Feb. 20, 1940. L. H. STARLING 2,191,100

REVOLVING STEAM TABLE

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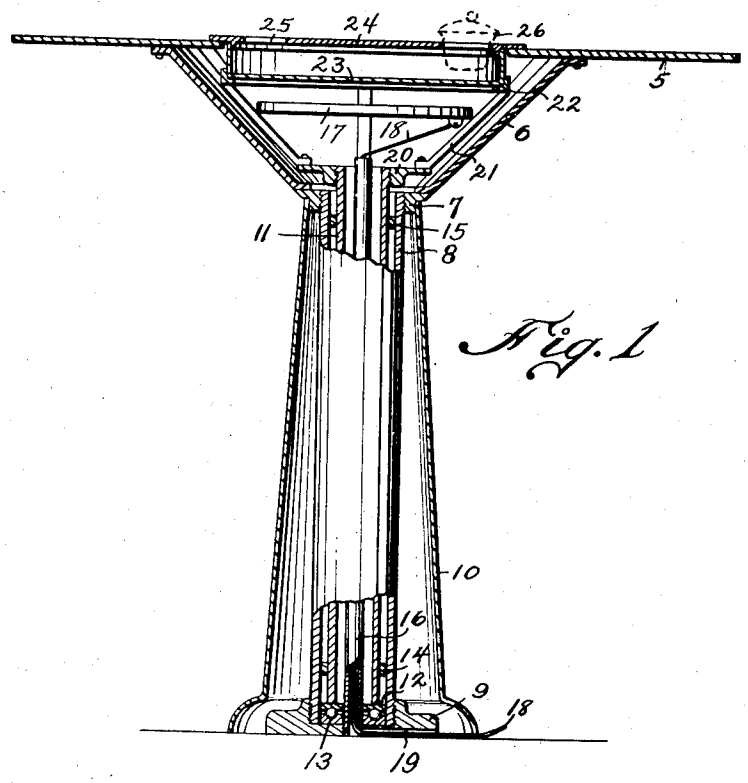


Fig. 1

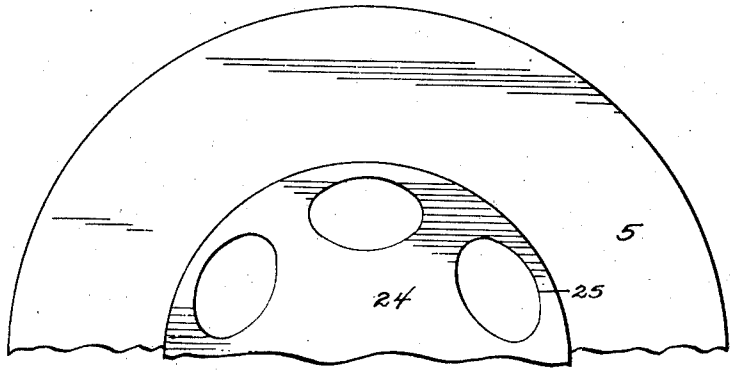


Fig. 2

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REVOLVING STEAM TABLE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 126—33)

This invention relates to tables and more particularly to a steam table having a revolving food-carrying and heating section and a fixed service section. While the table is of general application in that it may be used in restaurants and other public eating places, it is also well adapted for domestic use in the home.

In the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this application, and in which like reference characters designate corresponding parts in both of the figures:

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view of a table constructed in accordance with the invention, and

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary plan view.

The table top comprises an outer, annular, body portion 5, that is fixedly supported upon a pan-like member 6. Member 6 is carried by a ring 7, that is screwed upon the upper end of a pipe 8. The lower end of the pipe 8 is screwed into a floor flange 9. If desired, an ornamental shield 10 may be engaged at its upper end with the ring 7 to house the pipe 8 and associated parts. The parts so far described are all stationary.

A revolving pipe or tube 11 has its lower end disposed upon the upper member 12 of a ball or thrust bearing 13, said bearing being supported upon or in the floor flange 9. Suitable bushings 14 and 15 guide the tube 11. A fixed pipe 16 has its lower end threaded into the lower portion of the floor flange and serves as an element through which a source of energy supply may be conducted to a heating element 17, located in the pan-like member 6.

In the particular form of the invention illustrated, an electric cord 18 is shown extending through a channel formed in portion 19 of the floor flange, through the side of the pipe 16, and thence upwardly through said pipe to the heating element or hot plate 17. However, it is clear that a gas pipe could just as readily be carried through pipe 16 to supply fuel to a gas burner. Plate 17 is an electric heater, or a kerosene heater may be used.

The upper end of the revolving tube 11 carries a flange 20. A plurality of spider arms 21 are secured at their lower ends to the flange 20 and at their upper ends support a horizontal ring 22. This ring in turn receives the water-receiving pan 23. This pan comprises a top plate 24, having a plurality of elongated openings 25 formed therethrough in which food receptacles 26, in the nature of tureens or the like may be seated, so that their contents may be kept heated by the steam and hot water in pan 23.

The cover 24 may be soldered or otherwise affixed to the pan 23, or it may be made separable therefrom. However, the whole pan structure, including the body 23 and top 24, rests loosely upon ring 22, so that it may be taken out of the table 5 when desired.

I am aware of the fact that it has heretofore been proposed to combine a table surface section with a revolving heated compartment. However, as far as I am aware, I am the first to propose a construction of such a nature that the heated dishes may be very easily moved around to the position occupied by any person seated at the table and may be so moved by the person seated. Complicated structures, used for heating quantities of food to serve large numbers of people, differ radically in purpose from the structure constituting the subject matter of the present invention.

It is an important purpose of this invention to provide means for serving a relatively small number of people, so that by its use the housewife need not be continually interrupting her meal to bring in hot food from the kitchen. It is aimed to provide a structure which will render it possible to put the dishes of food on the table and keep them hot while in place on the table, so that direct service to those seated at the table may be had with a minimum of trouble.

By mounting the heated section to revolve, any diner may swing any of the dishes 26 around to a position where he may serve himself therefrom, thus making it unnecessary for other diners to interrupt their meals to pass the food from one person to another. The rapid increase in the use of electricity and the rapid decrease in the cost of the same which has taken place in the past few years renders it practicable to use an article of this sort as an item of home equipment.

It will be apparent that many ways will readily suggest themselves, to persons skilled in the art, of accomplishing the desired result. I, therefore, wish it to be understood that the invention is not limited to the precise construction set forth, but that it includes within its purview whatever changes may fairly come within either the terms or the spirit of the appended claims.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A device of the character described comprising a fixed annular table top, means for supporting said table top from the floor, a centrally arranged tubular member, means for mounting

said tubular member for rotation, a water-receiving pan, means for supporting said pan from the tubular member for rotation with said tubular member, and a top for the pan having a plurality of dish-receiving openings formed therein.

2. A device of the character described comprising a fixed annular table top section, a pan-like member to which said table top section is attached, a pipe supporting said pan-like member from the floor, a tubular member rotatively mounted within said pipe, a water-receiving pan, means for supporting said pan from the tubular member, a cover for said pan having a plurality of openings formed therein for the reception of food-receiving dishes, a burner disposed below said pan, and means for conducting a source of energy for the burner through said tubular member.

3. A device of the character described comprising a fixed annular table top section, an upstanding pipe, a floor flange by which said pipe is supported, a flaring member connected to the upper end of the pipe and to the fixed table top section for supporting said table top from said pipe, a tubular member disposed within said pipe, an anti-friction thrust bearing seated in the floor flange and upon which the lower end of said tubular member rests for rotation, a pan support disposed within the flaring member, means for mounting the pan support upon the upper end of the tubular member, a pan seated in the pan support adapted to receive water and provided with a top which lies above and overlaps the fixed table top section, said top having a plurality of openings formed therethrough for the reception of dishes to be heated by the steam and water in the pan, a burner below the pan, a fixed pipe within the tubular member and engaged with the floor flange, and means for conducting a source of energy for the burner through the last-named pipe.

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