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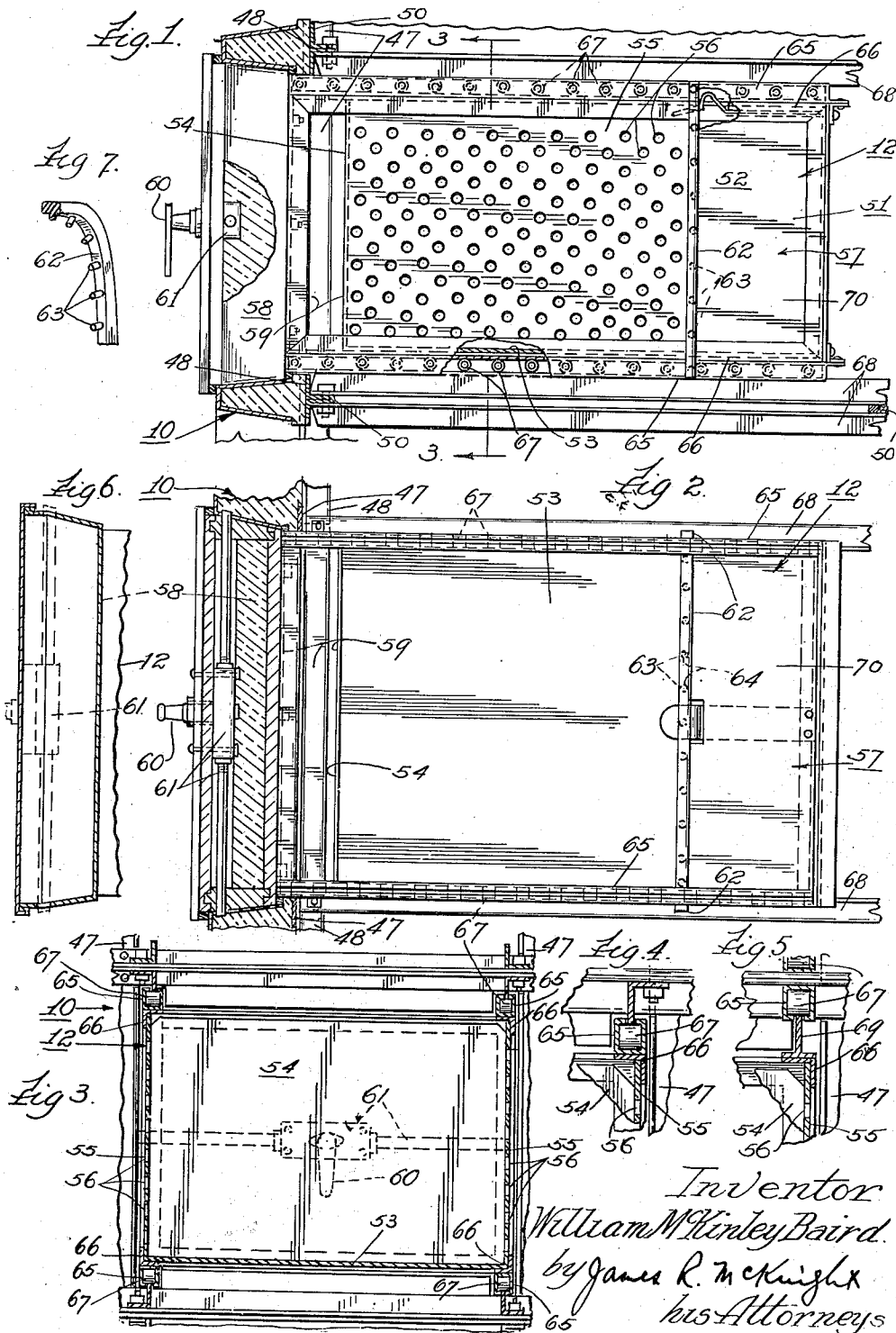
W. MCK. BAIRD

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DRAWER FOR REFRIGERATED LOCKER SYSTEM

Filed Oct. 4, 1939

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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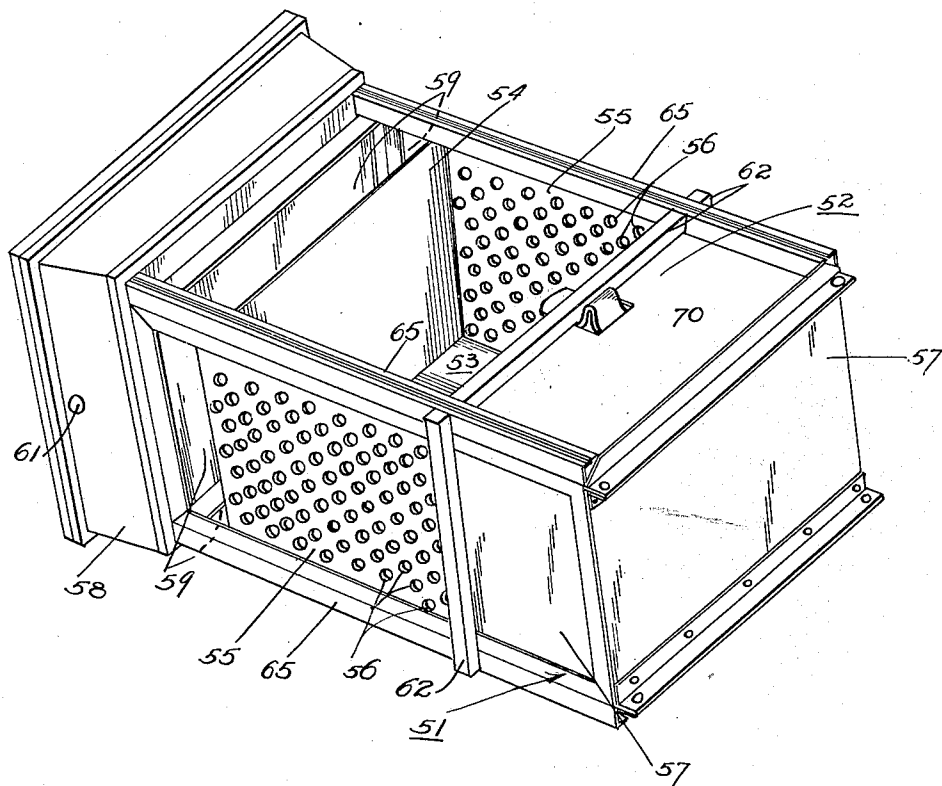
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Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DRAWER FOR REFRIGERATED LOCKER SYSTEM

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Application October 4, 1939, Serial No. 297,795

2 Claims. (Cl. 45—7)

In rural communities it has long been a problem for the individual farmer to preserve his meat and other perishable products. Where there are sufficient farmers in a community this problem may be solved by a central refrigerated depot. Heretofore such depots have been ice houses or cold storage places usually refrigerated by blocks of ice and having a plurality of hooks upon which the farmers could place their meat. This type of refrigerated depot required the farmer to enter the same—and in some instances come from a warm temperature to a cold one. There was also great danger by his entrance of contamination of not only his property but of all the others.

In my co-pending application Serial No. 252,973 which matured into Patent No. 2,198,239, issued Apr. 23, 1940, I submitted a solution of these problems in a central refrigerated locker system for the freezing and storage of meat and other perishable commodities and biologicals for use by the owners of the lockers. I provided a refrigerated locker system so that the users do not have to enter the system itself but may reach their individual lockers or drawers in a normal temperature and from the outside of the system. In this way the user is not only protected against sudden and severe changes in temperature but the products themselves are safe from contamination by the entry therein of foreign matter.

In my co-pending application Serial No. 267,472 I submitted drawer construction for my refrigerated locker system.

In the present application I have created an improved drawer construction in which an air space is provided between the door of the individual locker and its container, the container being a basket in the front and a box in the rear. My new construction also has a sealing means for preventing the escape of cold air when the locker is opened and the container is in extended position. My construction also includes an improved means for the movement of the drawer. My drawers for refrigerated locker system have such other objects, advantages and capabilities as will later more fully appear and which are inherently possessed by my invention.

While I have shown in the accompanying drawings a preferred form of my invention yet I wish it understood that the same is susceptible of modification and change without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Referring to the drawings Fig. 1 is a side elevation of my drawer in closed position within the refrigerating plant; Fig. 2 is a top plan view of

the drawer in closed position with the drawer front in section and showing the locking means; Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the drawer and tracks on line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a detailed view of the rollers attached to the container; Fig. 5 is a detailed view of a modified form of my construction with the rollers as shown on the track; Fig. 6 is a modified form of front door plate in sheet metal; Fig. 7 is a detailed sectional view of the gasket sealing member; Fig. 8 is a detailed perspective view of my drawer.

The embodiment selected to illustrate my invention discloses a refrigerated locker system 10 having one or more units, each unit housing a plurality of lockers 12. My unit may be cooled or refrigerated by suitable connections with any well known refrigeration means. The unit may receive the refrigeration by cold air circulated through ducts from a central air cooling unit by means of a fan or blower, wasting such air or returning it to the central air cooling unit as shown in my Patent No. 2,198,239.

The construction in the unit for the purposes of this invention has a pair of spaced vertical angle iron members 47 connected by top and bottom angle straps 48. Side angle irons 68 extend inwardly from the vertical members 47 and are spaced by horizontal connecting angle iron 50. My drawer 51 has an angle iron framework to which the container 52 is attached with a solid bottom pan portion 53 with a front upturned portion 54, and side portions 55 having a plurality of perforations 56 in the front three quarters of their extent; said side portions being unperforated to the closed rear portion 57. The container is thus basket in the forward part and box in the rear portion. The upturned portion 54 is spaced from the front of the insulated drawer front 58 so as to leave an air space 59 therebetween. The drawer front 58 has suitable handle 60 and locking means 61. Said drawer front may be wood or steel.

A gasket 62 of flexible material such as rubber or the like encircles the container 52 at the three quarter portion where the perforations cease. The gasket 62 is positioned by means of a plurality of spaced lugs 63 fitted into openings 64 in the side portions 55, the top portion 70 and the bottom pan 53. When the drawer is opened and is in extended position the gasket 62 seals the opening and prevents the escape of cold air, thus saving refrigeration and maintaining the cold temperature in the rear box portion of the container.

To insure a smooth sliding operation free from

torque and a construction having a fair distribution of dead weight, a slotted rectangular tube 65 is secured to top and bottom angle irons 66 of the framework of the drawer, in which a plurality of spaced rollers or ball bearings 67 are encased as shown in Fig. 4. The angle tracks 68 are positioned so as to contact the rollers 67 and permit the rollers to move on the same.

In Fig. 5 I show a modified form of my sliding mechanism by having the rollers 67 attached to the angle irons 68 rather than the drawer, with an extension 69 attached to the drawer for contacting the rollers for movement.

In the modified form of my drawer front 58 in Fig. 6, I show the entire drawer front as made of sheet metal, with the outer portion of the drawer front crimped to the side portions.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A drawer for a refrigerated locker system comprising a framework, a solid bottom pan, a solid back, and sides, all attached to said framework, said sides having perforations extending substantially to three-quarters of the length of the drawer so as to form a basket in the front portion of the drawer, said sides being imperforate from the end of the perforated portion to

their rear ends, a solid top extending from the solid back forwardly to substantially one-quarter of the length of the drawer, said imperforate sides forming with the solid top, back and pan a box in the rear portion of the drawer.

2. A drawer for a refrigerated locker system comprising a framework, a front attached to said framework, a container having a solid bottom pan, a solid back, an upturned front and sides, all attached to said framework, said sides having perforations extending substantially to three-quarters of the length of the container so as to form a basket in the front portion of the container, said sides being imperforate from the end of the perforated portion to their rear ends, a solid top extending from the solid back forwardly to substantially one-quarter of the length of the container, said imperforate sides forming with the solid top, back and pan a box in the rear portion of the container, the front portion of said container attached to said framework to the rear of the front of said drawer and leaving a space for circulation of refrigerated air therebetween.

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