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BUS STAND

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FIG. 1.

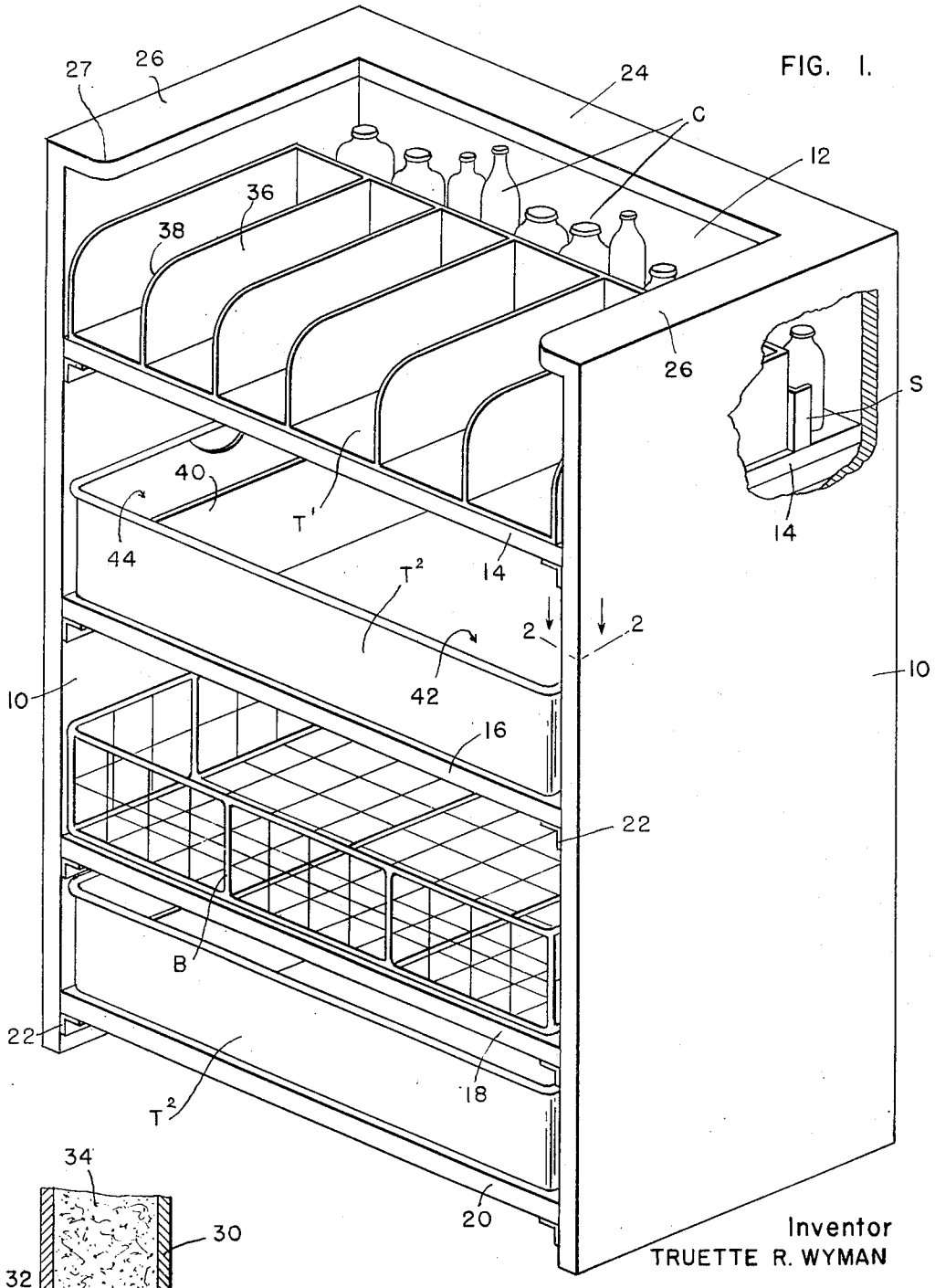


FIG. 2.

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BUS STAND

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2 Claims. (Cl. 312—172)

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The present invention relates to a serving table, or bus stand, which may be usefully employed in restaurants or the like, to facilitate the serving of patrons, and the convenient and rapid removal of used dishes from the dining room.

A principal object of the invention is to provide such a table or stand, which embodies in a single unitary structure, all of the advantages in serving and in the removal of dishes, which now require the use of several articles of furniture for these purposes.

A further object of the invention is to provide such a table or stand, which has a flat top surface open at one side thereof, and of such dimension as to permit the waiter to place a tray on said top surface, while supporting the tray with his hand and arm positioned beneath the same, the construction being such that the arm of the waiter can be accommodated within the open top of the stand when he places the tray thereon, the open side permitting him to conveniently withdraw his arm laterally from the open side of the stand after the tray has been positioned on the flat top thereof. In connection with this purpose of the invention, the table disclosed herein is provided with a three-sided ledge of proper width and dimensions to support trays in the manner referred to, which are of the conventional size now used in restaurants.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a table or bus stand, as described, which has a plurality of open and separate compartments formed by shelves, which will permit the preparation of, and separate stacking of such articles of service as silverware, dishes and glasses, and which will permit the removal of one tray of used dishes from a shelf adjacent the top of the stand, and the replacement in that shelf of a separate similar tray in order that the table will be in condition to receive soiled dishes, and the like, at all times.

A further object of the invention is to provide a table or bus stand, which is so arranged as to accommodate all of the articles required by a single waiter, including condiments and the like, in order that the waiter may be responsible for all of the individual articles he uses in serving the customers which are assigned to him.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bus stand constructed in such manner as to reduce the noise resulting from the contact of dishes and silverware when same are being removed from or placed in the trays positioned in the various compartments of the stand.

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Various other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent as the description herein progresses.

In the drawings, which illustrate a simple stand embodying the important features of the invention, which stand may be made to vary in ornamental appearance as desired:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the serving table or bus stand, showing its interior parts, as would be apparent to the eye when viewed from the open side thereof.

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view, illustrating a possible construction of any of the various walls of the table, and illustrating the soundproof construction which may be employed, the view being taken for instance along the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

It will be understood that the bus stand herein described may be made in any dimensions, but preferably is of such size as to be capable of use by a waiter while standing up. The height of the bus stand might vary from thirty-six inches to forty-eight inches, its width might vary from eighteen inches to thirty inches, and its depth might vary from fourteen inches to twenty-two inches.

The table preferably comprises rectangular side walls 10, disposed in spaced vertical planes, and a similar but wider rear wall 12, and there are a number of spaced shelves 14, 16, 18 and 20 secured between the side walls 10 and attached to said walls, and if necessary to the rear walls, but by suitable right angular supporting members 22, which may be made of light aluminum, or any other suitable material. The shelves are vertically spaced from one another a sufficient distance to receive thereon various type of trays now in use, leaving an adequate space above each tray for the waiter to view the contents of the latter, and to enable him to place articles of service into the trays, or to remove these articles from the trays.

The top of the table comprises a flat rear member 24 and flat side members 26, which are several inches in width, the front side of the table being open at its top in order that a tray may be placed on the top ledge while supported by the hand and arm of the waiter beneath the tray, so that he may remove his arm forwardly from the table after the tray is supported thereon, or may insert his arm into the table beneath the tray, to lift the same from the top supporting ledge.

The table as described, can be made of wood, plastic or metal. If made of wood, the walls of

the various compartments formed, can be treated for acoustical purposes by a number of properly placed holes in the interior walls of the compartments to absorb sound. If made of metal, such as aluminum, or some plastic, the walls can be formed of spaced plates **30** and **32**, as shown in Figure 2, the space between the walls being filled by any suitable sound absorbing, or non-resonant material **34**, such as asbestos, rock wool, cork, or other insulating material which will serve to reduce sound.

It will be understood that the unit as described will be quite light in weight, and may be moved about as desired. It would be contemplated that the portability of the device could be increased, by mounting the same on wheels or casters, as will be apparent.

Removably positioned on the top shelf **14** is a silverware tray T^1, made of some light metal, such as aluminum, and comprising bottom, side and rear walls, and transverse partitions **36** rounded at their forward ends as at **38**, defining six compartments for the stacking of various types of silverware. On the second shelf **16**, a similar removable tray T^2 is provided, this tray being similarly open at its top, but having walls on all four sides thereof, and having transverse partition plate **40** near one end thereof, in order to divide the tray into a used-dish compartment **42** and a used-silverware compartment **44**.

On the third shelf **18**, there may be positioned an open wire basket B of a type well known in the art, which is adapted to receive glassware in stacked condition. It will be understood that the basket B may be of such dimensions as to be accommodated in automatic washing machines of well known type, so that the basket with its glassware may be inserted into and removed from such a machine, as a unit, so that the basket may be immediately returned to its shelf after the glassware has been washed.

On the bottom shelf **20**, a tray T^2, identical with that described in connection with shelf **16** may be placed. It will be understood that when such a tray on the shelf **16** has been filled with used ware, it may be removed and positioned on the lower shelf **20**, the unfilled tray on this shelf then being elevated to shelf **16** for continued use. A secondary attendant may then remove the filled tray from the lower shelf **20** and take it to the washing room, this tray when cleaned being then available for replacement on the shelf **20** where it will constitute a reserve receptacle immediately available for use upon the filling of the similar tray on the upper shelf **16**.

It will be noted that the vertical space between shelves **18** and **20** is substantially less than the corresponding space between the other shelves, it being only necessary that this space should be substantially greater than the height of the tray T^2, as access to such a tray on the lower shelf **20** may not usually be required to drop ware into the tray, or to remove it therefrom.

Referring to the tray T^1, and particularly to the element shown by the cut-out portion of the side wall **10**, it will be noted that the width of this tray is substantially less than the other trays, in order to provide a storage space on the upper shelf **14** behind the rear wall of the tray T^1. With this arrangement, various kinds of condiments C may be arranged for convenient availability in the upper part of the table, so that a waiter may serve his customers with such condiments, and be individually responsible for

same. In order to properly limit the rearward movement of the tray T^1 in its compartment, any suitable form of stop S may be attached at proper positions at opposite ends of the upper compartment, either to the shelf **14** or to the end walls **10**. In the specific embodiment illustrated, I have shown this stop as comprising a vertically arranged metal angle such as of aluminum.

While the dimensions of the table disclosed herein should be such as to accommodate trays of conventional size, it will be apparent that the open top arrangement, with its ledge, will be suitable for supporting serving trays of various sizes, and such trays can be conveniently handled without the danger of upsetting the tray or causing the dishes to slide thereon, as would be probable if the table was of such design as to require the waiter to slide the trays laterally onto the top surface thereof.

With regard to the silverware tray T^1, the various compartments provide for separate storage of knives, forks, spoons, soup spoons, cocktail forks, and steak knives. The tray is removable, enabling a waiter to take it to the supply of silverware in the kitchen and fill the same. Thus, each waiter is responsible for his own silverware and an adequate supply in the dining room at all times is assured.

The division of the tray T^2, as described, eliminates the temptation to throw silverware in on the dishware, with consequent breakage of the latter.

I claim:

1. A bus stand of height for use by waiters having closed end and rear walls and having an open top and front, each of said walls having at its upper end a relatively narrow, inwardly extending ledge formed to provide a flat serving tray support which encircles all sides of said stand except the front, a top horizontal shelf extending between said walls and in contact with said rear wall, said shelf being spaced a sufficient distance beneath said support to receive a storage tray thereon while leaving sufficient space between the top of the tray and the flat plane of said ledge to accommodate the hand and forearm of a waiter when placing a serving tray on, or removing it from, said stand, and a plurality of additional horizontal shelves supported between said walls for receiving additional storage trays, all of said shelves providing compartments fully open in front for convenient reception and removal of the storage trays.

2. A bus stand of height for use by waiters having closed end and rear walls and having an open top and front, each of said walls having at its upper end a relatively narrow, inwardly extending ledge formed to provide a flat serving tray support which encircles all sides of said stand except the front, a top horizontal shelf extending between said walls and in contact with said rear wall, said shelf being spaced a sufficient distance beneath said support to receive a storage tray thereon while leaving sufficient space between the top of the tray and the flat plane of said ledge to accommodate the hand and forearm of a waiter when placing a serving tray on, or removing it from, said stand, and a plurality of additional horizontal shelves supported between said walls for receiving additional storage trays, at least one of the said additional shelves being spaced from the shelf above a distance sufficient to permit inserting used articles of tableware into a storage tray supported there-

on, all of said shelves providing compartments fully open in front for convenient reception and removal of the storage trays.

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