June 12, 1923. 1,458,202

H. STOUT

SAFETY BANK COUNTER

Original Filed Feb. 24, 1920

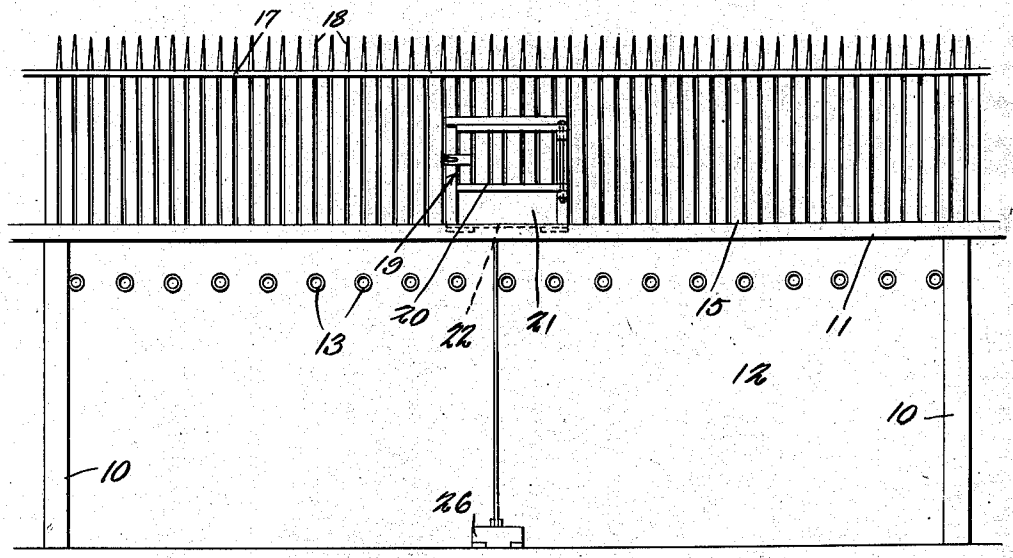


Fig. 1.

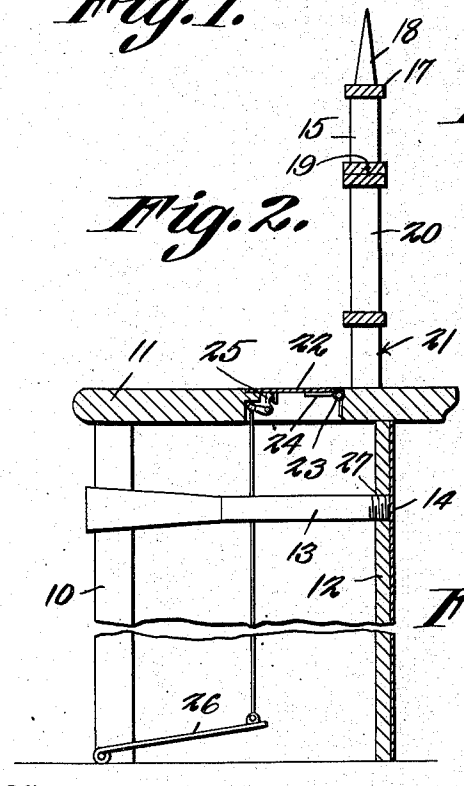


Fig. 2.

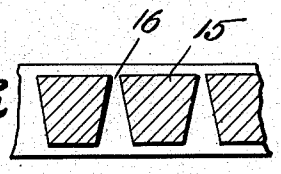


Fig. 3.

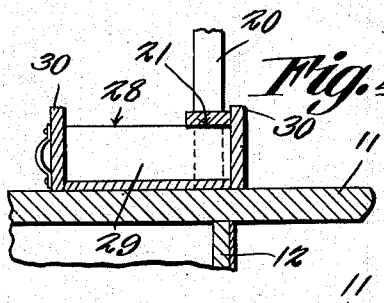


Fig. 4.

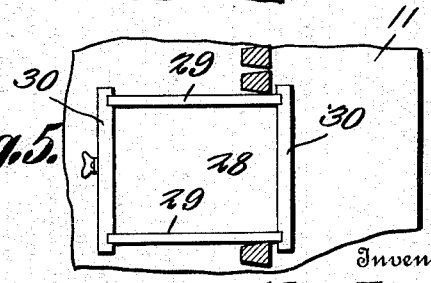


Fig. 5.

Witness

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HIRAM STOUT, OF NEWTON, KANSAS.

SAFETY BANK COUNTER.

Application filed February 24, 1920, Serial No. 360,576. Renewed February 20, 1923.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HIRAM STOUT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newton, in the county of Harvey and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Safety Bank Counter, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved safety bank counter designed for the purpose of protecting officers and employees of banks or the like against being held up and robbed.

It is a known fact that bank officers are held up at the point of a gun or pistol and are compelled to hand over the funds of the bank, because the robbers have the advantage and so far, no proper means has been provided to prevent this.

The present invention is devised to prevent these holdups and is intended to give the bank officers the advantage over the robbers so that they can protect the property of the bank, the invention embodying a novel protective front or railing for the bank counter, improved means for closing the bank window, and improved means whereby the officers and employees may be protected while firing at a would-be hold up and the counter being constructed in a novel manner so that for all purposes and intents, its external appearances, that is from the front of the counter does not indicate any special construction, whereas, in fact, it is constructed to protect the officers against attack, while permitting the required action on their part for the protection of the bank funds.

With the above and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that within the scope of what is claimed, changes in the precise embodiment of the invention shown can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of a safety bank counter constructed in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a vertical transverse sectional view thereof at the window opening;

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary horizontal sectional view through the grating or railing of the counter;

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view showing a modified construction for closing the window opening or slot; and

Figure 5 is a plan view of the construction shown in Figure 4.

Referring to the drawings in detail, in which like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, my improved safety bank counter is shown as comprising a frame including corner legs 10 having a top 11 and a front portion 12, said front portion comprising a thick section of board or other material, which may be suitably armored or otherwise protected against the penetration of bullets, and is provided at spaced points with a series of short sections of pipe 13 arranged horizontally and through which the officials may fire at the hold-up or robber. The front 12 comprises a continuous surface so as to obviate the appearance of any unusual construction, the front portion at the front ends of the pipes being relatively thin as indicated at 14 so that a bullet may readily penetrate the same should the official find it desirable or necessary to fire on the hold-up, although this construction is unbeknown to the latter and therefore furnishes protection which is enhanced by reason of the fact that the robber would not know the location of the pipes.

Arranged at the front of the counter is a grating or railing 15 comprising a series of uprights or vertical steel bars securely fastened at the top or bottom and high enough and close enough together to prevent the hold-up from shooting over them or between them at the bank officers. These bars are frusto-pyramidal in cross section being wider at their outer edges than at their inner edges so as to form outwardly tapering spaces 16 therebetween. This construction permits comparatively clear view for those behind the counter and railing while obviating such by those in front. Arranged above the grating for a horizontal bar 17 carrying a series of spaced parallel upright spikes 18 tapered or pointed at their upper ends so as to make it very dangerous and well night impossible to undertake or to get over the railing.

The railing of the counter is provided with an opening 19 in which is hinged a door 20 also formed of rails corresponding to the rails or bars 15, hinged in the usual manner and provided with suitable means

for locking the same in a closed position. The gate terminates at a spaced distance from the top of the counter to provide a slot 21 through which business may be transacted, but in order to close this space and to protect the official, paying teller or receiving teller or other employee, from being shot, the top of the counter is provided with an insert plate 22 preferably of steel and hinged as shown at 23 so as to swing upwardly to close the slot or opening 21 under the action of suitable means such as a spring 24. The plate is held down by a catch or button 25 released by a foot pedal or treadle 26 so that the plate may be caused or permitted to close the opening without the would-be hold-up or robber observing any aggressive act or act of protection or movement on the part of the official, thus giving an immeasurable degree of safety.

It may be also explained that the pipes 13 are preferably threaded as indicated at 27 in order to detachably connect to the front of the counter leaving the thin portions at the outer ends of the pipes or ports through which the bank officers may shoot. That is, these pipes are designed to receive the nozzle of a gun or piston and by reason of the same being provided at spaced points, it is possible to obtain the range or proper sight on the hold-up or robber. The front of the counter is finished off to provide a neat appearance, preferably of wood veneer as heretofore specified. Furthermore, those behind the counter may observe movements of those in front of the counter or in the lobby of the bank while preventing clear observation of those behind the counter by those in front of the counter. The bullets that may be aimed below the top of the counter, are prevented from penetrating the same, being sufficiently thick and armored for this purpose. It is also to be understood that any number of windows may be provided.

In Figures 4 and 5 of the drawings, there is shown a modified construction of window in which there is fitted in the slot or opening 21 a slidable receptacle 28 having the side portions 29 thereof sufficiently low to slide or pass beneath the door, said receptacle forming a baffle or plate resting on the top of the counter and having the front and rear walls 30 projecting above the top edges of the side walls 29 and the lower edge of the door at the window opening so as to form stop members to limit the movements of the receptacle inwardly and outwardly. The receptacle is preferably in the form of an iron or steel box which practically keeps the open part of the window under the railing or door closed and when positioned outwardly, the inner part will close the opening while permitting the customer to deposit therein bankbooks or other matters to be handed over the counter and permit the same to be drawn in and removed or replaced therein and pushed out in front of the railing for removal by the customer. By having the ends higher than the sides so as to overlap the railing or door, total displacement of the box or receptacle in either direction is prevented while at the same time not interfering with the carrying on of business with facility. The box can be kept in, it being understood that it slides on the counter and may be locked in such position to prevent unauthorized access therethrough.

Having thus described the invention what I claim is:

A counter including a front wall, a plurality of pipes having their outer ends connected with the front wall and extending to a point at the rear of the counter, the front wall being relatively thin at points adjacent to the ends of the pipes, and said pipes having flared inner ends to guide bullets through the pipes.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HIRAM STOUT.

Witnesses:
JNO. H. DEVERS,
J. H. FUGATE.