United States Patent [19]

Bonin

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[54] **CAMPING UNIT**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **312/236,** 126/25 R, 126/37 R, 312/249

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47b 77/08**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 126/25 R, 37 R; 312/236, 312/249

[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

878,769	2/1908	Campbell	312/236 X
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Primary Examiner—James C. Mitchell

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—James F. Weiler

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A camping unit which provides an ice chest, storage compartment, water compartment and stove in a compact, light-weight and insulated body. The water compartment is adjacent the ice chest and the storage compartment so that the water is maintained cool by the ice in the ice chest and helps maintain the storage compartment cool, which preferably is adjacent the ice chest for cooling purposes. The water compartment may extend alongside the stove compartment to help keep it cool. The camping unit also includes legs to elevate the combination and wheels and ground support means for movement of the camping unit.

6 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures

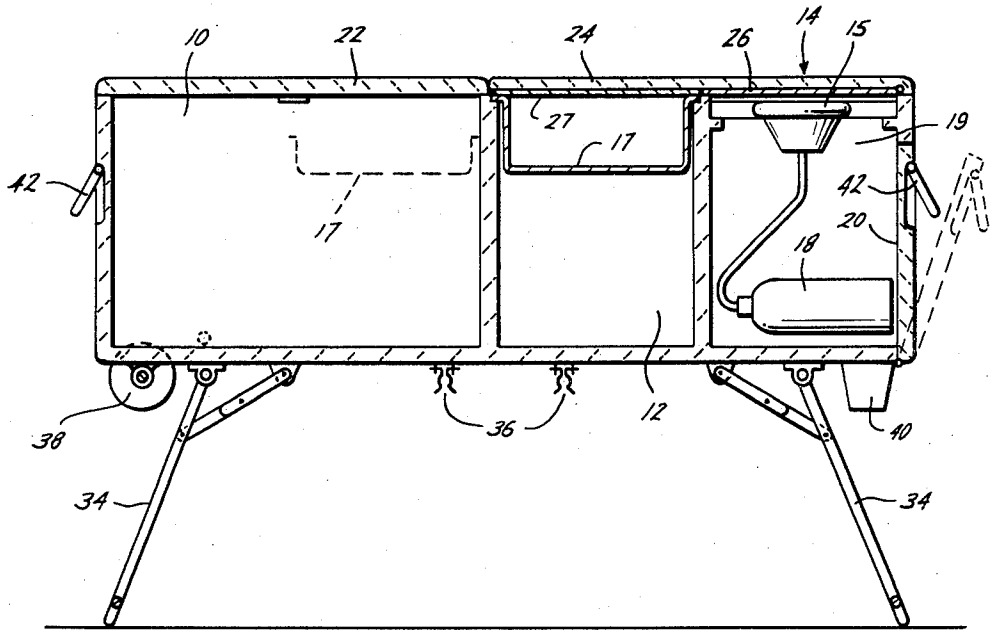
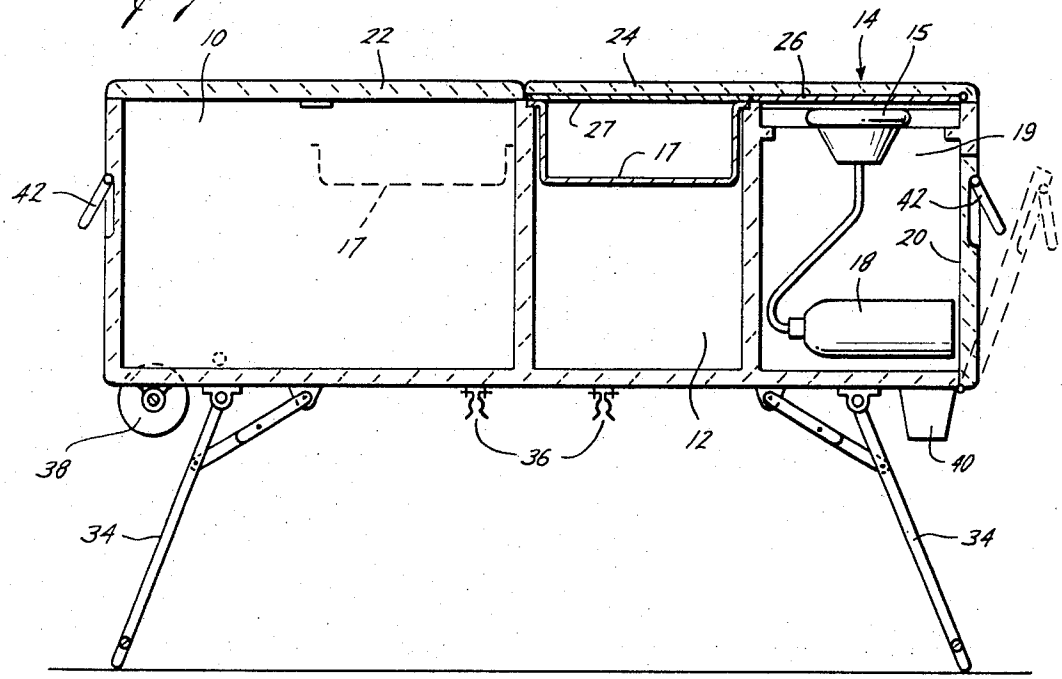


Fig. 1


10
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34
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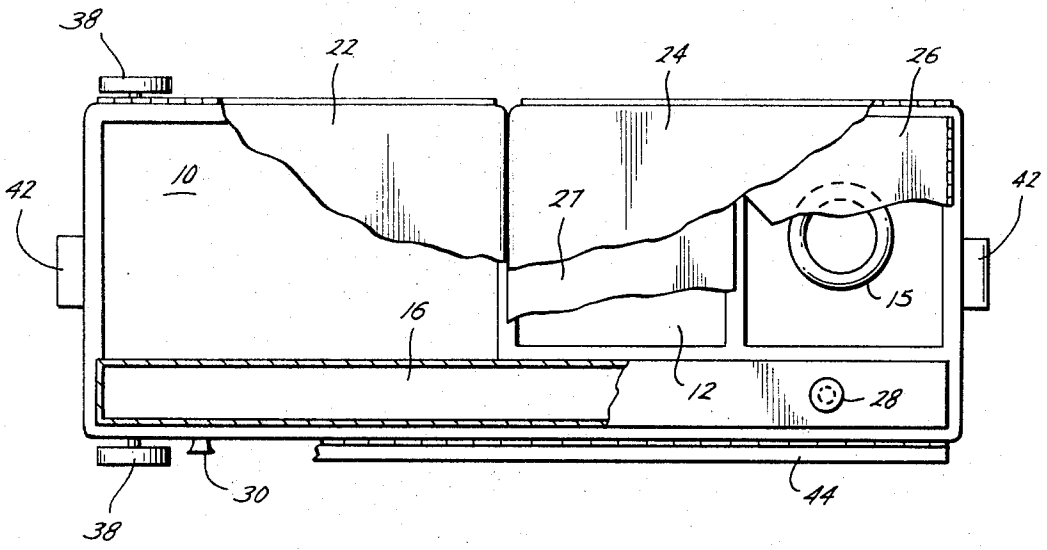
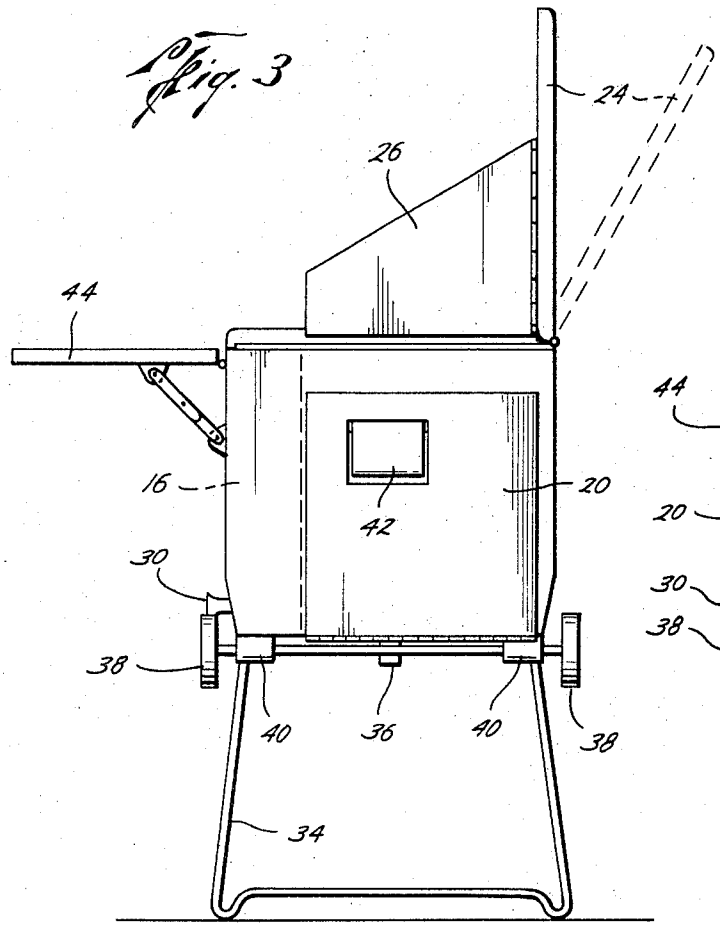

38
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15
16
12
28
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44
38

Fig. 2

Fig. 3



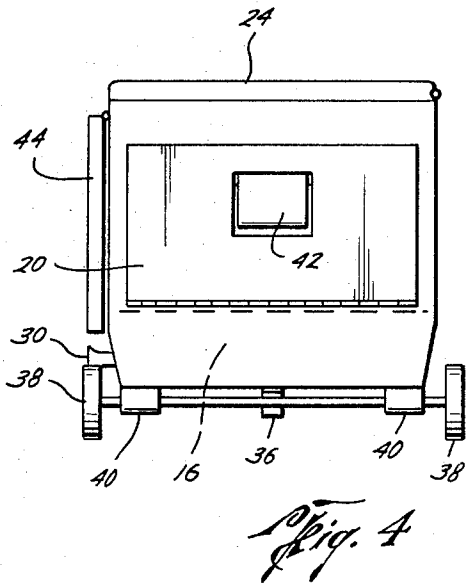
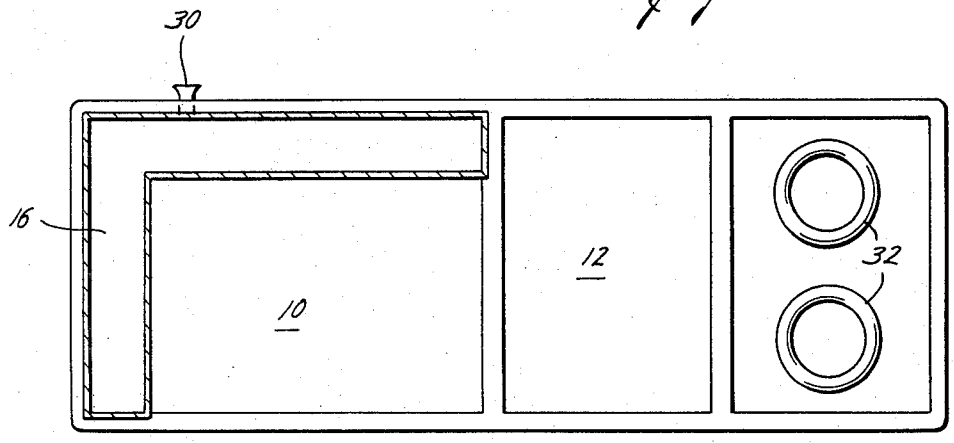


Fig. 4

Fig. 5



CAMPING UNIT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The need for a camping unit which provides an ice chest, storage compartment, water compartment and stove in a compact, liqht-weight and insulated body has been recognized by sportsmen. Such a device may be used for camping, hunting, fishing, boating, vacation and other outings. Applicant is presently aware of U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,530,166; 1,266,588; and 3,613,872.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

The clamping unit of the present invention generally comprises an ice chest, storage compartment, water compartment and stove combined into a compact, light-weight and insulated body. The water compartment is adjacent the ice chest and the storage compartment so that the water is maintained cool by the ice in the ice chest and helps maintain the storage compartment cool, which preferably is adjacent the ice chest for cooling purposes. The water compartment may extend alongside the stove compartment to help keep it cool. Additionally, the camping unit includes an additional area of storage beneath the stove, legs which may be used to elevate the camping unit, and ground support means and wheels for easy movement of the camping unit.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a camping unit comprising a combination of an ice chest, storage compartment water compartment and stove in a compact, light-weight and insulated body.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a camping unit in which a water compartment, ice chest and storage compartment are arranged so that the water in the water compartment is maintained cool by ice in the ice chest, the cool water in the water compartment helps maintain the storage compartment cool, and in which the storage compartment is located adjacent the ice chest to also assist in maintaining the storage compartment cool.

A further object of the present invention is the provision of a camping unit in which the water compartment is adjacent an ice chest compartment, a storage compartment and a stove compartment so that water in the water compartment assist in cooling or moderating the temperature in the storage and stove compartments.

Yet a further object of the present invention is the provision of such a camping unit which includes legs which may be used to elevate the camping unit and the provision of ground support means at one end of the unit and wheels at the other end of the unit for easy and ready movement of the camping unit.

A still further object of the present invention is the provision of such a camping unit which includes accessible storage space beneath the stove.

Still other and further objects, features and advantages will be apparent from the following description of a presently-preferred embodiment of the invention, given for the purpose of disclosure and taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings forming a part of the disclosure herein, like character references designate like parts throughout the several views, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front elevational view, in section, of a camping unit according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a top elevational view, partly in section, of the camping unit of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a right elevational view of the camping unit of FIG. 1 which shows the top lid opened, the folding table in use and the legs extended;

FIG. 4 is a right elevation view of the camping unit of FIG. 1 with the top lid closed, the folding table not in use, the legs folded, and the water compartment in an alternative position;

FIG. 5 is a top sectional view of a camping unit according to the invention which shows another alternative location of the water compartment and stove compartment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY-PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings, and particularly to FIG. 1, the camping unit includes an ice chest **10**, the storage compartment **12**, and the stove compartment **14**, which includes the stove **15**. Additionally, the camping unit includes a water compartment **16** as shown in FIG. 2.

The ice chest **10** and storage compartment **12** are provided with the trays **17** which serve as additional storage surface.

As shown in FIG. 1, the burner of the stove **15** is supplied with gas from a compressed gas tank **18** located in the stove compartment **14** below the stove **15**. The compressed gas tank **18** is located along the back wall of the stove compartment **14** in order to provide as much additional storage space **19** as possible under the stove **15** in the stove compartment **14**.

As shown in FIG. 1, the exterior side of the stove includes a door **20** which is hinged to the lower portion of the body. The door may be hinged to allow it to be opened the desired amount, for example, 90° or 180°. The door allows access to the additional storage space **19** and the compressed gas tank **18**.

As shown in FIG. 2, the top of the unit includes lids for access to the various compartments, here shown as two separate lids, one lid **22** covering the ice chest **10** while the other lid **24** covers the storage compartment **12** and the stove compartment **14**. As shown in FIG. 3, the lid **24** over the stove compartment **14** and storage compartment **12** may be opened to one of two alternate positions. In the first position, the lid **24** is held in a vertical position by the use of a side lid **26**. Alternatively, the lid **24** over the stove compartment **14** and storage compartment **12** may be allowed to rotate 270° towards the back when opened. A cover plate **27** is located above the storage compartment **12** as shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**. Any number of lids and means of opening them may be utilized as desired.

The water compartment **16**, which in the camping unit shown in FIGS. **1–3** comprises the entire front section of the camping unit, includes a water inlet **28** and a water outlet **30**. FIGS. **4** and **5** show alternative positions for the water compartment. The water compartment **16** is located in the bottom portion of the camping unit in FIG. **4** and entirely within the ice chest portion of the camping unit in FIG. **5**. A further alternative, which helps to minimize heating of the water in the water compartment **16** by the stove **15**, is placing the water compartment **16** along the side of the ice chest **10** and storage compartment **12** only. The alternative locations for the water compartment allow for

the use of additional burner plates **32** in the stove compartment **14** as shown in FIG. **5.**

The unit may be elevated by means of legs **34** as shown in FIGS. **1** and **3.** When not needed, the legs **34** may be folded under the camping unit as shown in FIG. **4.** Latches **36** are provided to hold the folded legs **34** in place.

When the legs **34** are not in use, the camping unit will sit upon the wheels **38** located at one end of the unit and ground support means **40** located at the other end of the unit. Thus, the camping unit may be rolled on the wheels **38** when the legs **34** are not in use. Handles **42** are provided on both sides of the camping unit for use when moving the camping unit.

A folding table **44** is located on the front side of the camping unit as shown in FIG. **3.** The position of the table **44** when not in use is shown in FIGS. **2** and **4.**

The ice chest **10,** storage compartment **12,** stove compartment **14** and water compartment **16** are formed by the partitions and side wall, end wall and bottom body members shown in the drawings. Preferably, the body, body members partitions, covers and the like are formed of a light-weight insulated material, such as polystyrene.

Advantageously, the ice in the ice chest **10** cools the water in the water compartment **16.** The storage space is located adjacent the ice chest and between the ice chest **10** and the stove compartment **14.** This advantageously minimizes transmission of heat from the stove compartment **14** to the ice chest **10,** and the water in the water compartment **16** is cooled to an extent by the ice in the ice chest **10,** which cooled water assists in maintaining a cool temperature in the storage compartment **12** or in cooling the stove compartment **14,** or both, when the water compartment is located adjacent to the storage compartment **12** or the storage compartment **12** and the stove compartment **14.**

The present invention, therefore, is well adapted to carry out the objects and attain the ends and advantages mentioned as well as others therein. While a presently-preferred embodiment of the invention has been given for the purpose of disclosure, changes may be made in the camping unit within the spirit of the invention as defined in the Claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A camping unit comprising,

an insulated body having bottom, end wall and side wall body members,

a first partition in the insulated body spaced from one of the end wall body members forming a first compartment,

a second partition in the insulated body spaced from the other of the end wall body members and the first partition forming a second compartment between the first and second partitions and a third compartment between the second partition and the other of the end wall body members,

the first, second and third compartments adapted for use as an ice chest, a storage compartment and a stove compartment,

a third partition in the insulated body forming with at least one of the body members a water compartment, the third partition forming a wall of the compartment used as the ice chest, the ice chest having a wall forming at least a portion of a wall of the storage compartment whereby water in the water compartment is cooled by ice in the ice chest and the cooled water assists in maintaining a cool temperature in the storage compartment, and

lids on the insulated body closing the providing access to at least the compartments used as the ice chest and the storage compartment.

2. The camping unit of claim **1** where,

the third partition extends along the length of and forms walls of the compartments used as the ice chest and the storage compartment whereby water in the water compartment is cooled by ice in the ice chest and the cooled water assists in maintaining a cool temperature in the storage compartment.

3. The camping unit of claim **1** where,

the third partition extends along the entire length of the side walls and forms walls of the first, second and third compartments whereby ice in the ice chest cools water in the water compartment and the water in the water compartment assists in maintaining a cool temperature in the storage and stove compartments.

4. The camping unit of claim **1** where,

the third partition extends along the entire length of the bottom body member and forms bottoms of the first, second and third compartments whereby ice in the ice chest cools water in the water compartment and the water in the water compartment assists in maintaining a cool temperature in the storage and stove compartments.

5. The camping unit of claim **1** where,

the camping unit includes retractable legs which may be used to elevate the camping unit and ground support means at one end of the camping unit and wheels at the other end of the camping unit for easy and ready movement of the camping unit.

6. The camping unit of claim **1** where

the camping unit includes accessible storage space beneath the stove of the stove compartment.

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