

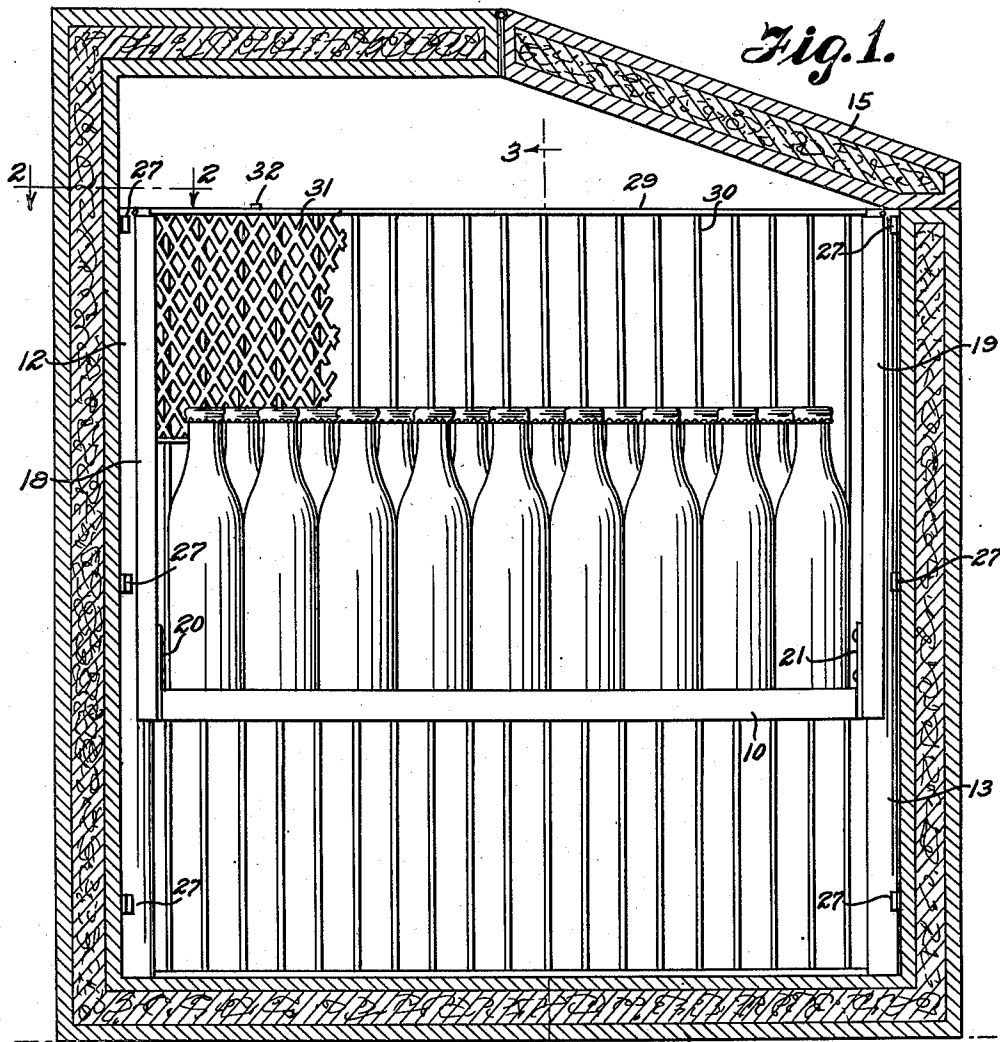
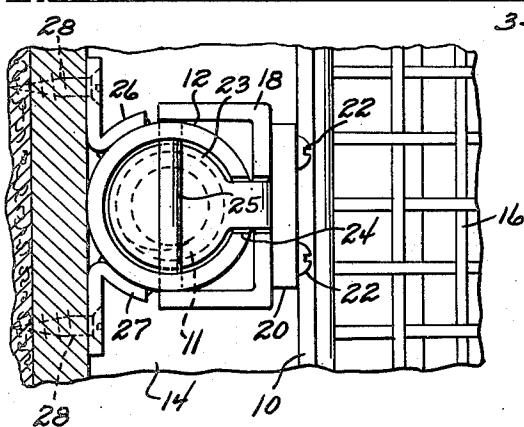
Oct. 10, 1950

R. J. SHELLEY
BEVERAGE TRAY

2,525,243

Filed Jan. 21, 1948

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR.

Robert J. Shelley
BY Victor J. Evans & Co.

ATTORNEYS

Oct. 10, 1950

R. J. SHELLEY
BEVERAGE TRAY

2,525,243

Filed Jan. 21, 1948

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

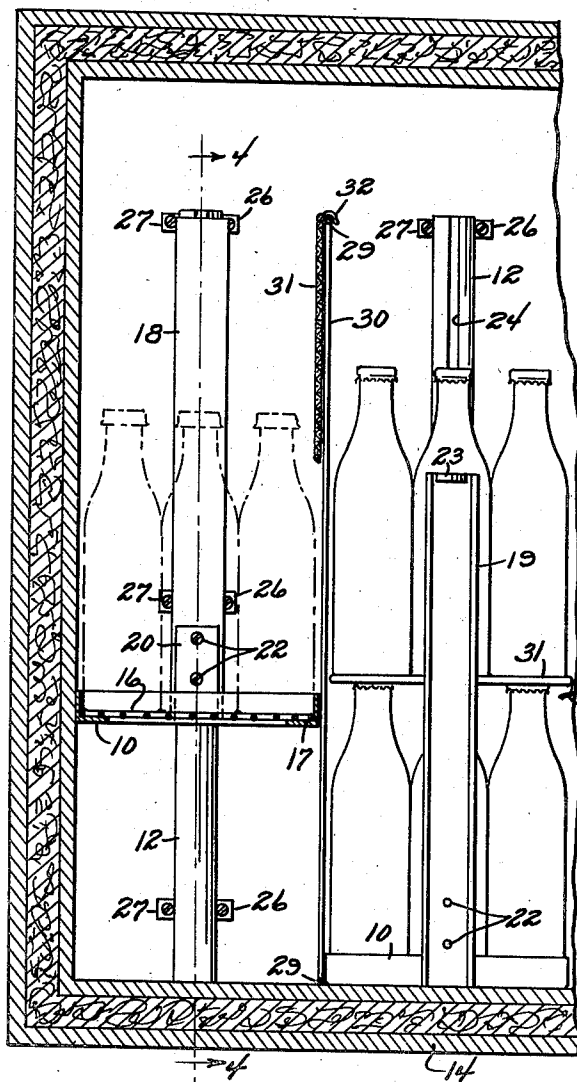


Fig. 4.

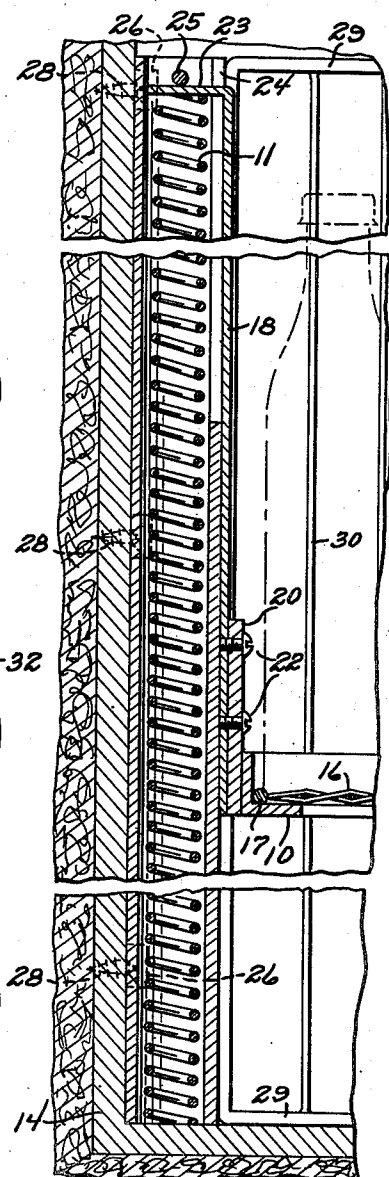
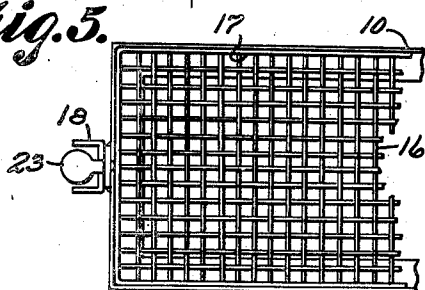


Fig. 5.



INVENTOR.

Robert J. Shelley
BY Victor J. Evans & Co.

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,525,243

BEVERAGE TRAY

Robert J. Shelley, Miami, Fla.

Application January 21, 1948, Serial No. 3,450

3 Claims. (Cl. 312-176)

1

This invention relates to bottle carrying trays for storage in cooling cabinets where bottles are placed in layers, and in particular a tray supported at the ends on tubular posts having resilient means therein wherein the weight of the bottles carries the tray downward, and as the bottles are removed from a superimposed layer the bottles on a bottom tray are elevated by the resilient means so that they are within easy reach from the upper end of the cabinet.

The purpose of this invention is to provide means in a bottle storing and cooling cabinet for automatically elevating bottles from the lower part of the cabinet as superimposed bottles are removed so that it is not necessary to reach down to the lower part of the cabinet to remove the last layer of bottles.

In the usual deep, high capacity electric beverage cooler for bottled beer and soft drinks, or for milk and the like it is necessary to bend over and reach down to the bottom to remove the last bottles from the box. This is objectionable because these boxes are usually thirty inches deep and due to the fact that they are built to be used under a counter the opening in the top is small.

With this thought in mind this invention contemplates a rack or a plurality of racks in a beverage cooler, cabinet or the like, which is supported on springs, wherein the springs are sufficiently compressed to hold one layer of bottles upward in the cabinet and a second layer of bottles will compress the springs further so that the first layer of bottles will travel downward into the lower part of the cabinet where they will remain until the second or additional layers are removed.

The object of this invention is to provide means for suspending trays for holding bottles and the like in a cabinet wherein the weight of bottles on the trays carries the trays downward and the trays move upward as the bottles are removed.

Another object of the invention is to provide resilient bottle tray supporting means that is adapted to be installed in cooling cabinets now in use.

With these and other objects and advantages in view the invention consists of the new and novel combination, construction, and arrangement of parts as hereinafter more fully described, set forth in the claims appended hereto, and disclosed in the accompanying drawings forming part hereof, wherein:

Figure 1 is a view showing a cross section through a bottle storing and cooling cabinet with parts shown in elevation and parts in section.

Figure 2 is a sectional plan taken on line 2-2

2

of Figure 1 showing the mounting of one end of a bottle carrying tray, with parts broken away.

Figure 3 is a section taken on line 3-3 of Figure 1 looking toward the rear of the cabinet showing the trays in different positions, and with some trays in section and some in elevation, and with part of the cabinet broken away.

Figure 4 is a section taken on line 4-4 of Figure 3 on an enlarged scale and with parts broken away illustrating the resilient mounting at the ends of the trays.

Figure 5 is a detail showing a plan view of one end of one of the bottle carrying trays showing the shelf adapted to be placed on one layer of bottles whereby another layer may be placed thereon.

Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference characters denote corresponding parts the bottle elevating rack of this invention includes trays 10 supported at the ends on springs 11 in posts 12 and 13, and the device is illustrated in a cabinet 14 having a cover 15.

The tray 10 is rectangular-shaped with the sides and ends formed of angles and with the floor formed of a wire mesh panel 16 having a rim 17 around the outer edge. The ends of the tray are connected to vertically disposed channels 18 and 19 through plates 20 and 21 with the plates welded to the trays and connected to the channels by screws 22. The upper ends of the channels 18 and 19 are provided with tongues 23 that extend through slots 24 in the posts 12 and 13, as shown in Figure 4, and the tongues rest upon the upper ends of the springs 11. The free length of the springs is longer than the posts and they are held in compression by pins 25 in the upper ends of the posts. The posts, as illustrated in Figure 2, are provided with clips 26 and 27 through which they are mounted on the walls of the cabinet by screws 28.

The cabinet may be provided with vertically disposed partitions 29 having spaced wires or rods 30 therein for dividing the inner area of the cabinet into sections, and shelves 31 with hooks 32 on the edges thereof may be provided to be placed on top of one layer of bottles, as shown in Figure 3, so that another layer of bottles may be placed thereon, and when not in use the shelves may be held on the upper edges of the partitions 29 by the hooks 32, as shown in Figure 3.

With the parts arranged in this manner the rack is installed in a cabinet, as illustrated, and the trays 10 are in the position shown in Figure 1, when empty or filled with one layer of bottles as shown. When the first layer of bottles

3

is in place a shelf 31 is placed on top of the bottles and an additional layer of bottles is placed on the shelf. The weight of the second layer of bottles overcomes the resistance of the springs and the tray moves downward to the position shown in the second division of the section of the cabinet shown in Figure 3, and as many layers of bottles as may be desired may be added, depending upon the size of the bottles and height of the cabinet. As the upper layers of bottles are removed the springs elevate or return the trays to the upper positions from which the bottles may readily be removed without bending over and reaching down to the bottom of the cabinet.

The rack and trays thereof may be made in various sizes and may be used for beverage or milk bottles or for containers of any type. The trays may also be provided to hold any suitable number of rows of bottles or containers.

It will be understood that other modifications may be made in the design and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. In a bottle carrying rack, the combination, which comprises, a cabinet having a cover, a horizontally positioned tray with vertically disposed channels at the ends and positioned on the longitudinal center thereof, said channels having outwardly projecting tongues at the upper ends thereof, tubular posts positioned against side walls of the cabinet and extending into the said channels of the trays, said posts having slots in the upper ends thereof and said tongues of the channels positioned in the said slots, means attaching the posts to the walls of the cabinet, springs in the posts on the upper ends of which the tongues rest, and pins in the posts limiting the upward movement of the tongues and trays.

2. In a container cabinet, the combination, which comprises, a cabinet having a cover, aligned vertically disposed tubular posts having slots in the inner sides thereof mounted on the inner surfaces of the walls of the cabinet, springs positioned in the posts, vertically disposed channels having backs with side flanges positioned with the flanges overlapping the sides of the posts, the backs of said channels having projections at the upper ends extending through the slots of the posts and riding on the upper ends of the springs,

4

horizontally disposed trays carried by the lower ends of the channels, and vertically disposed partitions dividing the cabinet into sections in which the trays and posts are positioned.

3. In a bottle storing and cooling cabinet, the combination which comprises a box-like casing having insulating walls and having a hinged cover, a plurality of horizontally disposed rectangular shaped trays having wire mesh bottoms supported in angle iron frames transversely positioned in said casing, said trays having vertically disposed channels at the ends, and positioned on the longitudinal centers thereof, said channels having backs with outwardly extended flanges and being provided with outwardly projecting tongues at the upper ends of the backs thereof, tubular posts positioned against the side walls of the casing, and positioned between the flanges of the said channels thereof providing guide means for the trays, said posts having slots in the upper ends in the sides extended toward the trays and the tongues of the said channels being positioned to extend into the said slots, means attaching the posts to the walls of the cabinet, springs in the posts on the upper ends of which the tongues rest, and pins in the posts limiting upward movement of the tongues and trays whereby the springs hold the trays suspended in the upper ends of the posts and with the tongues against the said limiting pins and the weight of bottles on the trays compresses the springs and moves the trays downwardly in the casing.

ROBERT J. SHELLEY.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

40	Number	Name	Date
	806,965	Field	Dec. 12, 1905
	829,011	Horner	Aug. 21, 1906
	1,546,727	Goldman	July 21, 1925
	2,266,268	Robinson	Dec. 16, 1941
45	2,273,233	Tanner	Feb. 12, 1942
	2,319,872	Leonard	May 25, 1943
	2,323,448	Brennan	July 6, 1943
	2,422,350	Gross	June 17, 1947
50	2,463,307	Price	Mar. 1, 1949