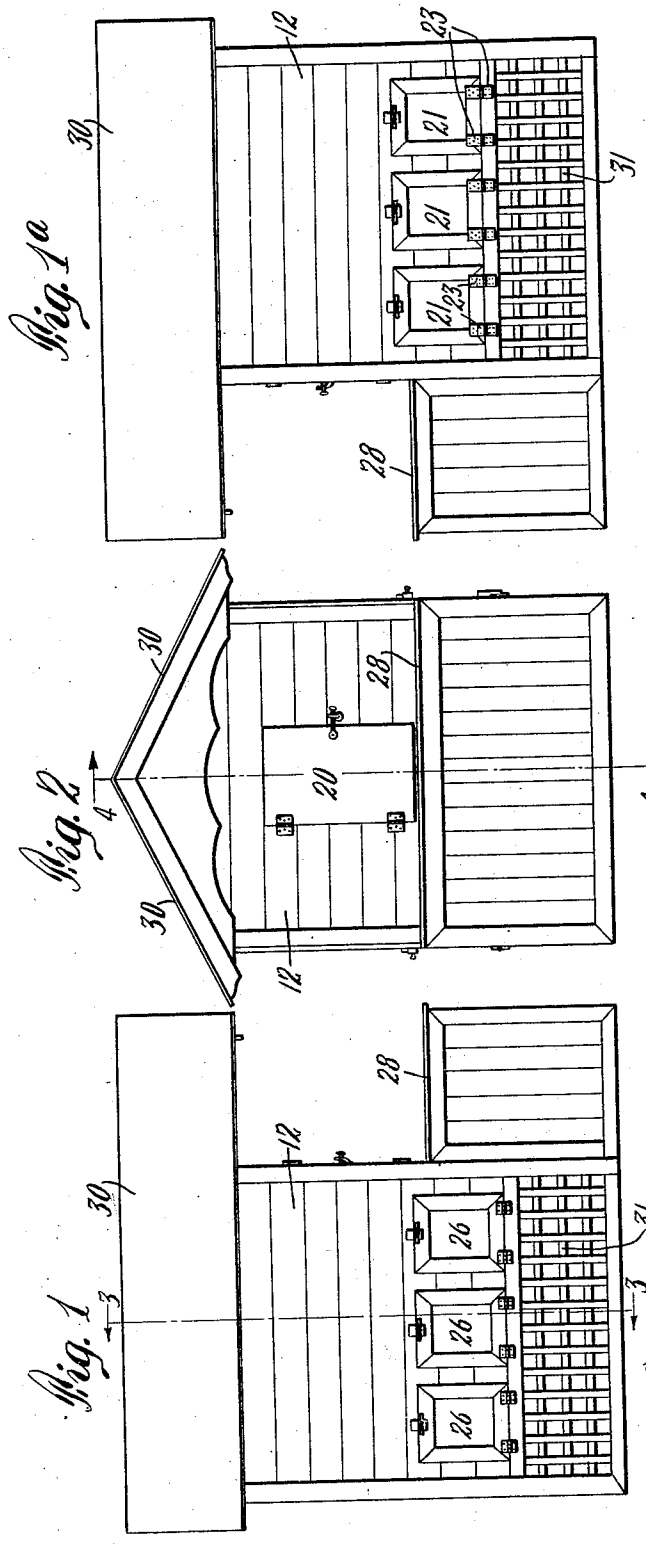
March 29, 1932. H. DU P. BALDWIN ET AL 1,851,535

DISPENSING STATION

Filed Oct. 22, 1929 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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DISPENSING STATION

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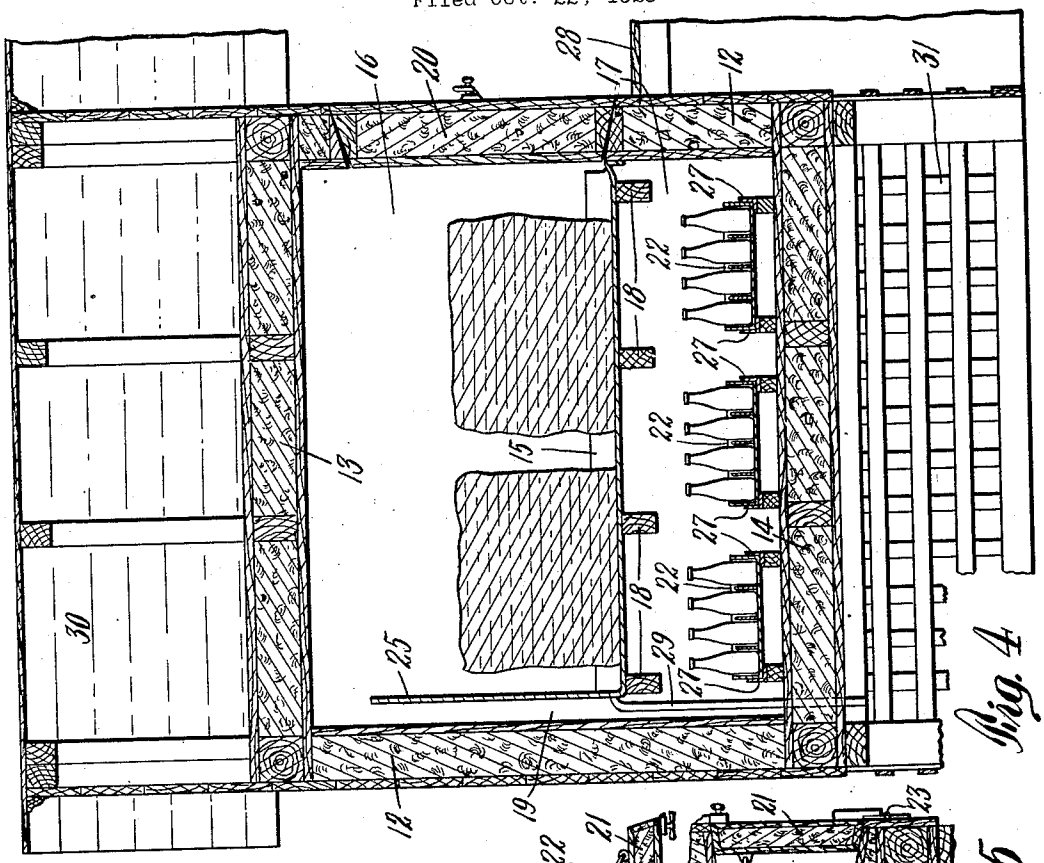

Fig. 4

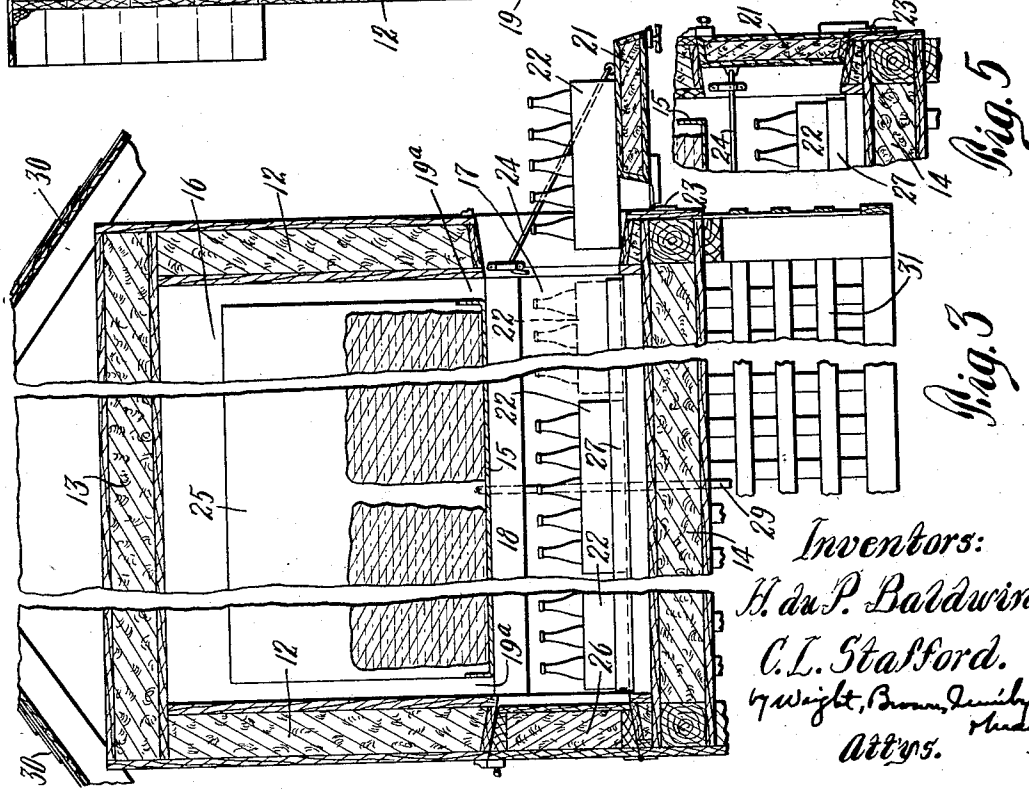

Fig. 5

Fig. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DISPENSING STATION

Application filed October 22, 1929. Serial No. 401,414.

This invention relates to wayside stations whereat merchandise is dispensed to customers, usually motor vehicle travelers.

The object of the invention is to provide a dispensing station which includes an ice chamber from which ice may be dispensed or retailed, and a cooling chamber cooled by ice in the ice chamber and adapted to contain and cool refreshments, such as bottled liquids, and permit the convenient dispensation or retailing thereof.

Of the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification,—

Figures 1, 1*a* and 2 are elevational views of a dispensing station embodying the invention.

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a section on line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary sectional view.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all of the figures.

Our improved dispensing station comprises a heat-insulating casing having upright side walls 12, a top wall 13, and a bottom wall 14, the casing being weatherproof and adapted to be used in the open.

Said walls are of heat insulating construction, and each may include inner and outer layers which may be wooden boards, and an intermediate layer of heat insulating material such as cork board.

Fixed within the casing is an ice pan 15, preferably of sheet steel and forming the bottom of an ice chamber 16, and the top of the cooling chamber 17. The pan may be supported by horizontal stringers 18, fixed to opposite side walls of the casing, and is formed to permit downward flow of ice cooled air from the ice chamber to the cooling chamber, edge portions of the pan being spaced from the side walls of the casing to provide air passages 19 and 19*a* shown by Figures 3 and 4.

One of the side walls 12 is provided with cooling chamber doorways having doors 21, said doorways being called delivering doorways and adapted to permit removal from the cooling chamber of portable containers 22, such as the boxes or racks in which bottled liquids are customarily delivered to customers.

The opposite side wall 12 is provided with container-receiving doorways having doors 26 (Figure 3) the receiving doorways permitting insertion of containers in the cooling chamber and movement of said containers on the guiding means to force other containers through the delivering doorways onto the container-supporting doors 21.

One of the intermediate side walls 12 is provided with an ice chamber doorway having a door 20, said doorway being adapted to permit insertion and removal of ice in and from the ice chamber.

The doors 21 are provided with means whereby they may be horizontally supported, when opened, to support containers 22 displaced from the cooling chamber, as indicated by Figure 3, the doors 21 in this instance being connected by horizontal hinges 23 with a casing wall 12 and adapted to swing outward and downward to the horizontal position shown by Figure 3, the doors being horizontally supported when opened, by braces 24.

The bottom wall 14 of the casing forms the bottom of the cooling chamber and is provided with tracks for horizontally guiding containers 22 in predetermined paths relative to the supporting doors 21.

To permit a return flow of air from the upper portion of the cooling chamber 17 to the upper portion of the ice chamber 16, we provide one end of the ice pan 15 with an upstanding baffle wall 25 (Figure 4) spaced from the adjacent side wall 12. Said baffle wall limits the entrance of ice into the ice chamber and forms one side of the passage 19, which permits a return flow of air from the upper portion of the cooling chamber to the upper portion of the ice chamber.

We prefer to embody the container-guiding tracks in flanged guide rails 27, fixed in pairs to the bottom wall 14 of the casing and adapted to support a plurality of portable containers 22 spaced above the bottom wall, and to guide said containers in predetermined paths relative to the container-supporting doors 21, so that a container pushed along a

pair of guide rails toward a door 21, will have its outer end portion deposited on the upper surface of the door, as indicated by Figure 3.

A customer standing beside the open door 21 may, therefore, remove a bottle from a projected container supported by said door.

To enable a customer to be conveniently supplied with ice from the ice chamber 16, we provide a platform 28, located beside the side wall 12 containing the ice chamber door 20, and below said door, to support and permit retailing of ice withdrawn from the ice chamber. The platform 28 may be the top of a box-like structure, formed separately from the casing above described, and bearing loosely on the ground or a floor supporting the casing.

The ice pan 15 is provided with a drip pipe 29, adapted to conduct water from the pan through the bottom wall 14.

The casing may be surmounted by a roof 30, which may project forward to form a shelter over the platform 28.

The casing may be supported, with its bottom wall elevated above the ground, by an openwork base structure 31. It is obvious that the cooling chamber may contain one or more tracks, three tracks being shown in the present instance, each track being formed to support two or more containers 22 when the cooling chamber doors are closed. The location of the ice doorway, closed by the door 20, in a side wall intermediate the walls containing the receiving and delivering openings of the cooling chamber, permits ice to be inserted in and retailed from the ice chamber without interference with the retailing of cooled articles supported by a door 21.

We claim:

1. A dispensing station comprising a weatherproof heat insulating casing adapted for use in the open, and including heat insulating upright side walls, a top wall, and a bottom wall, and subdivided to form an ice chamber and a cooling chamber below the ice chamber, a horizontal track on the bottom of the cooling chamber extending from end to end of said chamber, a receiving doorway in one of the side walls communicating with one end of said track, a delivering doorway in the opposite side wall communicating with the opposite end of the track, doors adapted to close said doorways, the door of the delivering doorway being connected by horizontal hinges with the lower end of said doorways, means for horizontally supporting the door of the delivering doorway so that said door, when opened, constitutes an external extension of said track, an ice doorway in an intermediate side wall communicating with the ice chamber, and a door adapted to close the ice doorway, the track being proportioned to support and permit the sliding of a plurality of cooled article containers which are movable, with their charges, through the receiving and delivering doorways, the arrangement being such that one container may be moved through the delivering doorway and supported in retailing position by the opened door of said doorway, the location of the ice doorway in an intermediate wall permitting ice to be inserted in and retailed from the ice chamber without interference with the retailing of cooled articles.

2. A dispensing station comprising a weatherproof heat insulating casing adapted for use in the open, and including heat insulating upright side walls, a top wall, and a bottom wall, and subdivided to form an ice chamber and a cooling chamber below the ice chamber, a horizontal track on the bottom of the cooling chamber extending from end to end of said chamber, a receiving doorway in one of the side walls communicating with one end of said track, a delivering doorway in the opposite side wall communicating with the opposite end of the track, doors adapted to close said doorways, the door of the delivering doorway being connected by horizontal hinges with the lower end of said doorway, means for horizontally supporting the door of the delivering doorway so that said door, when opened, constitutes an external extension of said track, an ice doorway in an intermediate side wall communicating with the ice chamber, a door adapted to close the ice doorway, and a plurality of cooled article containers adapted to slide on the track and movable, with their charges, through the receiving and delivering doorways, the containers being so proportioned that two or more may be supported on the track when the cooling chamber doors are closed, and one may be supported outside the casing by the door of the delivering doorway in position for the retailing of cooled articles to a customer, the location of the ice doorway in an intermediate wall permitting ice to be inserted in and retailed from the ice chamber without interference with the retailing of cooled articles, the arrangement being such that when a container is withdrawn through the delivering doorway its place may be supplied by another pushed along the track from the receiving doorway.

In testimony whereof we have affixed our signatures.

HENRY DU PONT BALDWIN.
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