Dec. 26, 1961 B. H. RISELY ET AL 3,014,593

COAT AND HAT CHECKING APPARATUS

Filed April 3, 1961

FIG. 1

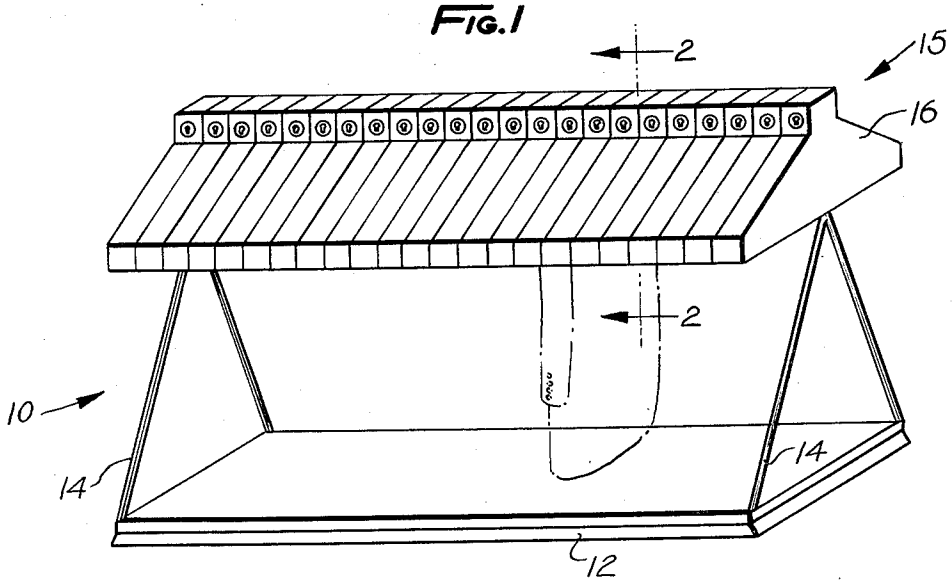


FIG. 2

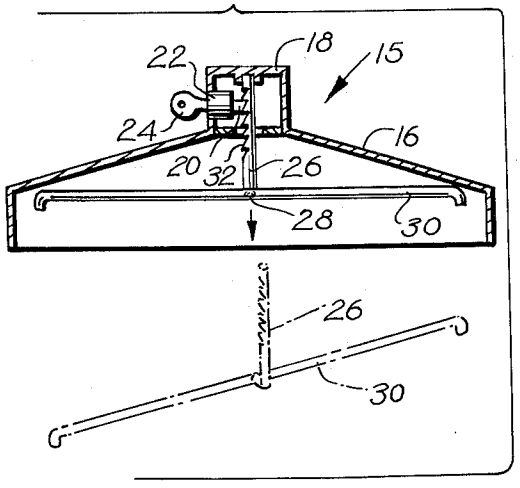


FIG. 3

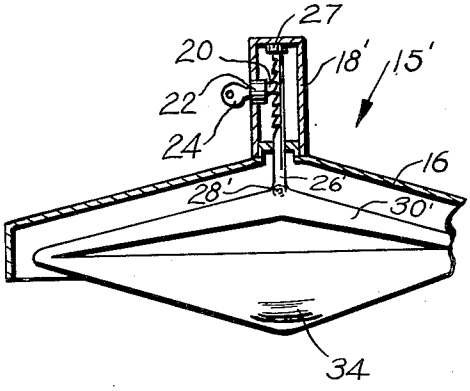
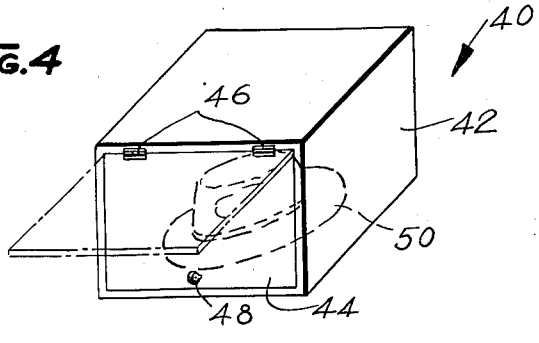


FIG. 4



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COAT AND HAT CHECKING APPARATUS

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This invention relates to coat and hat checking apparatus and more particularly to a coat checking device for use in public places.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a coat checking device which will prevent theft and the misplacing of garments left in public places for temporary storage purposes.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide a coat and hat checking device which will enable each coat to be individually checked and locked in place so that removal thereof cannot be accomplished without having a key especially fitting the particular section upon which the coat is mounted.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a coat and hat checking apparatus bearing the above objects in mind which is of simple construction, has a minimum number of parts, is inexpensive to manufacture and efficient in operation.

For other objects and for a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the folowing detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a coat checking device made in accordance with the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged fragmentary cross sectional view taken along line 2—2 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a view similar to FIGURE 2, showing a slightly modified form of construction; and

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of an auxiliary locker device forming still another part of the present invention.

Referring now more in detail to the drawing, and more particularly to FIGURES 1 and 2 thereof, a coat checking apparatus **10** made in accordance with the present invention is shown to include a base **12** and end supports **14** which support a plurality of individual coat checking units **15** in juxtaposed relationship spaced above the base **12**.

As is clearly shown in FIGURE 2 of the drawing, each such coat checking unit **15** includes a downwardly opening hood **16** having an upwardly extending housing section **18** into which a lock pawl **20** of a key operated lock **22** projects. This pawl **20** is preferably spring biased inwardly into contact with a ratchet **32** formed upon an extension **26** of a coat hanger bar **30** which is pivotally connected thereto, such as by a hinge pin **38**. However, a key **24** receivable within the lock **22** may be turned to withdraw the pawl **20** out of locking engagement with the ratchet teeth **32** to enable the hanger extension **26** to be withdrawn downwardly and outwardly through the bottom of the hood **16**. After the garment has been placed upon the hanger bar **30**, the extension **26** is returned into the interior of the housing **18** so that the pawl **20** will lock the extension **26** in place with the upper portions of the garment pressed against the interior of the hood **16**. In this position, it is virtually impossible to remove the garment without first releasing the lock **22** by means of a key **24**, thus preventing accidental loss or theft thereof.

In FIGURE 3 of the drawing, a slightly modified form

of construction for each coat storage unit **15'** is shown to include a similar hood **16** with an enlarged upwardly projecting housing **18'**, into which a pawl **20** of a lock **22** operated by a key **24** extends in a manner similar to that hereinbefore described. However, the extension **26'** of the hanger **30'** is provided with a stop **27** at its free end, which will prevent withdrawal of the extension **26'** outwardly of the housing **18'**. However, the hanger **30'** is pivotal with respect to the pivot pin **28'** connecting it to the extension **26'**, which will allow sufficient movement to apply and remove the garment. The hanger portion **30'** is also provided with a handle **34** to facilitate the up and down movements of the hanger assembly during use. With this arrangement, it is not possible to confuse the hangers or to remove the same from the checking apparatus.

With reference to FIGURE 4 of the drawing, an auxiliary locker compartment **40** is shown to include a substantially hollow prismatic enclosure **42** having a front closure panel **44** hingedly mounted thereupon by means of a set of hinges **46** for selective movement between a normally closed storage position and an open position for storing small articles, such as hats **50**. A lock **48** is mounted upon the closure **44** for securing the closure in the closed position during use.

It will also be recognized that the coat checking unit may be in circular form or may be constructed especially for closets and the like, depending upon the particular need or application for which it is to be used.

While various changes may be made in the detail construction, it shall be understood that such changes shall be within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims, such as making the device a coin operated mechanism for use in public places.

What we claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A coat rack comprising, in combination, a plurality of individual coat storage units secured together into a single storage assembly, each said coat storage unit comprising a hood, a coat hanger with an extension portion and movable relative to said hood between a release and an engaged position, latch means releasably securing said coat hanger with said hood in said engaged position, and lock means controlling release of said latch means to effect movement of said hanger to said release position.

2. The combination according to claim 1, wherein said hood comprises a substantially hollow downwardly opening enclosure having an upwardly projecting housing, and said coat hanger having a portion slidably movable within said housing, said latch means being carried by said housing and being releasably engageable with said extension portion of said coat hanger.

3. The combination according to claim 2, wherein said coat hanger comprises a substantially horizontal garment support bar pivotally mounted upon said hanger extension for movement relative to said hood.

4. The combination according to claim 3, wherein said latch means comprises a pawl carried by said extension housing of said hood and projecting into the interior of said extension housing, said extension of said coat hanger having a plurality of ratchet teeth engageable with said pawl to prevent outward movement of said hanger extension relative to said hood and said housing.

5. The combination according to claim 4, wherein said lock means comprises a tumbler lock carried by said ex-

tension housing of said hood for withdrawing said pawl from locking engagement with said ratchet teeth to facilitate movement of said hanger to said release position from said engaged position within said hood.

6. The combination according to claim 5, further comprising an auxiliary locker enclosure having an interior storage compartment and hingedly mounted closure wall for selective movement toward a closed position, and a lock carried by said closure for securing said closure in a closed position with said enclosure.

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