

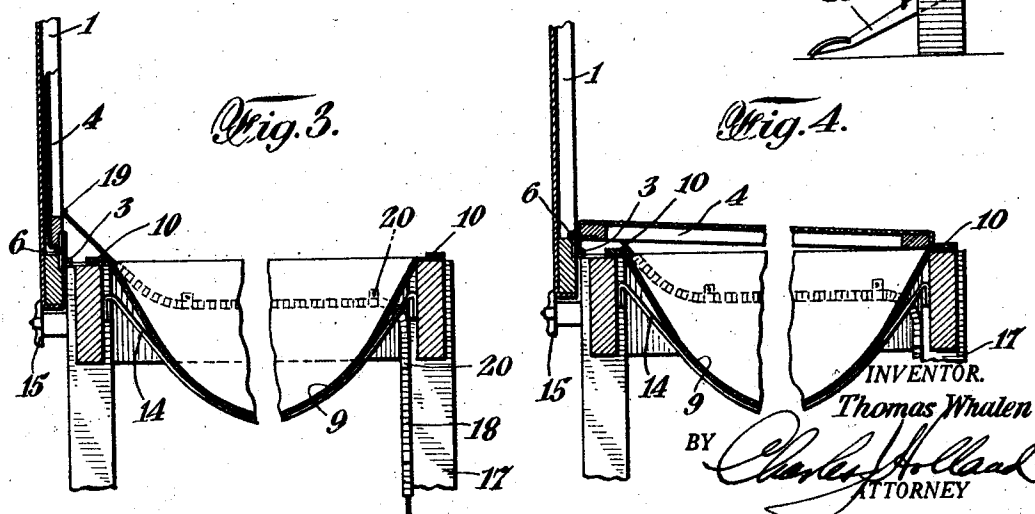
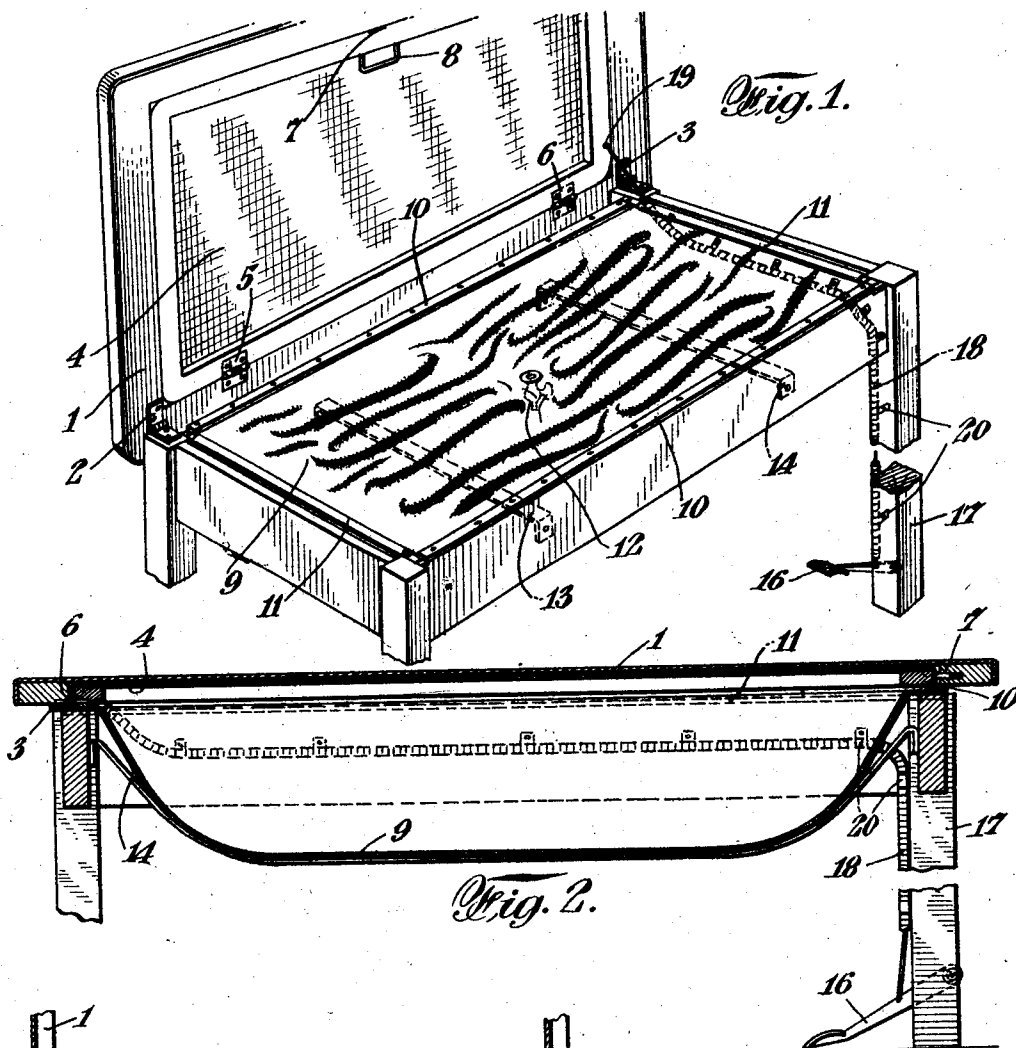
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T. WHALEN

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BATHING TABLE

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

THOMAS WHALEN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## BATHING TABLE

Application filed January 12, 1928. Serial No. 248,107.

My invention relates to an article of furniture and more particularly to a bathing table which ordinarily has the appearance of a table and may be used as such but which becomes a bathing device upon the raising of the hinged table top.

Under present day conditions and especially in apartment houses, space is limited and articles of furniture capable of more than one use are desirable. Furthermore, the bathing of infants is often difficult in that the usual bathing facilities are not always in the place having the most suitable temperature. For instance, the kitchen is more frequently at the right temperature but lacks bathing facilities, whereas with my invention, such facilities are not only made available wherever required but a convenient table is provided for use at other times.

In its preferred embodiment my invention is directed to a table or the like of usual form and having a hinged top. Suspended from the frame of the table is a bathing tub or portion composed of rubberized or other waterproof material and having a suitable drain by which the water can be removed. The hinged top, which normally covers the tub portion, has recessed therein a hinged member which, when the top is up, is adapted to swing down and rest upon the table frame for the purpose of forming a drying shelf for use after the bathing is completed. Other and further advantages will appear in the following specification and drawings.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective of the table with the top raised.

Fig. 2 is a transverse section.

Fig. 3 is a transverse section with both top and shelf raised.

Fig. 4 is similar to Fig. 3 but with the shelf lowered.

In Fig. 1 is shown a table having the usual four legs with side and end members to form a frame. Hinged along one side of this frame is a top, 1, and the hinges are at 2 and 3. Recessed into the top 1 so as to be flush with the inner surface of the top is a shelf, 4, hinged to the top by the spring hinges, 5 and 6. This shelf 4 may be retained within the

top, by any suitable means, such as the spring button, 7, and it may also have a handle, 8. The frame of the table carries within it a tub member, 9, which may be fastened to the frame by retaining strips such as 10 and 11. This tub member has at its lowest point a drain or petcock, 12, by which the tub may be drained of water. This tub member is preferably made of a rubberized material, although any other suitable waterproof material may be used. When the tub member is filled with water it will naturally extend a certain distance below the table, and in order to retract this from view when empty and not in use, I provide a plurality of elastic members such as at 13 and 14, and which are attached as indicated to the side members of the table frame. The tension of these pieces, 13 and 14, is such that they will retract the tub member to a position where it is not seen when empty but when filled the pieces 13 and 14 will stretch the required amount. It is obvious that this tub member will adjust itself to accommodate the volume and weight of its contents, expanding to its full capacity when filled and collapsing as it is emptied.

It is desirable when bathing is taking place that the cover, 1, be held upright and securely retained in that position. To that end I provide upon the rear of the table a catch, 15, (Fig. 3) which may be turned over the edge of the top and thus retain it vertical during the bathing operation. After bathing is completed and the drying operation begins, the shelf, 4, may be lowered into the position of Fig. 4, and in this position forms a drying shelf. The shelf, 4, is supported at one side by the hinges, 5 and 6, and the other side is supported by the opposite side frame of the table. As an additional safeguard against falling of the top, 1, the shelf, 4, may be made of a sufficient width as just to abut the retaining strip, 10, when the shelf is lowered, so that if the catch, 15, should inadvertently go out of contact with the top, 1, the shelf, 4, will act against the strip 10 to hold this top upright.

In the bathing of infants, both hands are usually occupied in removing them after

bathing, and, under these conditions, to facilitate the lowering of the shelf, 4, I provide a foot operated device which will release this shelf and allow it to fall gently into place. This device consists of a pedal, 16, pivoted upon one of the legs such as 17. Attached to this pedal as shown in Fig. 1, is a flexible shaft or the like, 18, which extends up the leg and across the frame to connect with the shelf as at 19. Consequently, when the table top is raised for bathing operation and it is desired to lower the shelf, 4, the pedal, 16, is depressed, the cable 18 drawn downward and the shelf 4 released from the catch 7. This allows the shelf 4 to fall and in so falling it is gently retarded by the springs of the hinges 5 and 6 and the resistance of cable 18. In order to maintain this cable in proper position I attach clamps such as 20, and while these clamps maintain the cable 18 in its relative position they allow sufficient freedom for the cable to have its necessary movement. It will be noted that the shelf, 4, is normally held within the top, 1, so that when this top is closed both the shelf and the top rest upon one of the retaining strips, 10 (Fig. 2) and they are both firmly supported in place.

While I have described the shelf 4 as having spring hinges to retard the shelf when opening, other means may equally well be employed, and in like manner I am not confined to a cable for the pedal release of the shelf but may use a conduit covered wire or any other equally suitable means. It is clear that many changes and modifications may be made in my invention without departing from the spirit thereof, and I desire to include all such changes and modifications within the scope of my claim.

I claim:

In a bathing table of the kind described the combination of a table frame, a collapsible tub member mounted in the frame and means associated therewith adapted and arranged to permit said tub member to assume its full proportions as it is filled with water and to collapse said tub member as it is emptied.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 5th day of January, 1928.

THOMAS WHALEN.