United States Patent [19]

Corbett

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[54] **SLIDE-IN CAMPER UNIT**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **312/201,** 312/236, 312/240, 312/272, 5/2

[51] **Int. Cl.. A47b 53/00,** A47b 77/08, A47b 85/00

[58] **Field of Search** 312/236, 240, 272, 201; 5/2, 8, 9; 52/36, 79

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Primary Examiner—Paul R. Gilliam

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A slide-in fold up type camper unit that is easily installed in a truck trailer, van or like vehicle. The compact unit includes a food cooler, a slide-in stove and sink combination, and numerous storage drawers. The unit also includes an eating table and seat and a bed.

8 Claims, 12 Drawing Figures

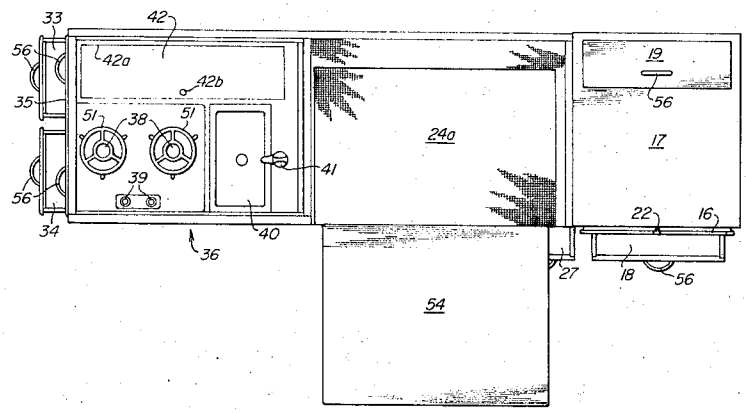


FIG. 1.

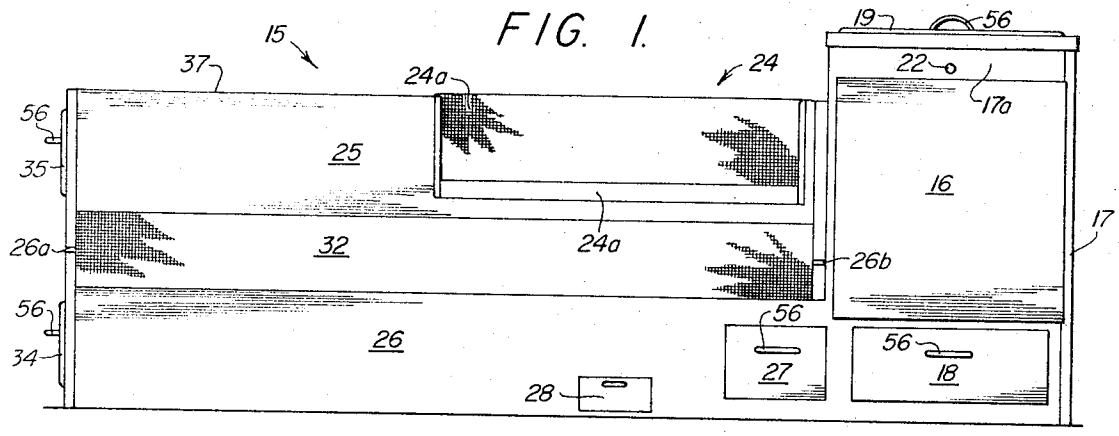


FIG. 2.

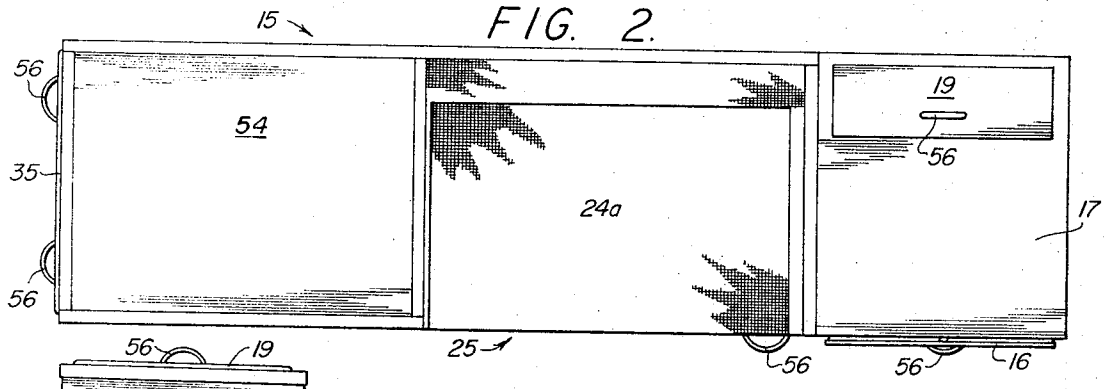


FIG. 3.

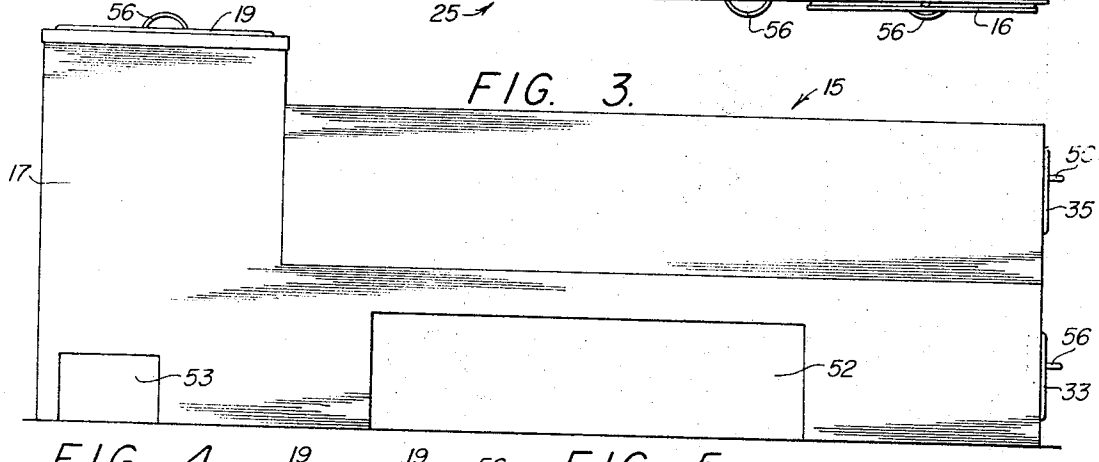


FIG. 4.

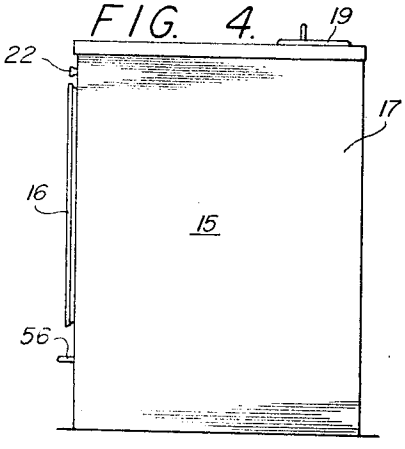


FIG. 5.

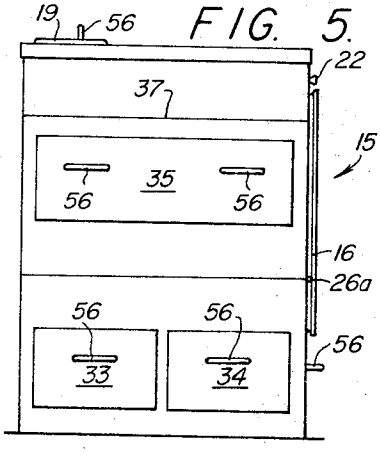


FIG. 6.

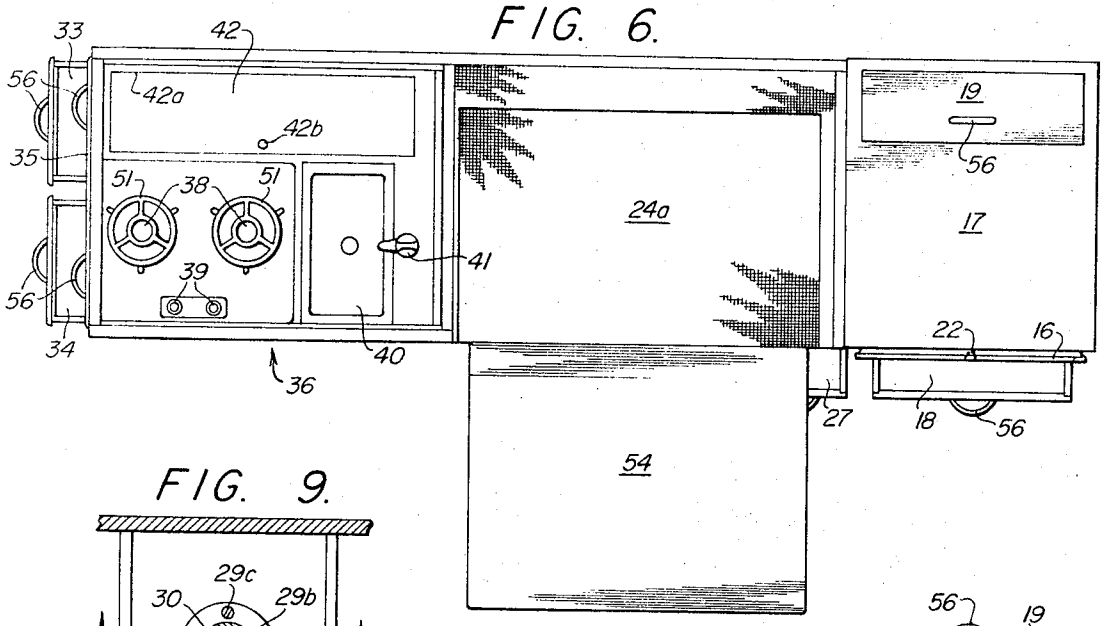


FIG. 9.

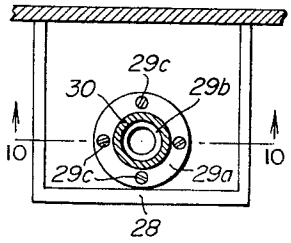


FIG. 7.

FIG. 8.

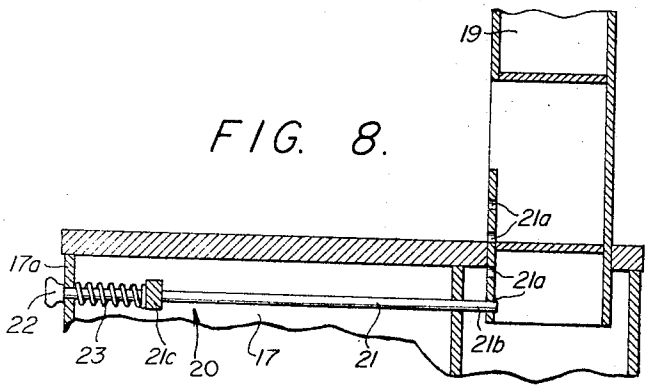


FIG. 10.

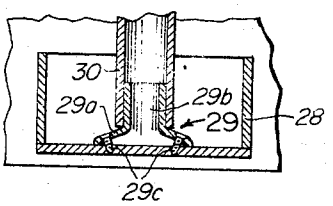


FIG. 11.

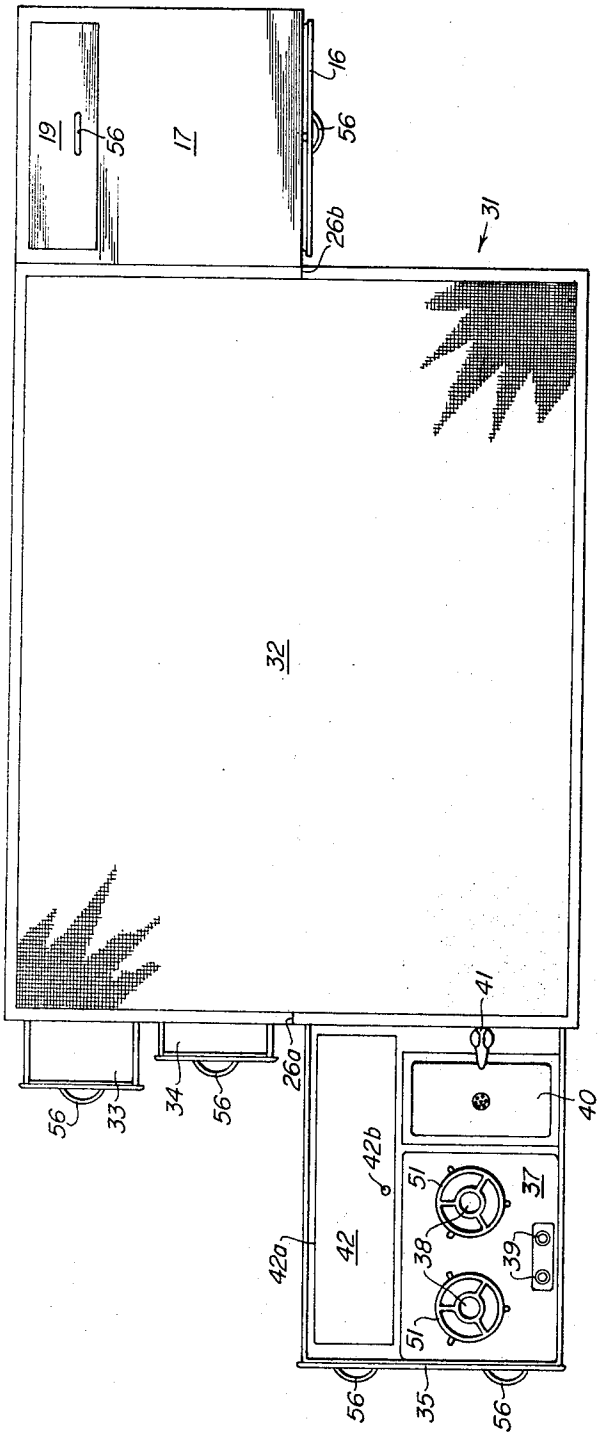
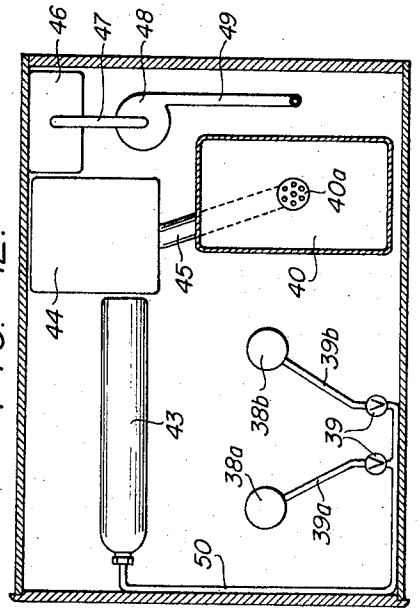

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26b
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26a
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42b
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42a
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FIG. 12.


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40a
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39b
38b
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38a
39a
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SLIDE-IN CAMPER UNIT

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to fold up camper units arranged to be easily installed in a vehicle whereby the vehicle is converted into a living accommodation.

2. Prior Art

In recent years, a gigantic industry has emerged in this country relating to camping and outdoor living. Numerous innovations are produced to provide comfort and convenience for the outdoor enthusiast. Camper units mounted on trucks provide a limited home away from home and mobile homes enable a user to move about with full home comforts. The demands for added convenience features have resulted in larger and larger vehicles. The present invention provides a unit having many of the convenience features generally permanently incorporated into much more expensive camper and mobile home units. The unit is easily moved into or out of a vehicle, thereby allowing the vehicle to be used, as desired, for activities other than camping. The unit is compact enough to fit easily into a pickup truck bed or in the cargo or passenger area of a small van. As a result, the owner of even a relatively small vehicle may have many of the comforts and convenience features formerly available in only much larger and much more expensive camper units or mobile homes.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is the principal object of the present invention to provide a compact slide-in camper unit containing a number of efficiently arranged component assemblies therein that are useful to the camper enthusiast, and to provide these component assemblies and features in an inexpensive easily manipulated housing.

Another object is to provide a camper unit formed in a compact assembly that will provide a seat and table arrangement which is easily converted to form a bed.

Still another object is to provide a camper unit arranged so as to utilize all available space therein, housing component assemblies useful to the outdoor enthusiast and providing a number of drawer storage arrangements.

Principal features of the present invention include a camper unit housing that can be easily slid onto or off of a pickup truck bed, which may be covered with a conventional sleeper top, or into and out of the cargo or passenger area of a van type vehicle, for example.

The camper unit has a food cooler positioned at one end, a drawer unit including a cook top and sink combination fitted into an appropriate opening in an opposite end.

A table that also serves as a cabinet top above the drawer unit is arranged to be mounted on top of an upright support post such that the table is proximate to a cushioned seat formed in the center of the camper unit. The base of the support post is telescoped onto a sleeve contained within a drawer pulled from the bottom of the camper unit when the table is to be used. When not in use, the drawer containing the sleeve is pushed into the camper unit.

The drawer unit containing the cook top and sink combination can be removed from the camper unit so that the cabinet portion in which it is inserted can be rotated into a bed forming position. Thereafter, the drawer unit can be reinserted for storage and use.

Water and gas supply tanks and a liquid catchment tank are provided in the range and sink combination drawer as is a pump arrangement to pull water from the water tank.

Additional objects and features of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description and drawings disclosing what is presently contemplated as being the best mode of the invention.

THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a front elevation view of the slide-in camper unit of the invention;

FIG. **2**, a top plan view;

FIG. **3**, a rear elevation view;

FIG. **4**, an end elevation view, viewed from the left of FIG. **3**;

FIG. **5**, an elevation view of the opposite end;

FIG. **6**, a top plan view showing the table positioned for use proximate the seat area and the drawer unit containing the range and sink and the other drawers of the unit pulled out slightly;

FIG. **7**, a front elevation view of the unit as viewed in FIG. **6**;

FIG. **8**, an enlarged, fragmentary, vertical section view, taken on the line **8—8** of FIG. **7**, and showing a locking mechanism for retaining a vertical drawer in a raised position;

FIG. **9**, an enlarged, fragmentary, horizontal view taken on the line **9—9** of FIG. **7**, and showing a drawer containing a table base mount;

FIG. **10**, a vertical section view taken on the line **10—10** of FIG. **9**;

FIG. **11**, a top plan view of the unit with the bed opened and the range and sink combination drawer unit rearranged for use; and

FIG. **12**, a fragmentary, horizontal, section view taken on the line **12—12** of FIG. **7**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring now to the drawings:

FIGS. **1–5**, respectively, are top, plan, front, rear and end elevation views of the camper unit **15**, showing the unit in its most compact arrangement as arranged within a pickup truck bed, or like vehicle, not shown.

The camper unit **15**, includes an insulated food cooler **16** mounted in a cabinet housing **17** at one end of the unit **15**. Cabinet housing **17** also has a drawer **18** that extends into the housing through the face **17***a* thereof beneath the refrigerator and a storage drawer **19**, mounted to slide into the top of cabinet housing **17**, behind the food cooler **16** so as to be withdrawn vertically therefrom. As best seen in FIG. **8**, a drawer locking mechanism **20** is provided to hold drawer **19** in its lowered, closed position or in one of several raised positions protruding from the top of cabinet housing **17**. The locking mechanism **20** consists of a rod **21**, extending into housing **17** and arranged to extend into whichever one of the vertically aligned holes **21***a* that may be positioned to receive the end of the rod. A knob **22** is provided on the end of rod **21** projecting through the front face of housing **17**, and the other end **21***b* of the rod is biased into one of the holes **21***a* by a spring **23** that surrounds the rod and acts against the inner sur-

face of the face of housing **17** and a collar **21***c* fixed to rod **21**.

A seat **24** is formed in part of an upper housing portion **25** of the camper unit **15** and has a back and seat cushion **24***a* arranged thereover. A storage drawer **27** is fitted into an opening in a lower housing portion **26**. A second drawer **28** is fitted into another opening in the lower housing **26** beneath the seat **24** to contain, as best shown in FIGS. **7, 9** and **10**, a mount **29** that will receive a table support post **30**. The mount **29** has its base **29***a* fixed by screws **29***c* to the bottom of drawer **28**. The mount consists of the base **29***a* and a projection **29***b* that extends upwardly therefrom, over which an end of table support post **30** is telescoped.

Upper housing portion **25** and lower housing portion **26** are joined together by hinges **26***a* and **26***b*. Hinges **26***a* and **26***b*, shown in FIGS. **1** and **11**, are arranged to allow the upper housing portion **25** to be rotated around the hinges so that the top of housing **25** becomes the feet of a bed structure **31**. A pad **32** that is normally folded and maintained between upper housing portion **25** and lower housing portion **26** is unfolded to become the mattress for bed structure **31**.

As shown, a number of drawers are contained in openings provided in the ends of upper housing portion **25** and lower housing portion **26**. Drawers **33** and **34**, fitted into openings in lower housing portion **26** are storage drawers. A single drawer **35**, fitted into an opening in upper housing portion **25**, contains a cook top and sink combination unit **36**.

The drawer **35** housing the combination unit **36** is removed from the opening in the end of upper housing portion **25** prior to a rotation of the housing portion **25** into a bed structure in which attitude drawer **35** can be reinstalled in the opening housing portion **25**. Combination unit **36** has a top **37** therein which has mounted thereon burners **38** and burner controls **39**, as the cook top. A sink **40** having a faucet **41** mounted thereon is secured in an opening formed in top **37**. As is shown best in FIG. **11**, access to components of the combination unit maintained beneath top **37** is provided through a panel **42** that is hinged along its edge **42***a* to top **37** and that is opened, exposing the drawer interior, by pulling on knob **42***b*. A burner gas supply **43**, within drawer **35**, is connected by a line **50**, FIG. **12**, to burner controls **39**; and a waste liquid catchment tank **44** within the drawer **35** is connected by a line **45** to the drain **40***a* in sink **40**. A fresh water supply tank **46** in drawer **35** is connected by a line **47** to a liquid pump **48**, that is in turn connected by a line **49** to faucet **41**. Controls **39** pass gas selectively through lines **39***a* or **39***b* to either or both burners **38***a* and **38***b*. The usual pan supports **51** are maintained on top **37** above burners **38***a* and **38***b* to support a cooking pot thereabove.

As shown best in FIG. **3**, a cut out section **52** is provided to allow a vehicle wheel well to be positioned therein. A cut out section **53** is also provided at the lower portion of the back of cabinet housing **17** to provide clearance for the filler spout of the vehicle gas tank, should this be necessary.

A table top **54** may be used as the top of upper housing portion **25** as shown in FIG. **2**. As thus arranged, table top **54** covers the drawer **35** within upper housing portion **25**. The table top, as shown in FIG. **6**, can also be removed from the upper housing portion **25**, and as shown in FIG. **7**, can be installed on top of table support post **30**. Table top **54** is connected to table support post **30** by a sleeve **55** telescoped onto the top of the support post and that is arranged to allow the table top to rotate so that one or more users have ready access to seat **24**. Table support post **30** is installed, as has been described on mount **29** within drawer **28**. When the combination unit **15** is consolidated for travel, as shown in FIGS. **1–5**, or is arranged to form bed **31**, table support post **30** is removed from mount **29**, the table top **54** returned to its position in the upper housing portion **25**, and the drawer **28** is pushed into the lower housing portion **26**.

The drawers of the combination unit **15** are all provided with handles **56** to facilitate their movements within the openings formed in the housing of combination unit **15**.

Although a preferred form of my invention has been herein disclosed, it is to be understood that the present disclosure is made by way of example and that variations are possible without departing from the scope of the hereinafter claimed subject matter, which subject matter I regard as my invention.

I claim:

1. A slide-in camper unit comprising

a housing formed as two portions connected together so that one is pivotally movable from above the other to a position alongside the other, whereby the sections form a base;

means forming an opening through one face of the pivotally movable portion and an opening through an end thereof;

a drawer contained cook top and sink combination unit removably fitted in the end opening in the pivotally movable portion such that said cook top and sink are turned upwardly to be exposed through the opening in one face of the pivotally movable portion when said pivotally movable portion is above the other portion and to have the drawer reversed in the end opening when the pivotally movable portion is alongside the other portion.

2. A slide-in camper unit as recited in claim **1**, wherein the drawer containing the cook top and sink combination contains

a burner;

a burnable gas supply;

a line connecting said burner to said burnable gas supply;

a valve means in said line for selectively allowing passage of burnable gas from said burnable gas supply to said burner;

a sink having associated therewith a means for disposing of waste liquid; and

a means for introducing liquid into said sink.

3. A slide-in camper unit as recited in claim **2**, wherein the means for disposing of waste liquid consists of a drain in the sink that is connected by a liquid carrying line to a waste liquid catchment tank that is also housed in the drawer containing the cook top and sink combination.

4. A slide-in camper unit as recited in claim **2**, wherein the means for introducing liquid into said sink consists of

a faucet mounted to said sink that is connected by a liquid carrying line, through a liquid pump that is connected to a liquid supply tank housed within the drawer containing the cook top and sink combination.

5. A slide-in camper unit as recited in claim 1, further including at least one storage drawer arranged to fit into an opening in the housing.

6. A slide-in camper unit as recited in claim 5, wherein a storage drawer is fitted vertically into the top of the housing and has associated with it a catch means for releasably maintaining it in a pulled out attitude, in which attitude it projects above the top of said housing.

7. A slide-in camper unit as recited in claim 1, further including a table composed of

a table top;

a table support post;

a table support mount fastened within a drawer that fits in an opening in said housing, over the bottom end of which support mount the table support post is telescoped; and

a collar fastened to the undersurface of said table top that connects said table top to the top of said table support.

8. A slide-in camper unit as recited in claim 7, wherein the collar fastened to the undersurface of said table top that joins to the table support is arranged to allow a rotation of the table top with respect to said table support attached thereto.

* * * * *