Sept. 21, 1943. J. R. HEILMAN 2,329,760

COOKING APPLIANCE

Filed Feb. 3, 1940 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

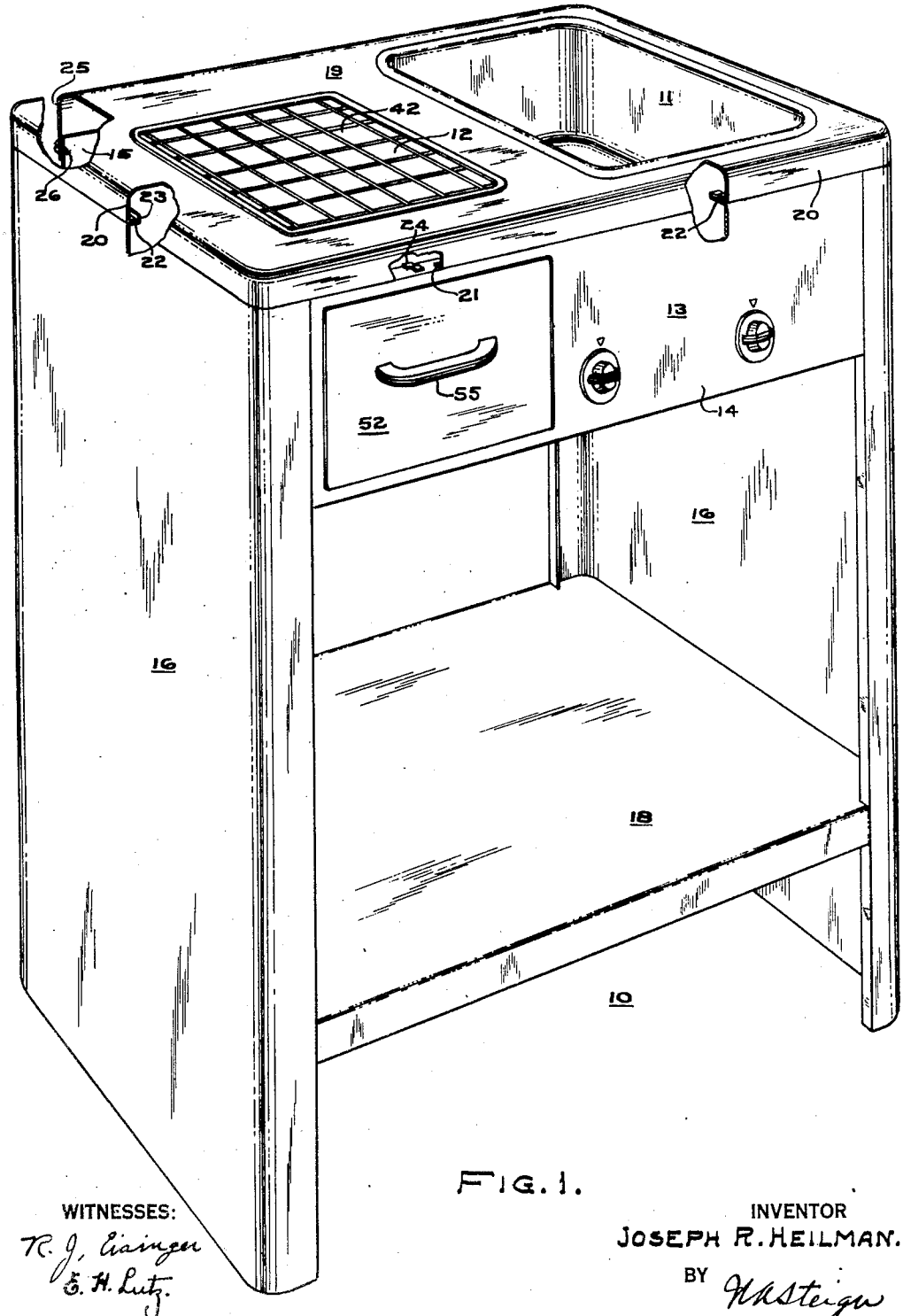

FIG. 1.

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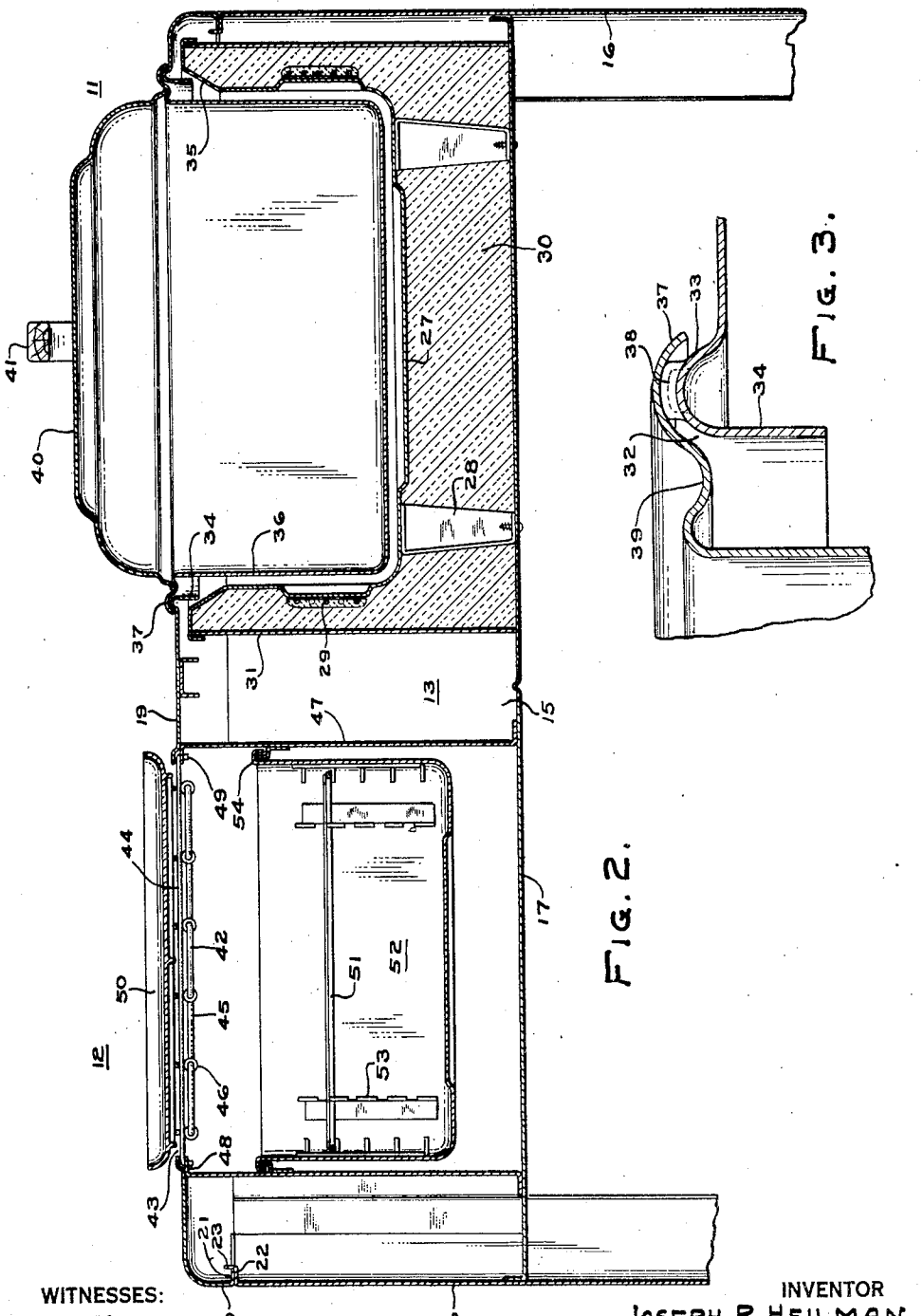

FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,329,760

COOKING APPLIANCE

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Application February 3, 1940, Serial No. 317,083

5 Claims. (Cl. 219—35)

My invention relates to a cooking appliance, more particularly an appliance comprising a top platform and a roaster well disposed just below the platform, the platform being formed with an opening through which access to the interior of the roaster is obtained.

An object of the invention is to provide an improved appliance of the character set forth.

A particular object is to provide a structure devoid of cracks or crevices between the top of the platform and the roaster well to become filled with dirt or food particles.

A further object is to minimize flow of heat from the well to the platform.

Another object is to provide a structure wherein the removable inset pan is supported by the platform rather than by the roaster well.

A further object is to provide a structure wherein the platform is free of parts attached thereto and is readily removable to provide access to interior assemblies and connections.

These and other objects are effected by my invention as will be apparent from the following description and claims taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, with parts broken away, of a combination roaster-broiler hotplate unit in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view; and,

Fig. 3 is a detail view in vertical section.

Referring to the drawings in detail, I show a cooking appliance 10, which is adapted for roasting, broiling and surface cooking, and which may be referred to as a combination roaster-broiler-hotplate. An electric roaster 11 is incorporated in the right-hand portion of the appliance and a combination broiler and hotplate 12 is incorporated in the left-hand portion.

The appliance 10 comprises a body portion 13 which includes a front wall 14, a rear wall 15, side walls 16 which extend downwardly to the floor and serve as legs for the appliance, and a bottom wall 17. A shelf 18 may be mounted on the side walls 16, as shown in Fig. 1.

A platform 19 forms a top or cover for the body portion 13 and is removably mounted thereon. The platform is formed with flanges 20, which extend downwardly in alignment with the front and side walls of the body portion and form continuations thereof. It is also formed with flanges 21 extending inwardly from the lower edges of the flanges 20 and resting on inwardly-extending flanges 22 of the front and side walls. The flanges 22 of the side walls have flange portions 23 extending upwardly to position the adjacent flanges 21 sidewise. Clips 24 are secured to the front wall flange 22, as by spot welding, and are adapted to engage the adjacent flange 21 upon moving the platform rearwardly, as will be apparent from Fig. 1. At its rear edges, the platform 19 has a downwardly-extending flange 25 which is adapted to overlap the rear wall 15 and to be secured thereto by screws 26.

To assemble the platform 19 on the body portion 13, the front flange 21 is first engaged under the clips 24 and the platform is then moved rearwardly. The rear edge is then lowered until the side flanges 21 rest on the side wall flanges 22, and the flange 25 is then fastened to the rear wall 15 by means of the screws 26.

It will thus be apparent that the platform may be readily mounted on the body portion or removed, and that a small number of fastening devices are involved.

The roaster 11 comprises a roaster well 27, which is disposed within the body portion 13 and supported on the bottom wall 17 by means of legs 28 in such position that the top of the roaster well is disposed a small distance below the platform 19. The roaster well comprises a bottom wall and vertical walls encompassing the interior thereof, and it is open at the top. The roaster well is provided with an electric heating element 29 disposed about the sides thereof as shown in Fig. 2. Heat insulating material 30 is disposed between the roaster well and the bottom wall 17 and also around the sides of the roaster well, the latter being retained by means of walls 31 disposed in spaced relation to the roaster well 27.

The platform 19 is formed with an opening 32 in registry with the open top of the roaster well and a raised rim 33 extending adjacent and about the opening 32. It is also formed with a flange 34 extending downwardly from the raised rim and projecting a short distance into the open top of the roaster well 27 but disposed in closely-spaced relation in order to minimize flow of heat therebetween. The portion of the roaster well adjacent the flange 34 is preferably inclined as shown at 35, to accommodate the flange 34.

A removable inset pan 36 for the roaster has a crown or flange 37 at its upper edge which projects over the portion of the platform 19 adjacent the opening 32, which, in this case, forms the raised rim 33. The outer portion of the flange 37 is curved upwardly similarly to the raised rim 33, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Preferably, the raised rim 33 is formed with four bosses or raised portions 38 of relatively small area on which the

flange 37 rests. The purpose of this arrangement is to provide a slight space between the flange 37 and the major portion of the area of the raised rim in order to minimize the flow of heat therebetween. In the illustrated embodiment, the inset pan is supported through the flange 37 resting on the bosses 38, with the walls of the inset pan conforming to the shape of the roaster well and disposed in slightly spaced relation thereto. The flange 37 is also formed with a groove 39 to receive the edge of a roaster cover 40, the latter being provided with a handle 41.

The combination broiler and hotplate 12 comprises an open heating unit 42 adapted to radiate heat both upwardly and downwardly, and disposed across an opening 43 formed in the platform 19. It includes a skeleton wire frame 44 and a heating element or elements 45 attached to the frame by insulating grommets 46. The heating unit 42 is supported on the body portion 13 by vertical supports 47 secured to the bottom wall 17. For example, the frame 44 may rest on flanges 48 formed at the top of the supports 47 and may be provided with downwardly-extending projections 49 inserted through openings in the flanges 48 for locating the heating unit horizontally. A frying plate 50 is adapted to rest directly on the frame 44. Alternatively, other cooking vessels may be placed directly on the frame 44.

A suitable rack 51 is provided for supporting articles of food below the heating unit 42 to be broiled by radiant heat therefrom. It is supported in a drawer 52, which is provided with groups of supports 53 adapted to support the rack 51 at different heights. The drawer 52 is slidably supported on the supports, at 54. It is provided at its front end with a handle 55 for actuating the same.

From the above description it will be seen that I have provided a construction of cooking appliance wherein the platform acts as a trim or cover and supports only the roaster inset pan and the roaster cover. The platform is free of attachments and is readily mounted or removed. When it is removed, the interior assemblies and connections are readily accessible. A further advantage is that the platform does not come into direct contact with the inner well, thereby eliminating chipping of the enamel and preventing heat conduction. The platform does not have any of the usual depressed ledges or lugs for supporting the roaster, thus eliminating the cracks and crevices that would become full of dirt and food particles. It can be easily kept clean.

While I have shown my invention in but one form, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that it is not so limited, but is susceptible of various changes and modifications without departing from the spirit thereof, and I desire, therefore, that only such limitations shall be placed thereupon as are specifically set forth in the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. In a cooking appliance, the combination of a body portion, a platform closing the top thereof, an open top roaster well disposed just below said platform and supported on said body portion, means for heating said roaster well, said platform having an opening registering with the open top of said roaster well and a flange at the edge of said opening projecting downwardly into the open top of said roaster well but disposed out of contact with the roaster well to minimize flow of heat therebetween, and an inset pan disposed in said well and conforming to the shape thereof, said inset pan having a flange overlapping the marginal portion of said platform adjacent said opening.

2. The combination as set forth in claim 1, wherein said flange and the overlapping marginal portion are convexed upwardly.

3. The combination set forth in claim 1, wherein said inset pan is supported through said flange resting on said marginal portion of said platform.

4. The combination set forth in claim 1, wherein said marginal portion is formed with a plurality of bosses or projections of small area on which said flange rests, whereby flow of heat between said inset pan and said platform is minimized.

5. In a cooking appliance, the combination of a body portion, a platform disposed on top of said body portion and having an opening therein, a receptacle adapted to be inserted through said opening and having a flange overlying the adjacent edge portions of said platform, and a second receptacle or well disposed below and enveloping said first receptacle and being supported by said body portion independently of said platform, said second receptacle comprising spaced inner and outer vertical wall members, heat insulating material between said inner and outer wall members, and heating means disposed between said inner and outer vertical wall members and adjacent to said inner vertical wall member to heat the latter, the top of said second receptacle being disposed adjacent but spaced from said platform and thermally isolated therefrom, said platform being mounted on and supported by said body portion and being removable therefrom independently of said second receptacle.

JOSEPH R. HEILMAN.