April 1, 1952 A. E. THIEL 2,591,215

SERVING TABLE WITH ROTATABLE CENTER

Filed June 16, 1950

Fig. 1

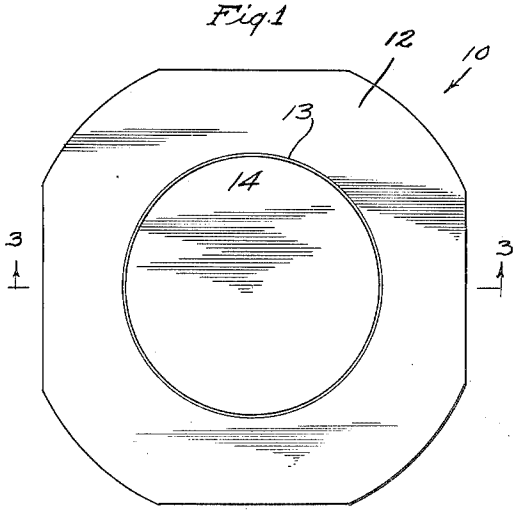
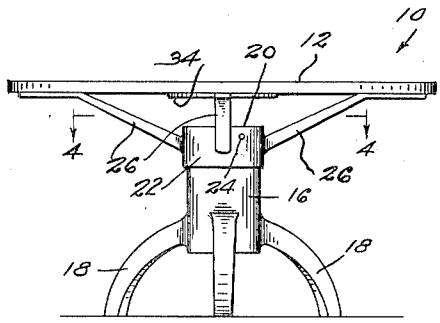


Fig. 2



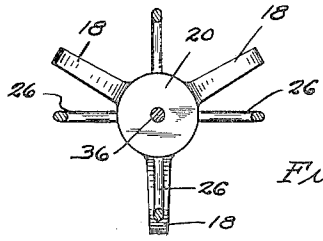
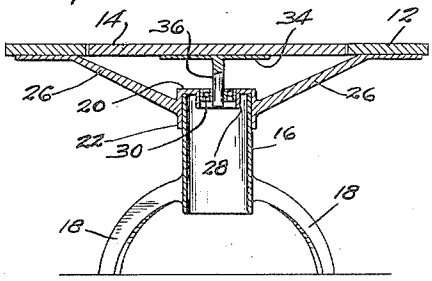


Fig. 4

Fig. 3



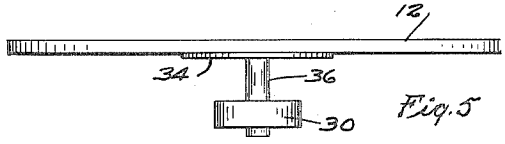


Fig. 5

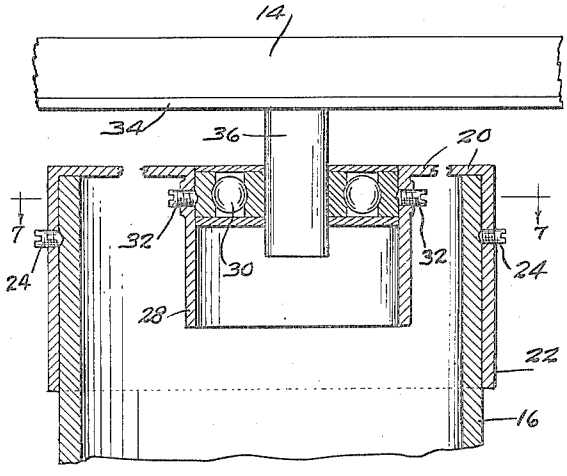


Fig. 6

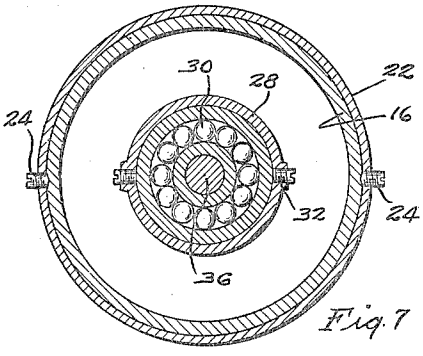


Fig. 7

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SERVING TABLE WITH ROTATABLE CENTER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 311—33)

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The present invention generally relates to dining tables for use in the home and in public eating places, and is also adapted to use in mercantile establishments for the display of merchandise.

More particularly the invention relates to that type of table wherein there is a centrally disposed area which is mounted for rotation with respect to a stationary peripherial portion thereof, and in connection therewith, the invention is immediately directed to that new and improved detail of construction hereinafter setforth for rotatably supporting the centrally disposed area of such a table in functional relationship to the non-rotatable portion thereof, and among the objects, features, and advantages of the construction, the following thereof may be enumerated:

(1) In general, to provide a new and improved means to rotatably support the central area of a table of the character contemplated in a plane of horizontal alignment with a non-rotatable peripherial portion of the table.

(2) In a table of the character contemplated, to provide a new and simple structure for anti-friction roller bearing support of the central rotatable area of a table.

(3) In a table of the character contemplated, to provide a simplified structural support therefor which is easily and quickly assembled and dis-assembled.

(4) In a table of the character contemplated, to provide means, including an anti-friction roller bearing, for vertical and lateral support of a central rotatable table portion with respect to a non-rotatable peripherial table portion.

(5) To provide a low cost, highly efficient and practicable means for rotational support of the central portion of a table with respect to the non-rotatable peripherial portion thereof.

Other likely objects, features and advantages of the construction may be apparent from a detailed observation of the drawing, the specification and the sub-joined claim.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a top-plan view of a table of the type which is adapted to incorporate the features of the present invention; and,

Figure 2 is a side-elevational view thereof.

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view as seen along line 3—3, Figure 2, showing the simplified nature of the present construction.

Figure 4 is a view taken along line 4—4, Figure 2, showing the radial support arms for the non-rotatable peripherial portion of the table and

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showing the centrally located support post for the rotatable portion thereof, all in relationship to the central supporting post for the table as a whole.

Figure 5 is a non-scale view in elevation showing the rotatable element positioned upon a flanged shaft journalled in a roller bearing.

Figure 6 is also a non-scale view which is adapted to best illustrate the construction involved in establishing an anti-friction bearing within the table support post and the mode of supporting the rotatable portion of the table in the bearing.

Figure 7 is a transverse sectional view taken along line 7—7, Figure 6, showing the construction in plan view.

In the drawing the reference numeral 10 indicates a table of the character herein contemplated, in which 12 is a stationary peripherial portion adapted to provide means to support a dinner service, or articles for display, and 14 is a centrally disposed circular and rotatable table portion set within the central opening 13 and in horizontal alignment with the table portion 12, upon which foodstuffs, or articles for display may be placed whereby such items may be brought from an opposite position to a position of adjacency to the one who is interested therein by merely rotating the element 14 circularly upon its supporting axis to be hereinafter described.

Beneath the table 10 there is a centrally positioned and vertically disposed table support column 16 having laterally disposed legs 18 for stabilized support thereof. The column 16 is tubular in form and is adapted to receive a flanged capping 20 lying across and over-hanging its upper end and to this capping there is secured the column 16 by means such as set-screws 24. Support arms 26 are welded to the flange 22 and extending upwardly and radially therefrom are adapted to support the peripherial portion 12 of the table.

The capping 20 is also formed with a centrally disposed, dependent tubular seat 28 within which there is an anti-friction bearing 30 which is also detachably secured in functional use position, as by means of the set screws 32.

The central circular portion 14 of the table is detachably supported upon the flanged end 34 of a stub-shaft 36 as by means of screws not shown, and the bearing 30 is press-fitted upon the shaft 36 so as to form a unitary structure substantially as shown in Figure 5.

After assembly of the table portion 14, the

shaft **36** and the bearing **30**, the assembly is lowered through the circular opening **13** so as to place the bearing in the tubular seat **28** with the table portion **14** aligned with its companion table portion **12**. When the table elements **12** and **14** are thus aligned in a horizontal plane the screws **32** are tightened for functional use support thereof as shown in Figure 6.

The elements **12** and **14** of the table may be formed of quarter-sawed lumber, ply-wood, metal, an adaptable plastic resin material, or other materials bonded by a suitable plastic resin, while the remainder of the structure is preferably formed of mild steel, styled and finished as may best be adapted to the service in which the table is to be placed.

It will thus be seen that the table per se is susceptible of being manufactured in a wide range of embellished styles and finishes to meet the requirements of the trade, yet at the same time the structure herein disclosed to rotatably support the table element **14** remains the same and that its utility and operative efficiency will remain constant regardless of those matters of detail which only relate to external appearance.

The table support structure hereinbefore described and as illustrated in the drawing, is believed to disclose a novel improvement with respect to other structural arrangements directed to the same end for the bearing **30** is a standard or stock item obtainable in any size required of an assembly, and in like manner the shaft **36** and the tubular bearing seat **28** are either obtainable from a stock supply thereof or may be readily machined to dimension to accommodate the bearing **30**, thereby simplifying and reducing the over-all production cost of the table support as compared with the cost of manufacturing the same unit upon an individualized basis.

Since the bearing **30** is highly efficient in operation, it will be apparent that by positioning and supporting the element **14** as herein shown a minimum of effort is required to effect a complete or partial rotation thereof to the end that food or other items may be wheeled from a remote position to a position adjacent to the operator thereof, which fact upon the occasion of use in the home, is promotional of quiet and suppression of confusion which usually attends a

family dinner in which a number of persons are requesting that this or that item be passed to them.

Having thus described my invention in its presently preferred form, that which I believe to be novel and for which I seek Letters Patent, is as follows:

In a table having an annular stationary service element and a circular rotatable service element having a stub-shaft dependent therefrom, and including a support post common to both of said service elements; means to rotatably support the second mentioned service element with respect to a plane coincidental to the top surface of the first mentioned service element, said means including a capping upon the upper free end of said support post, said capping having a horizontal surface and a pair of diametrically unequal concentric annular flanges dependent therefrom, the greater of said concentric annular flanges overhanging the sides of said support post for positioning thereof in alignment with said support post and the lesser of said concentric annular flanges being positioned within and medially aligned with the longitudinal axis of said support post, a bearing positioned within and supported by the lesser of said annular flanges, said bearing being adapted to receive said stub-shaft in press-fitted relationship whereby non-tilting rotation thereof including the circular service element is obtained.

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