Jan. 15, 1929. 1,699,241

W. C. JOHNSON

PORTABLE FIREPLACE STRUCTURE

Filed July 12, 1926

Fig. 1.

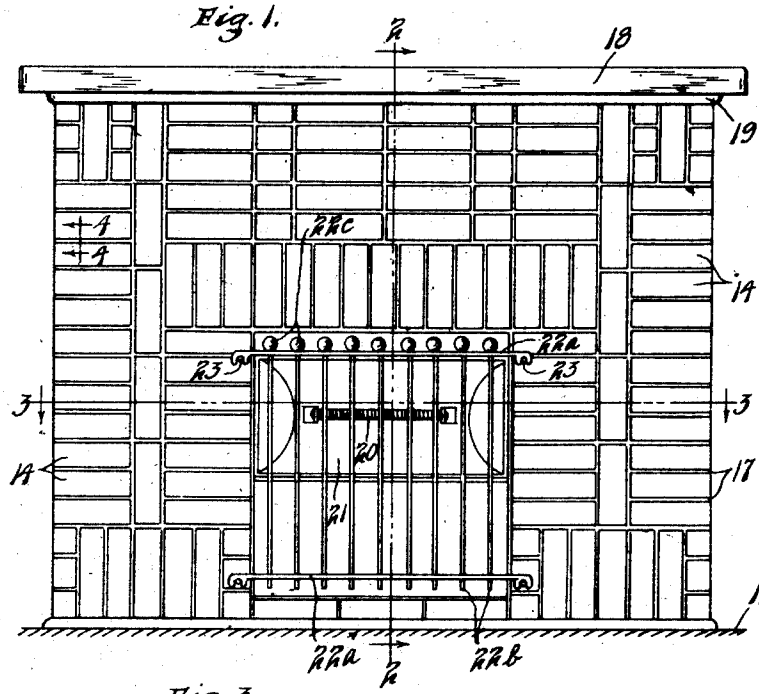


Fig. 2.

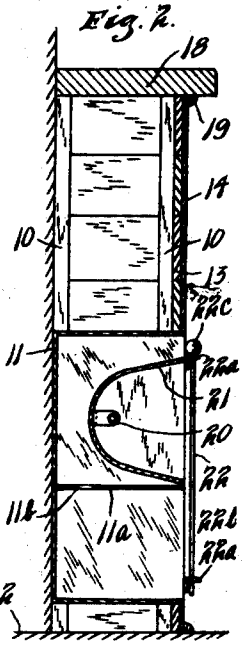


Fig. 3.

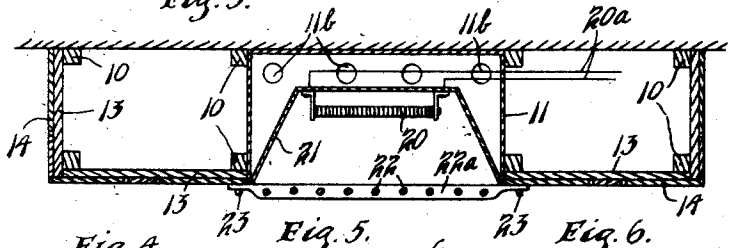


Fig. 8.

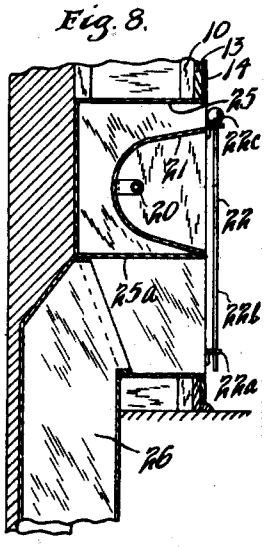


Fig. 4.

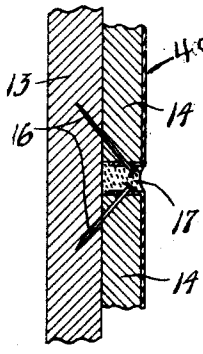


Fig. 5.

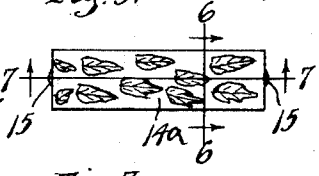


Fig. 6.

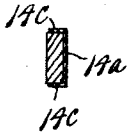
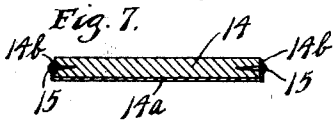


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PORTABLE FIREPLACE STRUCTURE.

Application filed July 12, 1926. Serial No. 121,862.

This invention relates to a fire place or similar decorative structure for a dwelling. As is well known to those skilled in the art, fire places have heretofore been made of brick, tile or similar material and have been built directly into the wall of a dwelling and usually built integrally with the chimney. The building material used for these fire places has been quite heavy and although one of such fireplaces might be constructed for exhibition purposes, it has not been possible to bodily transfer the fire place structure to a building. One of the desiderata of a fire place is the ornamental feature thereof. Most modern dwellings are provided with some form of heating plant and the fire place is ordinarily not necessary as a heating device. It is desirable, however, to have some sort of a heating device in the fire place to give the same a realistic effect.

It is an object of this invention, therefore, to provide a portable unitary structure of fire place and one which is comparatively light in weight and which can be quickly, easily and inexpensively installed in a dwelling without being permanently built into the wall.

It it a further object of the invention to provide a fire place structure which is readily movable and which can be readily installed where desired, the same comprising a frame with a covering thereon, which covering is further covered with an ornamental surface comprising light, comparatively small and inexpensive ornamental elements.

It is still another object of the invention to provide a simple, flat, metal covered block or plate adapted to form the exterior of a fire place or similar structure.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will be fully set forth in the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views and in which:—

Fig. 1 is a view in front elevation of a fire place, embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1 as indicated by the arrows;

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1, as indicated by the arrows;

Fig. 4 is a vertical section taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 1 as indicated by the arrows;

Fig. 5 is a view in front elevation of one of the novel elements used;

Fig. 6 is a vertical section taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 5 as indicated by the arrows;

Fig. 7 is a horizontal section taken on line 7—7 of Fig. 5 as indicated by the arrows, Figs. 4 to 7 being shown on an enlarged scale, and;

Fig. 8 is a partial vertical section similar to Fig. 2, showing a modification.

Referring to the drawings, a fire place structure is shown including vertical posts or frame members 10. While these posts 10 may be made of various materials, in actual practice it has been found quite suitable and convenient to make them of 2″ x 2″ timbers. The posts 10 are arranged in the corners of a rectangular space at each side of the fire place. A casing 11 preferably of metal is disposed and extends between the two inner pairs of posts 10 adjacent the bottom of the fire place, said casing being substantially rectangular in vertical and horizontal cross-section and being closed on all sides except the front which is open. Said structure is shown as supported a short distance above the floor or other supporting surface 12 on which the fire place rests. The posts 10 have secured thereto at the front and ends of the fire place a covering 13 which will be made of any suitable material such as wooden boards or artificial wall board or paper board. The covering 13 is in turn covered by an outer covering or layer of material and this is formed of thin blocks 14 shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7. These blocks comprise a thin flat piece of wood or other suitable material and while they may be made in various shapes, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated they are shown as rectangular. The block is covered with a thin piece of sheet metal 14^a. While various metals might be used, in practice sheet copper which has been oxidized or darkened, has been found to be very suitable and desirable. The piece of metal 14^a is cut into rectangular form and the corner portions thereof then notched or cut away so that the metal will fold down evenly all over the edges of the block 14 as shown at 14^b and 14^c. The metal is then secured at the ends of the block 14 by small headed nails or tacks 15. After the metal is thus placed on the block 14 the block is run between roller dies having thereon some design such as a leaf design. This design is impressed on the metal 14^a as shown in Fig. 5. The blocks 14 are then secured to the sheathing or covering 13 as shown in

Fig. 4. While the blocks may be variously secured, in practice one convenient way of securing the same is that illustrated in Fig. 4, in which the nails 16 are driven diagonally through the edges of the blocks 14. The blocks 14 are secured in slightly spaced relation as shown in Figs. 1 to 4 and the space between the blocks is then filled or partially filled with some plastic substance 17 which will harden after a period of time, such as a composition putty. The substance 17 covers up and obscures the nails 16. The top of the fire place is covered by a slab 18 which may be of wood or other similar material and which may be either solid or of veneered form. The molding 19 preferably is placed around the fire place in the corner formed by the slab 18 and the blocks 14, as well as in the corner formed by the floor 12 and the blocks 14. It will be noted that the front edge of the casing 11 is flush with the outer surface of the blocks 14. The casing 11 preferably has a horizontal partition 11^a adjacent its central portion having apertures 11^b therein and an electric heating element 20 preferably is provided which is disposed substantially at the focus of the reflector 21 disposed in the upper compartment of the casing 11. The heating element 20 will be provided with current from any suitable source of supply through the conductors 20^a. An ornamental grating 22 preferably is provided and while this grating may be variously formed, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated it is shown as comprising spaced horizontal bars 22^a having their ends extending beyond the sides of the casing 11 and provided with open ended downwardly directed notches adapted to fit over headed screws or bolts 23 fastened in the covering 13. A plurality of vertical rods 22^b extend in spaced relation through the bars 22^a and are shown as having ornamental knobs 22^c at their upper ends above the upper bar 22^a.

When the fire place described is assembled, it constitutes a unitary and portable unit. The same can be assembled in the factory or other desired location and transferred bodily to the dwelling in which it is to be installed. The fire place can be positioned as desired in the dwelling and shelves or bookcases may be arranged in line with the slab 18 if desired. The connection of the conductors 20^a to the wiring in the dwelling may be made in any ordinary manner and if desired, an ordinary detachable plug may be used for this purpose. The reflector 21 will have a very bright polished surface and when the heating coil 20 is hot, a bright effect will be given to the fire place simulating in a great degree an actual fire and heat will also be thrown out from the coil 20 and the reflector 21. The blocks 14 with the material 17 therebetween simulates bricks or tiles and give a very pleasing and ornamental appearance to the exterior of the fire place. If the metal were not provided with the indentations forming the leaf or other design thereon, the metal would soon show nicks and depressions resulting from blows or the contact therewith of the furniture or other articles. With the design impressed on the metal such indentations are not noticeable and the design at the same time gives a very pleasing and ornamental effect. The whole structure is exceedingly light and inexpensive and can be furnished at a much lower cost than an ordinary fire place can be built. When the electric heater or coil 20 is in operation, air will pass into the lower front side of the casing 11 upward through the apertures 11^b and out above the reflector 21. This air will tend to keep the reflector 21 cool and a good circulation will also be obtained. The heat from member 20 will, of course, be reflected outward into the room. It will also be understood that the material between the blocks 14 may be of different colors, thus heightening the ornamental effect.

In the modification shown in Fig. 8, the structure is the same as heretofore indicated, except that the casing 25 which takes the place of the casing 11 already described, has an open portion in the rear of its lower compartment below the partition 25^a. A conduit 26 such as that from a hot air furnace is shown as having its upper end connected to the rear side of the lower compartment of casing 25. The hot air from the conduit 26 will thus also be delivered through the fire place and the heating effect thereof will be increased.

From the above description it is seen that applicant has provided a simple and efficient structure of fire place constituting a device having a high degree of utility and one which is readily portable and can be inexpensively made. The device has been amply demonstrated in actual practice and found to be very successful.

It will, of course, be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details, arrangement and proportions of the parts, without departing from the scope of applicant's invention, which, generally stated, consists in a device capable of carrying out the objects above set forth, in the novel parts and combinations of parts disclosed and defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:—

1. A portable fireplace of light construction, having in combination, spaced vertical posts, said posts being arranged at the corners of a rectangular space at each side of said fireplace, a top member extending over said posts and projecting forwardly beyond the same, a sheathing covering of wood or similar material over said posts at the front and ends of said fireplace, having an opening centrally therein at the front of said fireplace between the inner posts, a layer

of thin wooden blocks secured to said sheathing in slightly spaced relation, said blocks having their outer surfaces covered with a very thin covering of sheet metal having a design impressed thereon, nails securing said blocks to said sheathing extending through the edges of said blocks and having their heads disposed in the spaces therebetween, and a filling material adapted to harden, disposed between said blocks and covering said nail heads.

2. A portable fireplace structure having in combination, spaced posts, a covering extending over said posts formed of a sheet of comparatively soft and light material, a plurality of thin blocks secured to said covering in slightly spaced relation, said blocks having their outer surfaces covered with thin sheet metal, and a plastic substance adapted to harden disposed between said blocks.

3. A portable fireplace structure having in combination, spaced posts arranged at the corners of a rectangular space, a sheathing covering of wood extending over said posts, a plurality of thin wooden blocks of rectangular shape secured to said sheathing, said blocks being slightly spaced at their sides and ends, securing means extending through the edges of said blocks into said sheathing, said blocks having their outer surfaces covered with a very thin covering of sheet copper having a design impressed thereon, and a filling material disposed between said blocks.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM C. JOHNSON.