

Sept. 7, 1937.

L. STRATTON
REFRIGERATOR CABINET

2,092,430

Filed Nov. 4, 1936

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

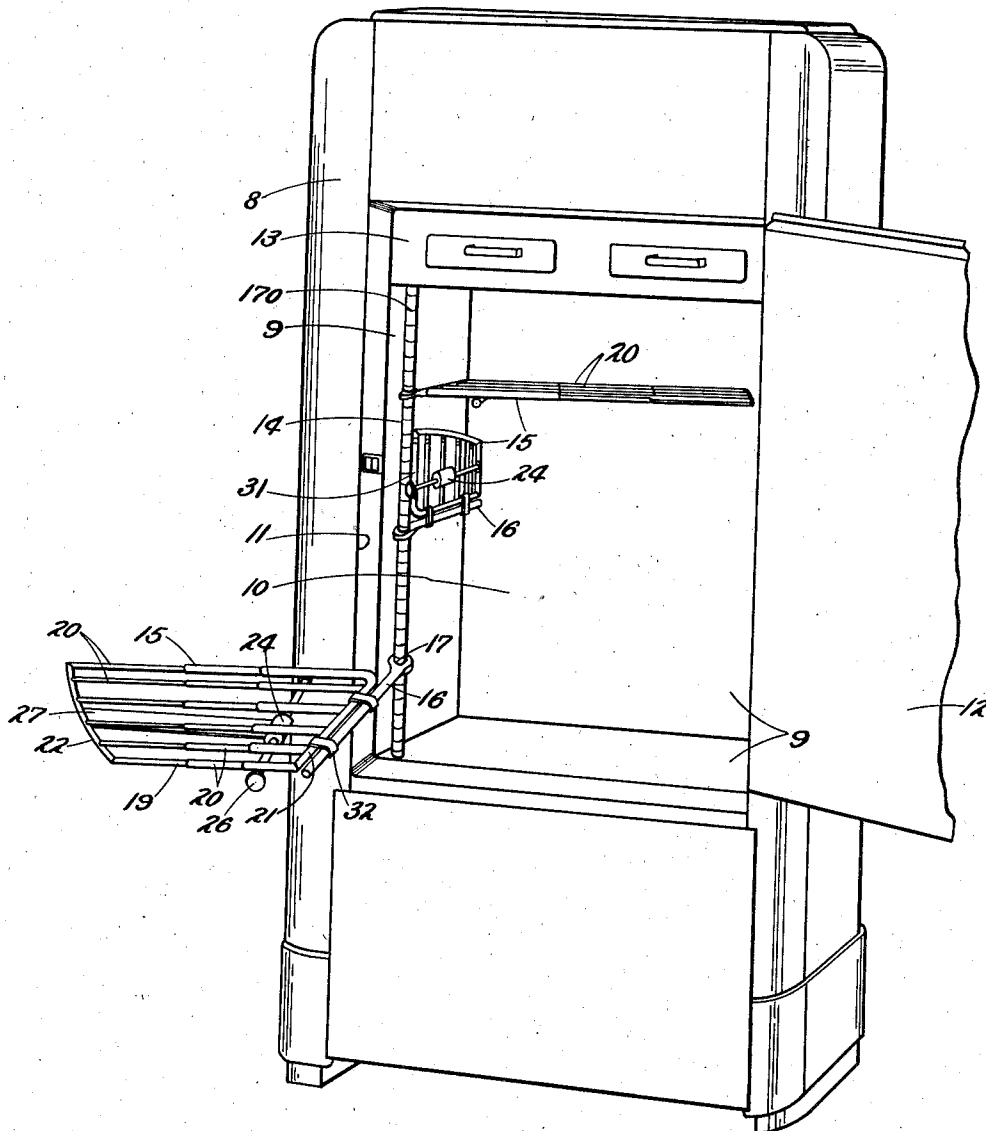


Fig 1

INVENTOR.
Lee Stratton
BY *Walter Z. Murray*
ATTORNEY.

Sept. 7, 1937.

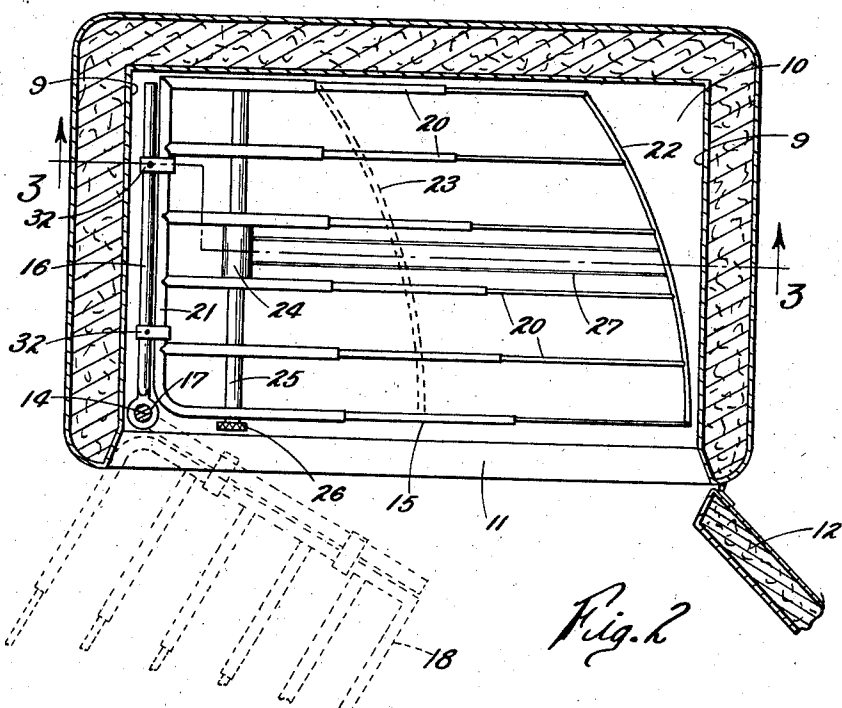
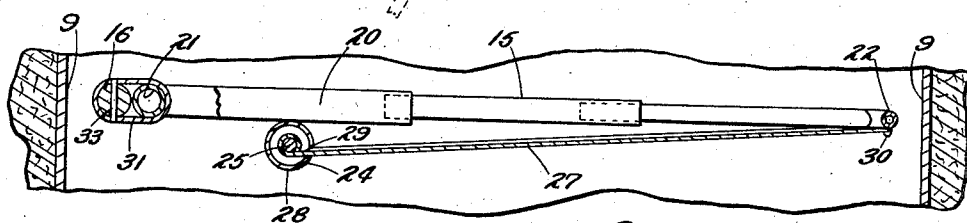
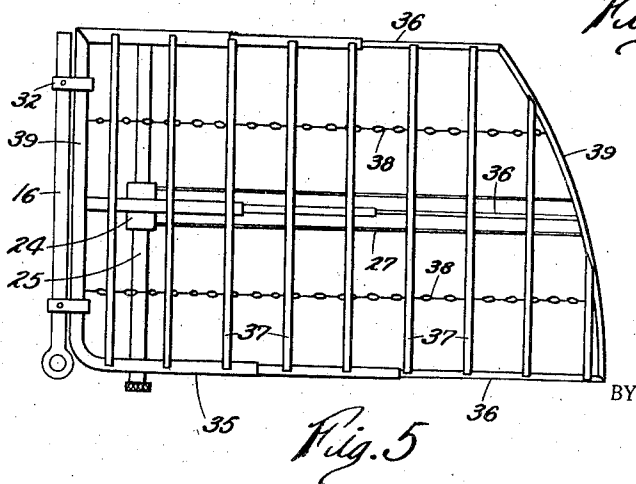
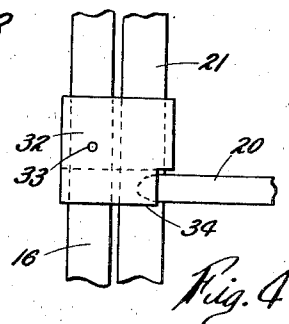
L. STRATTON

2,092,430

REFRIGERATOR CABINET

Filed Nov. 4, 1936

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



INVENTOR.
Lee Stratton

Walter F. Murray
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,092,430

REFRIGERATOR CABINET

Lee Stratton, Forestville, Ohio

Application November 4, 1936, Serial No. 109,131

6 Claims. (Cl. 312-184)

This invention relates to a refrigerator cabinet and particularly to means for enhancing its utility and capacity.

An object of the invention is to provide a readily operated means for securing vertical adjustment of refrigerator shelves relative to each other, to obtain any desired clearance therebetween for the purpose of accommodating articles of all dimensions, said means being also adapted to allow the shelves to swing outwardly from the cabinet for access to the articles thereon.

Another object of the invention is to provide a means for collapsing and expanding a refrigerator shelf along its longitudinal length to give additional room for articles positioned on the shelf subjacent thereto.

A further object of the invention is to provide a means for folding a refrigerator shelf against a wall of the cabinet when the occasion demands its removal.

Other objects will become apparent from the following specifications and drawings, in which: Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a refrigerator cabinet disclosing my shelf in various positions.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the upper refrigerator shelf shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmental cross sectional view taken on line 3-3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a bottom plan detail of the shelf hinge arrangement.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a modified form of my shelf.

My invention consists of a refrigerator cabinet 8 having a number of walls 9 which define a food storage compartment 10. The compartment has an opening 11 which is provided with a door 12 and contains a refrigerating unit 13. A vertical rod 14 is fastened to the top and bottom walls of the compartment and is disposed therein adjacent the opening and to one side thereof. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the shelves 15 are supported by this rod by means of a horizontal bar 16 having an aperture 17 at one end to slidably receive said rod. The weight of the shelf exerted on the rod is remote from the aperture which sets up a torque between the rod and the aperture in the bar to exert a clamping action between the two members. It will be understood therefore that by applying an upward pressure on the shelf that said shelf will be slid along the rod to any desired position and when said pressure is removed the weight of the shelf will clamp it to the rod, thus providing a readily operated means for securing vertical adjustment

of the shelves. The vertical rod 14 is provided with a number of horizontal circular grooves 170 to preclude the possibility of movement between the rod and the bar when the shelf is placed in any desired position. Also by means of this rod and bar engagement the shelf may be swung outwardly about the rod to a position indicated by the dotted lines 18 in Fig. 2 or by the bottom shelf 19 shown in Fig. 1. This last function provides accessibility to the food stored upon the rear of the shelf.

It is also contemplated that the shelf be collapsible and expansible along its longitudinal length to give additional room for articles on the subjacent shelf. To this end the shelf comprises a number of longitudinally disposed telescopic members 20 disposed in spaced relationship and fastened at the supported end of the shelf by a transverse tubular member 21 and fastened at their free ends by an arcuate tubular member 22 (Figs. 2 and 3) the latter being so formed to secure sufficient clearance between the outer shelf edge and the opening to allow the shelf to be swung outwardly from the compartment. The arcuate dotted line 23 in Fig. 2 indicates the position of the arcuate tubular member when the shelf is in collapsed position; any intermediate shelf length may be obtained if desired. A suitable means for collapsing or expanding the shelf comprises a reel 24 positioned beneath the telescopic members which is actuated by a rotatable rod 25 provided with a manually operated knob 26. The rod is connected to a metal strip 27 within the reel housing 28, an arcuated slot 29 (Fig. 3) being formed therein. The metal strip is thereby given an arcuate shape in transverse cross section between the reel opening and the point where it is fastened to the arcuate tubular member 22 by bolt 30. This formation of the strip provides a rigidity to its body to prevent its bending when outward pressure is exerted thereon. The shelf is rotatably fastened to the horizontal bar 16 to allow the shelf in contracted condition to be moved to a vertical position adjacent the wall of the compartment as shown by the shelf 31 in Fig. 1. To accomplish this result I provide two metal straps 32 (Fig. 3) which frictionally engage the horizontal bar 16 and the transverse tubular member 21. A pin 33 being provided to fasten the strap, in a horizontal position to the bar 16. As shown in Fig. 4 the under side of the straps are provided with an ear 34 which engages one of the telescoping members to retain the shelf in a horizontal position.

A modified form of my invention comprises a collapsible and expansible shelf 35 similar to that shown in the preferred form but containing fewer telescoping members 36. A number of flat strips of metal 37 are disposed transversely upon the telescoping members and are each connected one to the other by link chains 38. The chains are fastened to the transverse members 39 at either end of the shelf. It will be understood that when the shelf is expanded the chain will bring the strips into normal spaced relationship and when it is contracted the strip will be brought to abutting position.

What is claimed is:

1. A refrigerator cabinet having a plurality of walls defining a food storage compartment, an opening for the compartment, a door for said opening, a vertical rod positioned within the compartment adjacent said opening and at one side thereof, a collapsible and expansible shelf, a horizontal bar, means for rotatably connecting the shelf to the bar, and means associated with the bar for supporting the shelf upon the vertical rod and adapted to allow the shelf to swing outwardly from the compartment and also permit the shelf to be adjusted in a vertical direction.
2. A refrigerator cabinet having a plurality of walls defining a food storage compartment, an opening for the compartment, a door for said opening, a vertical rod positioned within the compartment adjacent the opening and at one side thereof, an expansible and collapsible shelf comprising a number of connected telescoping members, a horizontal bar having an aperture in one end thereof for slidably engaging the rod, and hinge means rotatably connecting the bar to the shelf.
3. A refrigerator cabinet having a plurality of walls defining a food storage compartment, an opening for the compartment, a door for said opening, a vertical rod positioned within the compartment adjacent the opening and at one side thereof, an expansible and collapsible shelf comprising a number of connected telescoping members, a horizontal bar, hinge means rotatably connecting the bar to the shelf, said bar being provided with an aperture at one end thereof for receiving the vertical rod to allow the shelf to swing outwardly from the compart-

ment and also permit the shelf to be adjusted in a vertical direction.

4. A refrigerator cabinet having a plurality of walls defining a food storage compartment, an opening for the compartment, a door for said opening, a vertical rod positioned within the compartment adjacent the opening and at one side thereof, an expansible and collapsible shelf comprising a number of connected telescoping members, means for collapsing and expanding the shelf, a horizontal bar, hinge means rotatably connecting the bar to the shelf, said bar being provided with an aperture at one end thereof for receiving the vertical rod to allow the shelf to swing outwardly from the compartment and also permit the shelf to be adjusted in a vertical direction.

5. A refrigerator cabinet having a plurality of walls defining a food storage compartment, an opening for the compartment, a door for said opening, a vertical rod positioned within the compartment adjacent the opening and at one side thereof, an expansible and collapsible shelf, comprising a number of longitudinal telescoping members, a transverse member connecting the free ends of the telescoping members, means for contracting and expanding the telescoping members, a horizontal bar, hinge means rotatably connecting the bar to the shelf, an ear on the hinge means for retaining the shelf in a horizontal position, said bar being provided with an aperture at one end thereof for receiving the vertical rod to allow the shelf to swing outwardly from the compartment and also permit the shelf to be adjusted in a vertical direction.

6. A refrigerator cabinet having a plurality of walls defining a food storage compartment, an opening for the compartment, a door for said opening, a vertical rod positioned within the compartment adjacent the opening and at one side thereof, an expansible and collapsible shelf, a horizontal supporting member having an aperture in one end thereof for slidably engaging the rod, and hinge means rotatably connecting the supporting member to the shelf.

LEE STRATTON.