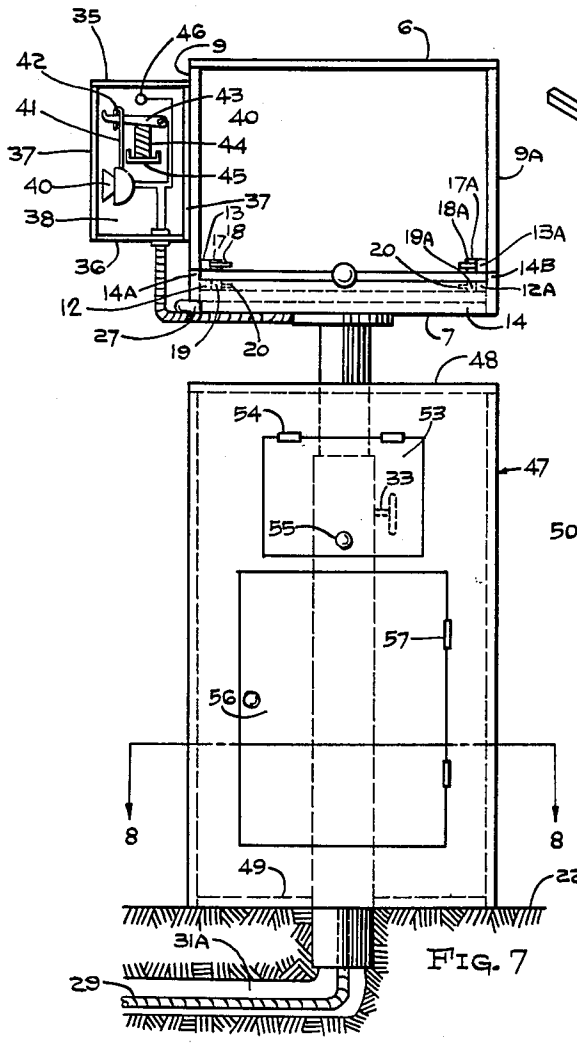


FIG. 7

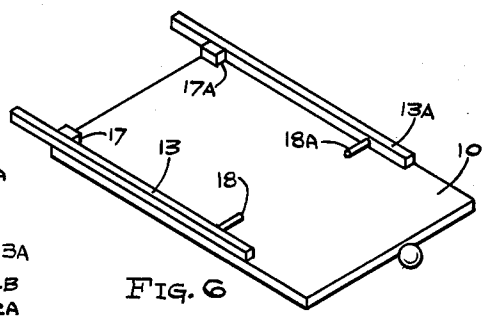


FIG. 6

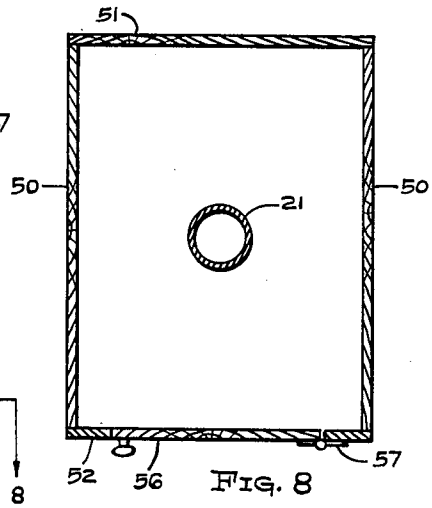


FIG. 8

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FIXTURE FOR USE IN THE PARKING SPACE OF DRIVE-IN RESTURANTS

Filed Jan. 2, 1953 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

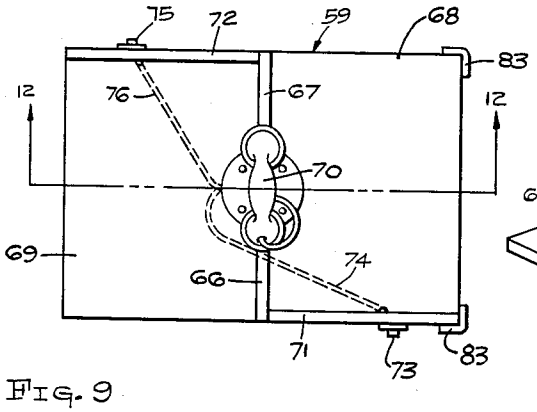


FIG. 9

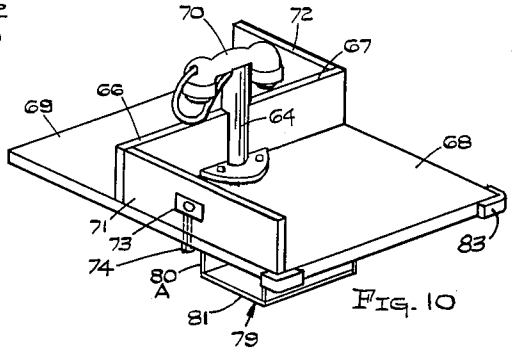


FIG. 10

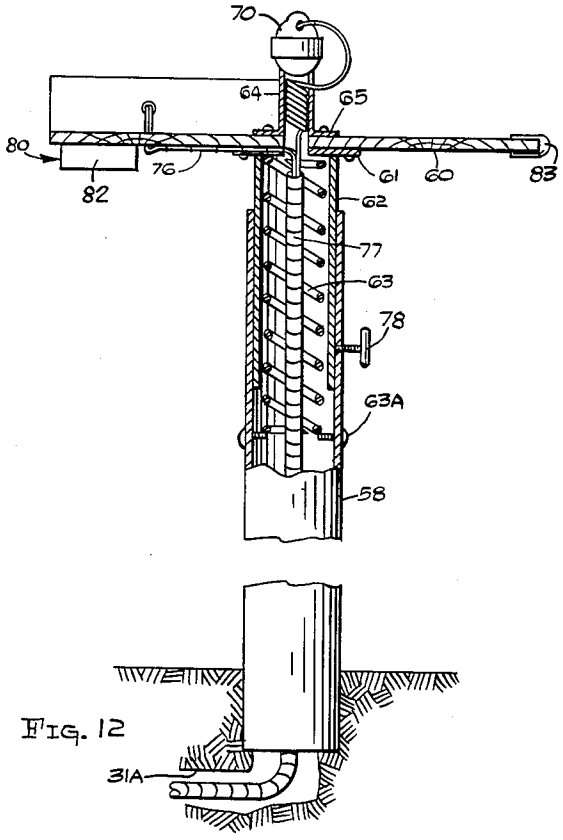


FIG. 12

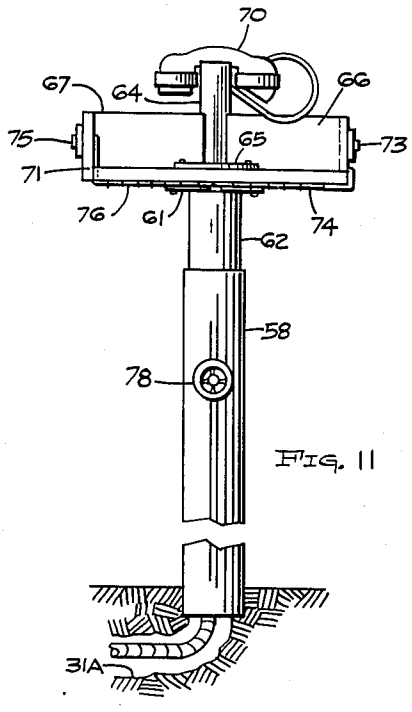


FIG. 11

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2,739,857

FIXTURE FOR USE IN THE PARKING SPACE OF DRIVE-IN RESTAURANTS

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Application January 2, 1953, Serial No. 329,396

7 Claims. (Cl. 311—2)

This invention relates to a system for drive-in restaurants and more particularly to a container or fixture for use in such systems.

At the present time, many restaurants in which parking space is available cater to patrons who desire to be served in their own cars. In such restaurants, considerable difficulty is experienced in rendering prompt service unless a comparatively large number of waitresses are employed. If an attempt is made to economize by employing a smaller number of waitresses, the patrons often experience considerable delay in being served and in waiting for their trays to be removed after their meals or lunches have been consumed. Such delays are not only annoying to patrons who are in a hurry but while they are waiting, they occupy valuable parking space which frequently may be desired by other patrons.

When cars drive into the parking space provided by such restaurants, it is the practice at the present time for the waitress to first come to the car and take the patron's order. She then gives the order to the cook or chef and after the order is prepared, she takes it to the car on a tray equipped with brackets so that it may be fastened to the door of the car when the window is open. After the patron has finished with his meal or lunch, it is then necessary for her to return to the car and remove the tray with the empty dishes. It is therefore costly to maintain prompt service in such restaurants and in this connection, it will be particularly noted that the waitress must make the same number of trips even when the patrons order only light lunches, such as sandwiches and coffee.

In an attempt to overcome such difficulties, elaborate systems have heretofore been suggested to automatically deliver trays containing food and beverages to patrons seated in their own cars. Such systems, however, are costly to provide and maintain, and have only been adopted in isolated cases where parking space is unlimited and high prices may be charged for refreshments.

It is the aim of the present invention to provide an improved system for use in drive-in restaurants in which the parking space available may be utilized to good advantage, the patrons' orders may be taken by an order clerk in the restaurant and delivered by a comparatively small number of waitresses, and the patrons may leave promptly after they have finished their lunches or meals, thereby eliminating annoyance incident to delay and relieving congestion in the parking space. An improved service container is also provided for use in such systems that may be constructed in a simple and economical manner and which is provided with a pair of supports or slides on which trays brought by the waitress may be deposited and upon at least one of which supports or slides trays containing dishes may be deposited by the patrons after they have finished their lunches or meals.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an improved system for drive-in restaurants by means of which the patrons may give their orders promptly without the necessity of a waitress being present and

which eliminates delay after the patrons have finished their lunches or meals.

Another object of our invention is to provide an improved fixture for use in drive-in systems including a standard supported by and extending upwardly from the ground and a container supported by said standard for providing a plurality of trays, one of which extends from or is movable in one direction from a plane passing through the axis of the standard and the central portion of the container and the other of which extends from or is movable in the other direction from a plane passing through the axis of the standard and the central portion of the container.

A further object of our invention is to provide an improved service container for use in drive-in restaurants in which means are provided for giving the patron's order promptly to the restaurant and in which two slides are provided, one for the use of a patron in one car and the other for use of a patron in an adjacent car and in which each slide is arranged at such height that it may be utilized by a patron when the window adjacent his side of the car is open.

Another object of our invention is to provide an improved service container provided with upper and lower slides, one of which is slidable in one direction and the other of which is slidable in the opposite direction and in which the upper slide may be utilized as a depository for the trays and dishes after the refreshments have been consumed.

A still further object of our invention is to provide in combination with a service container for use in drive-in restaurants, a refuse container for receiving paper dishes, paper napkins, fragments of food, or other waste material.

Our invention will be better understood by reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a drive-in system, showing a plurality of service containers arranged in proximity to a drive-in restaurant;

Fig. 2 is an end elevational view of one of the service containers;

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view on an enlarged scale showing the standard or support for the service container;

Fig. 4 is a detail view of the flange for the support or standard of the service container;

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the upper slide of the service container;

Fig. 7 is an end elevational view of a modified form of a service container showing a refuse container associated therewith;

Fig. 8 is a cross sectional view on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a plan view of another modification of our improved container;

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the container shown in Fig. 9;

Fig. 11 is an end elevational view of the container shown in Figs. 9 and 10, showing the support or standard; and

Fig. 12 is an enlarged cross sectional view on the line 12—12 of Fig. 9, showing parts in section.

As illustrated in the drawings, Fig. 1 discloses diagrammatically a portion of a drive-in restaurant 1 provided with a master control system 2 and a counter 3, it being understood that the kitchen, not shown, extends rearwardly from the counter.

Outside of the restaurant are a plurality of service containers 4, 4A, 4B, 4C, etc., which are arranged in such manner that a car 5, 5A, or 5B, may drive in between two

containers. The service containers are preferably rectangular in shape and may be formed of any desirable material, such as metal, plastic, or wood. As shown, each service container is formed of wood and consists of a top wall 6, a bottom wall 7, a rear end wall 8 provided with an elongated opening 8A, and side walls 9 and 9A arranged to provide a front open end portion, and slidably mounted in the container are a pair of slides 10 and 11 which are supported for inward and outward movement in any desirable manner. As shown in the drawings, slide 11 is spaced from slide 10 by means of a pair of cleats 12 and 13 secured to side wall 9 and a pair of cleats 12A and 13A arranged in opposed relation to cleats 12 and 13, respectively, and secured to side wall 9A. The cleats may be secured to the side walls by any convenient means, such as nails or an adhesive. Slide 10 has its side margins extending between cleats 12 and 12A and cleats 13 and 13A and is provided with a knob 15 by means of which it may be pulled outwardly through the front opening of the service container toward the window-opening of the door of one car and slide 11 which has its opposite end margins arranged between cleats 12 and 12A and the bottom of the container is provided with a knob 16 for pulling it in the opposite direction through the elongated opening 8A in the rear end wall so that it will extend adjacent the window-opening of the door of another car. It will be noted that the front portion of the service container is provided with a strip 14 which is secured to the bottom and side walls. Strip 14 extends upwardly from the bottom wall and is provided with side extensions 14A and 14B which abut end walls 9 and 9A, respectively. Strip 14 not only conceals the lower slide and cleats 12 and 12A but forms an additional support and guiding means for slide 10.

Any suitable means may be provided to limit the inward and outward movement of slides 10 and 11. As illustrated in Figs. 2, 5, and 6, a block 17 is secured to the lower rear portion of slide 10 adjacent cleat 13 and a similar block 17A is secured to slide 10 adjacent cleat 13A and as slide 10 is pulled outwardly block 17 engages a pin 18 extending inwardly from cleat 13 and block 17A engages a pin 18A extending inwardly from cleat 13A. In a like manner, slide 11 is provided with blocks 19 and 19A secured at the rear portion thereof adjacent cleats 12 and 12A, respectively, each of which engages a pin 20, one of which pins extends inwardly from cleat 12 and the other of which extends inwardly from cleat 12A. The inward movement of slide 10 is limited by knob 15 and the inward movement of slide 11 is limited by knob 16, although if the slides are long enough, the inward movement of slide 10 will be limited by the rear wall 8 and the inward movement of slide 11 will be limited by the front strip 14.

The service container is rotatably supported in any desired manner. As illustrated in the drawings a standard 21 in the form of a hollow post is provided which is embedded in the ground 22 and a flange or plate 23 provided with a downwardly extending tube 23A, is secured to the bottom wall of the service container by suitable means, such as screws 24, and tube 25A is rotatably mounted in the hollow post or standard 21.

When the container is not in use, means are provided to resiliently support the container at a position above standard 21. For this purpose, a spring 25 is arranged within tube 23A, the upper portion of which abuts flange 23 and the lower portion of which abuts a pair of screws 26 and 26A threaded through openings in the standard 21. As thus supported, it will be apparent that the service container is rotatably in the standard and consequently if a car driving between two of the containers should strike one of the containers, the container struck by the car will freely rotate on its axis and will not be damaged. To prevent marring of the container, the corners of the bottom portion of the container which faces the driveway are provided with rubber bumpers 27.

Arranged within the container above slide 10 and adjacent to end wall 9 which faces the driveway is a communicating instrument 28, such as a microphone or a telephone, which is electrically connected in any desired manner to a master control station 2 or a switch board arranged in the restaurant, it being understood that such master control system or switch board in the restaurant has suitable contacts by means of which it may be connected to each service station. The instrument 28 may be supported adjacent to a side wall of the container in any suitable manner, such as by means of a bracket, or if a microphone is utilized, as shown, it may be fastened interiorly of the container adjacent a side wall by suitable means, such as screws. The instrument 28 is located above the slide 10 and is preferably arranged adjacent to the side wall 9 facing the driveway so as to be readily accessible to the driver of the car as he drives between two service containers. It is also desirable that the instrument shall be arranged adjacent one side wall of the container as shown to provide space within the container for trays and dishes which the driver deposits upon the slide 10 before he departs.

While the communicating instrument 28 may be electrically connected to the master control system or switch-board 2 in the restaurant in any desirable manner, to provide a neat compact arrangement, a cable 29 containing the insulated conductors extends below the side wall 9 and a portion of the bottom wall 7 of the service container 4 and through a slot 30 in flange 23 to a central opening 31 in flange 23 and from thence through tube 23A, the standard 21 and a hollow passageway 31A which extends to the front of the building in which the restaurant is located and the cable is connected at its opposite end to the master control station or switch board 2 within the restaurant. The master control station or switch board arranged within the restaurant may be of any desirable commercial form.

With the service container constructed and arranged in the manner described and with slides 10 and 11 mounted within the service container, it is apparent that a car 5 may be driven between two containers. The driver then consults the menu, a plurality of which may be deposited upon slide 10, and gives another menu to his companion. He then presses button 32 which illuminates a signal at the master control system and the order clerk then connects an instrument at the master control system with the instrument 32 in the container. The patron now gives his order to the order clerk who may be one of the waitresses who is not busy at that particular time.

The patron or the waitress may then adjust the container to the desired level. This may be effected by lowering or raising the container to the desired level and setting it in its adjusted position by suitable means, such as a threaded bolt 33 which extends through standard 21 and frictionally engages tube 23A. The spring 25 enables the service container to be easily raised. The driver then lowers the window on his side of car 5 and pulls slide 10 of container 4 adjacent the door 34 and his companion pulls slide 11 of the adjacent container in proximity to the opening on her side of the car when the window is open. The waitress brings the check with the lunches or meals and collects the money. After the patrons have finished with their lunches or meals, the driver places both trays with the dishes thereon on the slide 10 and pushes the slide into the container. His companion pushes slide 11 back into container 4A and the car may then be driven away without further attention of the waitress. Screw 30 may then be threaded outwardly by the waitress and the spring 25 raises or the weight of the container lowers the container to its original position in which it may be rotated without damage, or if desired, screw 32 may be left in frictional contact with tube 23A and if a car accidently hits the container, it will rotate the container against the frictional resistance of the inner portion of screw 33 with

the tube 23A. The trays and dishes in the service container may be collected by the waitress at her leisure or when delivering the next order.

Another modification of our invention is shown in Figs. 7 and 8 in which the instrument, such as a microphone provided with both transmitting and receiving apparatus, is arranged in an auxiliary compartment or in an auxiliary container secured to one of the end walls of the service container, preferably to the side wall 9 facing the driveway. As illustrated in Fig. 7, the auxiliary container which consists of top, bottom, side, and rear walls 35, 36, 37, and 38, respectively, may be secured to side wall 9 of the service container in any suitable manner, such as by nails or an adhesive, and an instrument 40 which may be a telephone, or a microphone as shown, is supported by means of a wire 41 provided with a hook 42 which extends over the outer portion of an arm 43 which is urged upwardly by means of a spring 44 having its lower end supported by a bracket 45. The weight of the microphone is sufficient to maintain arm 43 in its lower inoperative position but when the driver removes the microphone, arm 43 is moved upwardly by spring 44, making electrical circuit between the microphone adjacent the service container and the master control station in the restaurant.

Because the service container shown in the drawings must be maintained in an elevated position, it is particularly adapted to be utilized in combination with a refuse container indicated generally by the numeral 47 in Fig. 7 of the drawings. While the refuse container may be formed of metal, plastic, or wood, and may be of any desired shape, as illustrated, it is formed of wood and consists of top, bottom, side, rear, and front walls 48, 49, 50, 51 and 52, respectively. It will of course be understood that the top wall of the refuse container must be maintained at a sufficient distance below the service container to enable the service container to be adjusted to the desired height.

The refuse container 47 is provided with a front door 53 arranged adjacent its upper portion, or it may be provided with both front and rear doors at its upper portion, which enables refuse, such as paper napkins, paper dishes, fragments of food, or the like, to be deposited in the container. The door 53 is hinged as indicated by the numeral 54 to the upper portion of the front wall and as it is pushed inwardly, it strikes the standard 21. After the refuse has been deposited, the door 53 will swing to its closed position. The door 53 is provided with a knob 55 which permits the door 53 to be opened outwardly so that the waitress may extend her hand through the door and adjust the service container to the desired height in the manner previously described. A larger door 56 which is hinged at 57 to the refuse container is arranged below door 53 to provide access for removing refuse from container 45 at desired intervals.

The remainder of the service container 4 shown in Figs. 7 and 8 is similar to that shown in Figs. 2 to 6 and consequently the same reference numerals have been applied and in this connection, it may be stated that if desired, the refuse container shown in Figs. 7 and 8 may be applied to the service container shown in Figs. 2 to 6.

Another modification of our invention is shown in Figs. 9 to 12 in which a standard 58 in the form of a tubular post, such as steel, provides a support for a container 59. While the container 59 may be supported upon standard 58 in any desired manner, as illustrated, it is provided with a bottom wall 60 to which is secured the flange or plate 61 of a downwardly extending tubular member 62 which is slidable in the tubular standard 58. The flange 61 extends inwardly from tubular member 62 and provides an abutment for the upper portion of a spring 63, the lower portion of the spring being supported by screws 63A extending inwardly below the spring.

According to our invention, the container 59 is provided with a centrally arranged hollow post 64, the inner chamber of which communicates through an opening in the bottom wall of the container with the central chamber interiorly of standard 58, or if desired, the tubular post 64 may constitute a continuation of the tubular standard 59. As shown, the post 64 has an outwardly extending annular flange 65 which is secured by suitable means, such as screws, to the upper face of bottom wall 60, and abutting post 64 are partition walls 66 and 67 which divide the container into two compartments 68 and 69 which form supports for the trays delivered by the waitress to the service container. On the central post 64 is arranged an instrument, such as a microphone provided with a transmitter and receiver, or the central post may support a telephone 70, as shown, the cord for which may be inserted in the hollow post, and conductors for which are provided which extend through the hollow post 64 and standard 58.

To prevent the trays from being pushed from the support 68, a wall or side board 71 is provided, one end of which terminates flush or substantially flush with the outer edge of support 68 and the other end of which abuts the central partition 66. The support 69 is also provided with a wall or side board 72 which is arranged on the edge of the bottom wall which is opposite to the edge on which side board 71 is supported. One end of side board 72 is secured to the central portion 67 and the other end extends to the outer edge of support 69.

The side board 71 is provided with a switch 73 of the ordinary push button type which when pushed inwardly establishes a circuit between conductors 74 and a buzzer system arranged at the central station which may also be of the usual type. Conductors 74 extend through an aperture in support 68 and below bottom wall 61 and through a slot 30 in flange 61 which flange is similar to that shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings. In a like manner, the side board 72 is provided with a switch 75 of the ordinary push button type which when pushed inwardly establishes a circuit between conductors 76 which are inserted through an aperture in support 69 adjacent the side board 72 and beneath bottom wall 60 of the container 59 and through the slot of flange 61. The conductors from the telephone extending through tube 64 and the conductors from the two switches 73 and 75 may be combined in the form of a cable 77 which extends through tube 62 and post 38 and through a conduit 31A leading to the master control station in the restaurant as illustrated more particularly in Fig. 1. The telephone 70 may be connected to the switch board in the central station and the conductors 74 and 76 may be connected to an ordinary buzzer system at the service station which if desired may illuminate a bulb in a manner well known in the art.

The container 59 may be set in the desired position so that it will be at the proper height by moving the container 59 downwardly against the force of spring 63 and setting it in position, a screw 78 which extends through standard 58 and frictionally engages the inner tube 62 being provided for this purpose. If it is desired to set the container at a higher level, the spring 63 assists in moving the container upwardly to the desired height at which position it may be set by screw 78.

Because the tray supports disclosed in Figs. 9 to 12 are exposed to the weather, compartments 79 and 80 for holding menus may be provided. These compartments are formed by means of side walls 80A, a bottom wall 81, and an inner end wall 82, the sides and inner wall being secured to the bottom wall of the container and the bottom wall being secured to the side walls by suitable means, such as nails. As shown, compartment 79 is arranged below switch 73 and compartment 80 is arranged below switch 75.

Containers 59 of the type shown in Figs. 9 to 12 may be arranged in the parking station at a sufficient dis-

tance apart to permit a car to drive between two containers or they may be arranged at a sufficient distance apart to enable two cars to drive between two containers. Assuming that a car drives on the side of the container from which side board **71** extends, the patron consults the menu, and removes the instrument from the post which may be a telephone **70** as shown, or a microphone provided with transmitting and receiving apparatus. He then pushes the button of switch **73** which rings a bell or sounds a buzzer at a central station within the restaurant. The order clerk then answers the telephone, gives the order to the cook or chef, and when the order is ready, she takes the order to the patron, deposits it on support **69**, collects the money, and when the patron departs, he pushes his tray with the empty dishes on support **69**, the side board **72** preventing the tray from sliding off the opposite end of the support. The same procedure is followed when a patron drives along the opposite side of the container. In that event, be lifts the telephone or microphone from post **64**, pushes the button controlling switch **75** and gives his order to the clerk in the restaurant. In this instance, the waitress deposits the tray upon support **68**, collects the money for the order, and when the patron has finished with his meal or lunch, he pushes the tray with the empty dishes on to support **68**, the movement of the tray in this instance being stopped by the side board **71**.

It will of course be understood that the fixture disclosed in Figs. 9 to 12, if desired, may be provided with a refuse container as disclosed in Figs. 5 to 8 and the container **59** may be provided with rubber bumpers **83** as shown, it being apparent that the container may be revolved even when the set screw is in frictional engagement with the tube **62**.

What is claimed is:

1. A fixture for use in the parking space of drive-in restaurants, said fixture including a tray support, a tubular standard for maintaining said tray support at a predetermined distance above the ground and said tray support comprising a substantially rectangularly-shaped bottom wall having its opposite side and end portions extending outwardly beyond all portions of said standard, a wall mounted on the bottom wall of the tray support and extending upwardly therefrom for supporting a communicating instrument provided with electrical conductors, and means for mounting said tray support on said standard comprising a plate secured to substantially the central bottom portion of said tray support, said plate being provided with a tubular member extending downwardly therefrom into the tubular standard for rotation therein when a car strikes the tray support and with a central opening in alignment with the openings in said standard and tubular member and with a slot extending from the outer periphery of the plate to the central opening therein to provide a passageway for conductors extending from the communicating instrument to the openings in said tubular member and said standard to conduit means in the ground.

2. A fixture for use in the parking space of a drive-in restaurant, said fixture including a tray support, a tubular standard for maintaining said tray support at a predetermined distance above the ground, said standard having a lower end portion for insertion in the ground and said tray support comprising a substantially flat rectangularly-shaped bottom wall having its opposite side and end portions extending outwardly beyond all portions of said standard, a first wall mounted on one side margin of the bottom wall of said tray support and extending upwardly therefrom which first side wall has one end terminating midway between the ends of the support and its other end terminating at one end of the bottom wall of the tray support for supporting a communicating instrument provided with electrical conductors and for preventing trays slid on to the bottom wall of the tray support from the opposite side of said fixture from sliding off the bottom wall of the tray support, and a second wall mounted on the opposite side margin of the bottom wall of said tray support having one end terminating substantially midway between the ends of the tray support and its other extending to the opposite end of the bottom wall of the tray support for supporting a second communicating instrument provided with electrical conductors and for preventing trays slid on to the bottom wall of the tray support from the opposite side of the fixture from sliding off the opposite side of the bottom wall of the tray support, a plate secured to substantially the central portion of the bottom wall of said tray support, said plate being provided with a tubular member extending within the tubular standard and being rotatable therein when a car strikes the tray support, and said plate being provided with a central opening in alignment with the openings in said standard and said tubular member and with a slot extending from the outer periphery of the plate to the central opening therein to provide a passageway for the conductors extending from said instruments to the opening in the tubular member and the standard to conduit means in the ground.

3. A fixture for use in the parking space of a drive-in restaurant, said fixture including a tray support, a tubular standard for maintaining said tray support at a predetermined distance above the ground, said standard having a lower end portion for insertion in the ground and said tray support comprising a substantially flat rectangularly-shaped bottom wall provided with a central opening and having its opposite side and end portions extending outwardly beyond all portions of said standard, a first wall mounted on one side margin of said bottom wall and extending upwardly therefrom which side wall has one end terminating midway between the ends of the bottom wall and its other end terminating at one end of said bottom wall for supporting a communicating instrument provided with electrical conductors and for preventing trays slid on to said bottom wall from the opposite side of said fixture from sliding off the other side of said bottom wall, a second wall mounted on the opposite side margin of said bottom wall having one end terminating substantially midway between the ends of said bottom wall and its other end extending to the opposite end of said bottom wall for supporting a second communicating instrument provided with conductors and for preventing trays slid on to said bottom wall from the opposite side of said fixture from sliding off the opposite side of said bottom wall, a tubular post surrounding the central opening in said bottom wall and extending upwardly from the bottom wall for supporting a third communicating instrument, and said plate being provided with a slot extending from its outer periphery to the central opening therein to provide a passageway for conductors extending from the first and second communicating instruments to the openings in said tubular member and said standard.

4. A fixture for use in the parking space of drive-in restaurants, said fixture comprising a tray support, a tubular standard for maintaining said tray support at a predetermined distance from the ground, said standard having a lower end portion for insertion in the ground and said tray support comprising a rectangularly-shaped bottom wall having its opposite side and end portions extending outwardly beyond all portions of said standard, means mounted upon and extending upwardly from the tray support for supporting a communicating instrument provided with electrical conductors, and means for mounting the central portion of said bottom wall upon said standard including a plate having a downwardly extending annular portion secured to said standard and said plate having a central opening in alignment with the opening in said standard for providing a passageway for conductors from the communicating instrument through the tubular standard to conduit means in the ground.

5. A fixture for use in the parking space of drive-in

restaurants, said fixture comprising a tray support, a tubular standard for maintaining said tray support at a predetermined distance above the ground, said standard having a lower end portion for insertion in the ground and said tray support including a substantially rectangularly-shaped bottom wall having its opposite side and end portions extending outwardly beyond said standard, and said tray support being provided with a wall mounted on one side margin of said bottom wall, one end of which terminates substantially midway between the ends of the tray support for supporting a communicating instrument provided with electrical conductors and for preventing trays slid on to the tray support from the side of the fixture opposite said side wall from sliding off the opposite side of said bottom wall and said tray support being provided with a second wall mounted on the opposite side margin of said bottom wall which extends from the other end of said bottom wall and terminates at a position substantially midway between the ends of the tray support for supporting a second communicating instrument provided with electrical conductors and for preventing trays slid on the tray support from the side of the fixture opposite the second wall from sliding off said bottom wall, and means for mounting said tray support upon said standard including a central plate having a downwardly extending annular portion secured to the upper portion of said standard, and said plate being provided with means including a central opening in alignment with the opening in said standard for providing a passageway for the conductors from said instruments through the central opening in said plate and said tubular standard to conduit means arranged below the ground.

6. A fixture for use in drive-in restaurants including a standard having a lower end portion for insertion in the ground and a tray support, means for mounting said tray support on the upper end of said standard for maintaining said tray support at a predetermined distance from the ground and said tray support including a substantially rectangularly-shaped bottom wall having its opposite side and end portions extending outwardly beyond said standard, and the upper side of said tray support having partition means arranged substantially midway between its ends and extending from one side to the opposite side of said bottom wall to provide first and second substantially level tray supports, a first wall extending upwardly from one side margin of said bottom wall having one end adjacent one end of said partition means and its other end extending to one end of said bottom wall for preventing trays slid on to the first tray support from one side of said fixture from sliding off the opposite side of said bottom wall and a second wall extending upwardly from the opposite side margin of said bottom wall having one end portion adjacent the other end of said central partition and its opposite end extending to the other end of the bottom wall for preventing trays slid on to said second tray support from sliding off the opposite side of the bottom wall.

7. A fixture for use in drive-in restaurants including a tubular standard having a lower end portion for insertion in the ground to provide a passageway for conductors leading to conduit means arranged below the surface of the ground, and a tray support, means for mounting said tray support on the upper end portion of said standard including a plate secured to said standard, said tray support being provided with a substantially rectangular bottom wall having side and end portions extending outwardly beyond said standard, partition means extending upwardly substantially midway between the ends of said bottom wall for dividing the upper surface of the bottom wall into first and second substantially level tray supports, a first side wall extending upwardly from one side margin of said bottom wall having one end portion adjacent one end portion of said partition means and its other end extending to one end of said bottom wall for supporting a communicating instrument provided with conductors and for preventing trays slid on the first tray support from one side of said fixture from sliding off the opposite side of the first tray support and a second wall extending upwardly from the opposite side margin of said bottom wall having one end portion adjacent the opposite end of the central partition means and its opposite end extending to the other end of the bottom wall to prevent trays slid on to said second tray support from the opposite side of said fixture from sliding off the opposite side of said bottom wall, and said plate having means including an opening in alignment with the opening in the tubular standard for providing a passageway for the conductors from the instruments through said tubular standard to conduit means arranged below the surface of the ground.

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