May 16, 1961 J. A. JENNINGS 2,984,194

# ROBBERY-PROOF TELLER'S SECTION FOR BANKING INSTITUTIONS

Filed Oct. 12, 1959 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

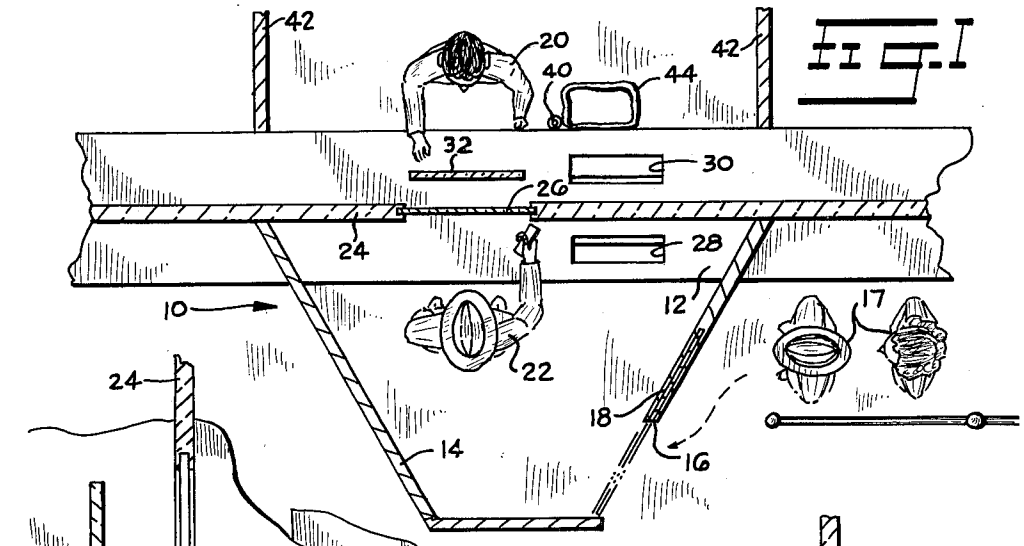



FIG. 1

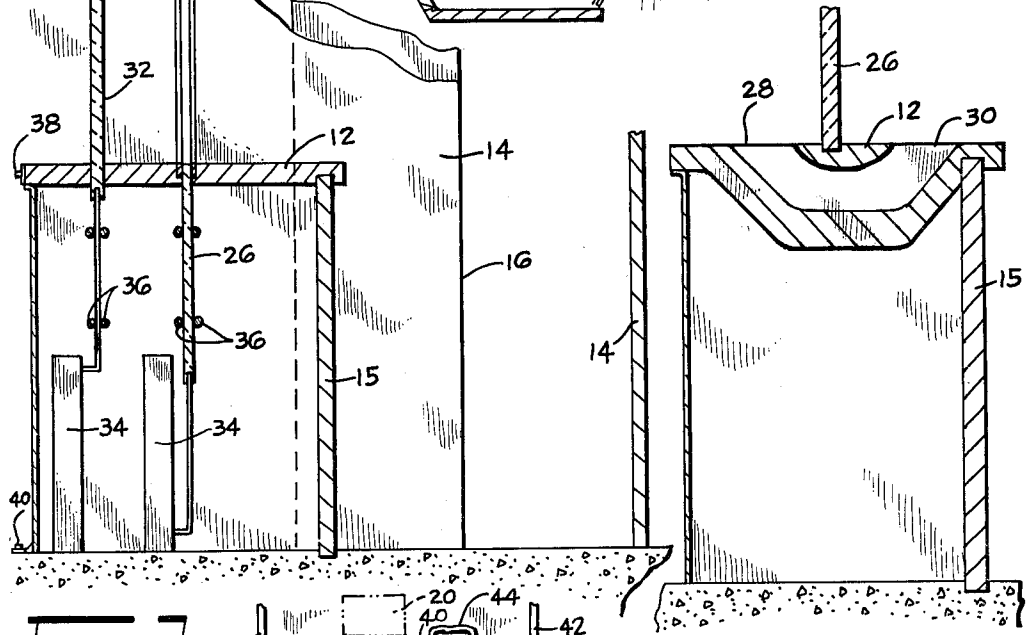



FIG. 2

FIG. 3

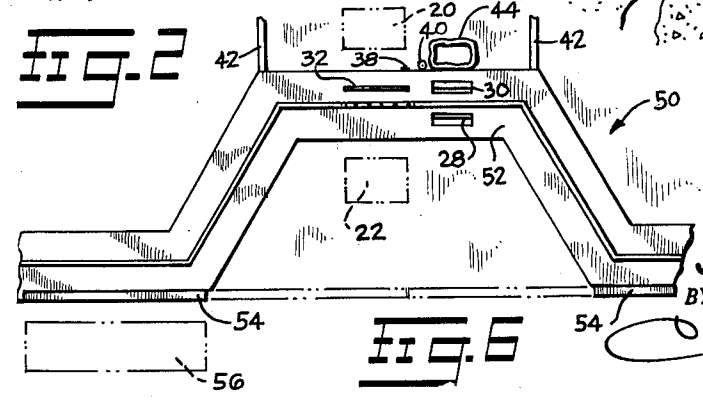



FIG. 6

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ROBBERY-PROOF TELLER'S SECTION FOR BANKING INSTITUTIONS

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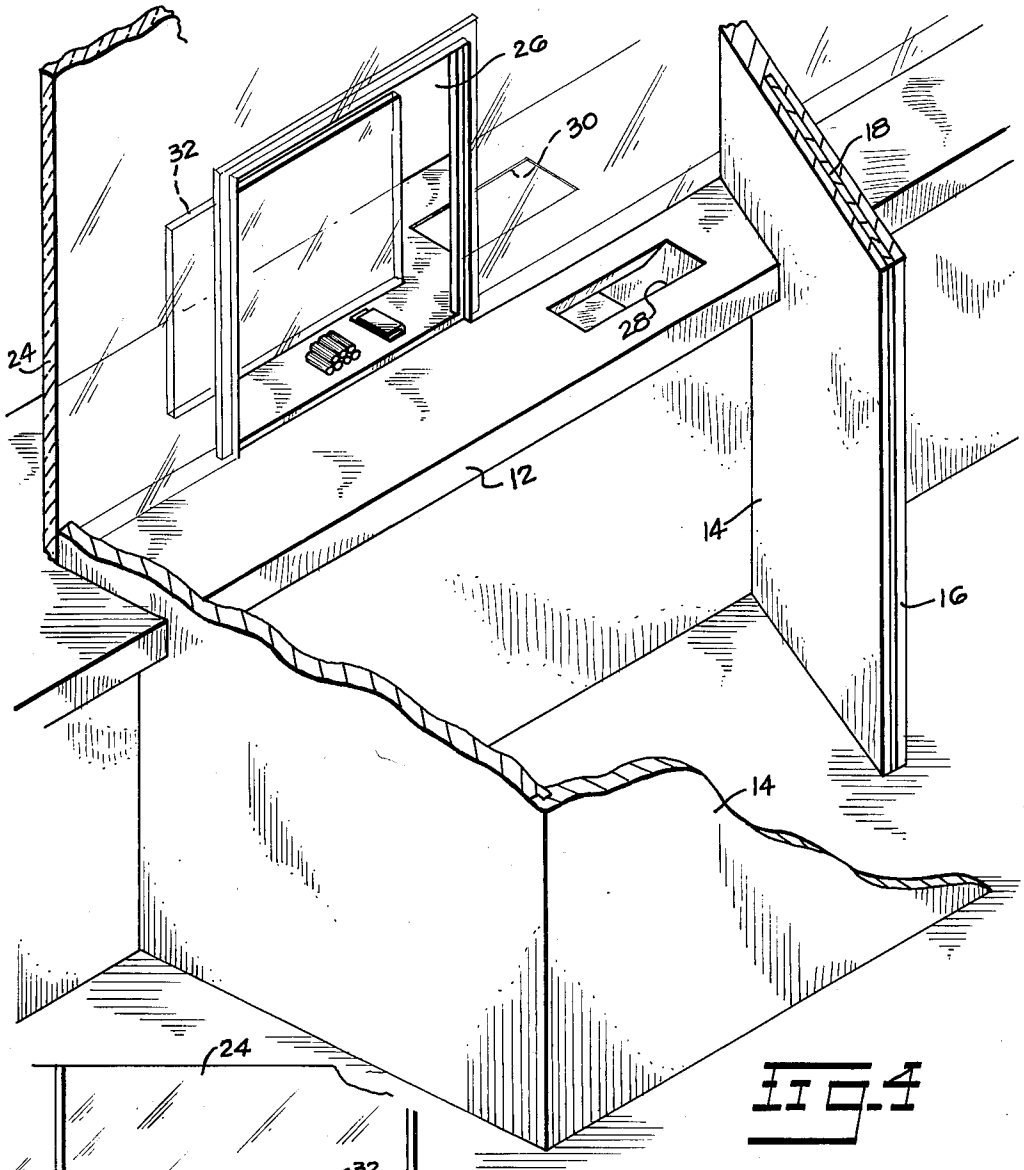



FIG. 4

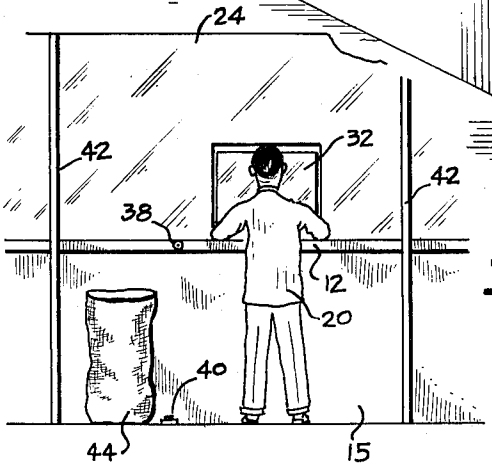



FIG. 5

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# ROBBERY-PROOF TELLER'S SECTION FOR BANKING INSTITUTIONS

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5 Claims. (Cl. 109—4)

This invention relates to banks and, more particularly, to a robbery proof teller's section therefor.

With the increase in the number of recent bank robberies, it is almost a necessity to provide safe operating conditions for tellers in banks. It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a robbery proof teller section for banking institutions which is extremely safe, will prevent injury to the teller and bystanders, and which will trap the person attempting a robbery.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a teller section for banking institutions in which a customer booth is provided adjacent to the teller's window, which booth is provided with closure means for automatically entrapping a person attempting a robbery until subdued by police.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a robbery proof teller section of the type described in which direct contact between the teller and the customer is eliminated, thus preventing threats and injury to the teller under all conditions.

All of the foregoing and still further objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from a study of the following specification, taken with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a robbery proof teller section made in accordance with one form of the present invention in actual use;

Figure 2 is a transverse cross sectional view of certain parts of the assembly shown in Figure 1, illustrating the use of a safety shield during the opening of the teller window;

Figure 3 is a transverse cross sectional view of still other parts of the assembly shown in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of a teller section of the type shown in Figures 1 to 3, from the exterior of the teller's booth;

Figure 5 is a plan view of the inside of the teller's booth;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary plan view of a slightly modified form of construction.

Referring now to the drawing, and more particularly to Figures 1 to 5 thereof, a robbery proof teller's section **10** made in accordance with the present invention is shown to include a reinforced counter **12** having a rigidified supporting section **15** which may be bomb proof and bulletproof. On the customer's side of the counter **12**, a customer booth **14** is provided which has a single access opening **16** through which customers may walk one at a time, all other such customers **17** awaiting their turn outside of the customer booth **14**. The customer booth is also provided with a fast acting sliding door **18** which may be actuated by the teller **20** within the teller booth **42** to lock the customer **22** attempting a robbery within the customer booth **14**.

Direct contact between the teller **20** and customer **22** is prevented by a transparent bullet proof and bomb proof glass door panel **24** having a vertically sliding



window **26** which is normally in a raised closed position. Any material passing between the teller and the customer, such as cash, deposit slips, and the like may be accomplished through the use of a substantially U-shaped trough **28, 30** opening at opposite ends on the opposite sides of the partition panel **24**. Since both openings **28, 30** are at the same level, the teller cannot be brought into the line of fire of a would be robber.

Larger parcels, such as brief cases, money bags, and the like may be received by the teller **20** by lowering the window **26**. However, as the window **26** is lowered, a safety window or shield **32** is raised, thus allowing the teller to reach around the sides of the window **32** to receive such larger parcels, following which the ordinary window **26** is raised and the guard shield **32** dropped. The window **26** and guard shield **32** are operated by means of hydraulic or electric operators **34** which guide the window **26** and shield **32** through spaced apart guide rollers **36**. These units **34** may be controlled by a single switch **38** mounted upon the teller side of the counter **12**. The teller booth **42** is also provided with a foot operated alarm switch **40** and a bomb bag **44** into which any suspicious packages may be safely placed.

It will now be recognized that any attempted robbery is virtually eliminated since the would-be robber is automatically trapped within the customer booth **14** in the event that the teller **20** actuates the floor switch **40** which sounds an alarm and automatically shuts the fast acting door **18**. The interior of the customer booth may then be filled with tear gas, so that the wouldbe robber may be readily subdued upon the arrival of guards or policemen. All of the panels and partitions of the assembly are bomb proof and fire proof, so that waiting customers **17** may not be injured.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 6 of the drawing, all of the operating parts are substantially identical to those hereinbefore described. In this arrangement, however, the counter **52** is so formed as to define the sides of the customer booth, so that the opening into it may be readily closed by a pair of fast acting sliding doors **54**. In this arrangement, waiting customers **56** would be protected in the event that a wouldbe robber **22** attempts to intimidate the teller **20**. This particular arrangement **50** may be readily incorporated in newly built banking institutions, whereas the arrangement illustrated in Figures 1 to 6 is more readily adapted to existing installations having straight counters **12**.

Other than for the arrangement of the counter **12, 52** the embodiments illustrated in Figures 1 to 5 and Figure 6 are substantially the same.

While this invention has been described with particular reference to the construction shown in the drawing, it is to be understood that such is not to be construed as imparting limitations upon the invention, which is best defined by the claims appended hereto.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A robbery-proof teller's section for banking institutions comprising, in combination, a counter, a teller's booth on one side of said counter, a customer booth on the opposite side of said counter, a transparent panel separating the opposite sides of said counter, a passageway through said counter from said opposite sides thereof, a teller controlled closure for said customer booth, said counter comprising a reinforced separating partition, and a reinforced horizontal working surface, said passageway comprising a substantially V-shaped opening defined by said horizontal work panel of said counter opening on opposite sides of said transparent panel at substantially the same horizontal level, said transparent panel comprising a central window portion, said central

window portion comprising a bullet-proof and bomb-proof transparent section selectively movable between a vertically raised closed position and a vertically lowered open position to facilitate the passage of large parcels and bulky items between said teller booth and said customer booth.

2. A robbery proof teller's section as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a safety shield slidably carried by said counter for selective movement between a normally lowered and an adjusted elevated position in response to lowering of said window from said normally raised position to said adjusted lowered position, said safety shield and said window being in laterally spaced apart parallel relationship, said safety shield being on the inside of said teller's booth.

3. A robbery proof teller's section as set forth in claim 2, wherein said customer booth comprises a single access opening, and said closure comprises a sliding door selectively movable between a normally open position and an adjusted closed position relative to said access opening.



4. A robbery proof teller's section as set forth in claim 2, wherein said customer booth includes a single access opening, and said closure comprises a pair of sliding doors selectively movable between a normally open spaced apart position adjacent to said access opening and an adjusted closed position blocking access through said access opening.

5. A robbery proof teller's section as set forth in claim 4, wherein said customer booth is defined by re-entrant portions of said counter.

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