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H. L. MONROE

DISAPPEARING FURNITURE

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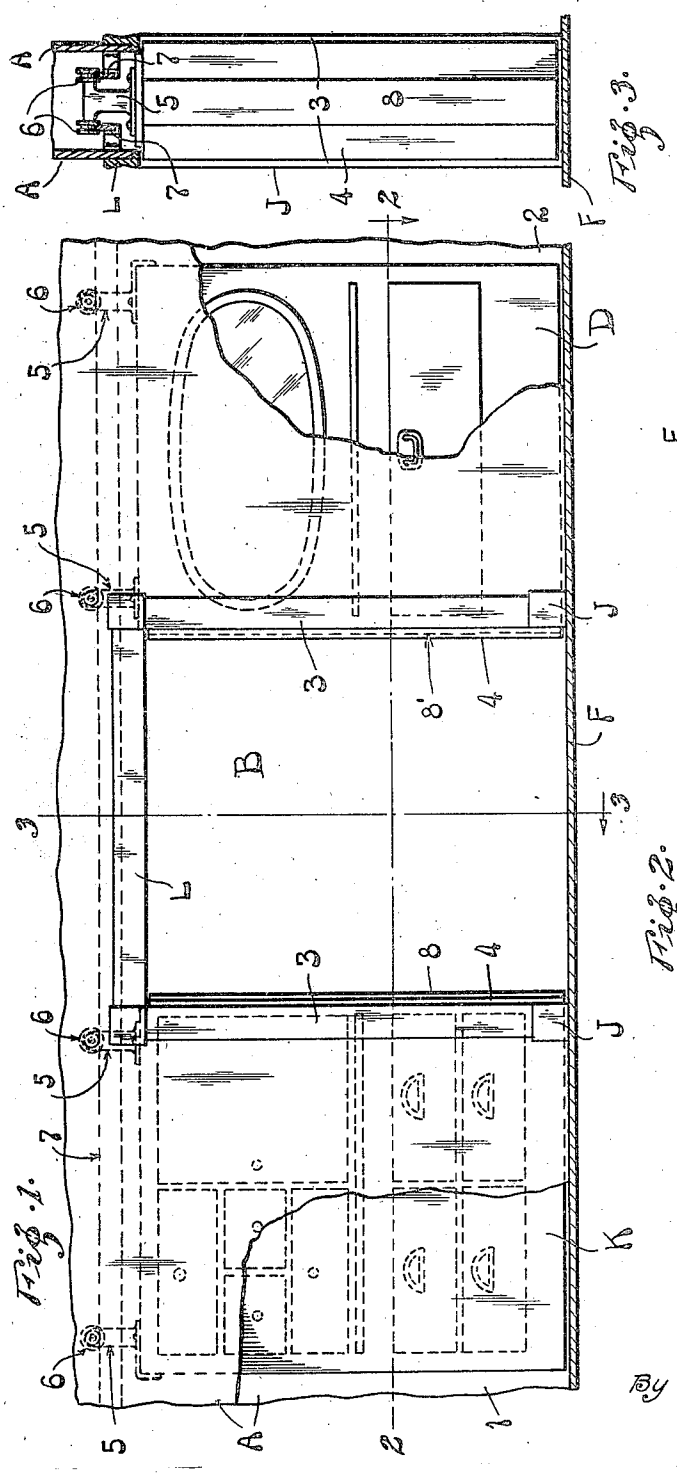


Fig. 1.

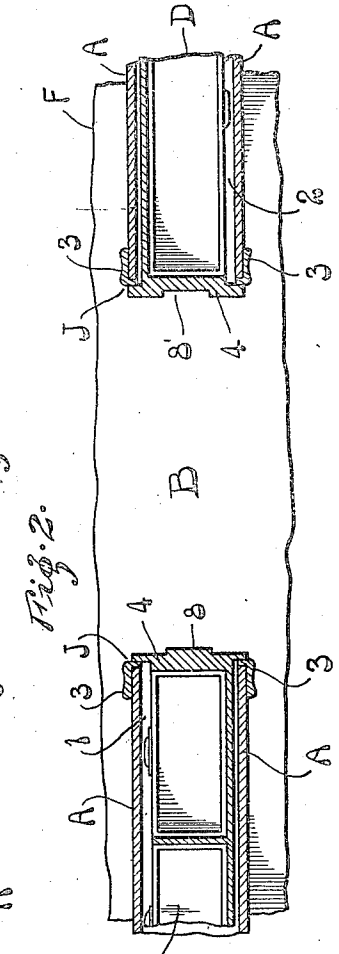


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Inventor:
H.L. Monroe
By Cook & McCauley
Attorneys.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY L. MONROE, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

DISAPPEARING FURNITURE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY L. MONROE, a citizen of the United States of America, a resident of the city of St. Louis and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Disappearing Furniture, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in disappearing furniture adapted for use in efficiency apartments, hotels and other buildings wherein it is desirable to economize space. An object of the invention is to conceal articles of furniture without using ordinary closets which, in addition to being expensive, occupy valuable space and sometimes produce unsightly offsets in the interior of a building. Furthermore, ordinary closets require large doors to conceal their contents, and I prefer to eliminate such doors.

Another object is to most effectively conceal an article of furniture in such a manner that it can be easily and quickly exposed for use at a convenient location without occupying space in the room where it is exposed. A further object is to use the article of furniture as a means for closing communication between two rooms.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention comprises the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more specifically described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein is shown the preferred embodiment of the invention. However, it is to be understood that the invention comprehends changes, variations and modifications which come within the scope of the claims hereunto appended.

Briefly stated, the specific construction I have shown to illustrate the invention comprises an article of furniture movable in a straight line from a concealed position in a hollow wall to an exposed position in a passageway between two rooms. When the furniture is exposed for use in the passageway, it does not occupy space in either room. It lies between the rooms, closes the passageway and forms a continuation of the wall. The use of the furniture does not require displacement of any objects in either room.

In the preferred form of the invention, the passageway between the rooms is provided with vertical jambs at its sides forming the side walls of the passageway and having the general appearance of ordinary jambs. However, each jamb preferably comprises two stationary side sections secured to the wall and separated from each other to provide an entrance to the storage compartment formed by the hollow wall. Each article of furniture is preferably provided with a middle jamb section adapted to close the space between the side sections of the jamb when the furniture occupies its concealed position in the wall. The entrance, or opening, between the side sections of the jamb is in horizontal alinement with the passageway and storage compartment, and the furniture is preferably supported by a carriage guided in a straight horizontal line so as to move from the storage compartment to the passageway between the rooms.

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary side elevation, partly in section, illustrating a hollow wall forming storage compartments for articles of furniture, portions of the wall being broken away to more clearly show the furniture.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal section taken approximately on the line 2—2, in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken approximately on the line 3—3 in Fig. 1.

The hollow wall comprises wall members A separated from each other to form narrow storage compartments 1 and 2. Between these compartments the wall is provided with a transverse opening B forming a passageway through the wall, so as to provide communication between the rooms at opposite sides of the wall.

Jambs J, at opposite sides of the passageway B, extend from the floor F to a lintel L. Each jamb J comprises upright side sections 3 separated from each other to form an entrance to a storage compartment, this entrance being between and in horizontal alinement with the storage compartment and passageway B. Each jamb also includes a movable middle section 4 lapping the side sections 3, as shown most clearly in Fig. 2, and forming a closure for the entrance to the storage compartment.

K designates an article of furniture which may be considered as a kitchen cabinet, ar-

ranged in the compartment 1, while D indicates an article of furniture, for example, a dresser, arranged in the compartment 2. It is to be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the use of any particular article of furniture. In the construction herein shown, the articles of furniture are provided with hangers 5 provided with rollers 6 engaging the upper edges of horizontal tracks 7, extending above the passageway B and into the storage compartments 1 and 2. The furniture is thus supported by carriers guided in a straight horizontal line, at a right angle to the jambs, and either article of furniture can be readily moved from a concealed position in the hollow wall to an exposed position in the passageway B.

Each middle jamb section 4 may be carried by one of the articles of furniture, and one of these jamb sections 4 has a vertical rib 8 (Figs. 1 and 2) adapted to enter a corresponding recess 8′ in the other jamb section 4 when an article of furniture is exposed in the passageway. Therefore, when either article of furniture occupies its exposed position, it closes communication between the two rooms at opposite sides of the hollow wall.

The articles of furniture occupy upright positions in the hollow wall, and each article is movable through the elongated vertical space in one of the jambs so as to occupy an exposed position entirely within the passageway B between the rooms. The front of the article of furniture is exposed for use in one of the rooms, and the furniture then closes communication between the two rooms but does not occupy any space in either room, so it is not necessary to move any other article of furniture in the room when the furniture herein shown is exposed for use. Moreover, the furniture can be most effectively concealed without exposing large doors, or the like, indicating the presence of a storage compartment.

The articles of furniture may be oppositely disposed so that the kitchen cabinet K can be moved to an exposed position facing one of the rooms when the latter is being used as a kitchen, and the front of the dresser D is arranged for use in the other room.

I claim:

1. The combination of a wall provided with a transverse opening forming a passageway through the wall, said wall comprising wall members separated from each other to form a storage compartment at one side of said passageway, and an article of furniture movable from said storage compartment to said passageway.

2. The combination of a wall provided with a transverse opening forming a passageway through the wall, said wall comprising wall members separated from each other to form a narrow storage compartment at one side of said passageway, and an article of furniture movable through said side of the passageway, said article of furniture being adapted for use in said passageway.

3. The combination of a hollow wall provided with a transverse opening, and an article of furniture movable through the jamb of said opening.

4. The combination of a wall provided with a transverse opening forming a passageway through the wall, said wall comprising wall members separated from each other to form a storage compartment at one side of said passageway, the jamb at said side of the passageway having a longitudinal opening providing communication between said storage compartment and said passageway, and an article of furniture movable through said opening in the jamb so as to pass from said storage compartment to an exposed position in said passageway, and said article of furniture being adapted for use while it occupies said exposed position.

5. The combination of a wall provided with a transverse opening forming a passageway through the wall, said wall comprising wall members separated from each other to form a storage compartment at one side of said passageway, the jamb at said side of the passageway having a longitudinal opening providing communication between said storage compartment and said passageway, said storage compartment and passageway being in horizontal alinement with the opening in said jamb, and a horizontally movable article of furniture adapted to pass through said opening in the jamb.

6. The combination of a hollow wall provided with a transverse opening forming a passageway through the wall, said hollow wall comprising wall members separated from each other to form a storage compartment at one side of said passageway, the jamb at said side of the passageway having a longitudinal opening providing communication between said storage compartment and said passageway, said storage compartment and passageway being in horizontal alinement with the opening in the jamb, a horizontal track in said storage compartment, anti-friction rollers mounted on said horizontal track, and an article of furniture supported by said rollers, said article of furniture being movable horizontally from the interior of said storage compartment through the opening in the jamb to an exposed position in said passageway, and said article of furniture being adapted for use in said passageway.

7. The combination of a hollow wall provided with a transverse passageway forming an opening through the wall, said hollow wall comprising wall members separated from each other to provide storage compart-

ments at opposite sides of said passageway, said storage compartments being in horizontal alinement with said passageway and each side wall of the passageway being open to provide communication between the passageway and both storage compartments, and articles of furniture located in the respective storage compartments and movable through the open side walls of the passageway to exposed positions within said passageway.

8. The combination of a hollow wall provided with a transverse passageway forming an opening through the wall, said hollow wall comprising wall members separated from each other to provide storage compartments at opposite sides of said passageway, said storage compartments being in horizontal alinement with said passageway and each side wall of the passageway being open to provide communication between the passageway and both storage compartments, horizontal guides in said storage compartments, antifriction rollers mounted on said guides, and articles of furniture supported by said rollers, each article of furniture being movable through one of the open side walls of said passageway from an exposed position in said passageway to a concealed position within one of said storage compartments.

9. The combination of a hollow wall provided with a transverse opening forming a passageway through the wall, said hollow wall comprising wall members separated from each other to form a storage compartment at one side of said passageway, one of the side walls of said passageway being provided with an opening forming an entrance to said compartment, and an article of furniture movable from said storage compartment to said passageway, said article of furniture being provided with a closure for said last named opening.

10. The combination of a wall provided with a transverse opening forming a passageway through the wall, said wall comprising wall members separated from each other to form a storage compartment at one side of said passageway, the jamb at said side of the passageway having a longitudinal opening providing communication between said storage compartment and said passageway, and an article of furniture movable through said opening in the jamb so as to pass from said storage compartment to said passageway, said article of furniture being provided with a closure for the opening of the jamb.

11. The combination of a hollow wall provided with a transverse passageway forming an opening through the wall, said hollow wall comprising wall members separated from each other to provide storage compartments at opposite sides of said passageway, said storage compartments being parallel with and in horizontal alinement with said passageway, each side wall of the passageway comprising a pair of jamb members separated from each other to provide communication between the passageway and both storage compartments, horizontal tracks located in said storage compartment and arranged at a right angle to said jamb members, traveling carriers mounted on said tracks, articles of furniture supported by said carriers and movable from the respective storage compartments to said passageway, each article of furniture being provided with a closure for the space between a pair of the separated jamb members.

12. The combination of a hollow wall having a transverse passageway providing communication between two rooms, said hollow wall comprising wall members separated from each other to provide storage compartments at opposite sides of said passageway, said storage compartments being parallel with and in horizontal alinement with said passageway, each side wall of said passageway having an elongated vertical opening providing communication between the passageway and both storage compartments, and upright articles of furniture mounted in the respective storage compartments and movable in straight lines through the vertical openings, each of said articles of furniture being wide enough to extend across and close said transverse passageway.

13. The combination of a hollow wall having a transverse passageway providing communication between two rooms, said hollow wall comprising wall members separated from each other to provide storage compartments at opposite sides of said passageway, said storage compartments being parallel with and in horizontal alinement with said passageway, each side wall of said passageway having an elongated vertical opening providing communication between the passageway and both storage compartments, and upright articles of furniture mounted in the respective storage compartments and movable through the vertical openings, each of said articles of furniture being movable to an exposed position entirely within said passageway and entirely outside of said two rooms, and each article of furniture being adapted for use while it occupies said exposed position.

14. The combination of a hollow wall provided with a transverse passageway forming an opening through the wall, said hollow wall comprising wall members separated from each other to provide storage compartments at opposite sides of said passageway, said storage compartments being parallel with and in horizontal alinement with said passageway, each side wall of the passageway comprising a pair of up-

right jamb members separated from each other to provide communication between the passageway and both storage compartments, and articles of furniture mounted in the respective storage compartments, each article of furniture being movable through the space between a pair of the separated jamb members so as to pass from a concealed position in one of said compartments to an exposed position in said passageway.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I hereunto affix my signature.

HARRY L. MONROE.