June 16, 1931. A. W. NELSON 1,810,618

SHIELD ATTACHMENT FOR EATING TABLES AND THE LIKE

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Fig. 1.

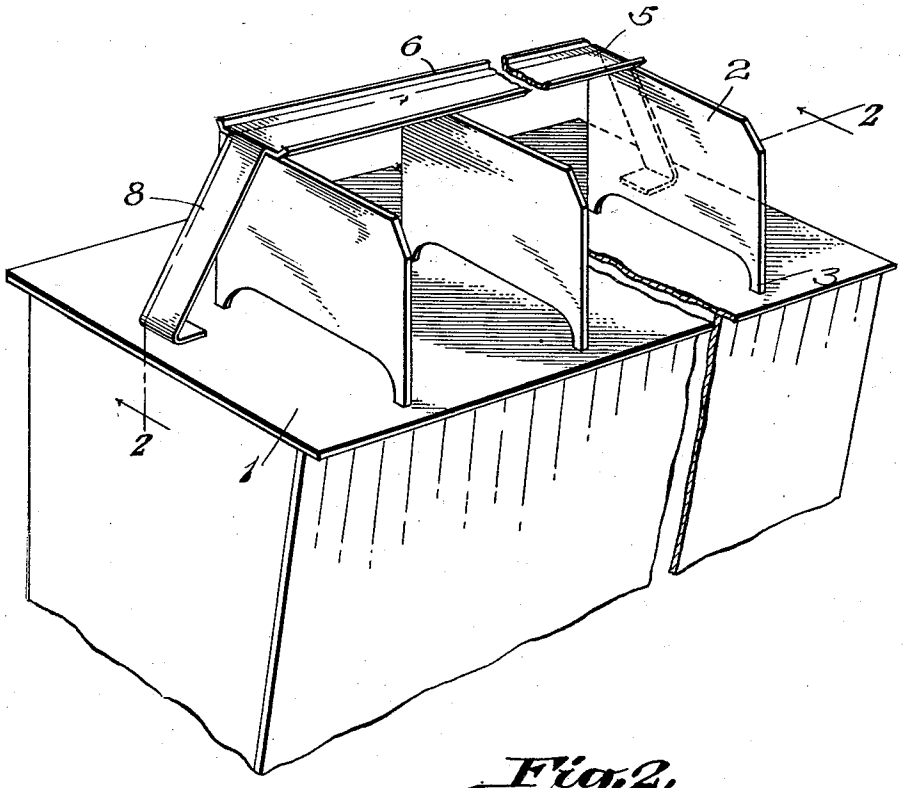
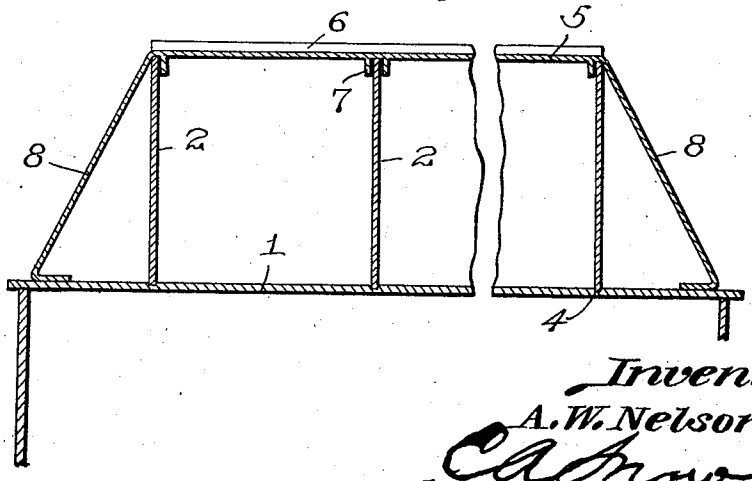


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

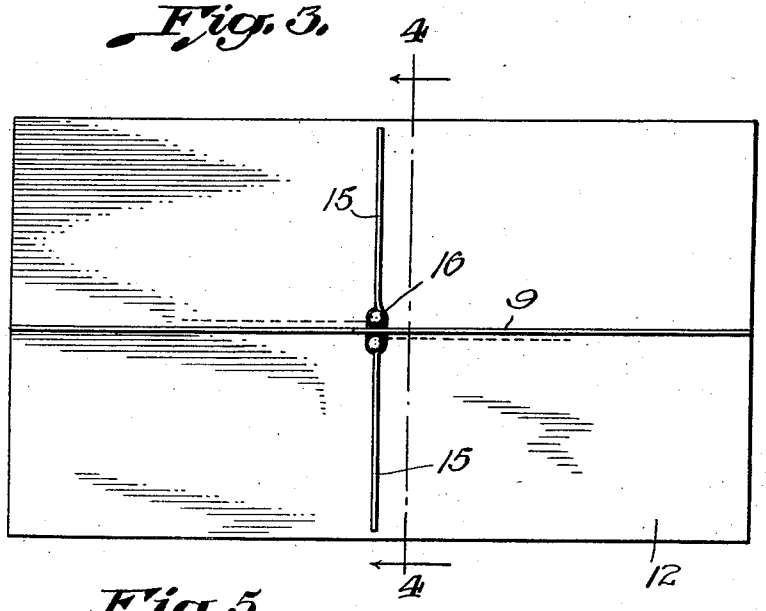
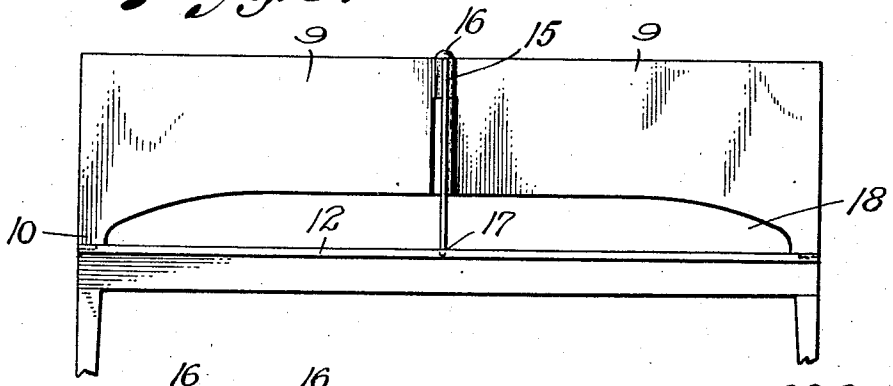


Fig. 5.



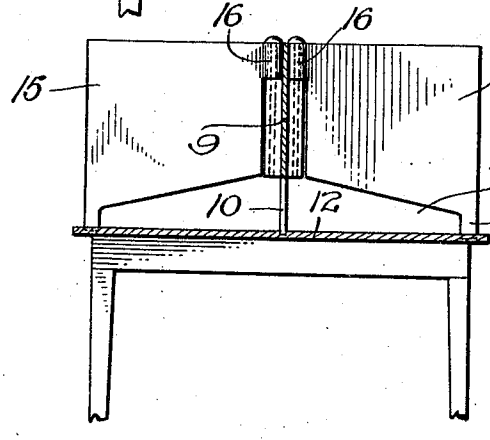


Fig. 4.

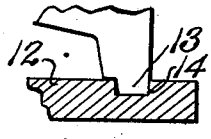


Fig. 6.

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Patented June 16, 1931 1,810,618

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SHIELD ATTACHMENT FOR EATING TABLES AND THE LIKE

Application filed August 24, 1929. Serial No. 388,166.

This invention relates to a shield attachment for use on lunch counters, dining tables and the like whereby a person seated at the counter or table will be provided with an individual compartment for holding food being eaten and will be shielded, while eating, from other persons seated at the counter or table.

Another object is to provide an attachment of this character which, when not in use, can be collapsed and stored in a small space.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed may be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings the preferred forms of the invention have been shown.

In said drawings,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of shield attachment for use on a table or a counter where all of the customers are located at one side only of the structure.

Figure 2 is a section on line 2—2, Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a plan view of a table provided with a modified form of shield attachment for use where customers are seated around the table.

Figure 4 is a section on line 4—4, Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a front elevation of the shield attachment and a portion of the table on which it is mounted.

Figure 6 is a section through a portion of the top of a table or counter showing, in elevation, a portion of the shield seated therein.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference, 1 designates a portion of a lunch counter of any preferred construction. The shield constituting that type of the invention adapted to be used on a counter, consists of regularly spaced upstanding channels 2 formed of metal, veneer, or any other suitable material. Each of these panels is provided preferably with short legs 3 which, as shown particularly in Figure 2, are adapted to extend into recesses 4 in the top of the counter. The intermediate portions of the panels can be spaced from the top of the counter so that condiment holders, etc., can be slid readily under the panels.

Supported on and serving to properly space the panels is an elongated shelf 5 the front and back edges of which can be upturned at 6 to constitute retaining means. This shelf may be provided with depending ears 7 for engaging the panels so as to hold them against lateral displacement.

Extending from the ends of the shelf 5 are braces 8 adapted to extend downwardly and be fastened to the counter or, if preferred, the lower end of these braces can merely rest on the counter.

As the legs of the partitions or panels extend into recesses in the counter it will be obvious that these panels will be held in upstanding positions and cannot shift laterally or longitudinally along the counter. As the shelf bears downwardly on and engages the upper edges of the panels, said edges are held properly spaced apart. As the braces are extended from the shelf and are rigid therewith, they will act to hold the structure against lateral collapsing.

When the shield is set up, thereby forming a number of compartments extending throughout the length of the counter, one of these compartments will be provided for every customer. The food, when served to a customer, is placed in the compartment provided for him and, because of the height and length of the compartment used, it becomes possible for the customer to eat without annoying or being annoyed by persons seated nearby.

Should it be desired to use the counter without the shield it would be necessary merely to

lift the shelf and the end braces from the counter and thereafter lift the panels off of the counter. The structure could then be stored in a small space.

In Figures 3 to 5 inclusive a modified form of shield for use on a table has been illustrated. This shield is made up of a main panel 9 having legs 10 adapted to rest on the table top 12. These legs have lugs 13 insertable into recesses 14 in the table top as shown particularly in Figure 6. At opposite sides of the main panel 1 are supplemental panels 15 hingedly connected to the main panel as at 16. Each of these supplemental panels also has a leg 17 corresponding with the legs 10 and adapted to engage the table top 12 as heretofore explained. When this modified form of shield is set up on a table the panels are extended at right angles to each other, thus providing four separate compartments each of which is adapted to be used by one patron. The bottom portions of the panels are cut away to provide sufficient clearance as at 18 to allow small articles to be passed from one compartment to another along the table top.

When the device is not in use the panels 15 can be folded against the panel 9 as indicated by broken lines in Figure 3 and the entire structure lifted from the table and stored away.

What is claimed is:

1. The combination with a counter, table or the like, of means mounted thereon for providing separate spaces for use by individual persons while eating, said means including partitions proportioned to shield from each other the faces of customers while eating, the lower portions of the partitions being cut away to provide spaces for the reception of articles while being transferred laterally from one compartment to another, there being recesses in the counter, table or the like and legs depending from the partitions and removably fitted in the recesses.

2. A combination with a counter, table or the like for use by persons while eating, of spaced partitions removably mounted on the counter to provide face receiving spaces for the respective persons, there being recesses in the top of the counter, table or the like, legs depending from the partitions and removably fitted in the recesses, said legs supporting the partitions above the top of the counter, table or the like to provide spaces through which articles can be moved along the surface of the counter, table or the like, a shelf resting on and detachably engaging the partitions to hold them spaced apart, and means at the ends of the shelf for bearing on the top of the counter, table or the like to brace the shelf and partitions when set up for use.

3. A combination with a counter or the like for use by persons while eating, of hingedly connected partitions normally diverging and adapted to fold together, legs depending from the partitions for holding them above and out of contact with the top of the counter or the like thereby to provide spaces through which articles may be slid along the top of the counter or the like and means on the legs for engaging the top of the counter or the like for holding the partitions against sliding movement.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature.

AUGUST W. NELSON.