C. B. ULRICH.

FILING CABINET.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 6, 1915.

1,227,704.

Patented May 29, 1917.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

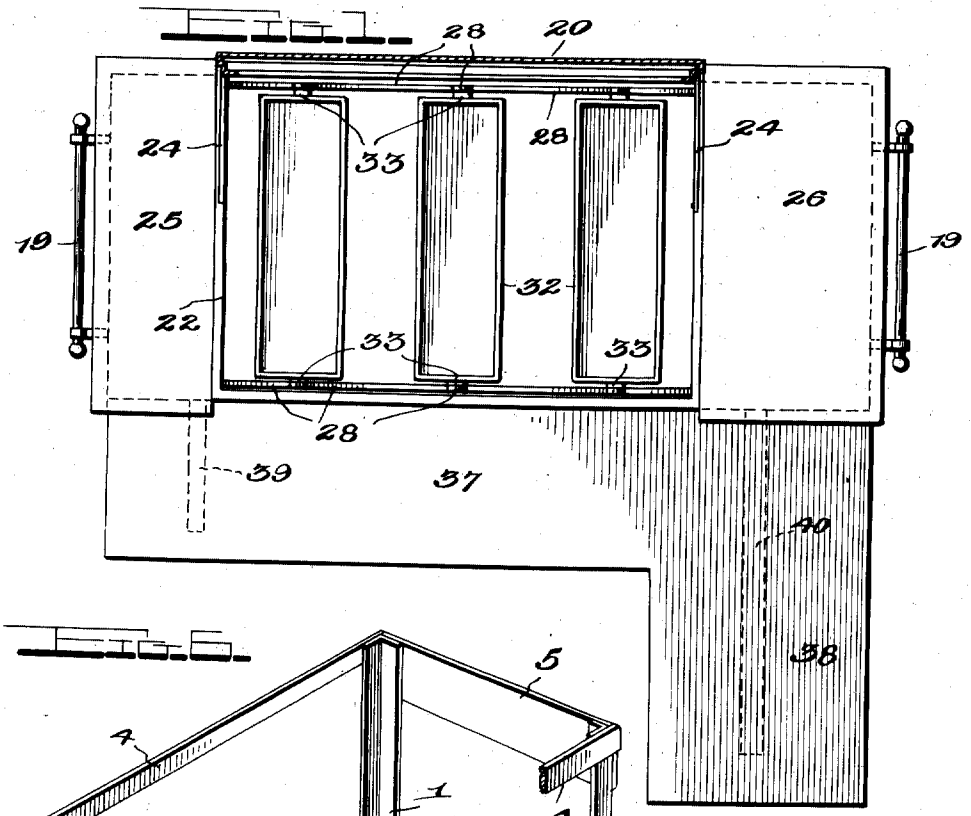


FIG. 6.

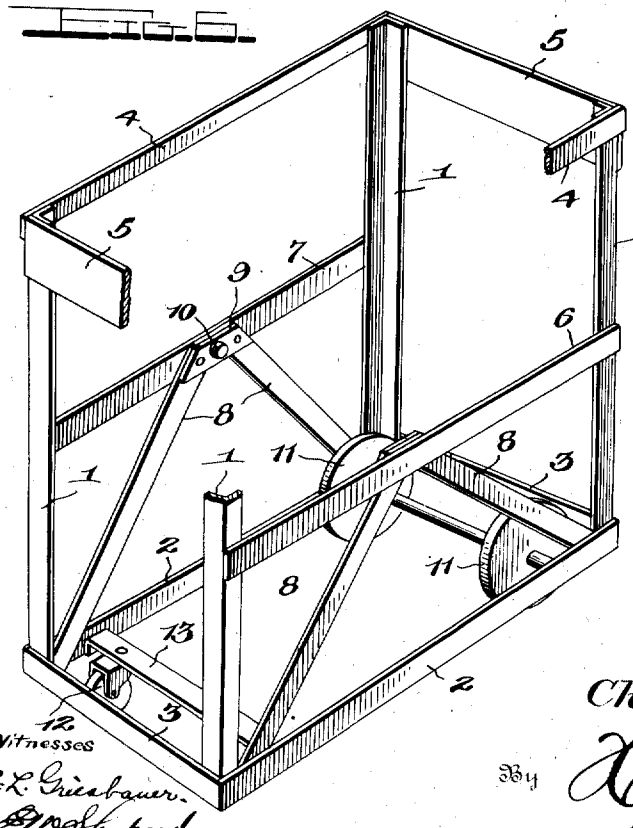
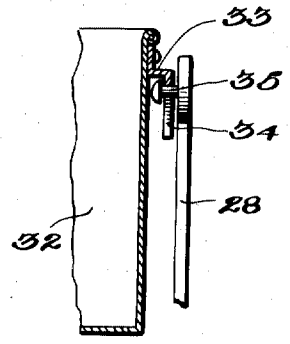


FIG. 7.



Witnesses

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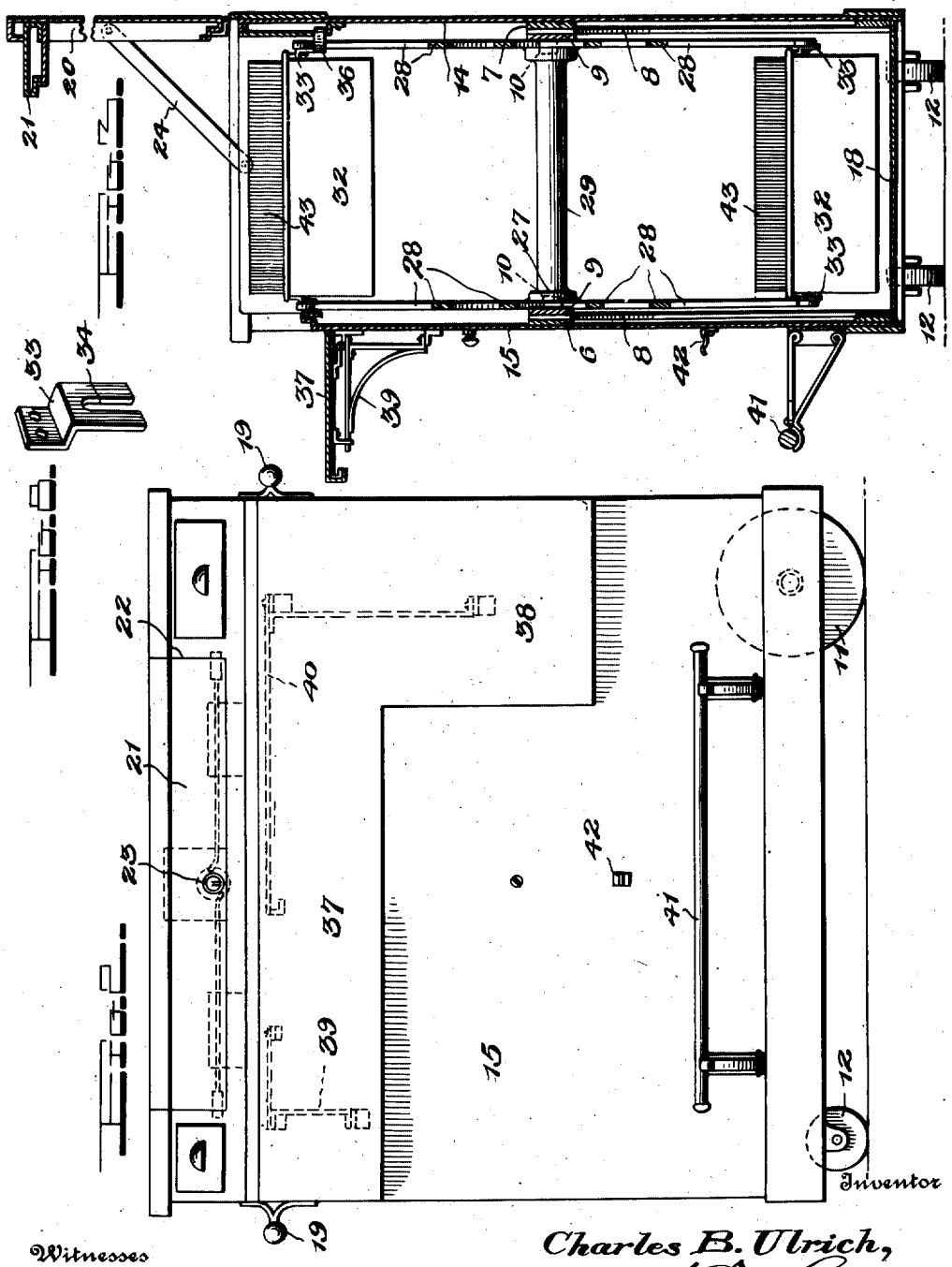
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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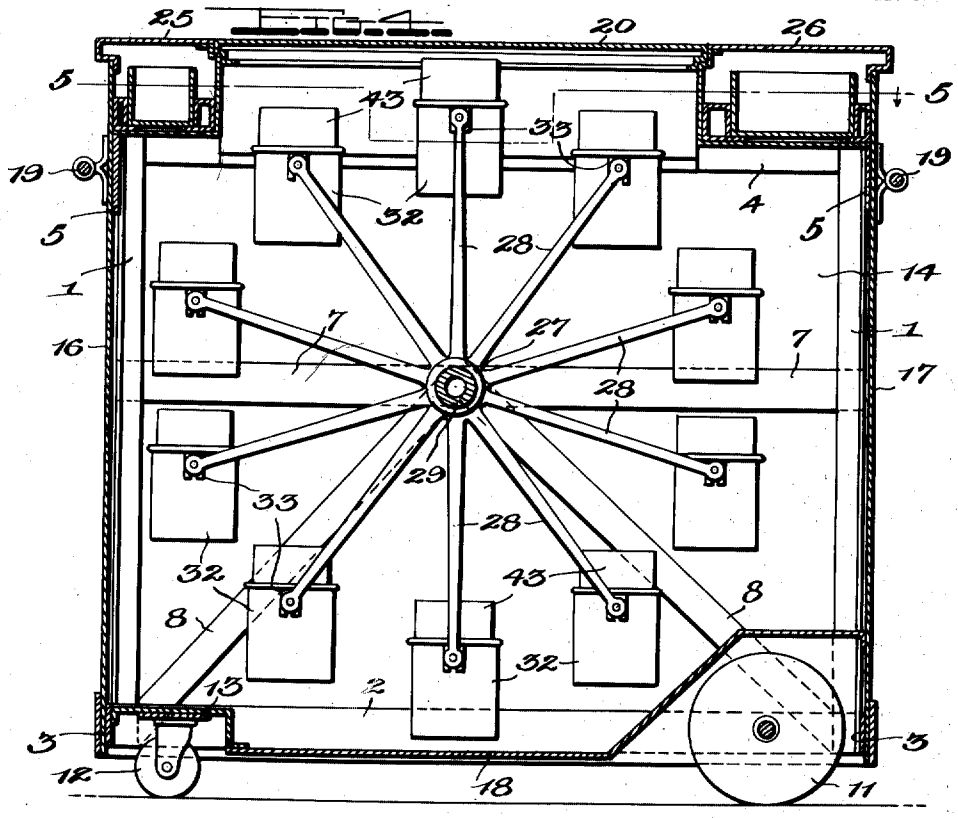
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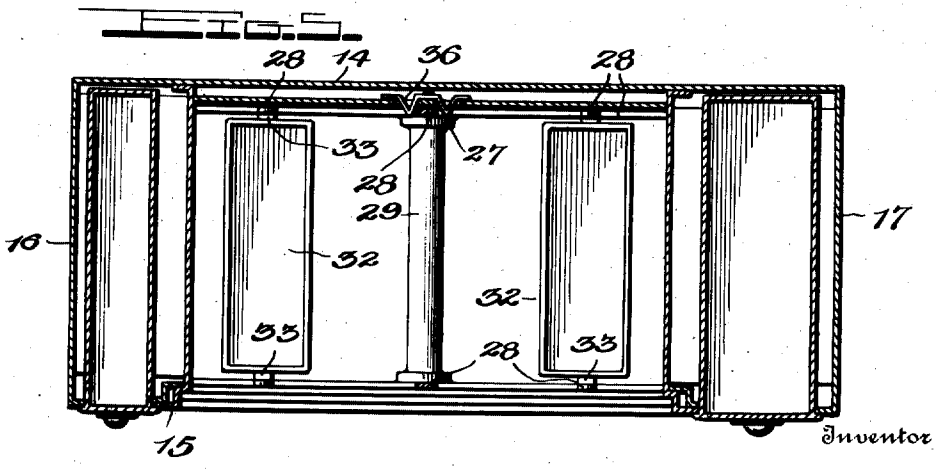
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.





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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FILING-CABINET.

1,227,704. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 29, 1917.

Application filed April 6, 1915. Serial No. 19,590.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES B. ULRICH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Houghton, in the county of Houghton and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Filing-Cabinets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to filing cabinets, and has for its object to provide for effectively housing cards, such as those of a card index system, or a card ledger system, and to provide for convenient access to the cards for removal and replacing the same in a very simple and convenient manner.

It is a further object of the invention to embody the same in portable form and supported on rollers so that it may be conveniently run into a vault when not in use. In this connection, it is proposed to provide for locking up the case or cabinet in such a manner as to prevent unauthorized access to the contents thereof, and while the case or cabinet may be constructed of wood, it is preferred to make the same of metal with fireproof linings.

A further object of the invention is to provide for utilizing the case or cabinet as a desk or work table, and to give convenient access to the cards through the top of the case or cabinet, when the latter is open, so that cards may be conveniently handled by one standing or seated at the front of the case or cabinet.

With these and other objects in view, the present invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described, shown in the drawings, and particularly set forth in the appended claims, it being understood that changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details may be made, within the scope of the claims, without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawings,

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a filing cabinet embodying the features of the present invention, the top or lid being open, and the foldable shelf supported in position for use.

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the device, the work shelf being folded down against the front of the cabinet.

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the device.

Fig. 4 is a central longitudinal sectional view.

Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view.

Fig. 6 is a detail fragmentary perspective view of the frame of the cabinet.

Fig. 7 is a detail sectional view showing the manner of mounting the card trays.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of a detail.

Like characters of reference designate corresponding parts in each of the figures of the drawings.

The case or cabinet of the present invention is of general rectangular shape and oblong in plan, as best shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings, with its greatest dimension from left to right looking at the front of the case or cabinet.

The frame structure of the case or cabinet is best shown in Fig. 6, from which it will be seen that there are employed four corner posts or uprights 1, each upright being in the form of an angle beam. The bottoms of the corner posts are connected by side sills 2 and end sills 3, the tops of the posts being similarly connected by the members 4 and 5. About midway between the top and bottom of the frame there is a substantially horizontal front bar 6 connecting the front corner posts, and a similar bar 7 connecting the rear corner posts. Brace members 8 extend from each lower corner of the frame to about the middle of the adjacent cross bars 6 and 7, the tops of each pair of braces being suitably secured to the cross bar, and having secured on their inner faces a bracket 9 carrying a suitable bearing 10. A pair of supporting wheels 11 are suitably mounted within the frame at one end thereof, and a pair of caster wheels 12 are suitably mounted within the frame at the opposite end thereof, preferably upon a cross-bar 13 extending between the front and rear sills 2. The frame structure thus far described is preferably made up of metallic bars, and being mounted upon wheels, can be readily pushed about from place to place.

The skeleton frame is inclosed by the

body of the cabinet, which body includes a back 14, a front 15, ends 16 and 17, and a bottom 18, each of which parts is a sheet metal plate. On each end of the cabinet is a handle bar 19 for use in moving the cabinet upon its wheels. The middle portion of the top is closed by a lid or cover 20, which is suitably hinged to the back of the case or cabinet, and is provided at its front with a depending flange 21 designed to close a correspondingly shaped cut-out 22 in the top of the front of the case or cabinet. A suitable lock 23 is provided whereby the lid or cover may be locked whenever desired, and as there are no other openings in the case or cabinet, access to the interior thereof cannot be had except when the lid or cover is open. A suitable link brace 24 is provided to support the lid or cover in its open position. A top plate 25 closes the top of the cabinet at one side of the hinged top or lid, and another top plate 26 covers the top of the case or cabinet at the other side of the hinged top or cover.

Within the case or cabinet is a rotary device in the nature of the well known "Ferris wheel" mounted on an axis which extends from front to rear of the cabinet. This "Ferris wheel" device consists of two duplicate spiders, each spider including a hub 27 and a plurality of spokes or arms 28 radiating therefrom. The hubs of the two wheels are rigidly connected by a tubular member 29 which rotates upon the bearings 10 on the brackets 9. By preference, suitable ball bearings are provided between the end portions of the tubular shaft 29 and the bearings 10, so that the wheel structure may turn easily upon its axis. Between corresponding arms of the two wheels are suspended receptacles 32, so that by rotating the device, any desired receptacle may be brought to the top of the cabinet. On each end of each receptacle there is a bearing member in the form of an angle bracket 33 suitably secured to the top portion of the end of the receptacle and having its depending portion spaced from the receptacle and provided with a slot or bifurcation 34 in which is received a headed stud 35 on the inner side of the adjacent spoke or arm 28. By reason of this connection between each receptacle and the wheel members, the receptacle is hung in such a manner that it always maintains a horizontal position with its open top uppermost, and may be very conveniently fitted in place and removed by reason of the bifurcation 34 in the bearing bracket.

As best shown in Fig. 5 of the drawing, it will be seen that there is provided a spring catch or clip 36 at the back of the case or cabinet and disposed in the path of the spokes or arms of the adjacent wheel. This catch has an intermediate depression or seat with inclined spring terminals at opposite sides of and leading to the seat and in the path of the arms of the wheel, so that when any spoke or arm is engaged by the spring catch, it will hold the wheel against accidental rotation, but by the application of force the wheel can be conveniently rotated so as to bring any box or receptacle to the top of the structure.

As best shown in Figs. 1 and 4 of the drawings, it will be seen that the opening in the top of the case or cabinet is of a size to give access to the three uppermost receptacles.

Across the front of the cabinet and immediately below the cut-out portion 22, there is a work shelf 37, which is suitably hinged to the front of the cabinet and extends across the entire width thereof, the right hand end of the shelf having a right angled extension 38 constituting an arm rest. Suitable swinging brackets 39 and 40 are provided upon the front of the cabinet to support the work shelf in its horizontal operative position, said brackets being hinged or pivoted so as to fold back against the front of the cabinet when the work shelf is swung downwardly when not in use.

Across the lower portion of the front of the cabinet is a foot rail 41 suitably hinged to the case or cabinet so that it may be folded upwardly against the same when not in use. A suitable spring catch or clip 42 is provided upon the front of the cabinet to hold the foot rail in its folded position.

In using the present filing cabinet, cards, such as indicated at 43 in Fig. 4 of the drawings, are placed in the respective file boxes or receptacles 32 which are hung upon the arms of the wheels. The dimensions of the cabinet and the work shelf 37 are such that when seated or standing at the front of the shelf access may be conveniently had to any of the cards in the three uppermost filing boxes or receptacles, so that the cards may be conveniently removed when it is desired to place data thereon or to obtain data therefrom, and may be just as conveniently returned to their places. The shelf 37 affords ample space on which to work, and any of the file boxes or receptacles may be conveniently brought into accessible position at the top of the cabinet, merely by rotating the wheel. When not in use, the foot rail and the work shelf may be folded back against the front of the cabinet, the lid or cover 20 closed and locked, whereby the cards are effectually housed against unauthorized access thereto, and the entire cabinet may be conveniently pushed into a vault.

It will here be explained that when the card trays or receptacles 32 are filled or even partially filled, there is considerable weight placed upon the bearings of the ro-

tary device, and therefore I have provided the skeleton frame structure and braced the same so as to properly sustain the weight without any danger of buckling or sagging of any parts of the apparatus.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim, is:—

1. A device of the character specified comprising a cabinet having an opening in the top and a cut-out portion in the upper edge of the front thereof, a cover hinged to the back and adapted to extend over the top of the cabinet and provided at its front edge with a depending flange to enter the cut-out portion in the front of the cabinet, a shelf hinged to the front of the cabinet immediately below and adjacent the cut-out portion thereof and adapted to swing downward against said front, a wheel mounted within the cabinet and rotatable in a plane parallel with the front and back thereof, and a plurality of receptacles mounted upon the wheel and disposed to be brought into upright position opposite the openings in the front and the top of the cabinet and opposite the said shelf when extended into horizontal position.

2. A filing device comprising a cabinet having an opening, a wheel disposed within the cabinet and comprising arms, receptacles mounted between the arms and adapted to maintain a given position, and a spring catch attached to the inside of a wall of the cabinet and concealed thereby, said catch having an intermediate depression with inclined spring terminals at opposite sides of and leading to the depression and in the path of the arms to engage the same and hold the wheel in desired adjusted position.

3. A portable filing device comprising a skeleton frame and embodying corner uprights, upper and lower transverse and longitudinal bars, intermediate longitudinal bars, and braces extending from the lower ends of the uprights to the intermediate longitudinal bars and connected centrally thereto, bearings at the upper ends of the braces, inclosing elements attached to the frame members, the top element having an opening which is closed by a cover, a shelf hinged to the structure adjacent the opening in the top thereof, a wheel arranged within the structure and mounted upon the said bearings, and receptacles removably mounted upon the wheel.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES B. ULRICH.

Witnesses:
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H. S. Shepard.