July 3, 1928. 1,676,137

W. E. DODGE

FAVOR DISTRIBUTOR

Filed July 17, 1926 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

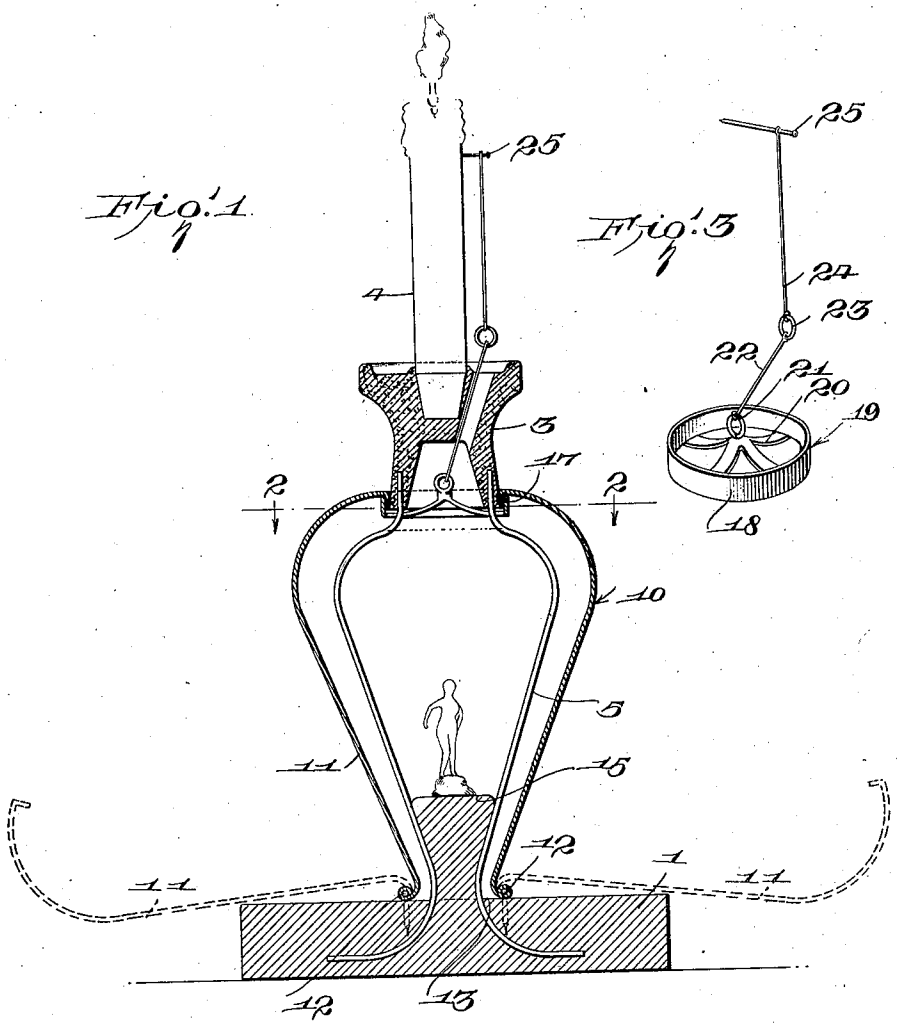
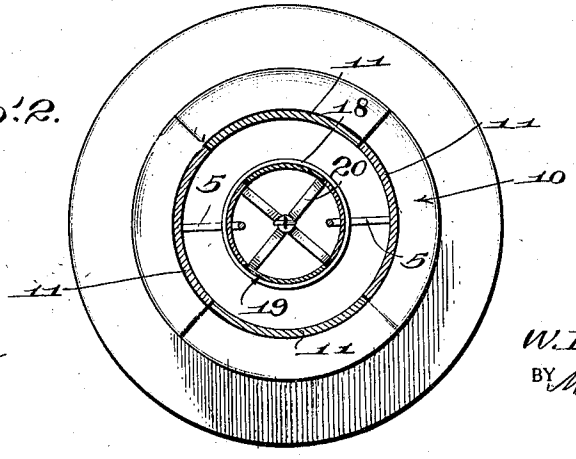


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

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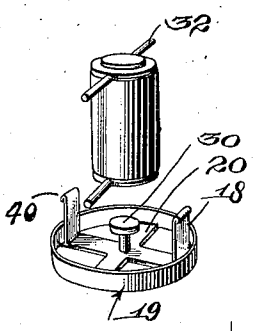


Fig. 6.

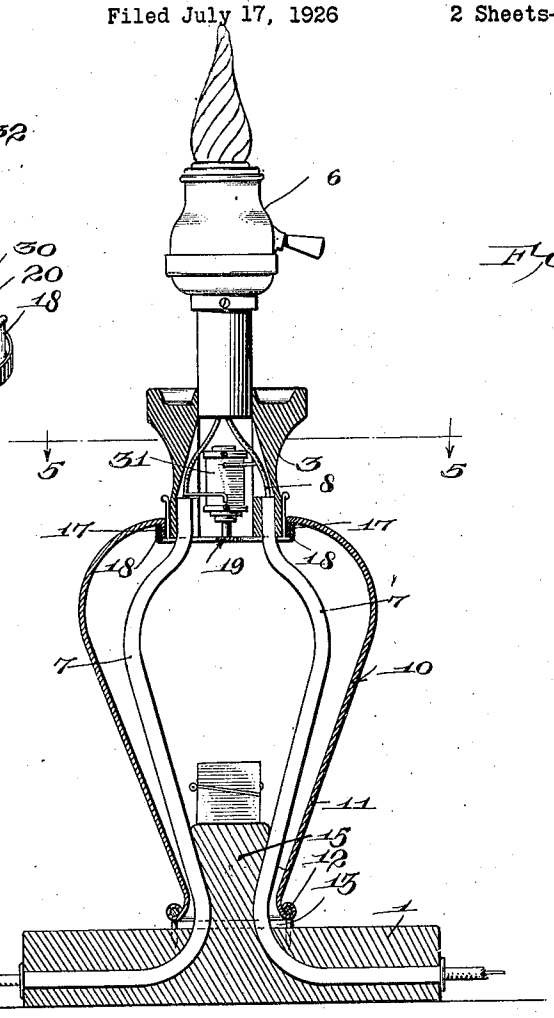


Fig. 4

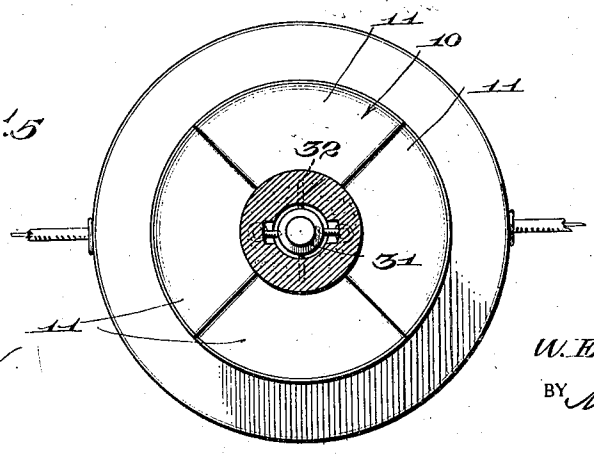


Fig. 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FAVOR DISTRIBUTOR.

Application filed July 17, 1926. Serial No. 123,138.

This invention relates to a favor distributor to be used at banquets, dinners, luncheons, celebrations, parties and the like.

The object of the invention is to provide a favor distributor containing a concealed favor and which has ornamental and decorative value at all times and which may be opened at the desired time to expose to view and avail for distribution the favors to be given to the guests.

Preferably the favor distributor is in the form of a combined light support and favor distributor which has a receptacle made up of movable sections adapted to be folded to conceal the favor or to be extended to render the favor accessible. The invention contemplates either hinged sections or springy or resilient sections. In conjunction with the sections of the receptacle suitable means may be provided for holding the leaves or sections in position to form a complete and closed receptacle and this means may be released manually or automatically as may be desired.

Other objects and advantages, reside in certain novel features of the construction, arrangement and combination of parts which will be hereinafter more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, and in which:

Figure 1 is a sectional view showing one form of favor distributor embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is a view in transverse horizontal section on line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a detail perspective view of the means for holding the sections of the receptacle closed and the release provided for such means.

Figure 4 is a view partly in diagrammatic vertical section and partly in side elevation showing another embodiment of the invention.

Figure 5 is a view in horizontal section on line 5—5 of Figure 4, and,

Figure 6 is a detail perspective view showing the section holding means and release provided in the form of the invention shown in Figures 4 and 5.

Referring to the drawings, it will be seen that in both embodiments of the invention a base 1 is provided. At a suitable distance above the base a light support 3 is provided.

In the form of the invention shown in Figure 1, the light support 3 is designed to receive and support a wax candle 4 and this support for the candle 4 may be conveniently secured to the upper ends of supporting wires 5, the lower ends of which wires 5 are embedded in the base 1.

In the form of the invention shown in Figure 4, the support 3 is designed to support an electric fixture such as an electric candle 6 and in this instance the support 3 is carried by the upper end of the tubular supporting elements 7, the tubular supporting elements 7 having their lower ends embedded in the base 1 and carrying wires 8 which serve to carry the current to and from the lamp of the electrical fixtures 6.

In both forms of the invention, favor receptacles designated generally at 10 are provided between the base 1 and light support 3. Preferably each receptacle 10 is made up of a plurality of leaves 11, the lower ends of which are pivotally supported as at 12 on a bracket 13 secured to the base 1. When the sections 11 are held in upright closed position they constitute a complete receptacle and preferably they are shaped to give to the support a vase-like body which is ornamental and decorative in appearance. This vase-like body is hollow so as to provide a container for the favor and also is completely closed to conceal the favor and the supporting elements 5 or 7. The favor may be placed upon a flat upper end or a boss 15 integral with the base. The upper end of each section 11 is provided with a downturned flange 17 which fits up against the light support 3 in the closed position of the parts. The downturned flanges 17 in assembly and in the closed position of the sections 11 make up a complete annular flange which is engaged by the similarly formed flange 18 provided on a holding or locking element 19. In lieu of pivotally supporting the sections 11 they may be made of resilient material with their lower ends embedded in or otherwise fixed to the vase. The upper ends of such resilient sections may be flexed into engagement with the holder and provide a closed receptacle but when released fly out to extended position under the influence of their elasticity.

In the form of the invention shown in Figure 3 the locking element 19 has a spider 20 made up of arms which are connected with the ring 18 at their outer ends and which are connected together at their inner

ends. The inner ends of the arms 20 of the spider having suitably secured thereto an eye 21 to which one end of a flexible connecting element 22 is secured. The flexible connecting element is connected by a ring 23 with an elastic element 24 such as a rubber band or coil spring. The upper end of the elastic element 24 is secured to a pin 25 which is embedded in the candle 4.

With the form of the invention shown in Figure 2 the favors will be concealed until the candle 4 has burned down to a point where the wax of the candle in which the pin 25 is embedded softens. At such time the weight of the holder 19 (which may be weighted for this purpose) will automatically pull the pin 25 out of the candle. The pin 25 having been disengaged from the candle 4 the holder 19 is free to and does drop down on the wires 5 in which position its flange 18 is disengaged from the flanges 17 of the sections 11. The sections 11 then fall under the action of gravity from the position shown in full lines of Fig. 1 to the position shown in dotted lines in said figure. It is to be understood that the pivot 12 of each section is so positioned with respect to its center of gravity as to cause the section to quickly and automatically fall when the flange 18 is disengaged from the flange 17.

In the form of the invention shown in Figures 4, 5 and 6 the holder 19 also has a spider 20^a but the spider 20^a carries an armature 30 which co-acts with an electro-magnet 31 having pins 32 whereby it is carried on the light support 3. The electro-magnet is preferably of high resistance and is preferably connected in parallel with the lighting circuit. With this form of the invention when the sections 11 are brought to closed position the holder lies just below the same and it may be raised so that its flange 18 engages the flange 17 of the sections 11 by closing the circuit of the light and magnet, since this attracts the armature 30 which lies at all times in the field of the magnet 31. It is to be understood that when the holder 19 is in inoperative position it rests on the tubular elements 7 which is out of the way of the flanges 17. To open up the receptacle for the favor it is only necessary to momentarily break the circuit through the light and through the magnet. This permits the armature 30 and consequently the holder 19 to drop downwardly. The sections 11 then fall over to open position. Finger pieces 40 are provided to facilitate raising of the holding element in this form of the invention. In the form of the invention shown in Figures 4, 5 and 6 it is possible to connect up a plurality of the devices in the usual manner and this will adapt the device for use at banquests or New Year's Eve celebrations. The form of the invention shown in Figures 1 to 3 are perhaps better adapted for use with individual tables.

I claim:

1. A favor distributor comprising a base, a receptacle made up of a plurality of sections having their lower ends connected to the base, means to receive and cooperate with the upper end of the sections for holding them in position for forming a closed receptacle, and a release for said means.

2. A decorative novelty of the character described comprising a base, an article support, supporting elements having their lower ends engaging with the base and their upper ends engaging with an article support, a receptacle made up of sections connected to the base and adapted to be positioned to form a closed receptacle which contains and conceals the supporting elements and also affords a space for favors, and releasing means for holding the sections in closed position.

3. A decorative novelty of the character described comprising a base, a light support, supporting elements having their lower ends engaging with the base and their upper ends engaging with the light support, a receptacle made up of sections connected to the base and adapted to be positioned to form a closed receptacle which contains and conceals the supporting elements and also affords a space for favors, releasing means for holding the sections in closed position including a ring, the sections having flanges cooperable with the ring, and means controlled by the operation of the light for releasing said means.

4. A decorative novelty of the class described comprising a base, a light support, supporting elements having their lower ends engaging the base and their upper ends engaging the light support, a receptacle made up of sections connected to the base and adapted to be positioned to form a closed receptacle which contains and conceals the supporting elements and also affords a space for favors, and releasing means for holding the sections in closed position, said releasing means including a ring, the sections having flanges cooperable with the ring.

5. A device of the class described comprising a light support and a favor receptacle one housed within the other, cooperating means carried by said receptacle and support whereby they are held in operative position, and means for releasing said cooperating means to permit the enclosed member to be exposed.

6. In a device of the class described a base, a support carried by said base, an article housing located adjacent said support and having a movable section, releasable means for holding said section in closed position, and means mounted in said support operable to release said section holding means whereby the section may be moved at will to disclose the contents of the housing.

7. A decorative novelty of the class de-

scribed comprising a base, a light support, supporting elements having one end engaged with the base and their other ends engaged with the light support, a receptacle connected to the base for containing and concealing the supporting elements, said receptacle including a movable section, and releasable means for holding said movable section in closed position, said means and section having cooperable interlocking elements and means for releasing said holding means.

8. A decorative novelty of the class described comprising a base, a light support, supporting elements having one end engaged with the base and their other ends engaged with the support, the receptacle carried by the base adapted to contain and conceal the supporting elements, said receptacle having a movable section, means for releasably holding said movable section in closed position, and means for releasing said holding means.

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