July 17, 1951 C. W. KYLE ET AL 2,560,878

PORTABLE STAGE

Filed July 6, 1950 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

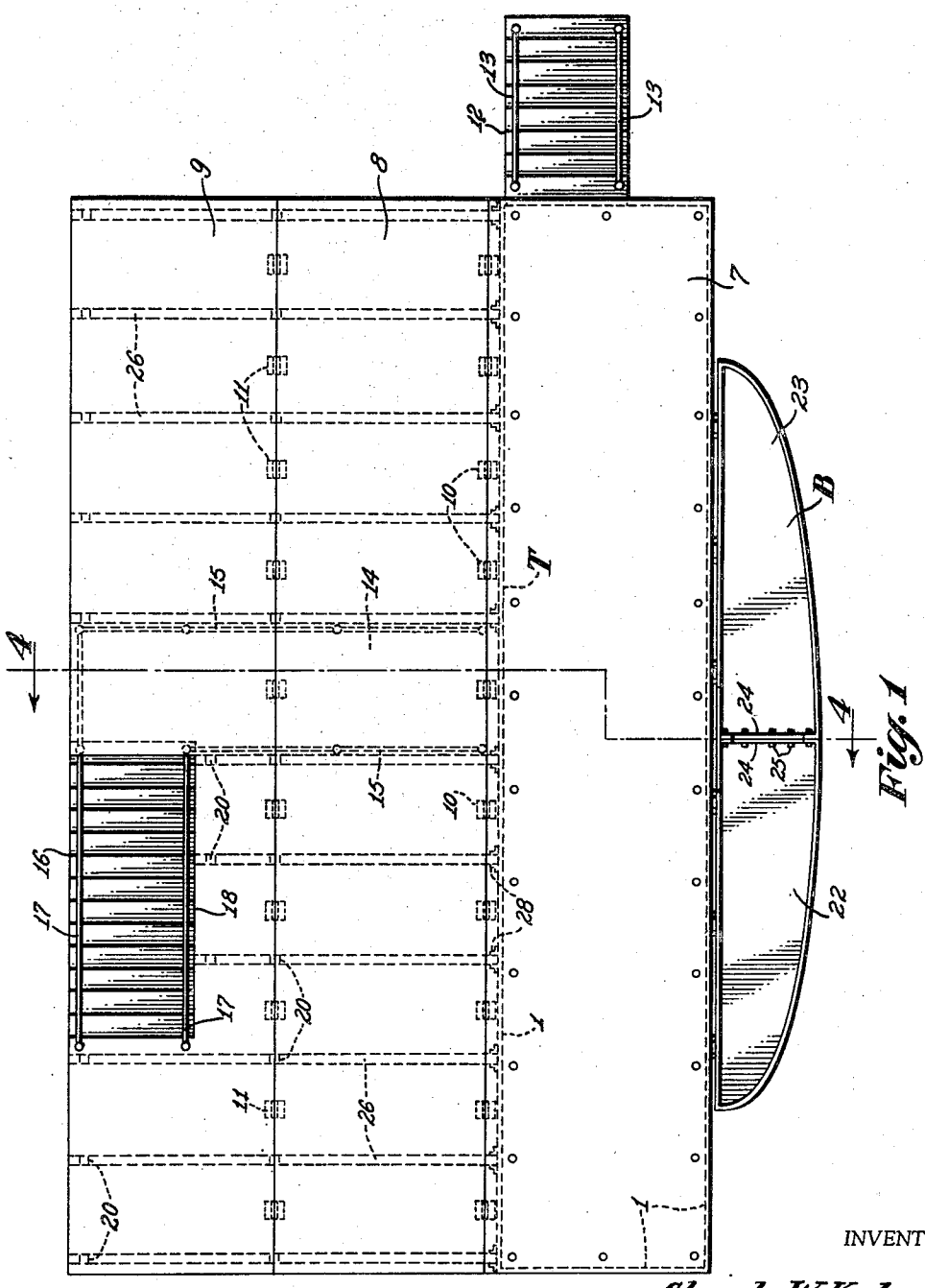


Fig. 1

INVENTORS.

Claude W. Kyle, and
Thomas E. Holland

BY Mason, Fenwick & Lawrence

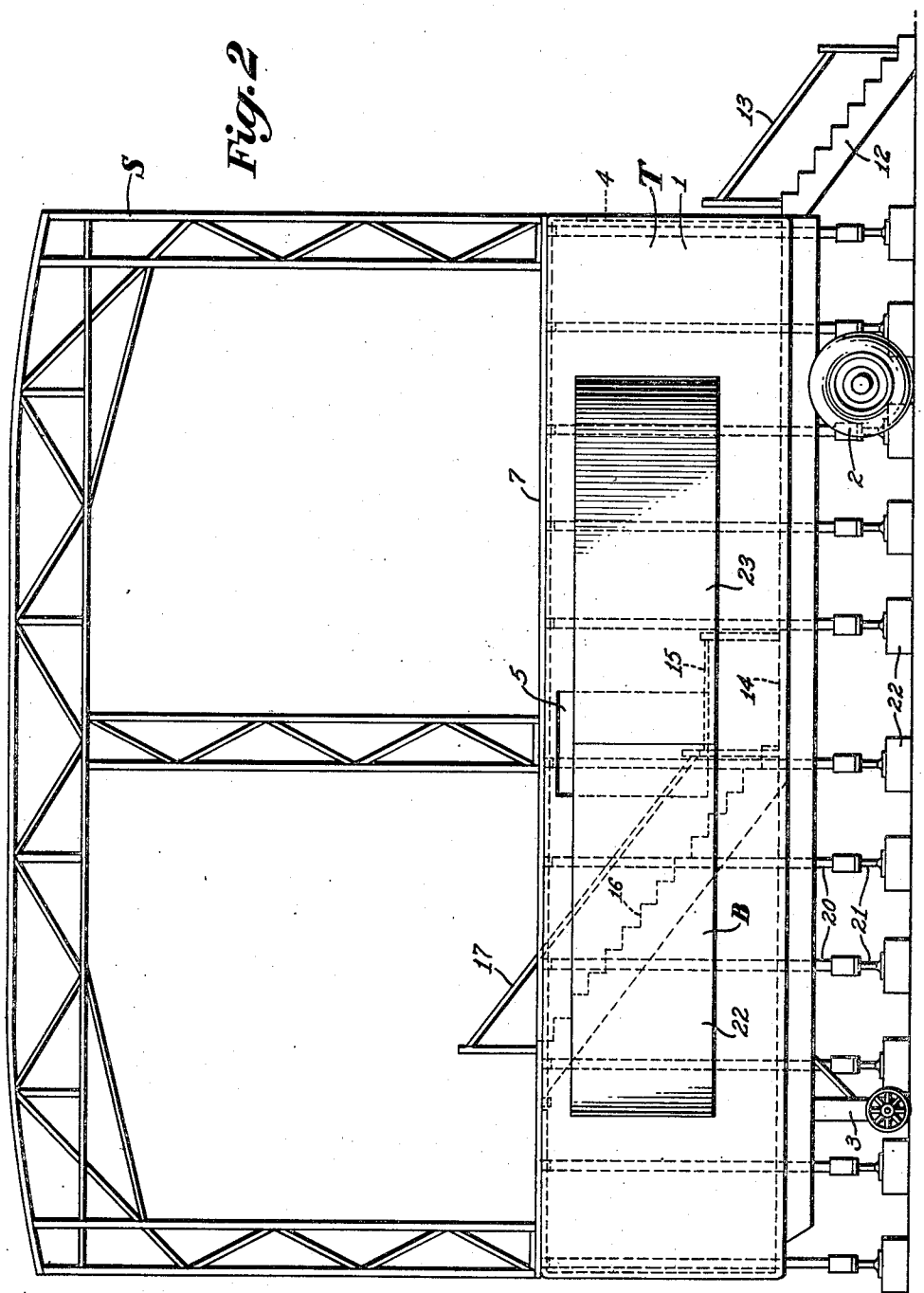
ATTORNEYS

July 17, 1951 C. W. KYLE ET AL 2,560,878

PORTABLE STAGE

Filed July 6, 1950 4 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 2



INVENTORS
Claude W. Kyle, and
Thomas E. Holland
BY Mason, Fenwick & Lawrence
ATTORNEYS

July 17, 1951 C. W. KYLE ET AL 2,560,878

PORTABLE STAGE

Filed July 6, 1950 4 Sheets-Sheet 3

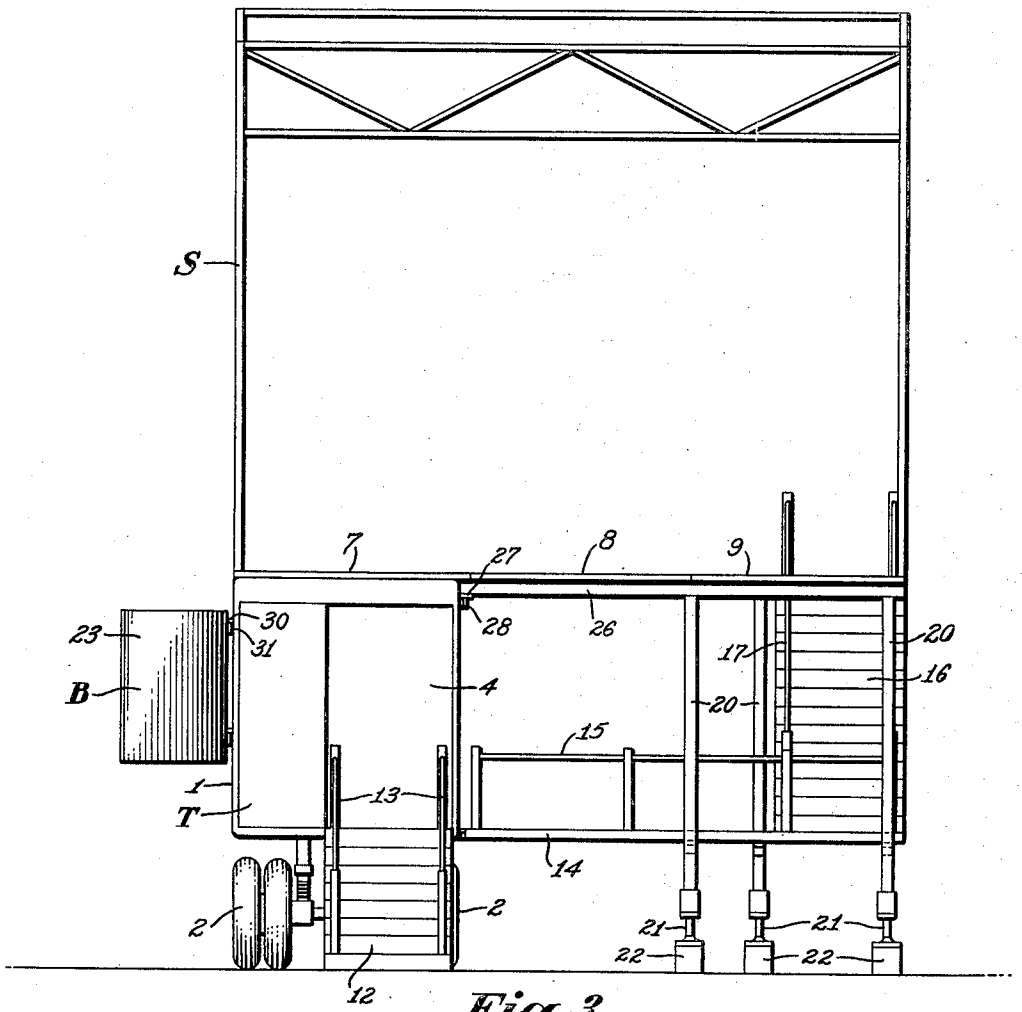


Fig. 3

INVENTORS

Claude W. Kyle and

Thomas E. Holland

BY Mason, Fenwick & Lawrence

ATTORNEYS

July 17, 1951 C. W. KYLE ET AL 2,560,878

PORTABLE STAGE

Filed July 6, 1950 4 Sheets-Sheet 4

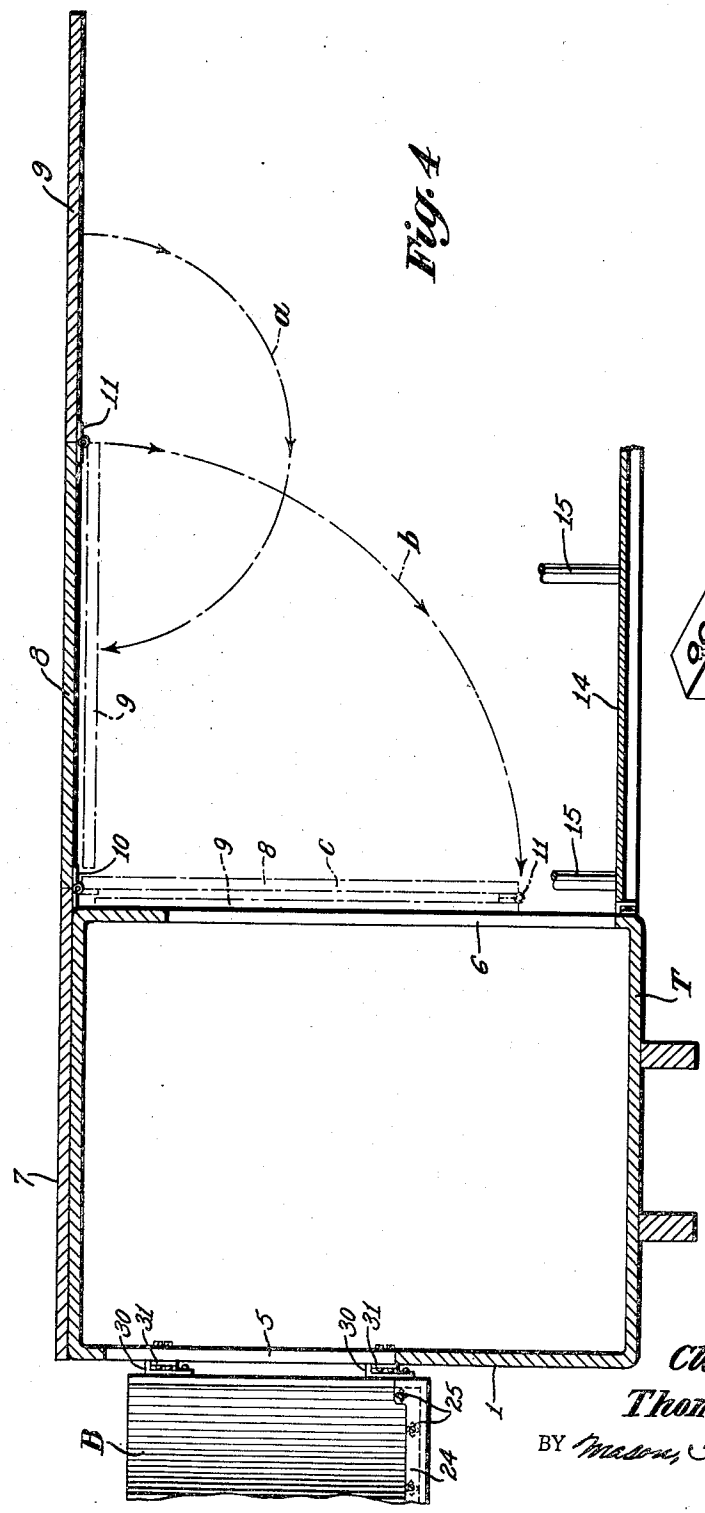


Fig. 4

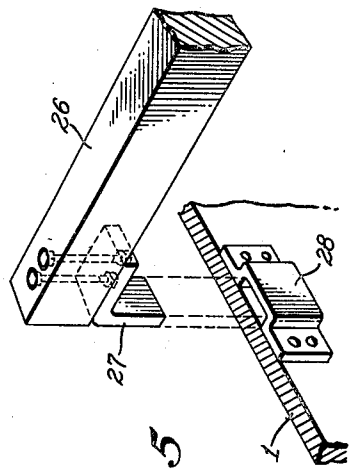


Fig. 5

INVENTORS
Claude W. Kyle and
Thomas E. Holland
BY Mason, Fenwick & Lawrence
ATTORNEYS

Patented July 17, 1951 2,560,878

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,560,878

PORTABLE STAGE

Claude W. Kyle and Thomas E. Holland,
Nokomis, Fla.

Application July 6, 1950, Serial No. 172,262

2 Claims. (Cl. 20—1.123)

1

This invention relates to building structures, and more particularly to a portable stage for theatrical performances.

An object of the invention is to provide a theatrical stage of practical proportions, utilizing the body of a trailer truck as part of the supporting structure, and so constructed that all of the removable elements employed in the stage can be readily packed within that trailer for transportation from place to place.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved stage for theatrical performances with an orchestra balcony positioned beneath the stage level and adjacent the footlights or the front of the stage, as is conventional practice in stationary stages.

A further object of the invention is to provide a portable stage for theatrical performances in which the stage floor is located at an elevated level with respect to the ground so as to permit the use of the stage in connection with drive-in theater lots now proving so popular, and permitting the occupants of vehicles a desirable view of the stage.

A further object of the invention is to provide a portable stage for theatrical performances with means including the trailer body for permitting the ready but protective access to the stage floor from the ground.

Further objects will more particularly appear in the course of the following detailed description.

The invention consists in the novel construction, arrangement and combinations of parts hereinafter more particularly described and claimed.

Four sheets of drawings accompany this specification as part thereof, in which like reference characters indicate like parts throughout.

In the drawings, which are largely diagrammatic:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the stage in its extended or erected position;

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the erected stage;

Figure 3 is a side view of the erected stage from the rear of the trailer;

Figure 4 is a transverse cross section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 1; and

Figure 5 is a fragmentary exploded perspective illustrating the conventional connecting device employed for connecting the demountable elements of the stage.

In accordance with the present invention, the stage incorporates as an integral part thereof

2

the body of a trailer truck T of substantially rectangular shape, having side and end walls 1, a roof, ground contacting wheels 2 adjacent its rear end of conventional construction and auxiliary ground contacting means 3 adjacent its front end for supporting the front end when the same is disconnected from the towing vehicle. All of the structure thus far enumerated is conventional and will be assumed to embody conventional structural members.

Distinguishing the trailer body T from the conventional is the provision in one side wall of a door opening 5 adjacent the ceiling, and in the opposite side wall of a door opening 6 adjacent the floor with an end door opening 4 in the rear end of the trailer body.

Secured to the roof of the vehicle in the embodiment herein illustrated, although it will be understood that the roof of the vehicle may, if desired, be utilized for the purpose, is a section 7 of the stage floor coextensive in length and width with the roof of the trailer body. Secured to one of the longitudinal edges of the section 7 by hinges 10, is a second floor section 8 of substantially the same length and width as the section 7, and secured to the opposite longitudinal edge of the section 8, as by hinges 11, is a third floor section 9 substantially coextensive in length and width with the sections 7 and 8. The hinges 10 and 11 are so arranged that the section 9 can be folded on the hinges 11 as indicated by the arrow *a* (see Figure 4), and the folded sections 8 and 9 can in turn be folded on the hinges 10 as indicated by the arrow *b* in that figure, so that the sections 8 and 9 will lie parallel with and closely adjacent that side wall of the trailer body provided with the door opening 6.

When the stage is to be erected, the sections 8 and 9 are unfolded and raised to a horizontal position in the same plane with the section 7 and secured in that position by adjustable piers 20 having screw feet 21, by means of which any inequalities in the ground can be eliminated, and preferably these screw feet 21 will be placed on ground contacting blocks 22 to minimize settlement of the top soil.

Portable stairs 12 of sufficient height to reach from the ground level, upon which the wheels of the trailer are resting, to the floor of the trailer are adjustably connected to the rear end of the trailer adjacent the door opening 4, these stairs being preferably provided with hand rails 13.

A catwalk 14 is provided, removably connected to the side wall of the trailer, against which the floor sections 8 and 9 hinge adjacent the door

opening 6, and this catwalk is also preferably provided with hand rails 15, the catwalk extending in erected position at right angles to the side wall of the trailer and under the extended floor sections 8 and 9 of the stage floor.

A second portable stairs 16 is provided extending from the outer end of the catwalk 14 to the level of the stage floor through a suitable opening 18 provided in the outermost floor section 9, and this stair section 16 is preferably provided with hand rails 17, whereby a safe and convenient passageway is provided from the ground adjacent the rear end of the trailer, through the trailer body, over the catwalk and to the stage floor, all from beneath the stage floor.

An orchestra balcony B is preferably formed in two symmetrical sections 22—23, each formed with complementary flanges 24 adjacent their confronting ends, by means of which flanges the two sections can be bolted together, as by bolts 25 in longitudinal alignment. These balcony sections are removably attached to the side wall of the trailer opposite that against which the floor sections hinge, and adjacent the door opening 5, thus providing access to the orchestra balcony from the interior of the trailer body.

It will be understood that any desirable mechanical means may be utilized for associating the various removable and demountable parts hereinabove described, but in Figure 5 is illustrated what is believed to be an effective form of detachable connection illustrated as associated with complementary floor rafters 26 adapted to be positioned under the extended floor sections 8 and 9 to give added rigidity to those sections, and this connection comprises an angle bracket 27 riveted or otherwise secured to the end of the floor rafter 26 and a socket 28 riveted or otherwise secured to the side wall of the trailer. Similar socket and tongue connections 30—31 are provided for the balcony sections in connection with the opposite side wall of the trailer, and similar connections can be utilized for the stair and catwalk connections, but not herein illustrated.

As herein illustrated, demountable structural elements for forming a superstructure, rear and side walls and roof, are provided as indicated at S, which superstructure framework can be covered with canvas or other suitable material, not shown.

It is contemplated that the balcony sections, stair sections and catwalk, together with the floor supporting piers and blocks 22, can all readily be contained within the body of the trailer for purposes of transportation, together with other material, such as scenery and stage props, thus providing a very convenient mode of transportation and permitting the rapid assembling of the completed stage in each new location.

Various modifications in the mechanical details will readily suggest themselves to those skilled in the art, but within the scope of the present invention as claimed.

Having thus fully described our invention, we claim:

1. Portable stage comprising a trailer having a substantially rectangular roofed body including a floor, the rear end and one side of said body having respectively a rear doorway and a side doorway, both at the level of the body floor, the other side having an elevated doorway, a sectional stage floor unitary with said body comprising a plurality of rectangular sections, one section being fixed to said body in a horizontal plane overlying the roof and projecting slightly beyond that side having the floor level doorway, the other sections being hingedly connected serially in side by side relation respectively to the projecting side edge of said fixed section and to one another whereby they may be extended horizontally in the plane of the fixed section or folded parallel to the adjacent side of said body in occlusive relation to the doorway in said adjacent side, the terminal section of said stage floor having a cutout portion forming a stair well, a cat walk demountably secured to said adjacent side at the doorway in said side, a demountable staircase extending from the remote end of said catwalk to said stair well when said stage floor is extended, and a demountable staircase from the ground to said rear doorway, said staircases, the floor of said body, said catwalk, and said stair well forming an access passage to said stage floor, an orchestra balcony demountably secured to the outside of that side of said body which has the elevated doorway, at the level of said doorway, said balcony having a closed side wall substantially concealing said elevated doorway, whereby the passing of actors through said access passage beyond said rear doorway is concealed from an audience facing the side of said trailer having the orchestra balcony.

2. Portable stage comprising a trailer having a substantially rectangular roofed body including a floor, the rear end and one side of said body having respectively a rear doorway and a side doorway, both at the level of the body floor, a sectional stage floor unitary with said body comprising a plurality of rectangular sections, one section being fixed to said body in a horizontal plane overlying the roof and projecting slightly beyond that side having the floor level doorway, the other sections being hingedly connected serially in side by side relation respectively to the projecting side edge of said fixed section and to one another whereby they may be extended horizontally in the plane of the fixed section or folded parallel to the adjacent side of said body in occlusive relation to the doorway in said adjacent side, the terminal section of said stage floor having a cutout portion forming a stair well, a catwalk demountably secured to said adjacent side at the doorway in said side, a demountable staircase extending from the remote end of said catwalk to said stair well when said stage floor is extended, and a demountable staircase from the ground to said rear doorway, said staircases, the floor of said body, said catwalk, and said stair well forming an access passage to said stage floor, whereby the passing of actors through said access passage, beyond said rear doorway, is concealed from an audience facing the side of said trailer opposite the side having the floor-level doorway.

CLAUDE W. KYLE.
THOMAS E. HOLLAND.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
467,423	Merritt	Jan. 19, 1892
1,156,693	Koger	Oct. 12, 1915
2,344,726	Podolin	Mar. 21, 1944