Dec. 30, 1958 S. W. MILLER ET AL 2,866,956

COMBINED TABLE AND FOOD WARMER

Filed Aug. 24, 1956

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

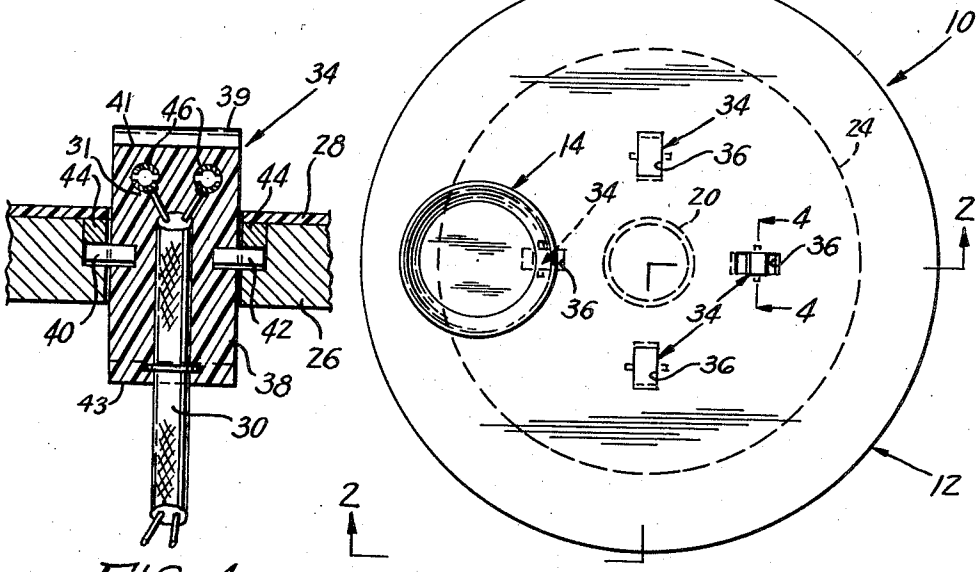


FIG. 4

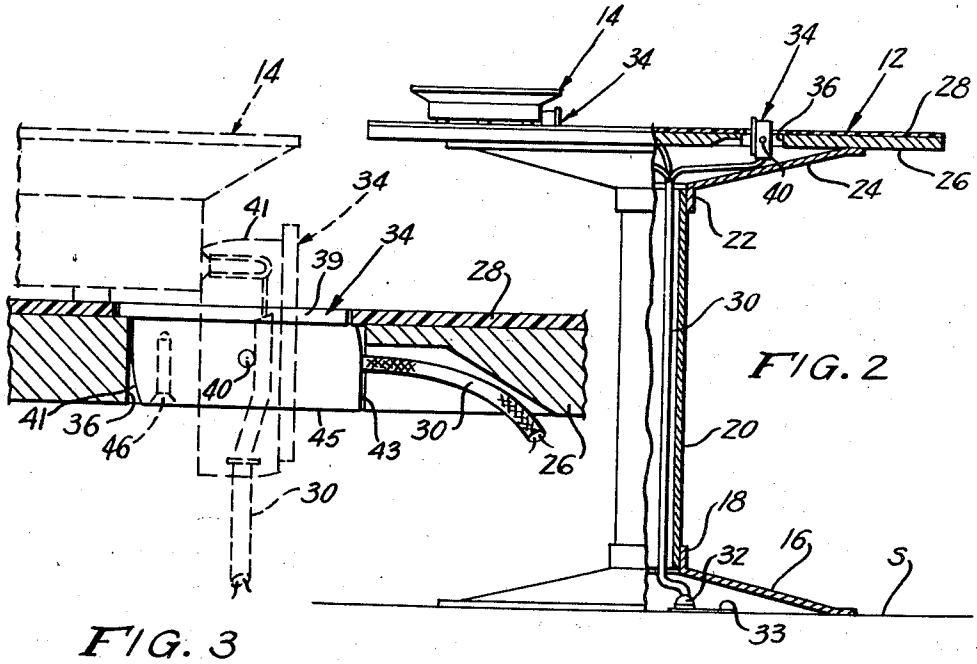


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

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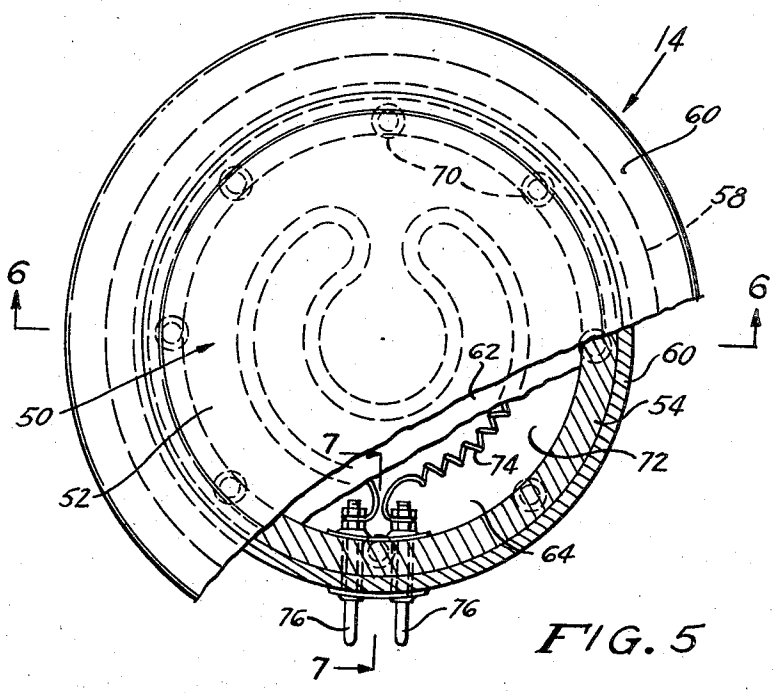


FIG. 5

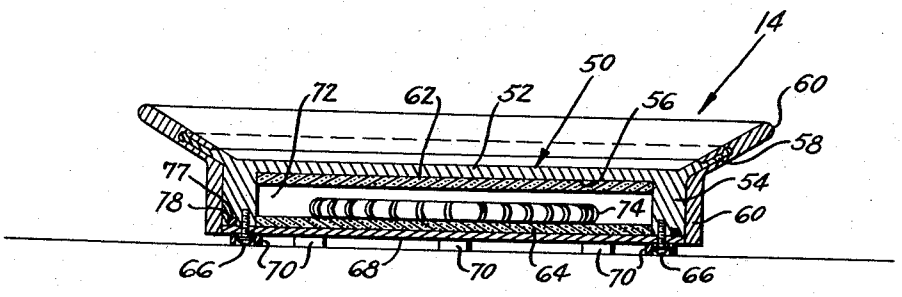


FIG. 6

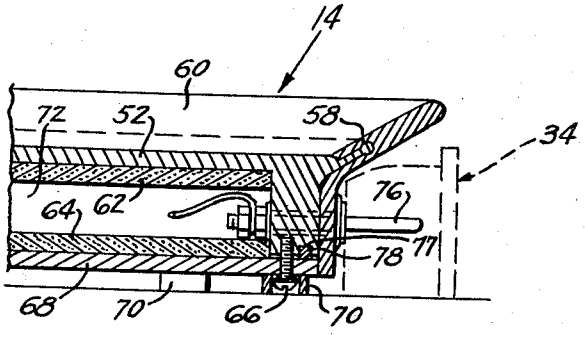


FIG. 7

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COMBINED TABLE AND FOOD WARMER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 339—34)

This invention relates to an improved combined dining or serving table and food warming device whereon food servings can be maintained in a warm and palatable condition for indefinite periods of time, as the duration of a meal.

A primary object of the invention is to provide a simple, practical, and efficient device of this kind which includes one or more electrical outlet sockets, pivoted on the top of the table, which can be pivoted from an inoperative position flush with the table top to a vertical position to be electrically engaged by the prongs of an electrical warming plate supported on the table top.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character indicated which is readily and economically manufactured, easily used, and highly satisfactory, practical and acceptable for the purpose intended.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views, and in which:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a device in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of Figure 1, partly in section taken substantially on line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary transverse vertical sectional view taken through the table top, showing in phantom lines an operative position of an outlet socket, and showing said socket in an inoperative position in full lines;

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary transverse vertical sectional view taken substantially on line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is an enlarged top plan view of the warming plate assembly, with portions broken away and shown in section for clarity;

Figure 6 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken substantially on line 6—6 of Figure 5; and

Figure 7 is a further enlarged fragmentary transverse vertical sectional view taken substantially on line 7—7 of Figure 5.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the illustrated device, generally designated **10**, comprises a table **12** involving a hollow base **16** having a central upstanding socket **18** receiving therein the lower end of a tubular pedestal **20** which receives on its upper end a socket **22** integral with a flared support **24**, which has suitably secured thereupon a circular table top **26** having on its upper surface a sheet **28** of suitable heat resistant material. Leading upwardly through the pedestal **20** is an electrical cord **30** having on its lower end a connector plug **32**, preferably male, for connection to an electrical outlet **33** in the floor S upon which the table **12** rests. The upper end of the cord **30** is connected to an outlet socket assembly, indicated generally at **34**.

The table top **26** has therein at least one eccentrically

located rectangular opening **36** in which is positioned an outlet socket assembly **34**. The assembly **34** includes a rectangular dielectric block **38** having extending from opposite sides thereof trunnions **40** and **42** engaged in notches in the upper surface of the table top **26** and held in place therein by elements **44** closing the upper ends of the notches. The block **38** has in its upper surface a plate **39** of the same material as the sheet **28** for flushly closing the table top opening **36** when the block **38** is in its inoperative position, as shown in full lines on Figure 3. The block **38** has upper and lower ends **41** and **43**, respectively, and a bottom side **45**.

At a point near the upper end **41** of the block **38**, a pair of tubular contacts **46** within the block **38** open through the bottom side **45**. The upper end of the cord **30** extends through the lower end **43** of the block **38** and its conductors **31** are severally connected to the contacts **46** within the block **38**. A number of outlet socket assemblies **34** can be provided in circumferentially spaced relation to each other around the table top **26**.

The device further comprises at least one warming plate assembly **14** which comprises a circular metallic heating plate **50** comprising a horizontal wall **52**, having thereon a flaring peripheral annular flange **58**. An annular flange **54** depending from the periphery of the wall **52** defines an annular recess **56** beneath the wall **52**. Molded on and around the flaring flange **58** and the exterior of the flange **54** is a flange **60** of suitable heat insulative material for preventing injurious contact of a person with the assembly. An upper asbestos plate **62** in the recess **56** is engaged with the underside of the wall **52**, and a lower asbestos plate **64** is secured across the lower end of the recess **56**. Secured on the bottom of the flange **54** by means of suitable fasteners, such as screws **66**, is a bottom plate **68**, and the screws **66** serve also to secure feet **70** of any suitable heat insulative material to and depending from the underside of the bottom plate **68**.

The asbestos plates **62** and **64** define therebetween a heating compartment **72** in which is disposed a suitable resistance-type heating coil **74**, opposite ends of which are connected to connector prongs **76** extending laterally outwardly from the side of the heating plate assembly **14** in sealed relationship relative to the heating compartment **72** to prevent entrance of moisture into said compartment when the assembly **14** is washed, for example. The prongs **76** are removably engageable in the tubular contacts **46** of the outlet socket assembly **34**.

The flange **54** has in its lower edge a groove **77** in which is seated a resilient sealing gasket **78** of heat resistant material, for the purpose of preventing the entrance of moisture into the heating compartment **72** between the bottom plate **68** and the flange **54**.

The table top **26** may be provided with as many outlet assemblies **34** as desired, four being shown in Figure 1, for the purpose of accommodating four persons at the table, each person having a warming plate assembly **14** connectible to a related outlet socket assembly **34** for maintaining his serving of food in a warm and palatable condition, or "sizzling hot," if desired.

Although the warming plate assembly **14** has been disclosed as circular, it is to be understood that the same may be constructed as oval, for example, for the purpose of serving fish, steaks, or the like.

In addition, the warming plate assembly **14** can be used independently of the table **12**, in the home, and connected with an ordinary appliance cord.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the ex-

act construction and operation shown and described and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. In a device of the character described, a table comprising a table top, said table top having at least one opening therein, an outlet socket assembly positioned within said opennig and horizontally pivoted therein to be pivoted from a horizontal inoperative position flush with the table top to a vertical operative position projecting above the table, said socket assembly comprising a dielectric block of substantially the dimensions of said opening, said block having an upper side, a bottom side, and upper and lower ends, said upper end of the block being arranged to be above the table top in the operative position of the socket assembly, said block having tubular contacts near its upper end and opening through its bottom side for receiving connector prongs on an electric appliance on the table top, and an electric cord having an upper end entering the lower end of said block, said cord having conductors connected to said tubular contacts within the block, said cord having a lower end having a connector plug thereon for connection with an outlet in a floor upon which the table base rests.

2. In a device of the character described, a table comprising a table top, said table top having at least one opening therein, an outlet socket assembly positioned within said opening and horizontally pivoted therein to be pivoted from a horizontal inoperative position flush with the table top to a vertical operative position projecting above the table top, said socket assembly comprising a dielectric block of substantially the dimensions of said opening, said block having an upper side, a bottom side and upper and lower ends, said upper end of the block being arranged to be above the table top in the operative position of the socket assembly, said block having tubular contacts near its upper end and opening through its bottom side for receiving connector prongs on an electric appliance on the table top, and an electric cord having an upper end entering the lower end of said block, said cord having conductors connected to said tubular contacts within the block, said cord having a lower end having a connector plug thereon for connection with an outlet in a floor upon which the table base rests, said table top being centrally mounted on a tubular pedestal, and said

cord being extended through said pedestal, and a support element on the upper end of the pedestal and extending laterally outwardly therefrom beneath the outlet socket assembly and engaging the underside of the table top.

3. In combination, a support having an exposed surface, said support having an opening therethrough, a dielectric block positioned in said opening, said block having opposed ends and upper side and lower sides, means pivoting the block on the support at a point between the ends of the block whereby the block can be pivoted in said opening from a stored position in which the upper side of the block is substantially flush with the exposed surface of the support to an operative position in which one of said ends of the block projects outwardly beyond said exposed surface, electrical appliance prong contacts in said block at said one end of the block, said contacts having outer ends exposed at the lower side of the block for engagement by prongs of an appliance located at said exposed side of the support, and electric cord connecting means associated with said contacts.

4. In combination, a support having an exposed surface, said support having an opening therethrough, a dielectric block positioned in said opening, said block having opposed ends and upper side and lower sides, means pivoting the block on the support at a point between the ends of the block whereby the block can be pivoted in said opening from a stored position in which the upper side of the block is substantially flush with the exposed surface of the support to an operative position in which one of said ends of the block projects outwardly beyond said exposed surface, electrical appliance prong contacts in said block at said one end of the block, said contacts having outer ends exposed at the lower side of the block for engagement by prongs of an appliance located at said exposed side of the support, and electric cord connecting means associated with said contacts, and an electric cord entering the remaining end of the block and connected to said connecting means.

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