March 4, 1958 A. R. MELLOR ET AL 2,825,160

MENU HOLDER AND MAGNETIC SUPPORT MEANS THEREFOR

Filed Aug. 17, 1956 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

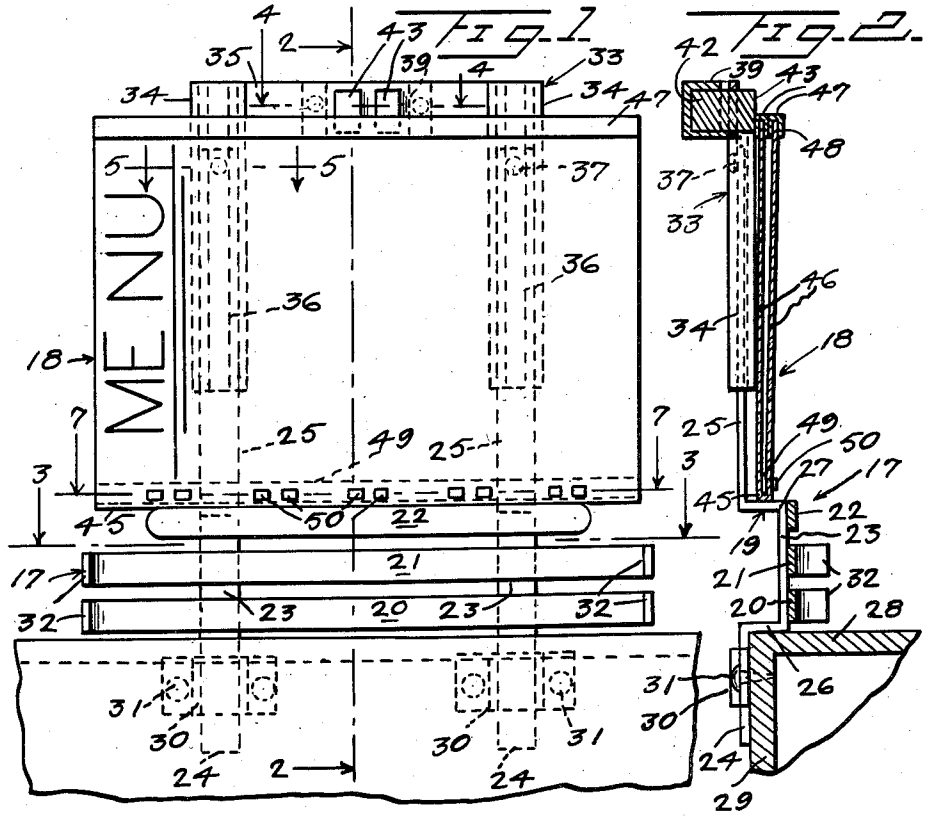


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

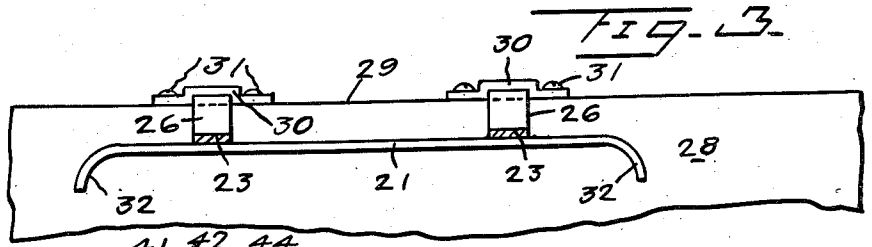


FIG. 3

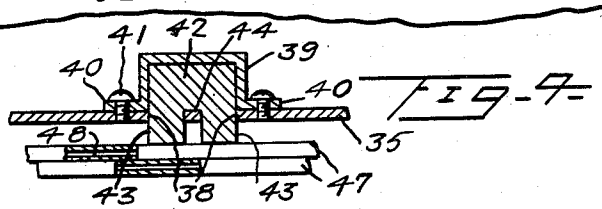


FIG. 4

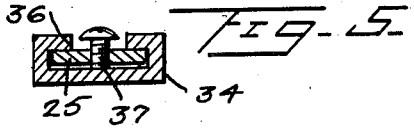


FIG. 5

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MENU HOLDER AND MAGNETIC SUPPORT MEANS THEREFOR

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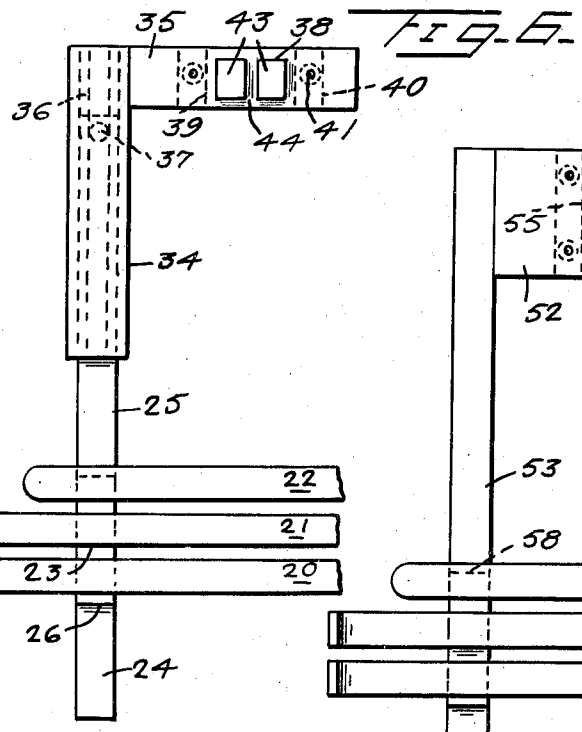


FIG. 6.

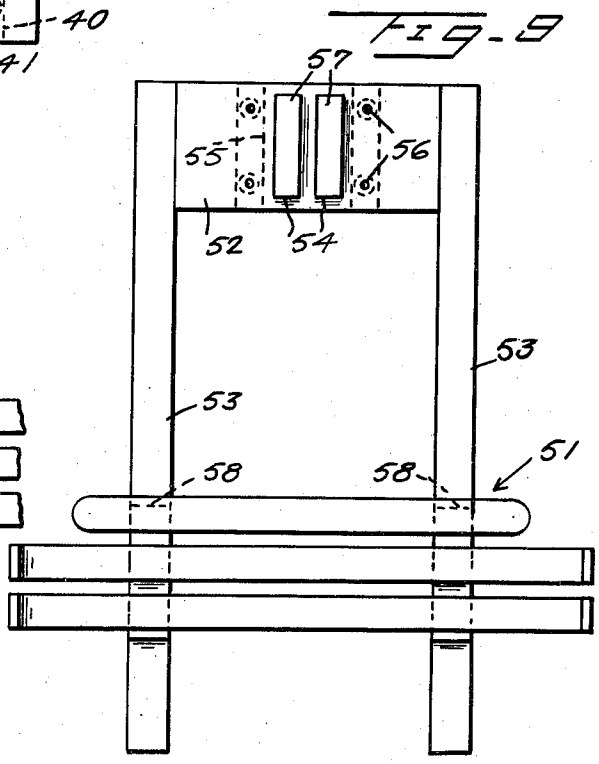


FIG. 9.

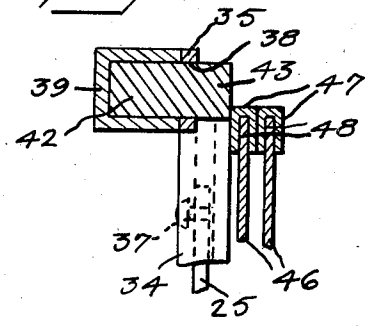


FIG. 8.

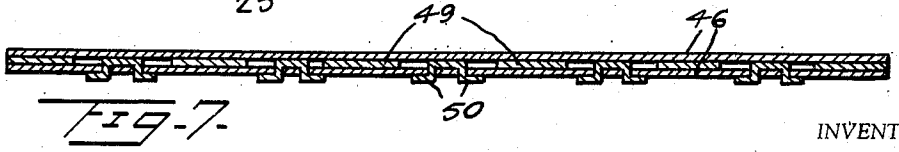


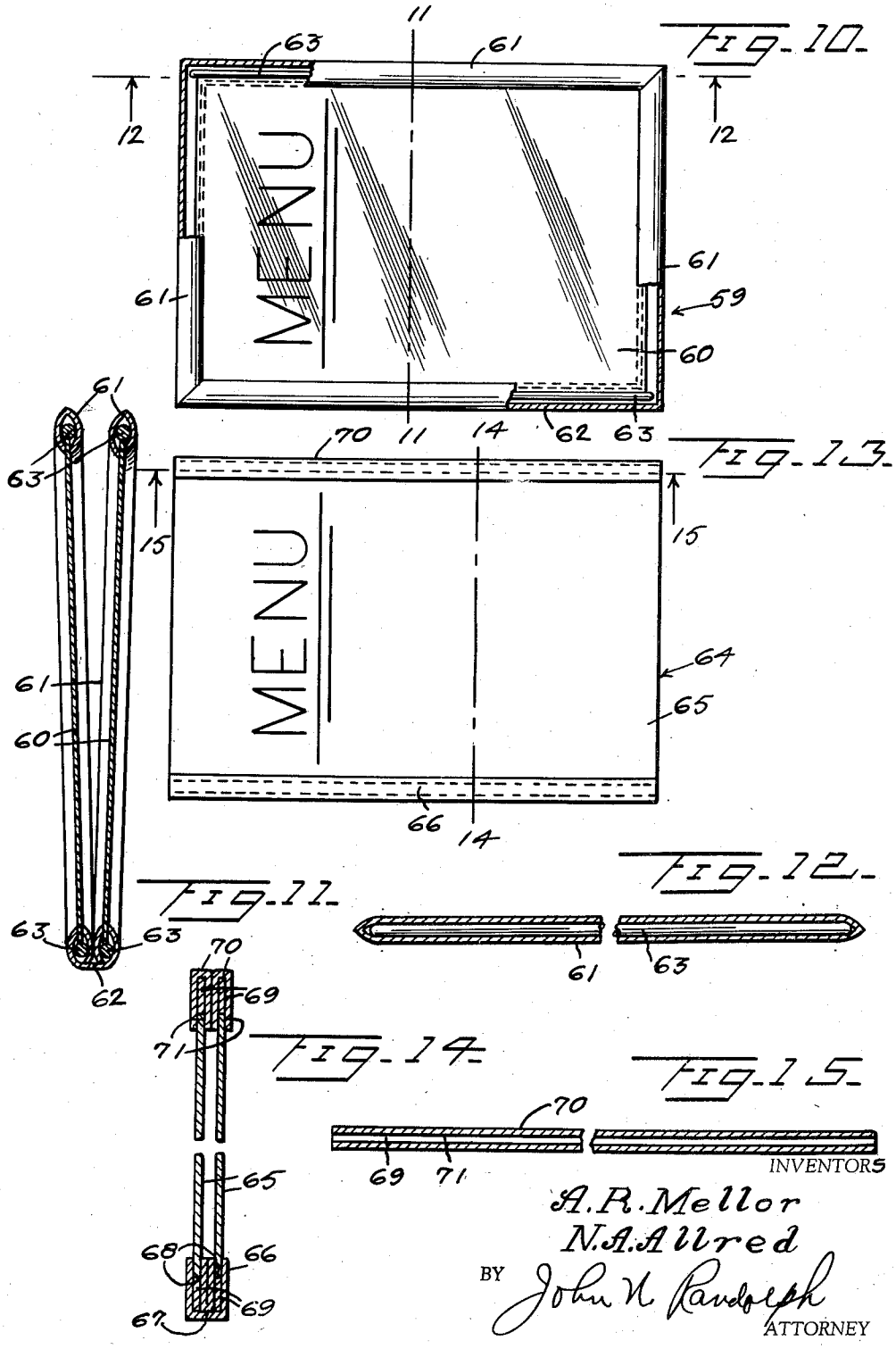
FIG. 7.

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MENU HOLDER AND MAGNETIC SUPPORT MEANS THEREFOR

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MENU HOLDER AND MAGNETIC SUPPORT MEANS THEREFOR

Adrien R. Mellor and Noah A. Allred, Loma Linda, Calif.

Application August 17, 1956, Serial No. 604,648

1 Claim. (Cl. 40—10)

This invention relates to a menu and a menu holder including magnetic means for retaining the menu in position on the holder and has for its primary object to provide a structure whereby a menu can be readily replaced upon a menu holder and will retain its position thereon until the menu is again grasped and removed, by a slight pull, from the holder.

Considerable difficulty is encountered by customers not familiar with the construction of menu holders now in use, in replacing a menu in a holder and as a consequence menus frequently fall upon the floor or are left lying upon a table or counter and are knocked to the floor where the menus are frequently stepped upon before being picked up by a patron or a waitress.

Accordingly, it is a primary object of the present invention to provide a menu and menu holder wherein the menu can be readily set upon a readily visible conveniently positioned shelf of the holder and when thus applied will be magnetically held to the holder until forcibly removed therefrom.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawings, illustrating presently preferred embodiments thereof, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view showing the menu holder mounted upon a counter or table with a menu magnetically held applied thereto;

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a horizontal sectional view, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figures 4 and 5 are enlarged horizontal sectional views taken substantially along planes as indicated by the lines 4—4 and 5—5, respectively, of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary front elevational view of a part of the holder shown removed from a counter or table;

Figure 7 is an enlarged longitudinal sectional view through a menu, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 7—7 of Figure 1;

Figure 8 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view of the upper portion of the holder, taken substantially along a plane corresponding to the plane of Figure 2;

Figure 9 is a front elevational view of a slightly modified form of the menu holder;

Figure 10 is an elevational view, partly in section, of another form of menu for use with the holders of Figures 1 to 9;

Figure 11 is a cross sectional view thereof, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 11—11 of Figure 10;

Figure 12 is a longitudinal sectional view thereof, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 12—12 of Figure 10 and showing a fragment of only one of the leaves of the menu;

Figure 13 is an elevational view of another form of menu;

Figure 14 is a fragmentary cross sectional view thereof, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 14—14 of Figure 13, and

Figure 15 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view of a part of the menu, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 15—15 of Figure 13.

Referring more specifically to the drawings and first with reference to Figures 1 to 8, the menu holder or support in its entirety is designated generally 17 and a menu 18 of special construction is provided intended to be supported by and upon the holder 17.

The holder or support 17 includes a pair of spaced uprights or standards 19 each preferably constituting a substantially rigid metal bar. The bars 19 are connected to one another in spaced apart substantially parallel relation by a plurality, preferably three metal strips 20, 21 and 22 which extend across and which have spaced portions secured to complementary parts 23 of the bars or standards 19. The two lower strips 20 and 21 are substantially longer than the upper strip 22 and have ends 32 which are curved forwardly or away from the standards 19, the strips being secured to front sides of the standard portions 23 and in spaced relation to one another. The upper strip 22 is substantially straight from end-to-end thereof and has end portions extending beyond the standard portions 23. Said portions 23 constitute forwardly offset portions of the standards 19 which include corresponding lower end portions 24 and upper end portions 25. The portions 24 and 25 of each standard 19 are disposed substantially in alignment and said upper portions 25 are substantially longer than the lower portions 24. The adjacent ends of the portions 24 and 25 are connected to the lower and upper ends of the forwardly offset standard portions 23 by portions 26 and 27, respectively, of said standards. The portions 26 and 27 of each standard 19 are disposed substantially parallel to one another and at substantially right angles to the portions 23, 24 and 25. The lower portion 26 defines a downwardly facing shoulder which is adapted to rest upon a portion of a top surface of a counter or table 28. The portion 27 of each standard forms an upwardly facing shelf portion, as will hereinafter be described. The lower end portions 24 of the standards 19 are adapted to bear against a vertical wall or edge 29 of the counter or table and to be clamped thereagainst by strap fastenings 30 having end portions secured to the wall or edge 29 by fastenings 31 and outwardly offset intermediate portions through which the standard portions 24 extend and by which the standard portions are clamped against the wall or edge 29. The strips 20, 21 and 22 combine to form a fence, as is conventional, for holding dining accessories such as napkin, sugar and condiment containers, not shown.

The holder or support 17 also includes an upper section 33 comprising spaced elongated sleeves 34 which are rigidly connected together at their upper ends by a top bar 35 which extends therebetween and which is secured at its ends to upper portions of the sleeves 34. The sleeves 34 are disposed substantially parallel and coplanar to one another and are each of rectangular cross section, as seen in Figure 5. Each sleeve 34 has a slot or opening 36 in the rear wall thereof which extends from end-to-end of the sleeve. The sleeves 34 slidably or telescopically engage the supper standard portions 25 and extend upwardly therefrom. A screw 37 is threaded forwardly through the upper part of each standard portion 25 and the heads of the screws are accommodated in the slots 36 of the sleeves 34. The screws 37 are advanced forwardly through the standard portions 25 and against the inner sides of the

front walls of the sleeves **34** for clamping said sleeves in adjusted positions on the standard portions **25** for positioning the top bar **35** at any desired level above the shelf **27**.

As best seen in Figure 4, the top bar **35**, intermediate of its ends, is provided with spaced openings **38**. A socket **39**, having an open front side provided with outturned flanges **40**, is disposed against the rear side of the top bar **35** over the openings **38** and is secured thereto by fastenings **41** which extend through the flanges **40**. A permanent magnet **42** is mounted in the socket **39** and the two legs **43**, forming the poles of said magnet, extend outwardly of the socket **39** through the openings **38** and straddle a strip **44** of the top bar **35**, which separates the openings **38**. The strip **44** thus retains the magnet **42** seated in the socket **39**, as clearly illustrated in Figure 4.

The menu **18** as illustrated constitutes a folder and includes an elongated sheet which is folded intermediate of its ends along a fold line **45** to provide the two leaves **46** of the menu or folder **18**, as is conventional. Two metal strips **47** are folded lengthwise into channel shape form and are clamped to the longitudinal edges **48** of the leaves **46**. A strip of metal **49** is disposed in the fold **45** between portions of the leaves **46** of the menu **18** and extends substantially from end-to-end thereof. Said metal strip **49**, as best seen in Figure 7, has struck out tongues **50** which extend through one of the leaves **46** and which are then bent outwardly so as to be disposed substantially parallel to the strip **49** for clamping portions of said leaf **46** to the strip **49** to secure said strip immovably in the menu **18**. The strips **47** and **49** form magnetic elements which are capable of receiving and retaining a magnetic charge and which are thus capable of being attracted and held by the magnet **42**.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the folded edge **45** of the menu **18** can be placed upon the shelf **27**, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, and with the upper holder section **33** properly adjusted, the magnetic elements **47** will be attracted and held by the magnet **42** to retain the menu on the holder **17**, as illustrated. It will also be apparent that the menu can be readily grasped and removed from the holder. Likewise, if desired, the edges of the leaves **46** engaged by the magnetic elements **47** may be placed upon the shelf **27** and the folded edge **45** of the menu **18** can then be positioned so that the magnetic element **49** will be attracted to and held by the magnet **42**.

Figure 9 illustrates a slightly modified form of the holder and which is designated generally **51**. The holder **51** differs from the holder **17** in that it is not provided with a slidably mounted upper section, such as the section **33**. Rather, a wide top bar or strip **52** extends between and is secured to the upper portions **53** of the holder standards. The bar or strip **52** extends downwardly from the upper ends of the standard portions **53** a substantial distance and is provided intermediate of its ends with two elongated openings **54** each of which extends from adjacent the top edge to adjacent the bottom edge of the cross member **52**. A socket member **55** is secured by fastenings **56** to the rear side of the cross member **52** to provide a support for a magnet the two pole forming legs **57** of which extend outwardly through and fit snugly in the openings **54**. The socket **55** is of the same construction as the socket **39** and differs therefrom only in that it is of substantially greater depth vertically. The magnet portions **57** are of sufficient vertical length so that a menu such as the menu **18** may be held thereby in the same manner that the menu **18** is held by the holder **17**, as previously described. The vertical elongation of the magnet portions **57** permit menus of different widths to be supported on the holder shelf **58** and magnetically held by the magnet **57**.

Figures 10, 11 and 12 illustrate a modified form of menu, designated generally **59**, comprising individual leaves **60** the longitudinal and end edges of which are secured in a binding **61**. Said binding **61** has a common connecting portion **62**, as seen in Figure 11, extending along one longitudinal edge of the menu **59** and forming a hinge for the menu leaves **60**. The binding **61** when secured to the edge portions of the leaves **60** is of tubular construction, and elongated strand-like magnetic elements **63**, having the property of being attracted and held by a magnet, are contained in the portions of the binding **61** which extend along the longitudinal edges of the leaves **60**, which are located remote from the hinge **62**. The hinged edge **62** of the menu **59** is adapted to be rested upon the shelf **27** of the holder **17** or the shelf **58** of the holder **51** so that the magnetic elements **63** will be attracted and held by the magnet portions **43** or **57**, respectively.

Figures 13, 14 and 15 illustrate a third form of menu, designated generally **14**, having two leaves **65**. Complementary longitudinal edges of the menu leaves **65** are clamped in a binding **66** a portion **67** of which forms a hinge for the menu leaves **65**. The binding **66** provides corresponding longitudinally extending chambers **68** each of which is adapted to contain an elongated strip **69** forming a bar magnet. The other longitudinal edges of the leaves **65** are clamped in folded binding strips **70** in a chamber **71** of each of which is also contained a bar magnet **69**. The menu **64** may be utilized with a conventional metal menu holder formed of a material capable of being attracted by a magnet or with the holders **17** or **51**, with the magnets thereof omitted. Either the binding **66** or the bindings **70** may be rested upon the shelf of the menu holder and if the shelf constitutes a magnetic element the menu will be held attached to the shelf by the magnets **69** contained in said binding. The other pair of magnets **69** will magnetically connect the other longitudinal edge portion of the menu **64** to the holder portion which extends upstanding from the shelf on which the menu rests. The magnets **69** of the two longitudinal edges of the menu **64** may also be employed for retaining the menu positioned against menu holders which are not provided with a menu supporting shelf but which do have parts formed of a material capable of being attracted by a magnet and against which the bindings **66** and **70** may be positioned.

Various modifications and changes are contemplated and may be resorted to without departing from the function or scope of the invention as hereinafter defined by the appended claim.

We claim as our invention:

A folder, folder support and magnetic means for attaching the folder to the support including a magnet carried by the support and armatures carried by the folder, said folder including two leaves connected by a folded edge and having complementary free edges spaced substantially equal distances from said fold edge, said armatures carried by the folder being independent and connected to said free edges of the leaves and when said folder is in a folded condition being held together and to said magnet carried by the support by magnetic attraction for mounting the folder on the support and for retaining the folder in a closed position.

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