Oct. 31, 1967 J. A. SALT 3,349,528

PORTABLE PARTITION WITH TELESCOPING TUBE SUPPORT

Filed June 17, 1966 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

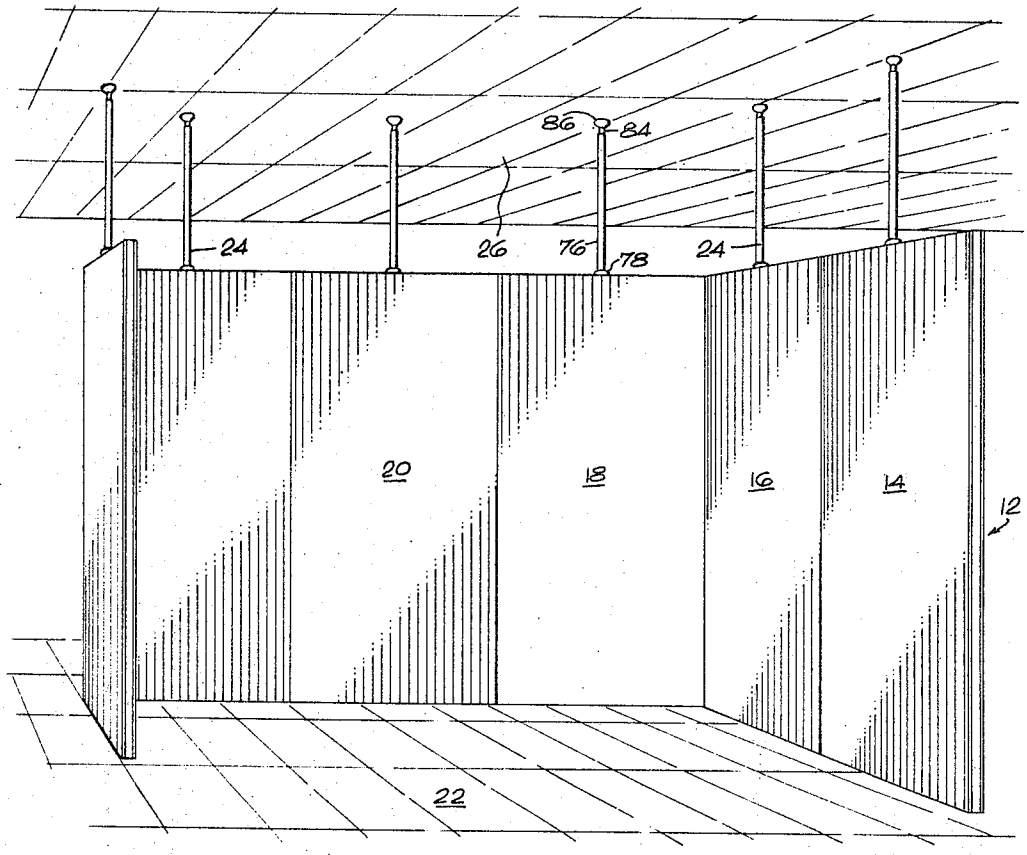



Fig. 1

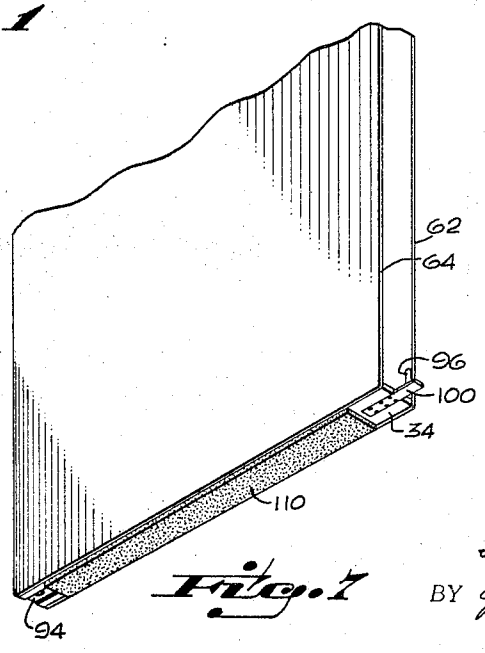



Fig. 2

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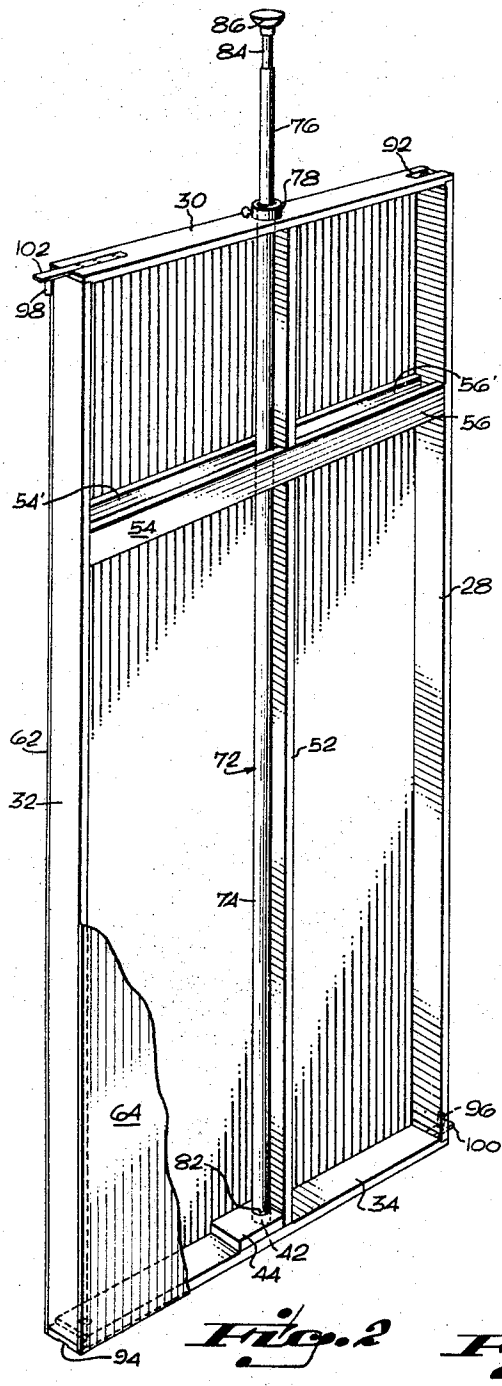



Fig. 2

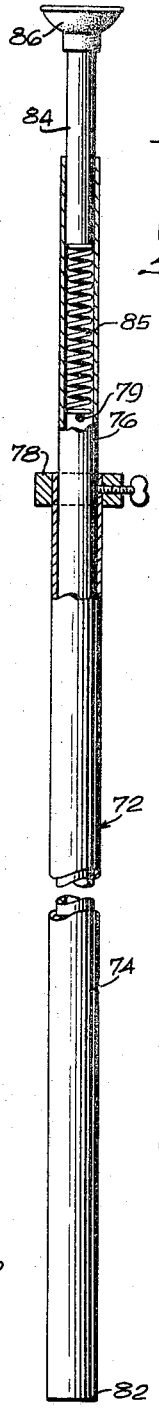



Fig. 3

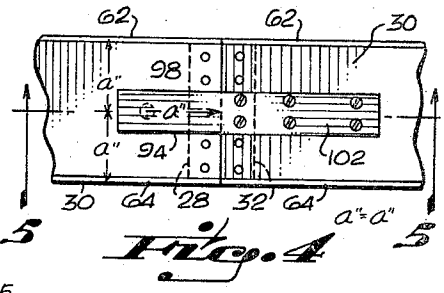



Fig. 4

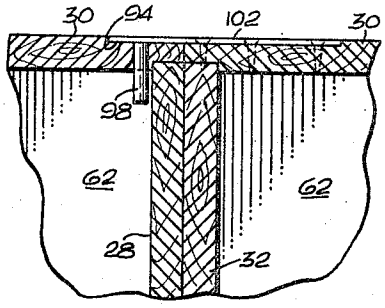



Fig. 5

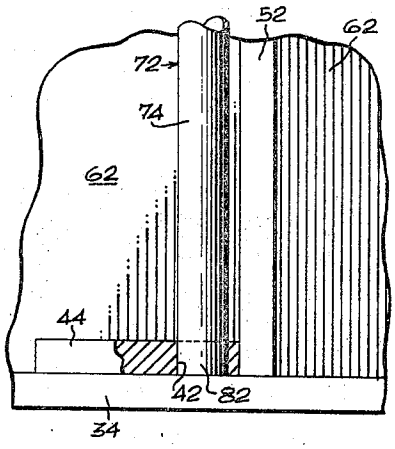



Fig. 6

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3,349,528

# PORTABLE PARTITION WITH TELESCOPING TUBE SUPPORT

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10 Claims. (Cl. 52—239)

This invention relates to a portable partition, and, more particularly, to a portable partition adapted for use in auditoriums, art galleries, and offices.

As is perhaps well known, it is quite often a problem to partition an office or an art gallery satisfactorily and once partitioned it is often required that adjustments be made in the partitioning.

The present invention relates and has as an object the provision of a partition for large spaces which is adapted to be readily installed and which may be adjusted from time to time or removed in a relatively inexpensive operation.

It is, accordingly, an object of this invention to provide a portable partition for positioning between the floor and ceiling of a large area which comprises a frame, panels overlaying the frame, means carried by the frame to urge the partition against the floor and including means to engage the ceiling to steady the panel in a predetermined position.

It is a general object of this invention to provide a portable partition structure which is simple in construction, inexpensive to manufacture, and which may be readily and rapidly installed and removed or altered as to position in a large room and is adapted to divide it into various sections and to provide wall space for the hanging of pictures thereon.

In accordance with these and other objects which will become apparent hereinafter, the instant invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of an area having portable partitions adjusted between the floor and the ceiling;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of one of the partitions with one of the overlaying panels removed to show the details of construction;

FIGURE 3 is a view, partly in cross section, and illustrating the means to connect the partition between the floor and the ceiling;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged top plan view of that portion of FIG. 2 seen at the upper left thereof;

FIGURE 5 is a view in cross section taken along the plane indicated by the line 5–5 of FIG. 4 and looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIGURE 6 is an enlarged elevation view looking at the lower medial portion of FIG. 2; and

FIGURE 7 is a bottom perspective view to illustrate the lower portion of the instant invention.

Referring to the drawings wherein like reference characters designate like or corresponding parts throughout the different views, and referring particularly to FIGURE 1, the numeral **12** generally designates a wall composed of panels such as **14**, **16**, **18** and **20**, which are positioned in upstanding relation on a floor **22** in a wall-defining relation and connected in said relation by connecting means generally designated **24** which engage the ceiling **26** of the room in which installed.

The invention will be more clearly understood on reference to FIGURE 2 wherein it is seen that the frame comprises four framing members **28**, **30**, **32** and **34** which are preferably of the size referred to as one by four (1 x 4) pieces of wood in the trade. The framing members are joined together by suitable means, as indicated. The top rail **30** is provided with a hole centrally



of its area as seen in plan and, in alignment therewith, a hole **42** is provided in a pillow block **44** which is mounted on the bottom rail **34**. The hole is positioned so that it is in alignment with the aforesaid hole of top rail **30**. A vertical reinforcing member **52** is provided as close to the center as is practicable but spaced slightly apart from the hole in the top rail **30** and the hole **42** in the pillow block **44**. Lateral reinforcing members **54**, **54'**, **56** and **56'** may also be provided, it being noted that these members define a space therebetween, or a pass-through area between the outside panels **62** and **64** which overlay the frame is defined between the lateral members **54** and **56**. This pass-through area is for the purpose of a telescoping tube system now to be described which serves for the purpose of connecting the panel partition in position between the roof and floor of a room. The telescoping tube system generally designated by the numeral **72** includes a lower tubular member **74** and an upper or inner tubular member **76** which tubes can be longitudinally extended relative to each other to adjust the length of the system and thereafter to be secured in locked engagement by means of the collar **78** having the wing nut tightening means **80**. In assembly, the connecting means is fitted with the lower member **74** being passed through the frame so that the lower end **82** seats in the hole **42** with the collar **76** resting on the upper or exterior surface of the upper rail **30**. The upper end of the upper tube is fitted with an extendible portion **84** and is preferably provided with a distalmost foot **86** to expand to and engage a ceiling while the inner end of the portion **84** engages a spring **85** to keep it extended with respect to a transverse pin **79**.

Means are provided to connect the various partitions thus assembled together, the said means comprising diagonally opposed recesses **92** and **94** in the exterior of the rails and oppositely and diametrically opposed pin means **96** and **98** arranged and carried by members **100** and **102** which are in turn connected to the rails. The members **96** and **98** are receivable in mating sized recesses of joining panels when a wall is defined by the partitions.

It has been found that a wall of this type of construction is preferably sized in four by eight (4 x 8) partitions with the connecting means or tube system being extendible to engage a ceiling which is fifteen feet high. The spring pressure of the end of the telescopic tube system **72** on the top surface of the lower rail **34** causes it to hug the floor along its length and the lower end may be provided with a friction pad **110** to resist movement of the partition on the floor.

While the instant invention has been shown and described herein in what is conceived to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is recognized that departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the invention, which is therefore not to be limited to the details disclosed herein but is to be accorded the full scope of the claims so as to embrace any and all equivalent apparatus and articles. Particularly, it will be noted that the means to connect the partitions together comprising recessed finger members arranged in cantilever fashion over the vertical supports so as to extend outwardly of the face and having a distally carried vertical pin extending toward the opposing rail and arranged for receipt in registry with holes located a corresponding distance away from the face from an associated vertical member on the opposite end of a corresponding rail of a similar panel or unit permits the assembly of the unit in the fashion indicated in FIG. 1 particularly adapting a system composed of such units for use as removable partitions and of particular advantage in art galleries or the like.

What is claimed is:

1. For inclusion in a wall composed of a plurality of similar portable panels and adapted to register in side-by-side relation with one another, a wall panel for positioning between the floor and the ceiling of a building structure comprising:

a planiform frame of a vertical height less than the distance between the floor and the ceiling and including spaced parallel upper and lower rails and spaced parallel vertical supports with said supports and rails being connected together and outer covering panels dimensioned to congruently overlay the main outer planes defined by the rails and supports, said frame defining a right parallelepipedal inner cavity;

a telescoping tube system vertically secured centrally in the cavity including an outer tube vertically spanning the distance between the upper and lower rails and an inner tube carried in the outer tube extendible with respect to the outer tube and frame beyond the upper rail, said tube system including means to lock the inner tube in a predetermined extended position with respect to the outer tube;

a foot on the distal extended end of the tube system to engage a ceiling;

means to connect the frame of the panel to a frame of a similar panel in a wall assembly comprising;

a connector finger member at one end of each of said rails and in diametrically opposed relation with respect to said frame, each said finger member being secured in cantilever relation with the respective associated rail of each finger and extending outwardly of the face of its associated adjacent vertical support;

each said finger member including a pin projecting vertically toward the opposing rail of the frame to that on which it is carried, and

each said rail having a recess accessible from the outer surface at the end opposite to that on which the finger is carried, and spaced inwardly of the face of the vertical support of the frame immediately adjacent thereto a distance corresponding to the cantilever distance from the face of the other vertical support to the pin;

so that the panels may be placed in connected side-by-side relation with the pins in one panel in registry and nested in the recesses of the other panel and with the holes of said one panel receiving the pins of an adjacent panel.

2. A wall of panels as set forth in claim 1 composed of a plurality of said panels interconnected by said connector means.

3. A wall panel as set forth in claim 1 wherein the finger of the lower rail is imbedded in a recess on the lower face with the surface of the finger member being flush with the lower face of the lower rail.



4. A wall panel as set forth in claim 3 wherein the finger is secured to the rail by recess screws to present a flush lower panel surface to rest on a floor.

5. A wall panel as set forth in claim 1 wherein the lower face of the lower rail is provided with a pad of strip form to cushion the panel on the floor.

6. A wall panel as set forth in claim 1 wherein the telescoping tube system includes an extendible tubular portion with one end in the distal end of said inner tube and the foot on the outer end of the extendible tubular portion and includes spring means captivated in the distal end of the inner tube and yieldable on the application of compressive forces to the foot and transmitted to it through said extendible portion to retract into said inner tube storing energy in said spring to hold a wall panel in position with the foot resiliently pressing against a ceiling surface.

7. A wall panel as set forth in claim 1 wherein the tube system is secured medially of the cavity by means of a pillow block secured in the cavity to the lower rail and having a recess in the face thereof to secure the lower end of the outer tube with the other end of the outer tube being snugly nestled in a through hole in the upper rail vertically above said recess.

8. A wall panel as set forth in claim 1 wherein reinforcing means are provided to span the panel.

9. A wall panel as set forth in claim 8 wherein the means include a vertical member which is offset with respect to the main vertical center line of the cavity and is adjacent the lower tube of the tubular system.

10. A wall of panels as set forth in claim 6 composed of a plurality of said panels interconnected by said connector means.


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