

July 7, 1959

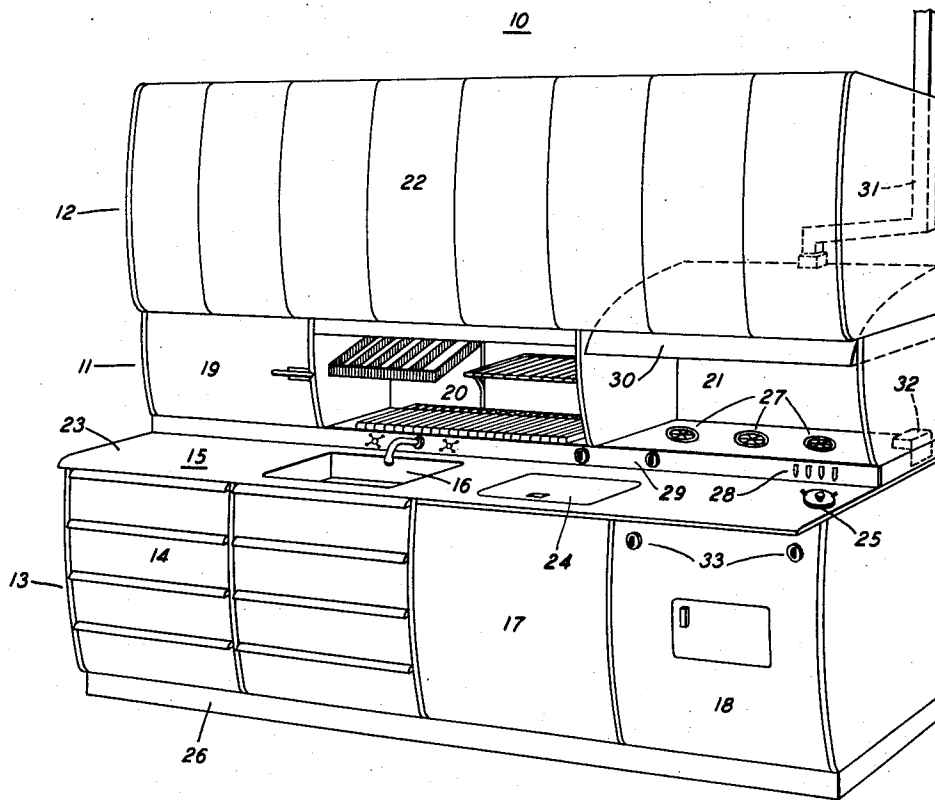
G. L. C. EARLE
KITCHEN-UTILITY UNITS

2,893,807

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FIG. 1



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FIG. 2

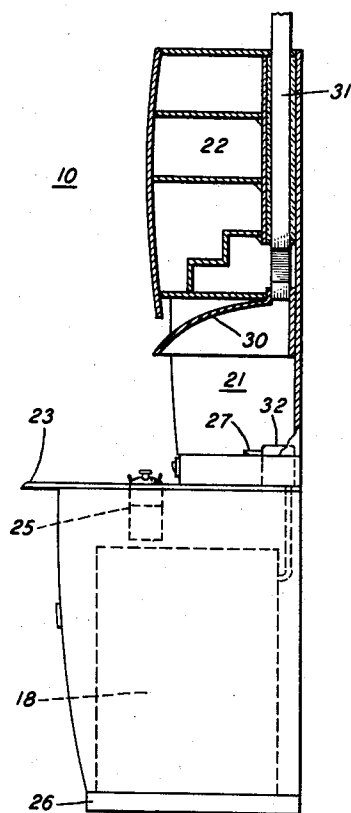
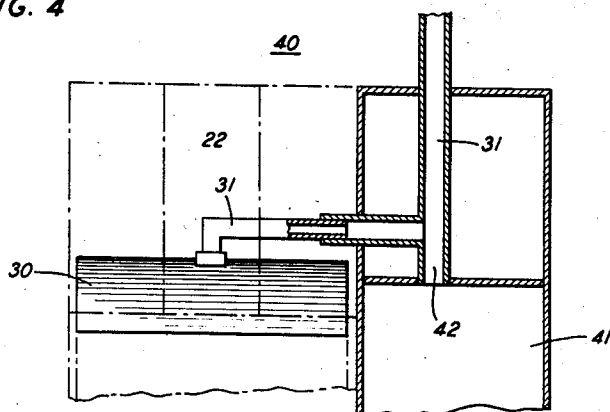


FIG. 4



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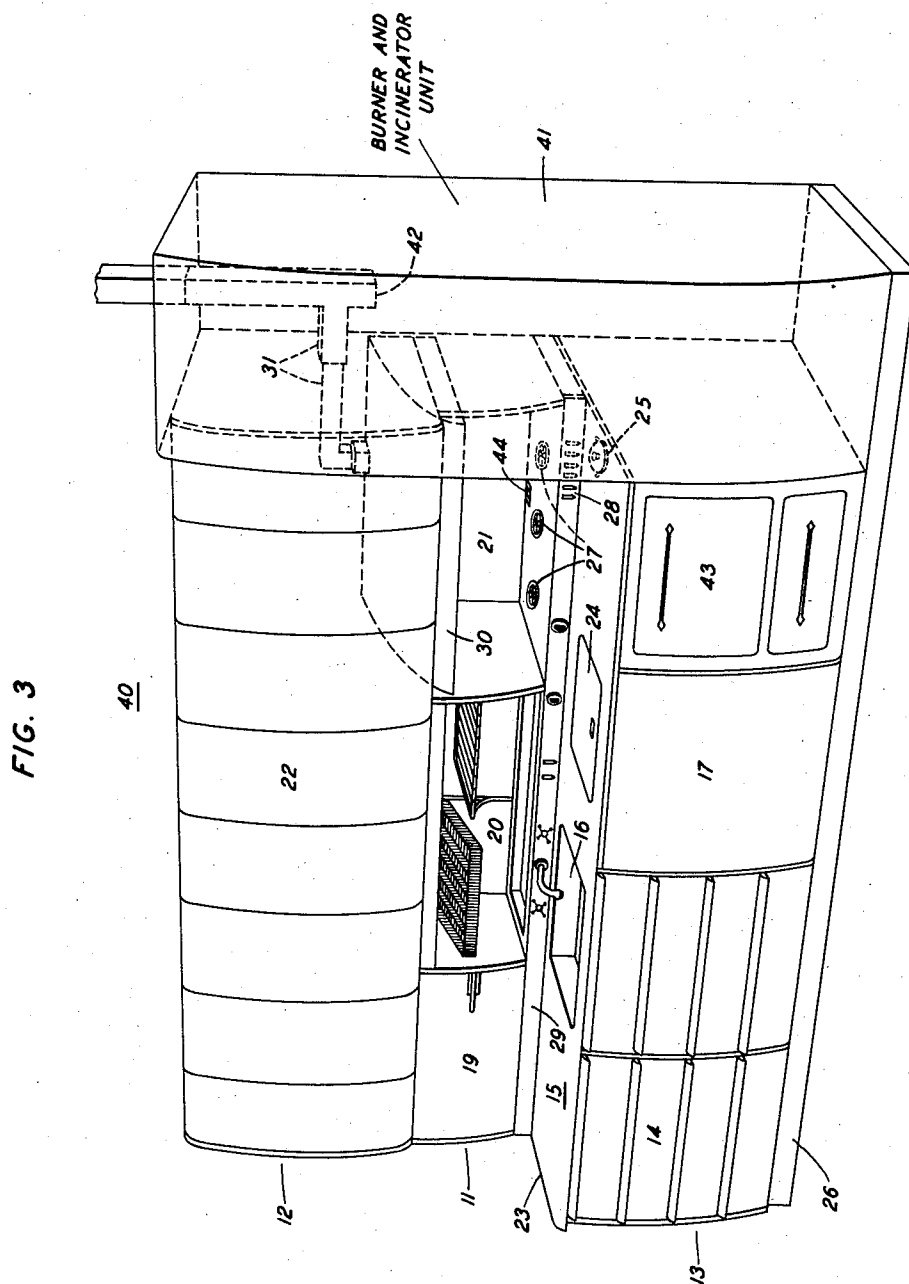
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3 Sheets-Sheet 3



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2,893,807

KITCHEN-UTILITY UNITS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 312-279)

This invention relates to kitchen-utility units and more specifically to such units employing stove or burner arrangements.

In a number of patents of the present inventor, set-back or L-shaped kitchen or utility room units are disclosed. In each of these structures there is a lower or base cabinet, an intermediate set-back cabinet positioned above and to the rear of the base cabinet, a table-top member above the portion of the base cabinet in front of the intermediate cabinet and an upper cabinet positioned above the intermediate cabinet. These units save much space in the kitchen or utility room since the intermediate set-back cabinets make use of wall-space which is usually wasted. In one of these Earle patents (No. 2,180,459, issued November 21, 1939), there is disclosed an arrangement of the L-shaped or set-back type employing a stove or burner compartment in the intermediate set-back cabinets.

It is a primary object of the present invention to provide improved space-saving arrangements each employing as a part thereof a stove or burner compartment in the set-back cabinet.

A first embodiment in accordance with the present invention employs an automatic clothes drying machine under the work top of an L-shaped unit, of the general configuration of the earlier-patented Earle units described above, with a novel venting arrangement. In most homes, the conventional clothes dryers vent into the utility room causing very moist, warm air to sweat the walls and damage the decorations, or the moist air is carried by a flue to the outside. In the present invention, the warm, moist air from the clothes dryer is caused to be directed into the stove or burner compartment in the intermediate set-back cabinet, preferably through a lint trap, and thence conducted through the flue system for the burner compartment away from the vicinity of the clothes dryer. In the top portion of the clothes dryer cabinet, above the clothes dryer per se, is placed a deep well cooker.

In a second embodiment, a high oven or a heater and incinerator package unit is positioned adjacent the burner compartment. If desired an oven and broiler can be placed in the front of the kitchen unit in place of the clothes dryer of the first embodiment. The high oven or heater and incinerator package utilizes a common flue system with the burner compartment.

The invention will be more readily understood by referring to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part thereof, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a kitchen-utility unit in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation view, with portions in cross-section, of the arrangement of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a front perspective view of a modification of the arrangement of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a front elevation view, with portions in cross-section, of a portion of the arrangement of Fig. 3 show-

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ing a flue arrangement in accordance with the invention.

Referring more specifically to the drawings, Fig. 1 shows, by way of example for purposes of illustration, a kitchen-utility unit 10 in accordance with the invention. The unit 10 is preferably of the L-shaped or "set-back" type, that is, one in which the front surfaces of the intermediate portion 11 and of the upper portion 12 thereof are placed to the rear (or "set-back" from) the front surface of the lower portion 13 of the unit. The lower portion 13 comprises the lower part 14 of a "set-back" refrigerator 15, sink 16, a clothes washer 17, and clothes dryer 18. The intermediate portion 11 comprises the intermediate portion 19 of the refrigerator 15, a dish-drying compartment 20 and a burner compartment 21. The upper portion 12 comprises shelved cabinets 22. A table-top member 23, having cut-out portions for the sink 16, the lid 24 covering the loading opening for the clothes washer 17 and, if desired, a deep well cooker 25, is placed above the lower portion 13 and in front of the intermediate portion 11. The whole unit 10 preferably rests on a recessed base 26. For more details of L-shaped kitchen units having the general configuration of the arrangement of Fig. 1 reference is made to the above-identified Earle patent and to other Earle patents including, for example, Patent No. 2,349,541 issued May 23, 1944.

The heart of the novel embodiments in accordance with the invention is the stove or burner compartment 21. This contains a plurality of burners 27 the controls 28 for which, and for the deep well cooker 25, are on the splash plate 29. Preferably, and it is considered a most important feature, the tops of burners 27 are at approximately the same level as the top of the splash plate 29 so that utensils can be slid off and on the burners with great facility. Over the top of the burner compartment 21 is a hood 30 which opens at the rear thereof to a flue system 31 which can be, if desired, of the interlocking type disclosed in Earle Patent 2,349,541 mentioned above. The flue 31 vents to the outside air or to a centralized flue system (in the case of apartment houses).

Within the burner compartment 21 is a lint trap 32 through which moist, warm air from the dryer 18 can exhaust into the compartment 21 and thence be carried off by the flue system 31. This is a real advantage for kitchens as it prevents the walls and decorations from being steamed. Suitable controls 33 for the dryer 18 are provided on the front of the unit.

In the embodiment 40 of Figs. 3 and 4, a large vertical heater unit or heater and incinerator unit 41 is positioned beside the burner compartment 21 and the flue 31 is common to the two. Details of the unit 41 have not been shown as any conventional package unit of this type can be used. The main feature in connection therewith of interest in the present invention is that the flue entrance 42 is properly positioned therein so as to carry the fumes and exhaust thereof into the flue system 31.

Another feature of interest in the embodiment 40 is the provision of an oven and broiler unit 43 of any conventional type in the lower cabinet in front of the burner compartment 21. The exhaust of the unit 43 is carried into the burner compartment 21 through opening 44 from whence it is conducted into the flue system 31. Controls 28 are for the oven and broiler, the burners 27 and the deep-well cooker 25.

Obviously, various changes can be made in the embodiments described above without departing from the spirit of the invention, the scope of which is indicated by the claims. For example, the invention is applicable to a wide variety of household units utilizing heating means.

What is claimed is:

A kitchen-utility unit comprising a lower or base cabinet, an intermediate set-back cabinet positioned above and to the rear of said base cabinet, a table-top member

above the portion of the base cabinet in front of said intermediate cabinet, and an upper cabinet having a hood and flue therein positioned above said intermediate cabinet, said intermediate cabinet having a plurality of burners therein positioned below said hood for venting through said hood and said flue, and said lower cabinet including a clothes drying machine which gives off warm, moist exhaust air and means for venting from said machine into said intermediate cabinet below said flue and positioned so that said exhaust air can be carried off by said hood and flue, said venting means having a lint trap therein.

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