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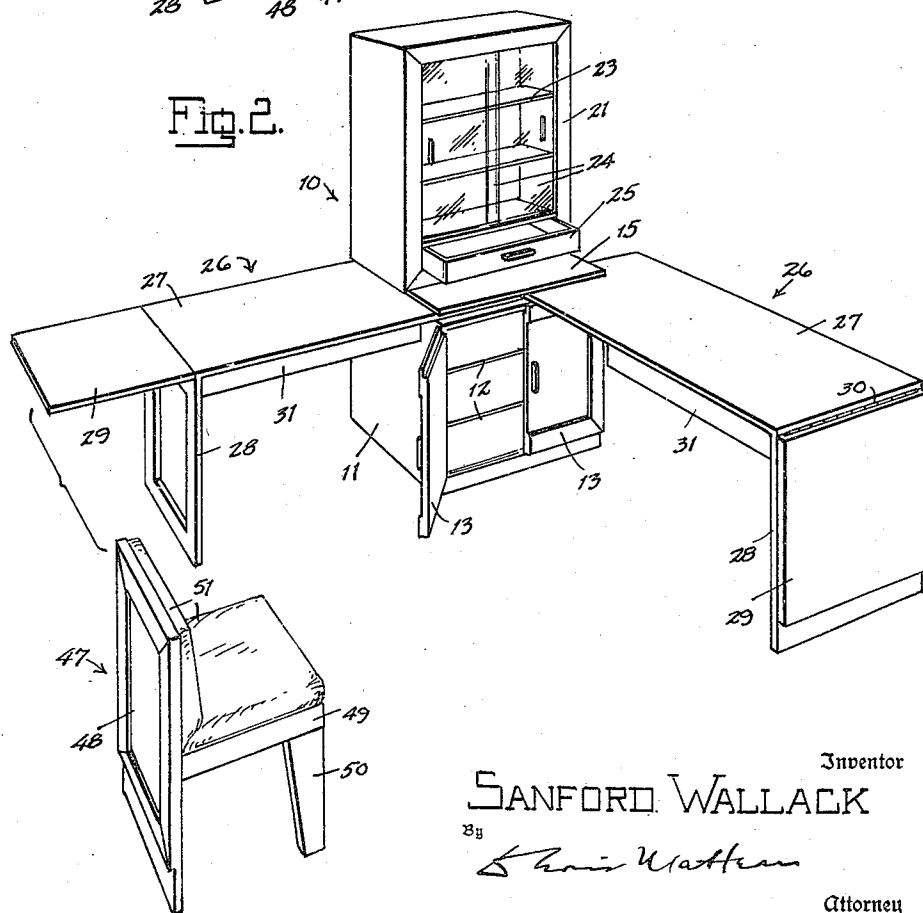
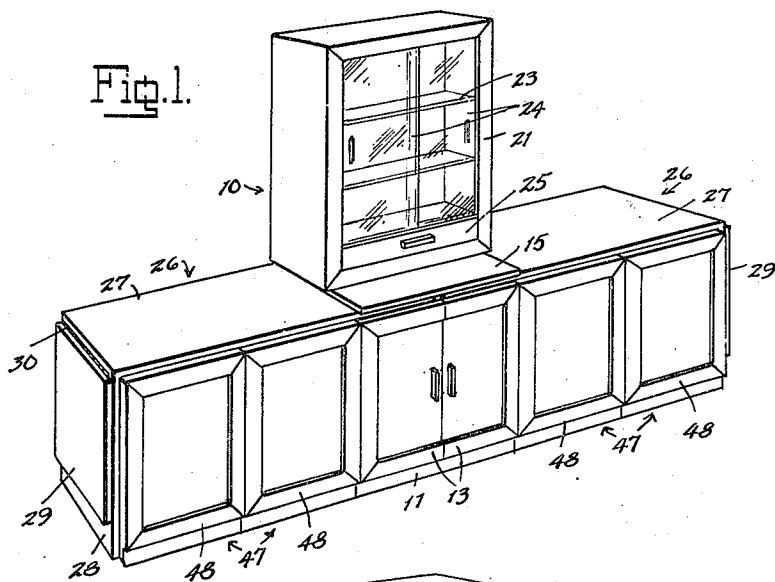
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2,665,963

COMBINATION DINING FURNITURE UNIT

Filed Dec. 22, 1950

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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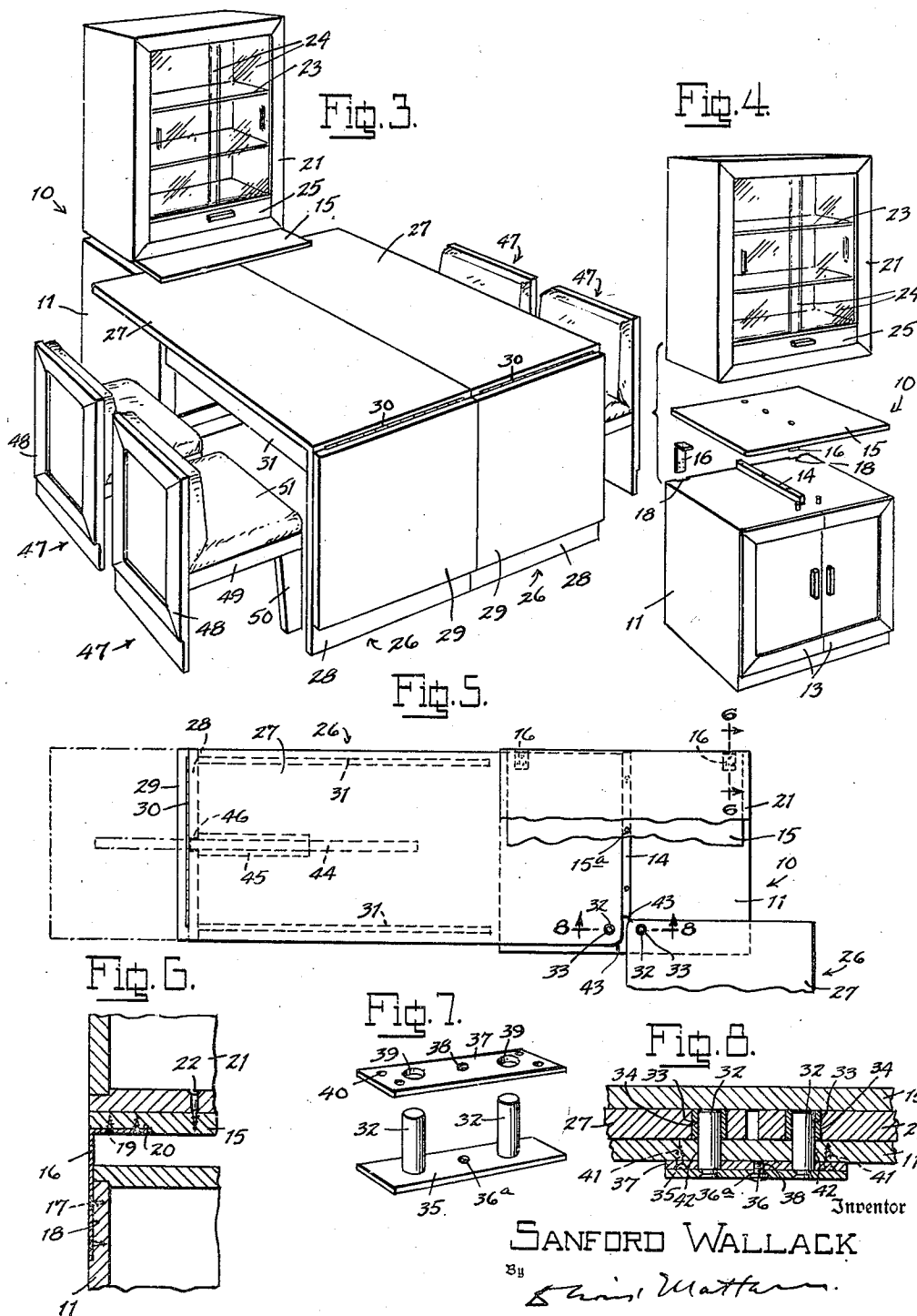
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COMBINATION DINING FURNITURE UNIT

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6 Claims. (Cl. 312-235)

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The present invention relates to a combination dining furniture unit, and has for an object to provide in a single unitary structure all of the components ordinarily making up a set of dining room furniture, namely a cabinet for storage of dishes, glassware, silver, linens, etc., a table, and a set of chairs, and which is adapted when not in use for dining purposes to occupy a relatively small space along one wall of a room, and when in use to have its table part extended to occupy a space extending outwardly from the wall and to have the set of chairs suitably distributed about the table.

In modern homes and apartments where space is at a premium a dining area is often provided as part of a living room, and is usually furnished with small scale furniture to fit the relatively small space available. Aside from the fact that such an arrangement does not usually enhance the decorative scheme, it also fails to provide adequate room for more than two or three people, and furthermore the area that it occupies is not available for other purposes. It is proposed in the present invention to provide a furniture unit which when not in use for dining purposes will occupy a relatively small longitudinal area adjacent a wall making the main floor area available for other purposes, and which when in use will provide adequate space for seating a relatively large number of persons. Another object is to provide a furniture unit which lends itself to economical manufacture by standard furniture production methods, and to the embodiment therein of modern and period styles harmoniously fitting into various decorative schemes.

A further object is to provide a unit in which the chairs constituting part of the unit may be fitted into the unit when not in use so that they provide in effect a continuation of the front panel surface of the cabinet part of the unit.

With the above and other objects in view, an embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, and this embodiment will be hereinafter more fully described with reference thereto, and the invention will be finally pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the combination dining furniture unit, according to the illustrated exemplary embodiment of the invention, the same being shown in its position with the table sections arranged longitudinally along a wall, and with the chairs fitted therein.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view in which one of the table sections is shown extended for use as

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a desk or small dining table, one of the chairs being shown in outwardly moved position and the other chairs being removed.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the two table sections extended to provide a large dining table and the chairs in place for dining.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the several parts of the cabinet section of the unit in separated relation.

Fig. 5 is a plan view, partially broken away, with the table sections in the arrangement illustrated in Fig. 2.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail vertical sectional view, taken along the line 6-6 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a pair of pivot plate parts employed in the unit.

Fig. 8 is an enlarged detail vertical sectional view, taken along the line 8-8 of Fig. 5.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, the combination dining furniture unit, according to the illustrated exemplary embodiment of the invention, comprises a central cabinet section 10 constituting a storage place for dishes, glassware, silver, linens, etc., and consists of a cabinet base 11 of generally rectangular form provided interiorly with suitably arranged shelves 12 and having swinging doors 13 at the front. Upon the rectangular top of the cabinet base 11 there is provided a central spacer strip 14 arranged parallel to the side edges and extending from the rearward edge to a point inwardly of the forward edge, this strip being screwed, bolted or otherwise suitably secured in place. A rectangular board 15 of substantially the same dimensions as the top of the cabinet base is secured upon the strip 14 by screws 15a and is supported at its rearward edge in proximity to the sides of the cabinet base upon angle brackets 16-16 secured by screws 17 in recessed pockets 18 provided in the rearward side of the cabinet base and by screws 19 in recessed pockets 20 provided in the underside of the board 15. This arrangement provides a cabinet base having at its upper side a pair of laterally disposed pockets, one at each side of the transverse central vertical plane of the cabinet base, within which the inner ends of the table sections of the unit are pivotally connected and supported, as will presently more fully appear. A cabinet top 21 is secured upon the board 15 by screws 22, being provided with suitable shelves 23, sliding glass doors 24 and a drawer 25. The cabinet top is preferably of substantially less depth than the

cabinet base, so that the forward portion of the board 15 is exposed forwardly of the cabinet top to provide a convenient serving surface.

The table sections 25—26, which are connected at their inner ends to the central cabinet unit in the respective pockets at each side of the strip 15, each comprise a horizontal rectangular top 27, a vertical leg end 28 to which an extension drop leaf 29 is hingedly secured by a piano hinge 30, and side rails or apron strips 31 set inwardly from the longitudinal side edges of the top and which extend from the legs to a point substantially spaced from the inner end of the top 27. The inner end portion of each table section is engaged within the pocket provided at one side of the strip 14 with the inner end of the table top normally engaging the strip 14 as a stop. At the forward inner corner of the table top which extends forwardly of the forward end of the strip 14, as seen in Fig. 5, there is provided a pivotal connection for the table top consisting of a metal post 32 engaging a metal bushing 33 secured in a hole 34 in the table top.

As shown in Figs. 7 and 8 the posts 32—32 for the two table sections are rigidly staked to a rectangular metal plate 35 which is secured by a machine screw 36 to a positioning plate 37, the screw 36 being engaged in a countersunk hole 36a in the plate 35 and screwed in a threaded hole 38 in the plate 37. The plate 37 is provided with circular guide holes 39—39 in which the posts 32—32 are engaged, and is also provided with countersunk screw holes 40 to accommodate wood screws 41 for the purpose of attaching the plate 37 to the underside of the top of the cabinet base. The top of the cabinet base is also provided with holes 42—42 in register with the holes 39—39 through which the posts are extended upwardly into the space between the cabinet top and the board 15. This arrangement permits of convenient assembly and disassembly of the table sections, it being only necessary to disengage the screw 36 to release the plate 35, whereupon the posts may be drawn downwardly to disengage them from the table tops whereupon the latter may be removed. The parts may be assembled with equal facility simply by positioning the table sections in place and engaging the posts upwardly into the bushings 33 and thereupon securing the plate 35 to the plate 37 by the set screw 36.

The positioning of the axes of the posts 32 with respect to the edges of the table tops at the pivoted corners is such that in the position against the wall, as shown at the left in Fig. 5, the inner ends of the table tops engage against the sides of the strip 14 as a stop, and in the extended position, as shown at the right in Fig. 5, the forward edges of the table tops are disposed coincident to the transverse central vertical plane of the cabinet section so that when both table sections are extended their forward edges engage each other along the center line of the table, as shown in Fig. 3.

In carrying out this arrangement, the inner edges of the table tops are closer to the axes of the posts 32 than the forward edges, and the forward inner corners are radiused as at 43 to permit the table sections to clear each other when swinging to or from their extended positions. The inner ends of the side rails or aprons 31 are spaced from the sides of the cabinet base so as to provide sufficient clearance to permit the swinging of the table sections into and out of extended position.

The drop leaf 30 is adapted to be supported in its raised position, as shown at the left in Fig. 2, and by the dot-and-dash lines in Fig. 5, by means of a bar 44 slideably mounted at the underside of the table top in a guideway 45, the bar adapted to be extended through a slot 46 provided in the upper portion of the leg adjacent the underside of the top. In the retracted position the bar 44 is entirely concealed below the top and in the projected position it is extended beneath the raised drop leaf to support it. This drop leaf supporting structure is shown by way of example, and it is understood that any of the well known structures for this purpose may be employed.

The chair elements 47 each comprise a back 48 of generally rectangular form, a seat frame 49, forward legs 50 and suitable seat and back upholstery 51. The height dimension of the chair back is calculated so that it substantially corresponds to the distance from the floor to the underside of the table top, and the width dimension is calculated as the fractional part of the distance between the inner side of the table leg and the side of the cabinet base 11, determined by dividing such distance by the number of chairs. Thus the chair sections may be fitted within the spaces beneath the table sections, as shown in Fig. 1, with the inner sides of the chair backs abutted against the side rail 31 as a stop, and in which position the outer sides of the chair backs are in substantially longitudinal aligned relation with the doors of the cabinet base to provide paneled enclosures at each side of the cabinet base.

In the extended forward position of the table sections, the distance between the table legs and the cabinet base is substantially greater than in the longitudinal position against the wall, so that, while in the longitudinal position of the table sections against the wall, as seen in Fig. 1, the spaces beneath the table tops are just sufficient to accommodate the chairs in their stored position, in the extended position there is sufficient space beneath the table tops to allow for substantial spacing of the chairs from each other and from the table legs and cabinet base, so that adequate room is provided for the comfortable seating of a number of persons.

While the illustrated embodiment of the invention shows four chairs it will be understood that larger units may be provided with six, eight or more chairs in which case the dimensions of the table sections will be correspondingly increased. Where more persons are to be accommodated the drop leaf extensions may be raised, and for such occasions additional chair sections of similar design may be supplied. Where only one of the table parts is extended as shown in Fig. 2 it will provide adequate dining space for one or two people. Either one or both of the table sections may also be used as a convenient desk or work table.

I have illustrated and described a preferred and satisfactory embodiment of my invention, but it will be understood that changes may be made therein, within the spirit and scope thereof, as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A combination dining furniture unit, comprising a central cabinet section including horizontal vertically spaced parallel rectangular parts in substantial register at their edges and providing a lateral pocket open at its front and sides, a pair of table sections each comprising a

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horizontal top part of a width between its longitudinal edges substantially corresponding to the front-to-back width of said cabinet having its inner end portion engaged in said pocket with its said longitudinal edges normally closely contiguous to the front and back edges of said pocket at one side of the central transverse vertical plane of said cabinet section and said top part having a major portion thereof normally disposed in a longitudinal position extending beyond a side of said cabinet section, and a vertical floor engaging leg part rigid with said top part and longitudinally spaced from said side of said cabinet section to normally provide a space defined by said top part, cabinet side and leg part, and pivot means within said pocket pivotally connecting each of said top parts of said table sections to said cabinet section for horizontal swinging movement about a vertical pivot axis at a point of said top part vertically opposed by said vertically spaced parallel parts of said cabinet section, said table sections each adapted to swing about its pivot axis into a forward position at right angles to its longitudinal position to bring the forward longitudinal edges of said table sections together in a vertical plane coincident to said central transverse vertical plane of said cabinet section.

2. The invention as defined in claim 1, further characterized by a central partition strip dividing said pocket into two sections and constituting a stop for engagement by the inner ends of said table tops in the longitudinal position of the latter.

3. The invention as defined in claim 1, further characterized by said pivot axis of each of said table sections being at a point within said pocket substantially closer to the front of said cabinet section than to its side whereby said leg part of each of said table sections is at a substantially greater distance from said cabinet section in its forward position than it is in its longitudinal position.

4. A combination dining furniture unit, comprising a central cabinet section including horizontal vertically spaced parallel rectangular parts in substantial register at their edges and providing a lateral pocket open at its front and at least one side, a table section comprising a one-piece horizontal top part of a width between its longitudinal edges substantially corresponding to the front-to-back width of said pocket having its inner end portion engaged in said pocket with its said longitudinal edges normally closely contiguous to the front and back edges of said pocket and said top part having a major portion thereof normally disposed in a longitudinal position extending beyond a side of said cabinet section, and a vertical floor engaging leg part rigid with said top part and longitudinally spaced from said side of said cabinet section to normally provide a space defined by said top part, cabinet side and leg part, and pivot means within said pocket pivotally connecting said top part of said table

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section to said cabinet section for horizontal swinging movement about a vertical pivot axis at a point of said top part vertically opposed by said vertically spaced parallel parts of said cabinet section, said table section adapted to swing about its pivot axis into a forward position at right angles to its longitudinal position, and said pivot axis being at a point within said pocket substantially closer to the front of said cabinet section than to its side whereby said leg part of said table section is at a substantially greater distance from said cabinet section in its forward position than it is in its longitudinal position.

5. The invention as defined in claim 4, further characterized by a plurality of chair sections for said table section each having a back of a height substantially equal to the distance between the floor and the underside of the top part of the table section and of a width substantially equal to the distance between the side of said cabinet section and the leg part divided by the number of chair sections, whereby said chair sections are engageable beneath said table section with their backs constituting a front enclosure for said space as defined by said top part, cabinet side and leg part.

6. The invention as defined in claim 4, further characterized by a plurality of chair sections for said table section each having a back of a height substantially equal to the distance between the floor and the underside of the top part of the table section and of a width substantially equal to the distance between the side of said cabinet section and the leg part divided by the number of chair sections, whereby said chair sections are engageable beneath said table section with their backs constituting a front enclosure for said space defined by said top part, cabinet side and leg part, and side rail means at the underside of said top part parallel to the front of said cabinet section in the longitudinal position of said table section constituting a stop for engagement by said chair backs and inwardly offset with respect to said cabinet front a depth corresponding to the thickness of the engaged parts of said chair backs whereby to longitudinally align said chair backs with said cabinet front.

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