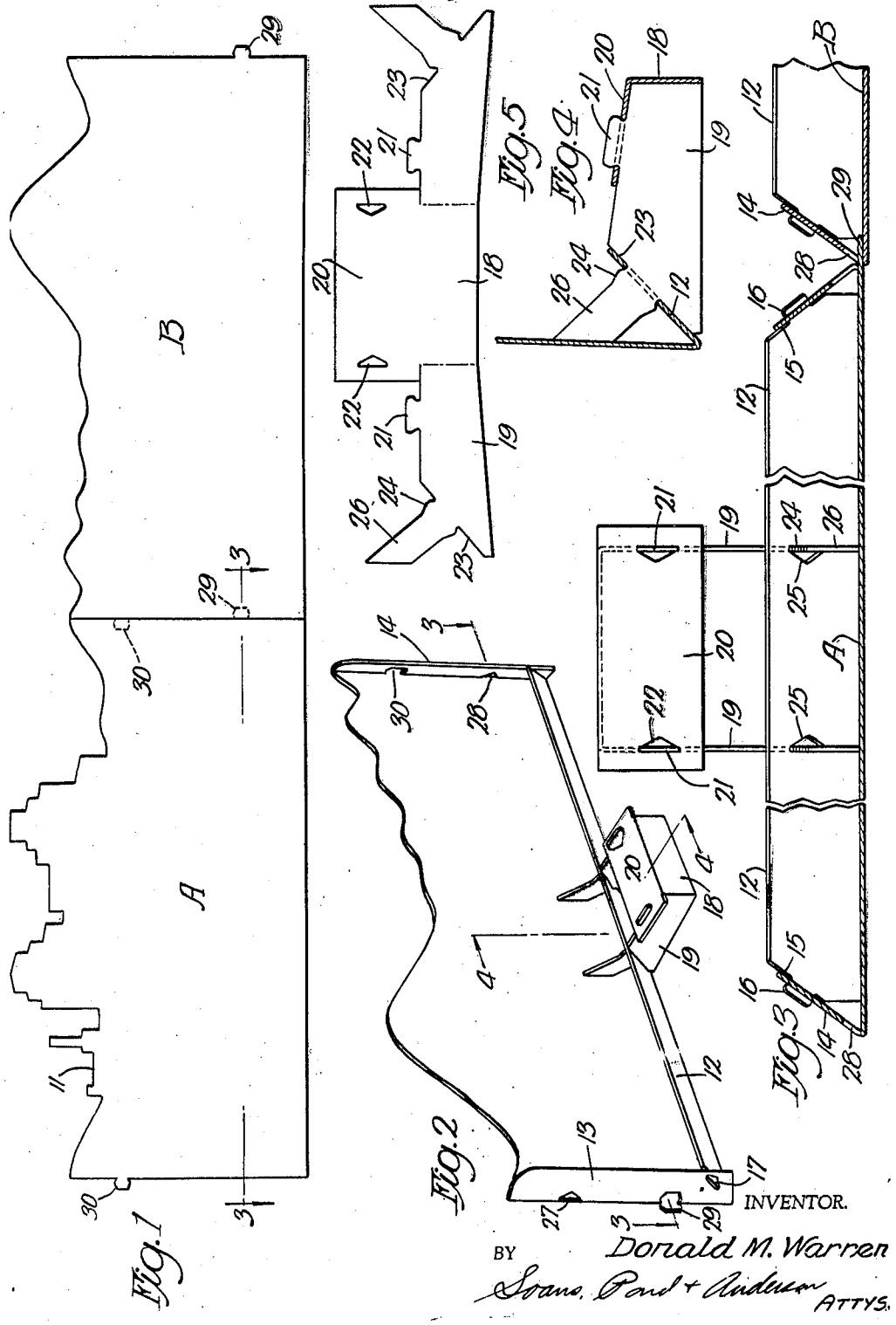
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TOY SCENERY

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TOY SCENERY

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5 Claims. (Cl. 46—21)

This invention relates to toy scenery particularly designed for use in connection with toy trains and the like. The invention is, however, adaptable to other display purposes.

The main objects of the invention are to provide toy scenery or display material in sectional construction so that several units of scenery may be inter-connected to produce a long, scenic strip; to provide toy scenery construction which will be rigid and stable and the sections of which may be effectively inter-connected by readily disengageable means; and in general it is the object of the invention to provide improved toy scenery of the character indicated which may be made economically and at low cost so as to be practically salable as an accessory to train sets and the like.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be understood by reference to the following specification and the accompanying drawing, wherein there is illustrated toy scenery embodying a selected form of the invention.

In the drawing, Fig. 1, front elevation, Fig. 2 is a perspective rear view. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a vertical section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2 and Fig. 5 is a plan of a blank employed for forming one of the elements of the improved structure.

Referring now to the drawing, the toy scenery therein disclosed embodies a section made of paperboard of a suitable weight and having the desired illustration of scenery printed or otherwise applied on its front face. The bottom edge 10 of each section is preferably made straight so that the section may rest with said edge on a table or floor, and the top edge 11 may be shaped to conform to the upper edges of whatever scenery is pictured on the section. As shown in Fig. 1, two sections are arranged end to end. One section, marked A, may have the illustration of buildings or industrial plants or the like therein, and the next adjacent section B may be illustrated in continuity of the illustration contained on section A but varied somewhat. For example, the illustration may vary from that typifying an industrial section, as that on section A, to a rural section on section B or other succeeding sections.

Each section is provided with a fold line to facilitate the rearward and upward folding of a lower marginal portion or flange 12 and with additional fold lines facilitating the rearward and inward folding of marginal end portions of flaps 13 and 14.

The bottom flap 12 has its corners beveled as indicated at 15 to conform to the desired angular position of the end flaps 13 and 14 and each beveled corner of the bottom flap is provided with an ear 16 which is adapted to passing through openings 17 provided in the respective end flaps 13 and 14 for receiving said ears. The ears and openings 16 and 17 are preferably of the type shown in my Patent No. 1,984,066, and serve to releasably lock the end flaps 13 and 14 in their rearwardly folded position, as indicated in Figs. 2 and 3.

For supporting the display section or scenery unit in upright position, the flanges 13 and 14 may have their bottom ends cut square or inclined slightly so as to cause the section to stand upright with only a slight upward and rearward angle. Also, the width of the flaps 13 and 14 may be sufficient to supply the required amount of support and the width of said end flaps may be greater at their bottom ends than at the top, if desired.

In one practical embodiment of the invention, the scenery units are made approximately 20 inches in length (between end flap fold lines) and with a varying height averaging in the neighborhood of 8½ or 9 inches. In order that the various units may be inter-connected in any desired order, it is preferable that the ends of all the units be made of the same height, that the illustrated matter at the ends be so designed as to provide a satisfactory degree of continuity for appearance purposes. However, the units may be made with different end dimensions and with matching units having their adjacent ends of like dimensions so as to thereby clearly indicate the proper order of assembly of the various units.

In order that a fairly light grade of paperboard may be employed in making the units, and the cost thereof kept down, the additional support may be provided intermediate the end flanges. Such end support may be in the form of a detachable extension made of a paperboard blank, such as shown in Fig. 5.

As shown in Figs. 2 to 5 inclusive, the auxiliary support member embodies an end wall section 18, side wall sections 19 foldably connected to the ends of the end wall section 18, and a top wall section 20 foldably connected to the top edge of the end wall section 18. The top edges of the sides 19 are provided with tongues 21 which are adapted to project through suitable openings 22 provided in the top wall 20. In assembling the auxiliary support the sides 19 are folded to right-angular relation to the end 18 and the top 20 is folded downwardly to rest on the top edges of the sides 19—19 with the tongues 21 projecting

upwardly through the openings 22 to lock said top in its downwardly folded position. The tongues 21 and openings 22 may also be of the type shown in my aforesaid patent.

The front ends 23 of the sides 19 are beveled, as shown, to correspond with the angle of the bottom flap 12 whereby the auxiliary support may be positioned with the forward ends of its sides 19 under and in contact with the bottom flap 12, as clearly shown in Fig. 4 of the drawing. Tongues such as indicated at 24 are preferably provided on the beveled front ends 23 of the sides 19 for passage through suitable openings 25 provided in the bottom flap 12, to thereby attach the auxiliary support to the display panel. Said tongues and openings 24 and 25 may also be of the character shown in my aforesaid patent so as to effectively but detachably connect the auxiliary support to the display panel. Said tongues 24 may also be extended as indicated at 26 to engage the back of the upright panel to thereby add further support. It will be observed that the extension 26 together with the tongue 24 serves as a strut or brace between the bottom flap 12 and the upright panel, so as to prevent any substantial flexing of the flap 12 relative to the upright panel.

For connecting the adjacent ends of successive units or sections, such as A and B, the end flaps 13 and 14 are provided with openings, such as indicated at 27 and 28 respectively, and the main panel provided with ears, such as indicated at 29 and 30, at its opposite ends. As shown, the opening and ear 27 and 29 are arranged in inverted relation to the opening and ear 28 and 30 so that the ear 30 at the end of a section such as B will enter the opening 27 at the adjacent end of the section A. The ears 29 and 30 extend rigidly from the panels A and B, being cut out of the respective end flaps 13 and 14, as best shown in Fig. 2. The ears and openings 27, 28, 29 and 30 may also be of the form referred to in my said co-pending patent whereby said ears and openings are effective to securely but detachably connect the assembled sections.

The rearwardly folded bottom flap 12 serves to impart rigidity to the elongated panel so as to prevent horizontal curling thereof. Similarly, the rearwardly folded end flaps resist vertical curling. The flexibility of the connection between the ends of adjacent sections serves, however, to permit horizontal, angular disposition of adjacent sections so that a set of toy scenery of the character described may be positioned in substantial conformity to curves and like rounded track sections in toy railroads and the like.

The described construction is simple to set up and assemble so that it is well adapted to use as a toy item. It is nevertheless quite rigid and stable so as to be well suited to the purposes indicated.

Changes in the described structure may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, the scope of which should be determined by the following claims, the same being construed as broadly as possible consistent with the state of the art.

I claim:

1. In a toy device of the class described, a horizontally elongated, flexible panel, a rearwardly bent bottom flange on said panel, means for locking said flange in predetermined rearwardly folded position, and supporting means intermediate the length of said flange for maintaining the panel in upright position.

2. In a toy device of the character described, a display panel, a rearwardly bent bottom flange, means for locking said bottom flange in an upwardly and rearwardly angular extending position, means at the ends of said panel for supporting the same in upright position, and means intermediate the ends of said panel and connected to said angularly disposed bottom flange for supplementing the end supporting means to maintain said panel in upright position.

3. A device of the class described comprising a normally upright panel, a bottom flap extending rearwardly and upwardly from said panel, end flanges folded rearwardly from the opposite ends of the panel, means interconnecting the ends of said bottom flap and the respectively adjacent flanges to lock said bottom flap in predetermined angular position, and a support for said panel comprising a foldable paperboard member having rigidly connected side portions provided with angular ends adapted to engage the face of said angularly disposed bottom flap, and means detachably interconnecting said bottom flap and said support so as to maintain the same in assembled relation.

4. A device according to claim 3 wherein the interconnecting means between the bottom flap and support comprises openings in said flap and tongues extending from the angular ends of said sides.

5. A device according to claim 3 wherein the interconnecting means between the bottom flap and support comprises openings in said flap and tongues extending from the angular ends of said sides and wherein said tongues are provided with extensions for engaging the upright panel substantially as described.

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