April 24, 1956 H. J. SMITH 2,743,039

CANNED OIL DISPLAY AND CAN DRAINING CABINET

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Fig. 1.

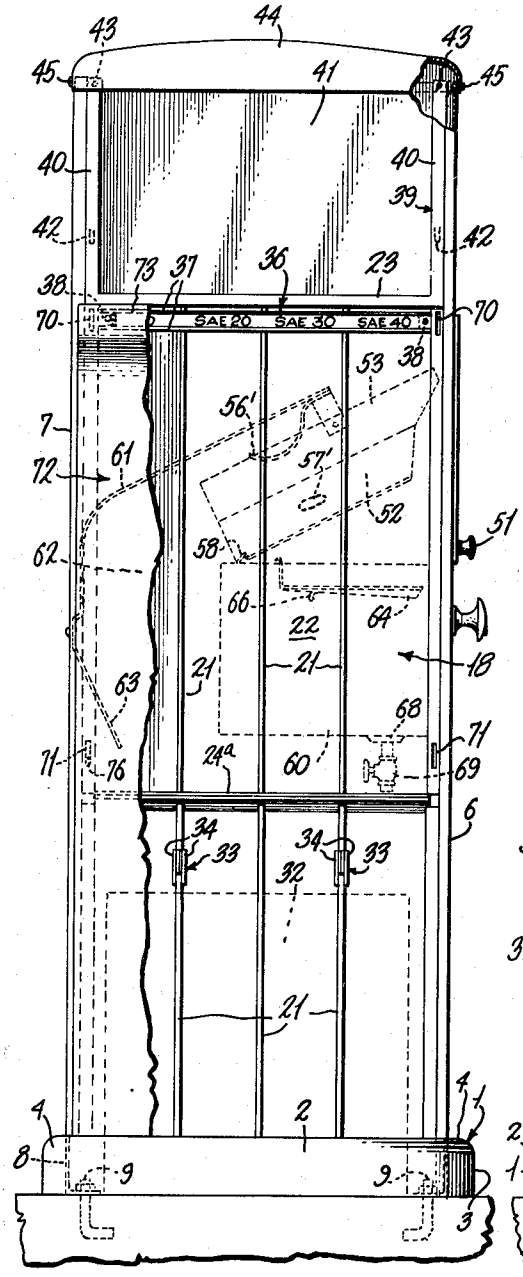
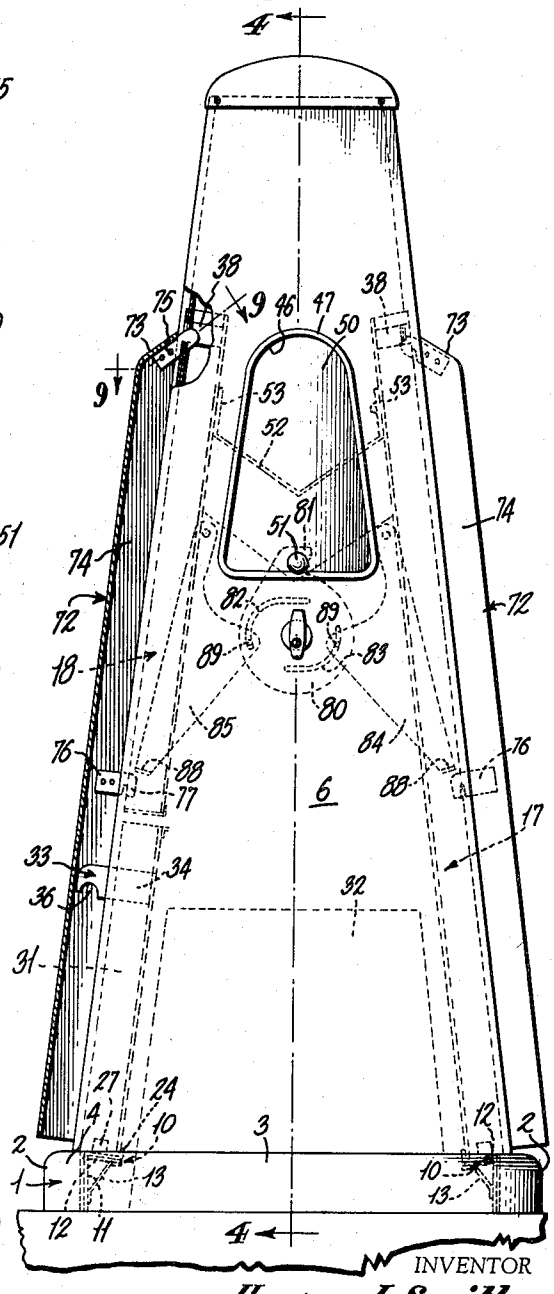


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

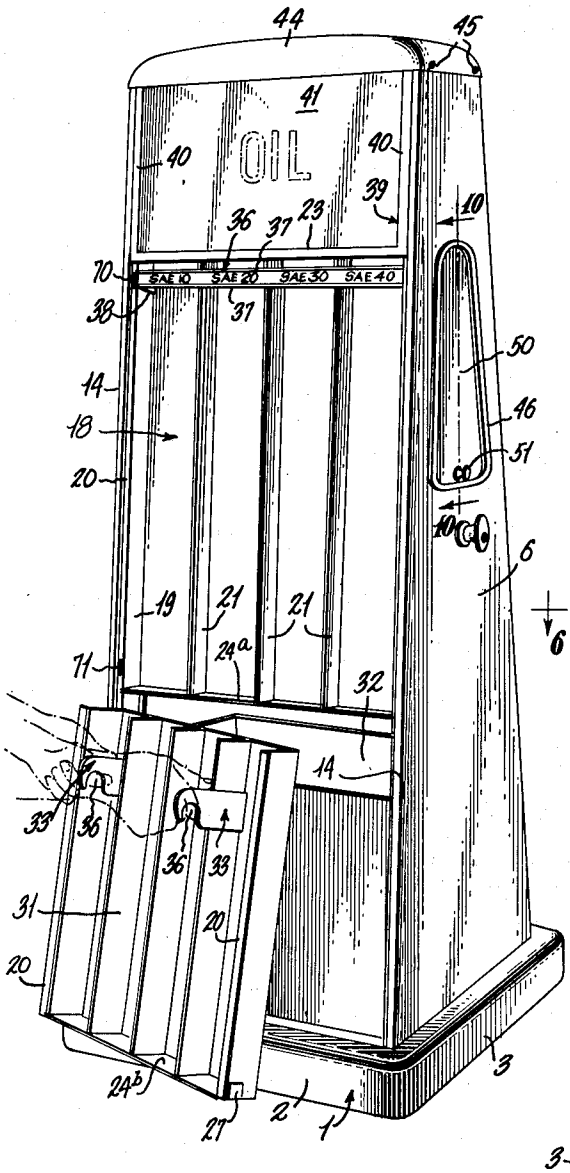
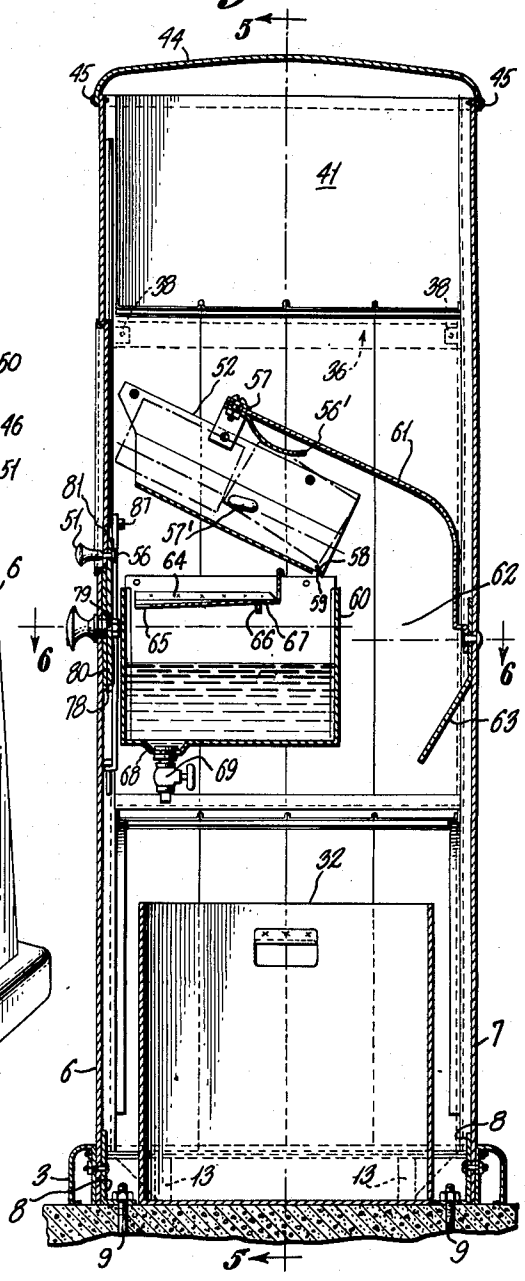


Fig. 4.



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CANNED OIL DISPLAY AND CAN DRAINING CABINET

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Fig. 5.

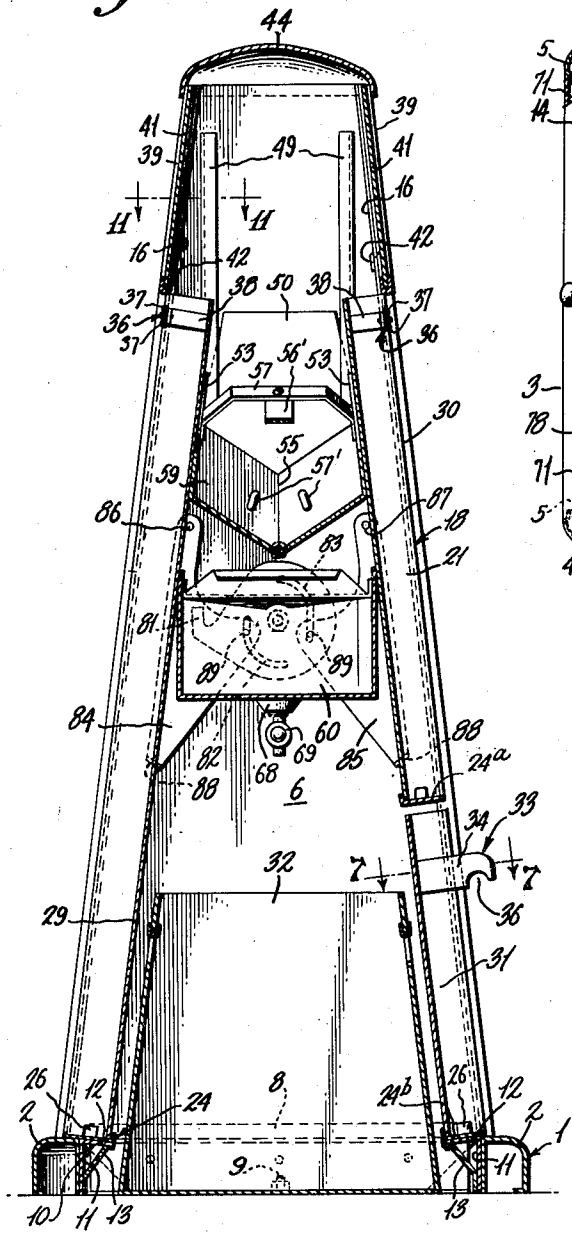


Fig. 6.

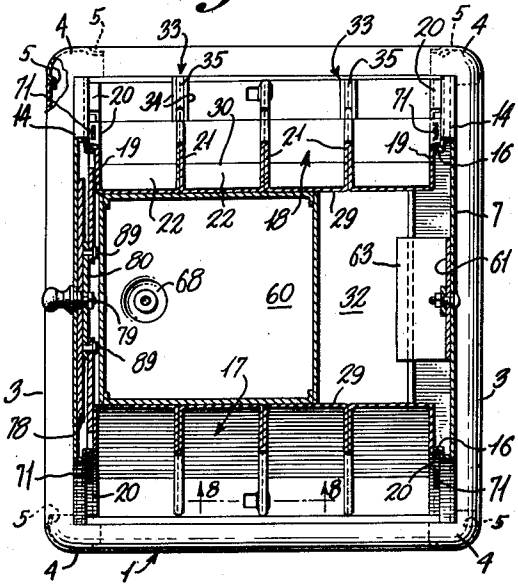
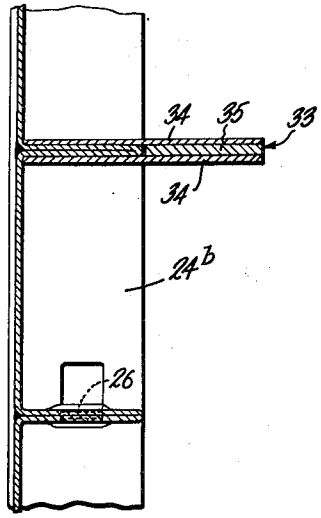


Fig. 7.



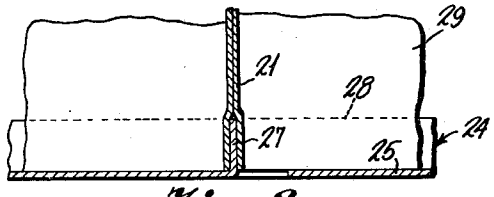


Fig. 8.

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CANNED OIL DISPLAY AND CAN DRAINING CABINET

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Fig. 9.

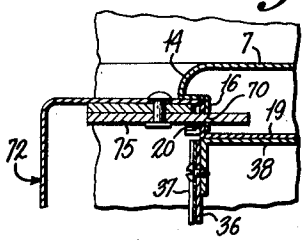


Fig. 10.

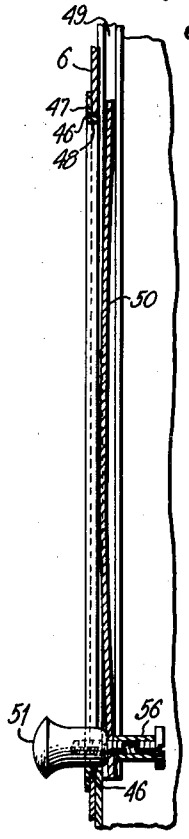


Fig. 11.

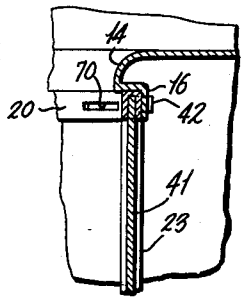


Fig. 12.

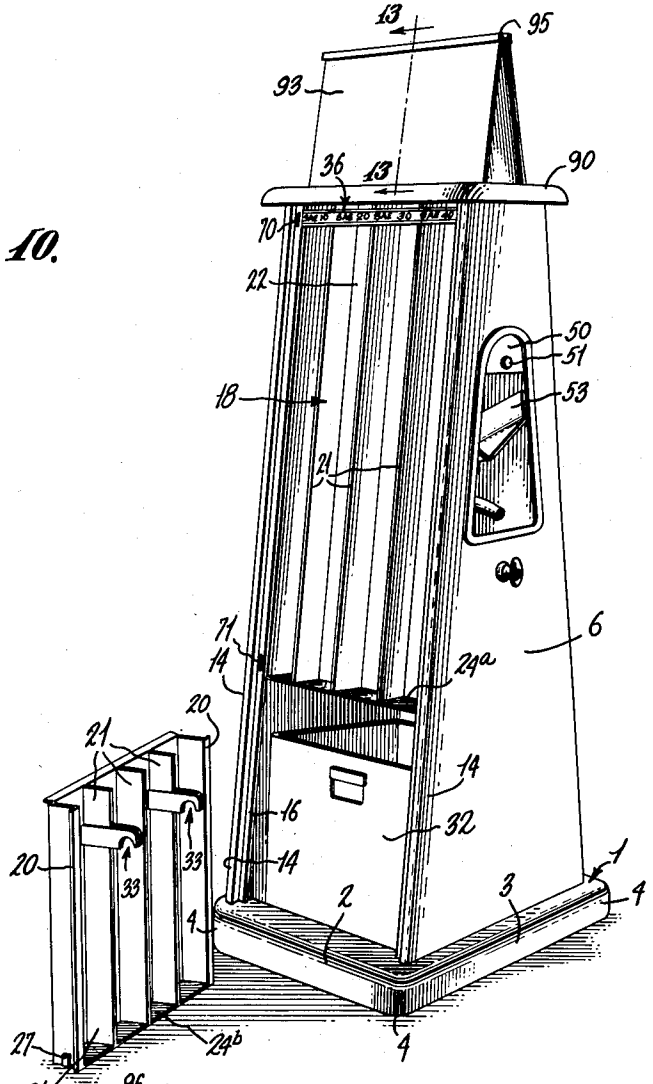
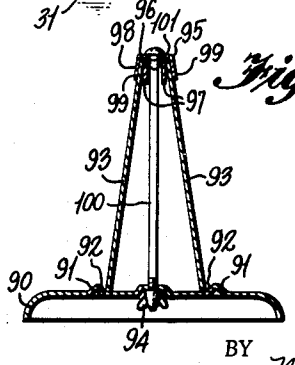


Fig. 13



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United States Patent Office 2,743,039 Patented Apr. 24, 1956

2,743,039

CANNED OIL DISPLAY AND CAN DRAINING CABINET

Harvey J. Smith, Greensboro, N. C., assignor to Modern Metal Products Company, Greensboro, N. C., a corporation of North Carolina

Application June 5, 1952, Serial No. 291,845

5 Claims. (Cl. 222—112)

This invention relates to canned oil display and can draining cabinets particularly designed for use at automobile service stations. It is an improvement upon my cabinet disclosed and claimed in one or more of my following patents, and which is so widely used that it may be considered the conventional cabinet, for the purpose indicated: 2,320,159, May 25, 1943; 2,432,455, December 9, 1947; 2,443,837, June 22, 1948; 2,525,002, October 10, 1950; 2,571,071, October 9, 1951.

The conventional cabinet comprises a casing having two opposite upwardly convergent inwardly set side walls forming display panels, partitioned in vertical planes to form side by side troughs in which cans of oil are stacked end to end for display purposes, the tilt of the display panels giving stability to the stacks, the end walls of the cabinet being vertical. On the inside of the cabinet at a high position is a chute inclined rearwardly downward accessible through a door opening in the adjacent end of the casing, into which chute, emptied cans are placed, punctured end foremost for drainage, being frictionally retained, each can being pushed forward by the next can admitted. In the normal cabinet the chute holds two cans, so that each can introduced beyond the second, successively expels the foremost can from the chute. There is a large receiver in the bottom of the cabinet into which the expelled cans drop. This receiver is removable through a large door opening in the same end of the casing as the access door opening to the chute. Beneath the chute is a tank that receives drainage from the chute.

The oil accumulated in the tank may be drawn off from time to time through a valve or petcock. Since the cabinet is designed to be permanently anchored in an outside location, removable covers are provided for the display panels and common locking means for both of said covers and the doors which close the aforementioned door openings.

As these cabinets are frequently mounted between closely spaced gasoline pumps, with the display panels facing the runways on both sides of the pump, it is a disadvantage in having the large door in an end wall of the cabinet, for there may be cramped room between said end wall and the adjacent pump or other fixture to enable the service man conveniently to pull out the large receiver. It is one of the objects of the present invention to dispense with the large end door and make the display panel on one side sectional, with the lower section removable, together with the display cans which it contains, thus providing an exit for the receiver in a direction in which there is unlimited room for its removal.

Another object of the invention is to provide a display and can draining cabinet of the type described, in which the chute is so constructed that the perforated end of the second can to be introduced will not seat congruently against the adjacent end of the first can and seal the second can so as to render it incapable of draining while it is behind the first can.

Still another object of the invention stems from the

widespread use of the new "detergent oils" which have the tendency to form tension films across the drainage space between the cans and chute, which upon bursting spatter oil across the space behind the chute through which the cans fall when expelled, against the back end wall of the cabinet, causing an objectionable oil stain on the concrete about the cabinet. The object of the present invention is to provide an improved chute construction that avoids this spattering.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a door giving access to the chute, slidable frictionally in interior guideways, the friction being derived from the resilient camber of the door.

Still another object of the invention relates to an improved locking system for simultaneously locking the covers of both display panels and the door to the chute by a single manipulation of a common locking element.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a cabinet of the "lowboy" type, as contrasted with the conventional cabinet having the signs on top, characterized by location of the sign retaining structure at a lower level than the crown of the cabinet.

Other objects of the invention will appear as the following description of a preferred and practical embodiment thereof proceeds.

In the drawings which accompany and form a part of the following specification and throughout the figures of which the same reference characters denote identical parts:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of an oil dispensing and can draining cabinet embodying the principles of the invention, the display panel cover being in part broken away to reveal the display panel;

Figure 2 is an end elevation, parts being shown in section;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the cabinet, the lower section of the sectional display panel being shown removed;

Figure 4 is a vertical section taken along the line **4—4** of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a vertical section taken along the line **5—5** of Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a cross-section taken along the line **6—6** of Figure 4;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary cross-section taken along the line **7—7** of Figure 5;

Figure 8 is a fragmentary section taken along the line **8—8** of Figure 6;

Figure 9 is a section taken along the line **9—9** of Figure 2;

Figure 10 is a section taken along the line **10—10** of Figure 3;

Figure 11 is a section taken along the line **11—11** of Figure 5;

Figure 12 is a perspective view of a "highboy" type cabinet embodying the principles of the present invention;

Figure 13 is a section taken along the line **13—13** of Figure 12.

Referring now in detail to the several figures, the cabinet has a generally rectangular base frame **1**, consisting of relatively short side channel members **2** and relatively long end channel members **3**, the preferred cross-sectional shape of said channel members being shown in Figure 5, the open sides of said channels being toward the ground, the flanges being perpendicular thereto and the outer angles of said members being rounded for appearance sake. Said channel members are joined at the corners by externally rounded corner pieces **4**, which have reduced ends telescoping into the channel members, and being welded thereto. Figure 4 shows that front and rear end panels **6** and **7** are secured at their

bases to the inner flanges of the opposite channel members 3. Said end panels extend to ground level to reinforce the channel members to which they are secured. The end panels, as shown in Figures 2 and 6, are upwardly convergent symmetrically with respect to a medial vertical plane. Angle bars 8 of rectangular cross-section extend along the bases of the end panels, each having one flange secured to the corresponding end panel, and the other parallel to the ground at ground level. These latter flanges have bolt holes registering with bolts 9 embedded in the concrete, by means of which the cabinet is anchored to the ground.

Along the inner side of the relatively short channel members 2 are the seats for the display panels. These are the angle bars 10, Figure 2, which are of acute angled cross-section having a flange 11 secured to the back flange of the corresponding channel member 2, and a top flange 12 which inclines downward inwardly so as to lie perpendicular to the plane of convergency of the end panels. Since these flanges bear the load of the cans carried by the display panels, they are supported by the braces 13. The side edges of the end panels 6 and 7 are inwardly turned on a radius to form a rounded reveal 14 for the display panels. The end panels are formed with rabbets inset with respect to the reveals, having back flanges 16. Opposite back flanges 16 on the same side of the cabinet form supports for the sides of the display panels. They extend the full length of the end panels above the base frame.

The display panels 17 and 18 are of generally similar construction, the differences between them being incident to the fact that the former is integral throughout its length, while the latter is divided into upper and lower sections. Figure 6 shows that each is formed from a piece of sheet metal considerably wider than the finished panel, bent to form deep sides 19 terminating in outturned edge flanges 20 which seat against the back flanges 16 of the rabbets of the end panels. Intermediately the display panels are crimped into flat pleats 21 of the same depth as the sides 19 and parallel thereto, forming partitions uniformly spaced with respect to said sides and each other, defining troughs 22 designed to receive stacks of oil cans, one grade to each stack, said troughs being of a width very slightly greater than the diameter of the cans, and of a depth about equal to half the diameter of the cans.

Referring particularly to the undivided display panel 17, it extends from the corresponding seat flange 12 to the level of the lower member 23 of the sign frame shown in Figure 5 and presently to be described. It has a bottom 24 consisting of a member of rectangular cross-section having a base flange 25 underlying the troughs with struck-up end lugs 26 welded to the outer faces of the sides 19 and an intermediate lug 27 struck out from the base flange and crimped between the sides of the middle partition, and having a back flange 28 engaging the outer face of the planiform rear wall 29 of the display panel and spotwelded thereto. The edge flanges 20 of the display panel 17 are spotwelded to the back flanges 16, permanently fixing the display panel 17.

The display panel 18 is divided into a fixed upper section 30 and a removable lower section 31. The construction of each of these sections is similar to that of the display panel 17. The upper section has a bottom 24*a* and the lower section a bottom 24*b*, both of these bottoms being identical in construction, with the bottom 24 of the display panel 17, and being secured to the respective sections in the same manner.

The lower section 31 rests freely upon the corresponding seat flange 12 with its edge flanges 20 freely seated against the adjacent portions of the back flanges 16. The height of the section 31 is somewhat greater than the height of the removable drained can receiver 32, Figure 5, which rests upon the concrete and is lifted above the base frame to effect its removal through the space vacated by the section 31. The latter has forwardly projecting laterally spaced handles 33, by means of which it may be removed. These handles are secured to the partitions between the sides 19 and the middle partition. Each is of laminated construction, consisting of two outer members 34, embracing the partition and welded thereto, and an intermediate filler piece 35 between the projecting portions of the members 34. The filler piece and said projecting portions are congruent, shaped with a recess 36 to afford a comfortable fingerhold, and being welded together. The handles are short enough to be enclosed by the covers provided for the display panels. The edge flanges 20 of the upper section are welded to the underlying portions ofthe back flanges 16.

Both the display panel 17 and the upper section 30 of the display panel 18 are provided near the top with a narrow transverse sign holder 36, consisting of a flat strap having outwardly turned shallow retaining flanges 37 for receiving and retaining a sign strip indicating the viscosity grade of oil in the cans stacked in the respective troughs. This sign holder rests against the partitions and is secured by sheet metal screws to the angularly turned ends of brackets 38 spotwelded to the inner faces of the sides 19, and is located at such level as to come just above the top cans of full stacks.

The sign frames 39 belong to the "lowboy" style of cabinet in which the signs are below the crown. The sign frames are identical for each side of the cabinet, one being above the display panel 17, and the other above the fixed section 30. Each consists of a three-sided channel frame having a lower horizontal member 23 and side members 40 open at their upper ends. A sign 41, which may be of stiff material such as tempered masonite, metal, etc., is slipped into the sign frame from the upper open end, fitting the channels of all three frame members. The inner flanges of the side members 40 are formed at intermediate points with struck out tongues 42, Figure 5, which pass through registering slots in the underlying portions of the back flanges 16 and are turned down against the inner sides of said flanges. The side members 40 rest against said flanges. The upper ends of the side members 40 are provided with tabs 43 in the plane of their inner flanges, having screw holes whereby the upper ends of said frames are secured to the back flanges 16 and thus fixed in place. An upwardly convex crown 44 has its lower edges terminating in a common horizontal plane, said edges fitting over and against the upper ends of the sign frames and end panels, being screwed to the latter, as indicated at 45 in Figure 3.

The front end panel 6 is provided with a door opening 46, the top of which is at about the level of the bottom of the sign frames 39. The shape of the door opening follows the convergence of the rear walls 29 of the display panels, being wider at the bottom than at the top. Said door opening is faced with a peripheral frame having a front flange 47 against the exterior of the front panel 6, for finish, and a flange 48 which lines the edge of the door opening. The width of the reveal 14 spaces the sides 19 of the display panel 17 and the fixed section 30 of the display panel 31 sufficiently away from the end panel 6 to leave room for a pair of vertical channeled guide rails 49, one on each side of the door opening, spaced apart a width greater than the bottom of the door opening, as shown in Figure 10, and welded to the inside of the panel 6. The door 50 in unstressed state is slightly cambered transversely and is installed by forcing it up between the channels of the guide rails which are sufficiently narrow to substantially straighten the door under tension, as indicated in Figure 10. This causes the door to frictionally bind against the sides of said channels and to retain any open position to which it is moved. Generally, it will be opened all the way or completely closed. The knob 51 limits its range of movement by contacting the door frame. The knob is secured by a projecting

stud nut 56 on the inside of the door which stud nut cooperates with the locking instrumentalities, as will appear.

An inclined chute 52 has its higher end facing the upper part of the door opening 46, far enough back of said door opening to clear the door, including the stud nut 56. Said chute is a folded piece of sheet metal having upper sides 53 engaging the rear faces of the display panel 17 and display panel section 30, and being secured thereto. It has lower sides 54, seen from the rear in Figure 5, which slope downward to an apex 55 at the longitudinal middle of the chute. The cans rest in the chute tangent to the lower sides 54, a drainage conduit of relatively small cross-section being defined by the cans and the bottom of the chute between the apex 55 and the lines of tangency of the cans. The chute is long enough to hold two cans end to end. The first can introduced occupies an upper position in the chute. No great care has to be observed in placing this can in the chute, except to see that the perforation in its front end is in a downmost position. If the first can is shoved in forcibly, it contacts the spring retarder 56', which projects into its path and stops its forward movement. The retarder is secured to a bridge piece 57 which bows upwardly above the chute out of obstructive relation to the path of movement of the cans, and has its ends secured to the upper sides of the chute. When the second can is introduced, it pushes the first can to a forward position in the chute, but still under the influence of the retarder, as shown in Figure 4. Obviously, most of the draining takes place while a can is in the high position, for it generally remains in this position for some time before the second can is introduced. If no provision to the contrary were made, the two cans would rest coaxially in the chute, and the forward end of the second can immediately upon its introduction would rest congruently against the unpunctured end of the first can effectively sealing the perforated end of the second can so that it could not drain. To prevent this eventuality, a pair of convex projections 57' are pressed inwardly into the lower sides of the chute intersecting the respective produced lines of tangency of the second can when in its high position in the chute, said projections being less than a can's length but more than half a can's length from the mouth of the chute whereby when the first can has been pushed to its foremost position in the chute its rear end will have been tilted upward out of registry with the adjacent end of the second can, preventing sealing relationship between the adjacent ends of the two cans, and placing the perforation in the head of the second can below the periphery of the adjacent head of the first can. This will readily be understood from the showing in Figure 4.

It has been found that the class of oils now widely used known generally as detergent oils, have the property of forming a surface tension film or bubble across the drainage conduit between the cans and the bottom of the chute. This bubble generally occurs when the second can has drained to such an extent that the oil drips from it into the drainage conduit at spaced time intervals. The first bubble forms a film across the drainage conduit, which film travels down said conduit and remains at the lower end thereof. The next bubble forms a similar film which likewise travels down, compressing the air between the two films. A point is reached where the air pressure bursts the lowermost film, causing a spatter of oil which impinges against the inner face of the end wall 7, runs down said end wall to the base of the cabinet, finds its way to the concrete, and forms an ever expanding oil stain on the pavement surrounding the cabinet, which of course, is extremely objectionable. The chute of the present invention overcomes this spatter by the provision of an upturned lip 58 at the extreme end of the chute, the upper edge of which barely clears the lowermost arc of the front end of the foremost can. This lip is formed by slitting the chute transversely and turning the lip upward, the upper edge of the lip being one side of the slit, raised to form a drainage slot 59 behind said lip. Spattering oil is baffled by said lip, and drains downward through said slot.

A reservoir 60 is arranged beneath the chute, extending sufficiently beyond the lower end of said chute to receive the drainage from the slot 59. The top of said reservoir is accessible through the doorway 46. The forward end of said reservoir is sufficiently spaced from the rear end wall 7 of the cabinet to provide a can passage overlying the drained can receiver 32. A deflector 61 is secured to the bridge piece 57 and to the rear wall 7 for turning the cans in their free fall from the chute so that they will fall end first and not jam in the passage 62 between the end of the reservoir and the rear end panel 7. Said deflector terminates in a baffle 63, the function of which is to guide the cans into the receiver 32. At its top, the forward part of the reservoir is bridged by a pan 64, the bottom of which slopes forwardly to drain through an opening 65 into the reservoir 60. Near its rear end, said pan has a struck down flange 66, forming an aperture 67 in front of it, in which the nozzle of the delivery spout which is used in servicing oil from the cans, may be thrust for draining the delivery spout into the reservoir. The bottom of the reservoir has a sump 68 to which is attached a discharge valve or petcock 69 which may be opened from time to time to drain accumulated oil from the reservoir. The petcock is made accessible by removing the lower section 31 of the display cabinet.

The back flanges 16 of the rabbeted edges of the end panels 6 and 7, and the overlapping flanges 20 of the display panel 17 and the upper display panel section 30, which are welded to said back flange, are provided with through slots 70 near the top at a common level, and similar slots 71 at a common level adjacent the bottom of the section 30. These slots are to receive lugs on the covers 72. Said covers are identical, being upwardly convergent, each having an upwardly and inwardly sloping upper flange 73, the edge of which fits close beneath the bottom member 23 of the sign frame, and inwardly extending side flanges 74, the edges of which fit down in the lateral rabbets of the end panels. The covers have flat faces and are inwardly dished or chambered sufficiently to enclose the projecting halves of the stacked cans in the display panels and to enclose the handle 33 of the removable section 31.

Each cover has an obliquely positioned lug 75 secured at each side adjacent the top, and a pair of spaced lugs 76 secured to the side flanges 74 at the level of the slots 71. Said lugs project beyond said flanges and have slots 77 in the lower sides of their projecting portions of a width equal to the combined thickness of the united flanges 16 and 20. The slots 70 and 71 are longer than the width of the lugs, so that in mounting, the covers are first raised to enter the lugs into said slots and then lowered to engage the slots 77 over the lower ends of the slots 70 and 71. The locking means, as will appear, holds the lugs in this lower position.

Referring now to the locking means, this comprises a reinforcing plate 78 spot welded to the inner side of the front panel 6 below the door opening 46. The lock proper, which is an item of commerce and not a part of the present invention, is mounted on the outside of the end panel 6, having a stem 79 extending through aligned holes in said panel and reinforcing plate, which stem is released for rotation when the key is inserted in the lock. On the inside of the reinforcing plate and supported thereagainst is a cam 80 fixed to said stem so as to rotate therewith. It has a hooked keeper 81 at one point in its periphery and two diametrically opposite spiral slots 82 and 83 symmetrically spaced with respect to the axis of rotation of said cam. A pair of similarly shaped reversely positioned keepers 84 and 85 are pivotally mounted to the end panel 6 at points 86 and 87 above and at opposite sides of the cam, said keepers depending from their pivots, and having angularly

turned lower ends 88 swingable in arcs that bring them immediately above the inwardly projecting portions of the lugs 76 of the covers when in locked position. The keepers 84 and 85 have portions that lap the cam 70 on opposite sides, with pins 89 projecting from said lapping portions respectively into the slots 82 and 83. The pins are simultaneously in the inner ends of the slots and simultaneously progress to the outer ends of the slots as the cam is turned. When the keepers 84 and 85 are in locking position, it is impossible to raise either cover so as to disengage the cover lugs. The hooked keeper 81 moves in a path that brings it into embracing relation to the inwardly projecting stud 56 on the rear of the door, and it is so positioned on the cam as to lock the door simultaneously with the locking of the covers.

Referring now to the "highboy" version of the oil display and can draining cabinet, illustrated in Figures 12 and 13, such differences from the "lowboy" cabinet hereinbefore described, as are present, are incident to the transposition of the signs from a location beneath the crown to a position on top of the crown. The sign frames 39 are omitted and the display panels are extended to the crown 90. The latter is flat topped and has a pair of pressed up ridges 91 parallel to the longitudinal center line of the crown and equally spaced therefrom, with abrupt shoulders 92 facing said center line. These are retainers for the lower edges of the oppositely divergent signs 93. In the middle of said center line is a hole communicating with the threaded bore of a nut 94 welded to the under side of the crown. A sign cap 95 is provided comprising an inner channel member 96 having downwardly extending vertical flanges 97, and a wider outer channel member 98 superposed upon the inner channel member and spot welded thereto, having downwardly extending flanges 99 flared at the angle of inclination of the signs. The channel members are as long as the signs. Corresponding flanges of each form grooves between them receiving the top edges of the signs. A carriage bolt 100 passes through a central hole 101 in the channel members, extends between the signs and passes through a central hole in the crown, being engaged by a wing nut 94 for clamping the signs between said channel members and the crown. In all other essential respects the structure of the "highboy" cabinet and its appurtenant parts is the same as that of the "lowboy" cabinet.

While I have in the above description disclosed what I believe to be a preferred and practical embodiment of the invention it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the specific details of construction and arrangement of parts, as shown, are by way of example and not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. In a cabinet for draining residual oil from emptied oil cans, an inclined chute having lower, generally planiform sides meeting at the bottom in a wide dihedral angle having its apex extending longitudinally of said chute, and adapted to support a plurality of cylindrical cans substantially along their line of tangency with said sides and out of contact with the lowermost portion of said chute, forming an unobstructed oil runway beneath said cans in end to end relation, a frictional retarder mounted above said chute projecting into the can path at a point less than a can's length from the mouth of said chute to prevent cans from being freely ejected from said chute by inertia transmitted to them at the point of introduction, a pair of cam projections extending inwardly from the opposite sides of said chute located at a point less than a can's length but more than half a can's length from the mouth of the chute, intersecting the respective produced lines of tangency of the next to foremost can with said sides of the chute, to tilt up the rear end of the foremost can out of sealing congruency with the adjacent end of the next to foremost can, and a reservoir below said chute positioned to receive oil discharged from said chute, and out of obstructive relation to cans ejected from said chute.

2. In a cabinet for draining residual oil from emptied oil cans, an inclined chute having lower, generally planiform sides meeting at the bottom in a wide dihedral angle having its apex extending longitudinally of said chute, and adapted to support a plurality of cylindrical cans substantially along their line of tangency with said sides and out of contact with the lowermost portion of said chute, forming an unobstructed oil runway beneath said cans in end to end relation, a pair of cam projections extending inwardly from the opposite sides of said chute located at a point less than a can's length but more than half a can's length from the mouth of the chute, intersecting the respective produced lines of tangency of the next to foremost can with said sides of the chute, to tilt up the rear end of the foremost can out of sealing congruency with the adjacent end of the next to foremost can, and a reservoir below said chute positioned to receive oil discharged from said chute, and out of obstructive relation to cans ejected from said chute.

3. In a cabinet for draining residual oil from emptied oil cans, an inclined chute having lower, generally planiform sides meeting at the bottom in a wide dihedral angle having its apex extending longitudinally of said chute, forming a trough adapted to slidably support a plurality of emptied cylindrical cans substantially along their line of tangency with said sides and out of contact with the lowermost portion of said chute, forming an unobstructed oil runway beneath said cans in end to end relation, said chute having an upturned lip at its mouth end terminating substantially at the can path so as to close said drainage conduit at said mouth end, a drainage hole in said chute behind said lip, and a reservoir beneath said drainage hole.

4. In a cabinet for draining residual oil from emptied oil cans, an inclined chute having lower, generally planiform sides meeting at the bottom in a wide dihedral angle having its apex extending longitudinally of said chute, forming a trough adapted to slidably support a plurality of emptied cylindrical cans substantially along their line of tangency with said sides and out of contact with the lowermost portion of said chute, forming an unobstructed oil runway beneath said cans in end to end relation, a pair of can projections extending inwardly from the opposite sides of said chute located at a point less than a can's length but more than half a can's length from the mouth of the chute, intersecting the respective produced lines of tangency of the next to foremost can with the sides of said chute, to tilt up the rear end of the foremost can out of sealing congruency with the adjacent end of the next to foremost can, said chute having an upturned lip at its mouth end terminating substantially at the can path so as to close said drainage conduit at said mouth end, a drainage hole in said chute behind said lip and a reservoir below said chute positioned to receive oil discharged therefrom, and out of obstructive relation to cans ejected from said chute.

5. Cabinet for draining residual oil from emptied cans comprising a casing including opposite end panels in spaced parallel vertical planes, a door opening in one of said panels, an inclined chute mounted in said cabinet with its high end adjacent said door opening accessible therethrough, and its mouth end toward the opposite end panel, a reservoir beneath said chute positioned to receive oil discharged from said chute, said reservoir and the mouth end of said chute being spaced from said opposite end panel sufficiently to provide a passage for the free fall of cans ejected from said chute, a drained can receiver below said reservoir positioned to receive ejected cans, said chute having generally planiform lower sides meeting at the bottom in a wide dihedral angle having its apex extending longitudinally of said chute, forming a trough adapted to slidably support a plurality of empty cylindri-

cal cans substantially along their line of tangency with said sides and out of contact with the lowermost portion of said chute, forming an unobstructed oil runway beneath said cans in end to end relation with their axes in the vertical plane which embraces said apex, a retarder mounted above said chute projecting into the can path at a point less than a can's length from the mouth of said chute to prevent cans from being freely ejected from said chute by inertia transmitted to them at the point of introduction, a pair of cam projections extending inwardly from the opposite sides of said chute located at a point less than a can's length but more than half a can's length from the mouth of the chute, intersecting the respective produced lines of tangency of the next to foremost can with the sides of said chute, to tilt up the rear end of the foremost can out of sealing congruency with the adjacent end of the next to foremost can, said chute having an

upturned lip at its mouth and extending upward substantially to the can path so as to close said drainage conduit at said mouth end, and a drainage hole in said chute behind said lip.

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