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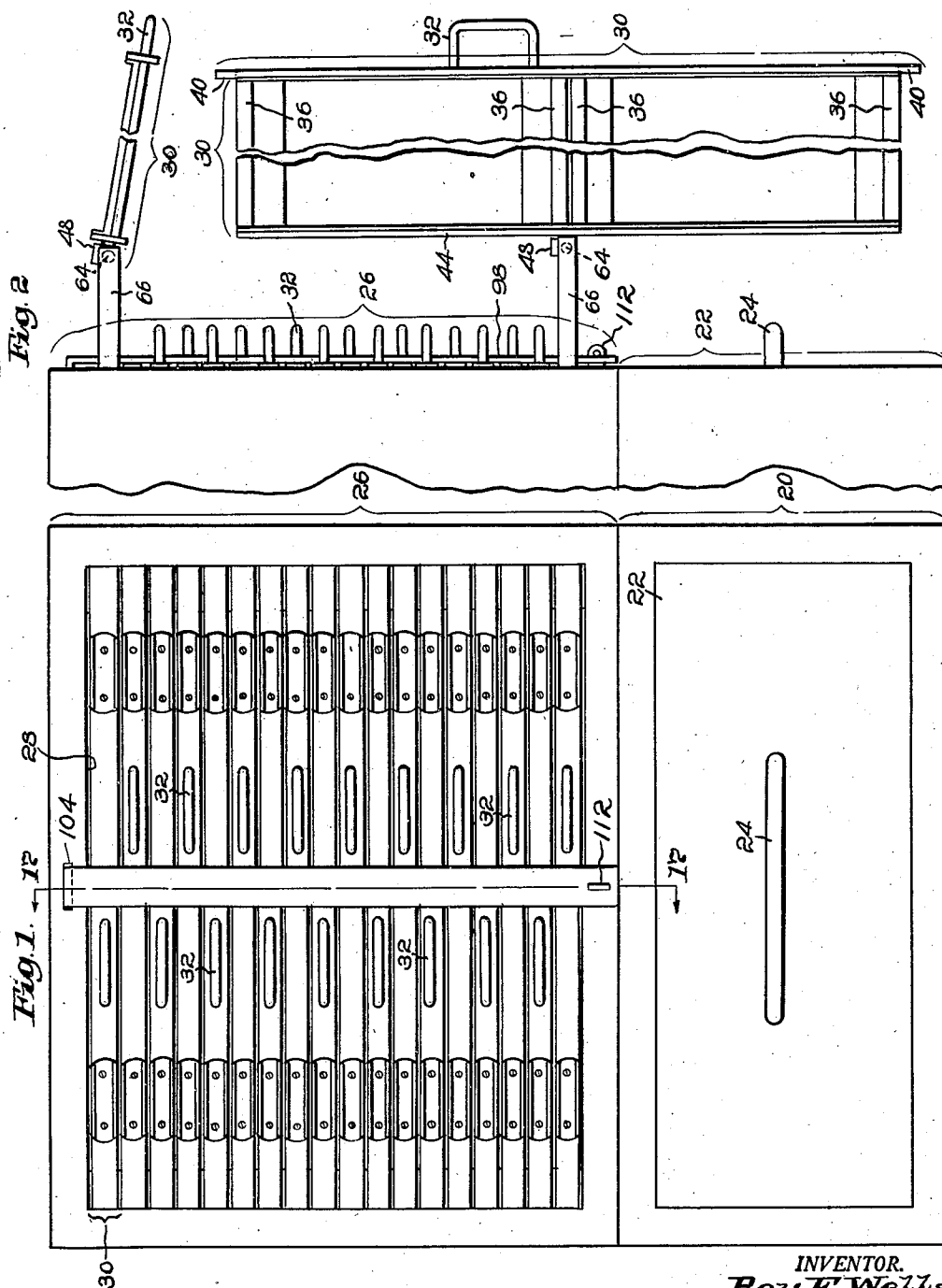
R. E. WELLS

2,410,255

FILING CABINET

Filed Oct. 19, 1944

5 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Oct. 29, 1946.

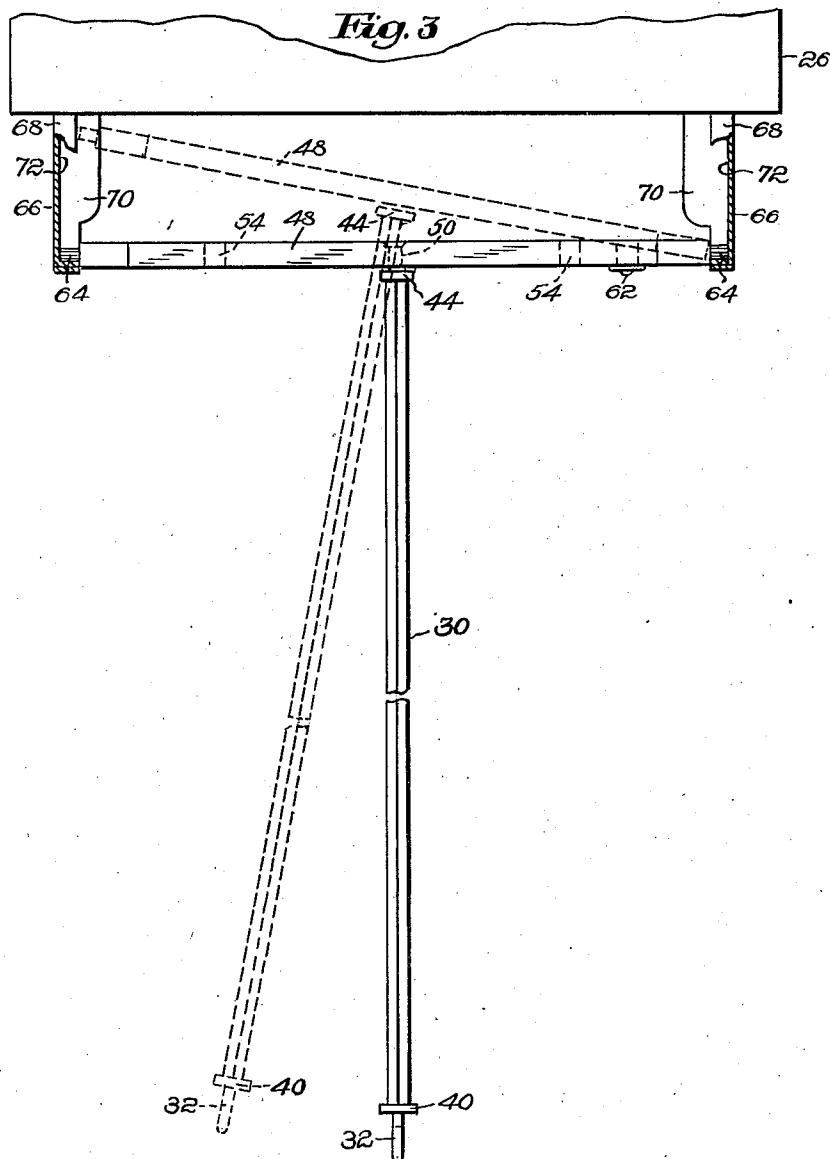
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FILING CABINET

Filed Oct. 19, 1944

5 Sheets-Sheet 2



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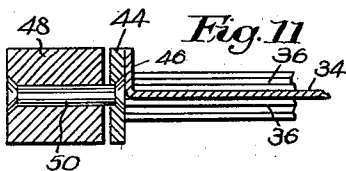
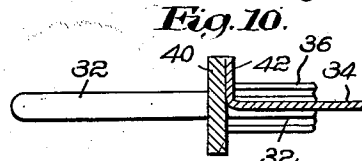
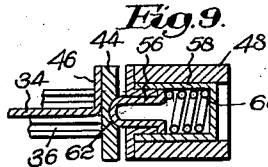
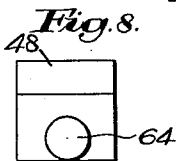
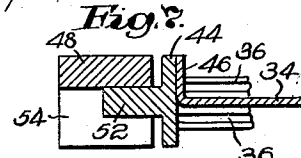
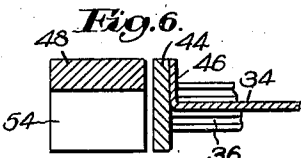
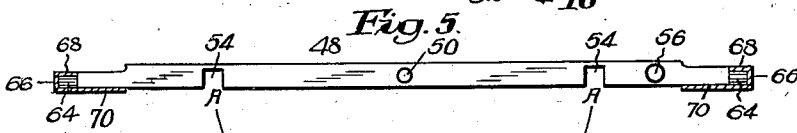
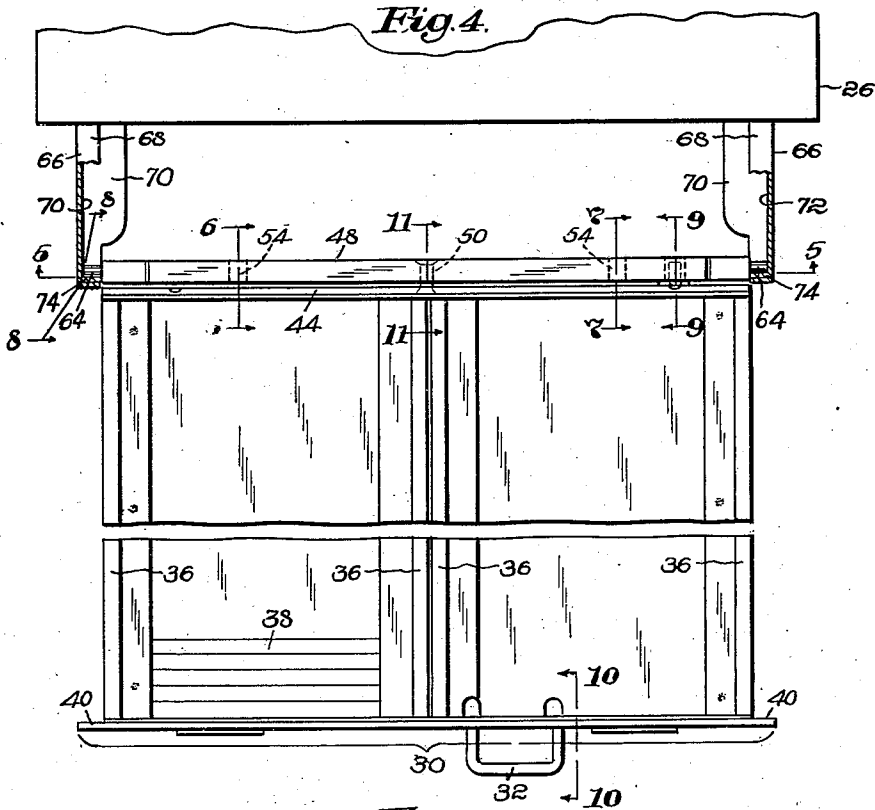
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FILING CABINET

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5 Sheets-Sheet 3



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FILING CABINET

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5 Sheets-Sheet 4

Fig. 12

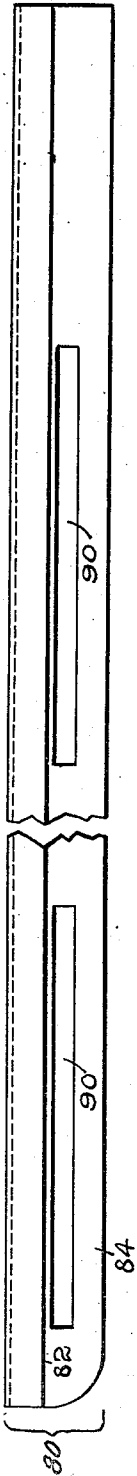


Fig. 13

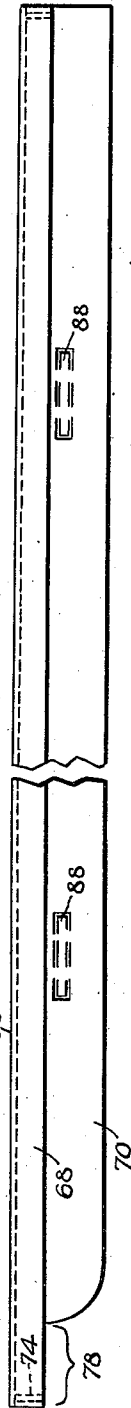


Fig. 14

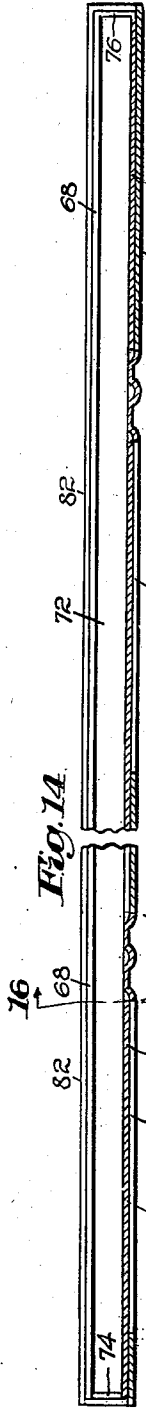


Fig. 15

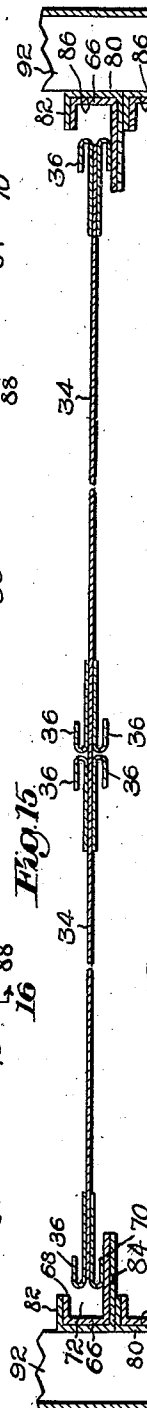
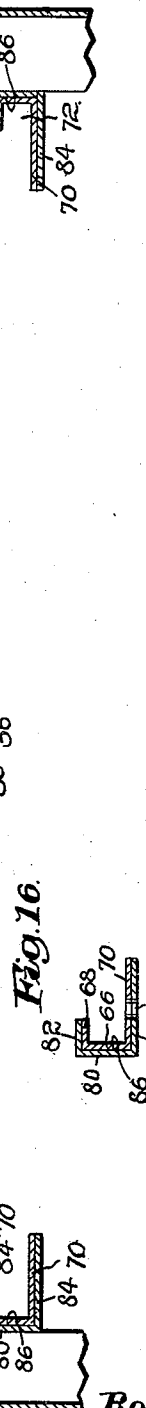


Fig. 16



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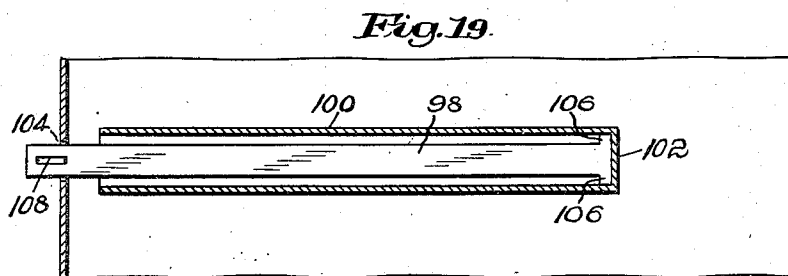
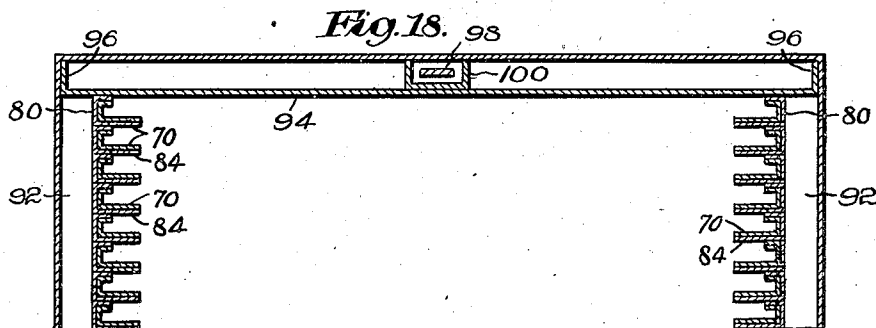
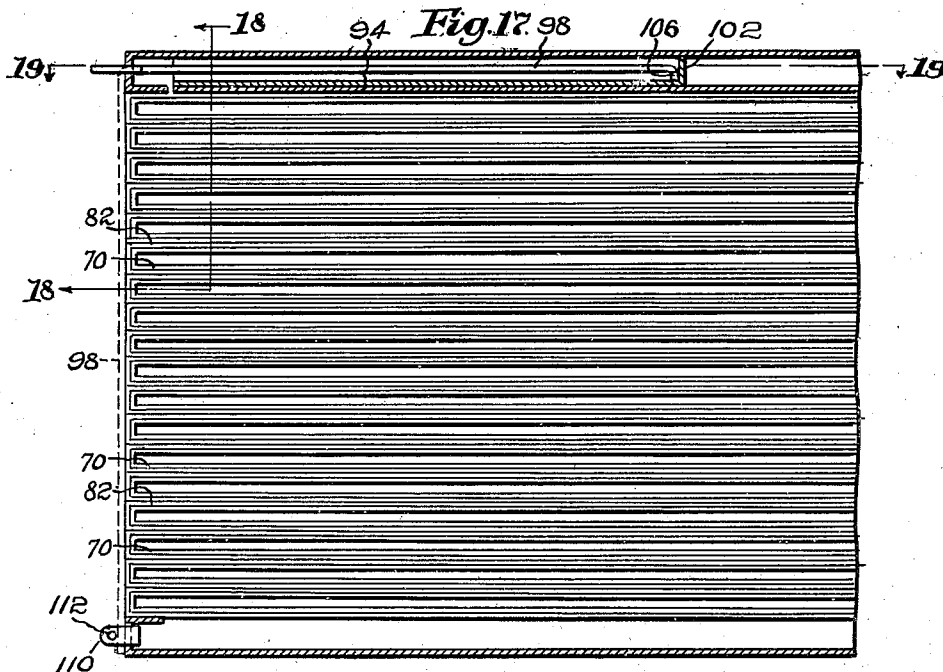
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2,410,255

FILING CABINET

Filed Oct. 19, 1944

5 Sheets-Sheet 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,410,255

FILING CABINET

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Application October 19, 1944, Serial No. 559,349

11 Claims. (Cl. 40—102)

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This invention relates to a novel and improved cabinet for the filing of records on both faces of drawer panels which are reversible when withdrawn from the cabinet. The invention aims to improve upon cabinets of this class as heretofore proposed, and comprehends several novel features contributing to the ease, convenience, and certainty of handling and operating the panels while attached to the housing, removing them from the housing for inspection and recording elsewhere, and restoring them to the housing.

The invention will best be understood by reference to the following description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings of one specific embodiment thereof, while its scope will be pointed out more particularly in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a filing cabinet embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of a portion of the cabinet with two panels withdrawn from the housing to illustrate the mode of operation;

Fig. 3 is a plan of a portion of the cabinet, with a panel withdrawn from the housing and skewed laterally as in detaching and reattaching;

Fig. 4 is a plan, partly in horizontal section, showing the front portion of the housing and a panel withdrawn therefrom;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view on line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale on line 6—6 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale on line 7—7 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 8 is an end elevation of the panel support on an enlarged scale;

Fig. 9 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale on line 9—9 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 10 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale on line 10—10 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 11 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale on line 11—11 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 12 is a plan of one of the fixed guides within the housing;

Fig. 13 is a plan of one of the panel-supporting slides which are guided by the fixed guides;

Fig. 14 is a vertical sectional view illustrating a fixed guide and associated slide;

Fig. 15 is a vertical, cross-sectional view illustrating a panel, a pair of panel-supporting slides, and a pair of guides therefor.

Fig. 16 is a sectional view on line 16—16 of Fig. 14;

Fig. 17 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view

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on line 17—17 of Fig. 1 illustrating the panel locking means;

Fig. 18 is a vertical cross-sectional view of the same on line 18—18 of Fig. 17; and

Fig. 19 is a horizontal sectional view on line 19—19 of Fig. 17.

Referring to the drawings and to the embodiment of the invention illustrated therein as an example, and having reference at first more particularly to Figs. 1 and 2, there is shown a filing cabinet comprising a lower or base section 20 having a drawer 22 provided with a handle 24, and a main or upper section 26 having at its front an opening 28 at which the fronts of drawer panels 30 having handles 32 are presented to view. The base section is important for two reasons, first, its drawer provides a rest for the drawer panels when inclined downwardly, and, second, it elevates the upper section sufficiently (see Fig. 2) to permit even the lowermost drawer panel to be rotated about a horizontal axis and reversed without detachment from the housing.

The panels are suitably constructed for the filing of records on both sides thereof (see Fig. 6) as by providing each with a central plate 34 having one or more pairs of channeled guides 36 secured thereto to receive the ends of appropriate filing elements such as flexible name slips 38 (see Fig. 4). The panel has a front bar 40 (see Fig. 10) to which the plate 34 is suitably secured as by a flange 42 on the plate welded to the front bar. The panel has a rear bar 44 (see Fig. 7) secured in like manner by a flange 46.

To enable the panel to be presented with either side up and reversed at will, it is supported on a panel support, herein a transverse bar 48 (see Fig. 4) by a swivel connection such as a pivot 50, best shown in Fig. 11, passed through the bars 44 and 48 and headed over at both ends to keep it in place. Preferably the pivot is fixed in the bar 44 and turns in the bar 48. Thus the panel is mounted on the panel support to turn about an axis extending lengthwise of the lateral edges of the panel. Turning movement of the panel in opposite directions about this axis is limited by appropriate means such as a stop pin 52 (see Fig. 7) which travels in an arc A—A (see Fig. 5) and enters either of two notches 54 in the bottom of the panel supporting bar 48.

To retain the panel in either position and to maintain its registration with its support, there is provided an appropriate releasable detent such as a round-ended plunger 56 (see Fig. 9) working in a guide 58 in the panel support and yieldingly pressed outwardly by a spring 60 into

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engagement with a depression 62 in the bar 44 on the rear end of the panel. Application of sufficient force to turn the panel in the proper direction will cause the round end of the detent plunger to ride out of the depression and to re-enter it. It is desirable that the panel, in addition to being reversible as described, shall be capable of rocking up and down (see Fig. 2). One convenient way of accomplishing this is to provide the panel support 48 with aligned trunnions 64 (see Fig. 8) supported by and arranged to turn on further panel supporting means now to be described.

Though the panel 30, when within the housing may, and herein does, continue to derive some support from the panel support 48, actually said panel support plays no real part in the support of the panel and may be disregarded. The real supporting means for the panel, when within the housing, is two separate and distinct and independently movable slides 66 (see Fig. 15) each having an upper flange 68 and a lower flange 70 with a channel 72 between them. These channels receive the hereinbefore described trunnions 64 which rest upon the lower flanges 70 and travel horizontally within the channels 72 and strike abutments 74 and 76 which close the front and rear ends, respectively, of each channel. Thus, when the slides are projected from the front of the cabinet (see Fig. 4) the trunnions 64 turn in the channels 72 of the projecting ends of the slides 66 which have been projected by the striking of the trunnions against the abutments 74 at the outer ends of the channels 72. When however, the panel is thrust back into the housing, the trunnions 64 strike the abutments 76 at the inner ends of the channels 70 and move the slides rearwardly. When the panel is within the housing, it is supported (see Fig. 15) by the lower flanges 70 of the slides 66 by reason of the fact that the lateral margins of the panels rest upon said flanges. It will be observed that the panel is narrower than the space between the upper flanges 68 and hence is not received in the channels 72 in the slides 66. The front ends of the lower flanges 70 (see Fig. 13) are narrowed as at 78 so that there will be no interference with the rotation of the trunnions 64.

The panel supporting slides 66 are supported and guided by fixed guides 80 (see Fig. 12) each having a narrow upper flange 82 and a relatively wider lower flange 84 and between them a channel 86 (see Fig. 16) in which a panel supporting slide 66 travels. The travel is limited by appropriate means such as movable abutments 88 (see Fig. 14) which in this example are formed in the slide as by lancing the flange 70 to form tongues which are bent downwardly to occupy and travel in slots 90 in the flange 84, best shown in Fig. 12, the extent of travel being that required to project the slides the proper distance from the front of the cabinet as seen in Fig. 2, for example.

By turning the panel 30 (see Fig. 3) on the swivelled connection with the panel support 48 into a position out of registration with said support, the lateral margins of the panel may be removed from possible interference with the slides 66 and the panel and panel support can then be skewed laterally (see the broken line position) until one trunnion (at the left) is withdrawn from beneath the flange 68, whereupon that trunnion may be lifted and then the second trunnion withdrawn from the channel 72 in the

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other slide. It follows that since this is the only way in which trunnions can be removed, there is no possibility of their becoming detached accidentally from the slides. The fixed guides 80 stacked one upon another (see Fig. 18) laterally about against and are supported by a set of channel-bar uprights 92 which, as shown in Fig. 18, also support a ceiling plate 94 resting upon the upper ends of the uprights and having up-turned lateral flanges 96.

It is desirable that arrangements be made to prevent unauthorized access to the file, and to that end the cabinet is equipped with means now to be described for locking the panels in place. This is accomplished in a simple and convenient manner by the use of a common locking bar 98 which can be housed above the ceiling plate 94 (see Figs. 17, 18 and 19) within a channel bar guide 100 affixed to the top of said plate and having at its rear end a stop 102 to limit rearward movement of the locking bar. The locking bar (see Fig. 9) extends through an opening 104 in the front wall of the housing, and its forward movement through this opening is limited as by providing the rear end of the bar with lugs 106 which strike the inner face of said front wall and provide also a fulcrum about which said bar may then be rocked downwardly (see Fig. 17) into the broken line approximately vertical position there shown.

The locking bar is like a hasp and has a slot 108 (see Fig. 19) which will receive a lug 110 (see Fig. 17) provided with an opening 112 to receive a small padlock, which when locked prevents unauthorized access to the records. Thus, the one locking bar locks all the panels, but when housed, as in Fig. 17, is entirely out of the way. The convenience of this arrangement will readily be appreciated.

Having thus described one embodiment of the invention, what I claim is:

1. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing open at the front and having two vertical side walls, a horizontal drawer panel within said housing and between said side walls, a horizontal panel support within said housing and between said walls, a swivel connection between the rear end of said panel and said support and having its axis lengthwise of the lateral edges of said panel, panel and support guiding means supported by said side walls and having provision for projection of said panel and said swivel connection in a horizontal plane beyond the front of said housing, and cooperating means on the rear of said panel and the front of said support normally to prevent turning of said panel about said axis.

2. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing open at the front and having two vertical side walls, a horizontal drawer panel within said housing and between said side walls, a horizontal panel support within said housing and between said walls, a swivel connection between the rear end of said panel and said support and having its axis lengthwise of the lateral edges of said panel, panel and support guiding means supported by said side walls and having provision for projection of said panel, said support, and said swivel connection in a horizontal plane beyond the front of said housing, and cooperating means on the rear of said panel and the front of said support normally to prevent turning of said panel about said axis.

3. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing open at the front and having two verti-

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cal side walls, a horizontal drawer panel within said housing and between said side walls, a horizontal panel support within said housing and between said walls, a swivel connection between the rear end of said panel and said support and having its axis lengthwise of the lateral edges of said panel, panel and support guiding means supported by said side walls and having provision for projection of said panel and said swivel connection in a horizontal plane beyond the front of said housing, and cooperating means on the rear of said panel and the front of said support to limit rotation of said panel in one direction about said axis.

4. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing open at the front and having two vertical side walls, a horizontal drawer panel within said housing and between said side walls, a horizontal panel support within said housing and between said walls, a swivel connection between the rear end of said panel and said support and having its axis lengthwise of the lateral edges of said panel, panel and support guiding means supported by said side walls and having provision for projection of said panel and said swivel connection in a horizontal plane beyond the front of said housing, and cooperating means on the rear of said panel and the front of said support normally to limit rotation of said panel in each direction.

5. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing open at the front and having two vertical side walls, a horizontal drawer panel within said housing and between said side walls, a horizontal panel support within said housing and between said walls, a swivel connection between the rear end of said panel and said support and having its axis lengthwise of the lateral edges of said panel, panel and support guiding means supported by said side walls and having provision for projection of said panel and said swivel connection in a horizontal plane beyond the front of said housing, and a yielding detent to resist rotation of said panel about said axis.

6. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing open at the front and having two vertical side walls, a horizontal drawer panel within said housing and between said side walls, a horizontal panel support within said housing and between said walls, a swivel connection between the rear end of said panel and said support and having its axis lengthwise of the lateral edges of said panel, panel and support guiding means supported by said side walls and having provision for projection of said panel and said swivel connection in a horizontal plane beyond the front of said housing, and means between the rear of said panel and the front of said support to maintain said panel in either of two positions one hundred eighty degrees apart with relation to said support.

7. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing open at the front and having two vertical side walls, a horizontal drawer panel within said housing and between said side walls, a horizontal panel support within said housing and between said walls, a swivel connection between the rear end of said panel and said support and having its axis lengthwise of the lateral edges of said panel, panel and support guiding means supported by said side walls and having provision for projection of said panel and said swivel connection in

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a horizontal plane beyond the front of said housing, and means between the rear of said panel and the front of said support resisting rotation of said panel about said axis from either of two positions of registration with said support.

8. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing open at the front and having two vertical side walls, a horizontal drawer panel within said housing and between said side walls, a horizontal panel support within said housing and between said walls, a swivel connection between the rear end of said panel and said support and having its axis lengthwise of the lateral edges of said panel, panel and support guiding means supported by said side walls and having provision for projection of said panel and said swivel connection in a horizontal plane beyond the front of said housing, said support being provided with two notches at opposite sides, respectively, of said axis, and a projection on said panel arranged to enter one or the other of said notches and to limit rotation of said panel about said axis.

9. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing having an opening at the front, a pair of horizontal guides within said housing along its lateral sides, a pair of slides guided by said guides and arranged to be projected through said opening beyond the front of said housing, each slide having a channel closed at its front and rear ends, a transverse bar whose ends are guided by said channels, a drawer panel whose lateral margins rest upon and are guided by said slides, and a swivel connection between said bar and said panel and having its axis parallel with said guides and slides.

10. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing having an opening at the front, a pair of horizontal guides within said housing, a pair of distinct horizontal slides guided by said guides and arranged to be projected through said opening beyond the front of said housing, a drawer panel normally within said housing and resting upon said slides, a bar extending transversely of and resting upon and movable lengthwise of said slides, and a swivel connection between said panel and said bar and having its axis transverse to said bar, providing for rotation of said panel about said axis when said slides are projected from said housing and when said panel is entirely withdrawn from said housing.

11. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a housing having an opening at the front, a pair of horizontal guides within said housing adjacent opposite sides thereof and having inwardly directed slide guiding flanges, a pair of distinct horizontal slides resting upon and guided by said flanges and arranged to be projected through said opening beyond the front of said housing, said slides having inwardly directed panel guiding flanges, a drawer panel normally within said housing and resting upon said panel guiding flanges, a bar extending transversely of and resting upon and movable lengthwise of said panel guiding flanges, and a swivel connection between said panel and said bar and having its axis transverse to said bar, providing for rotation of said panel about said axis when said slides are projected from said housing and when said panel is entirely withdrawn from said housing.

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