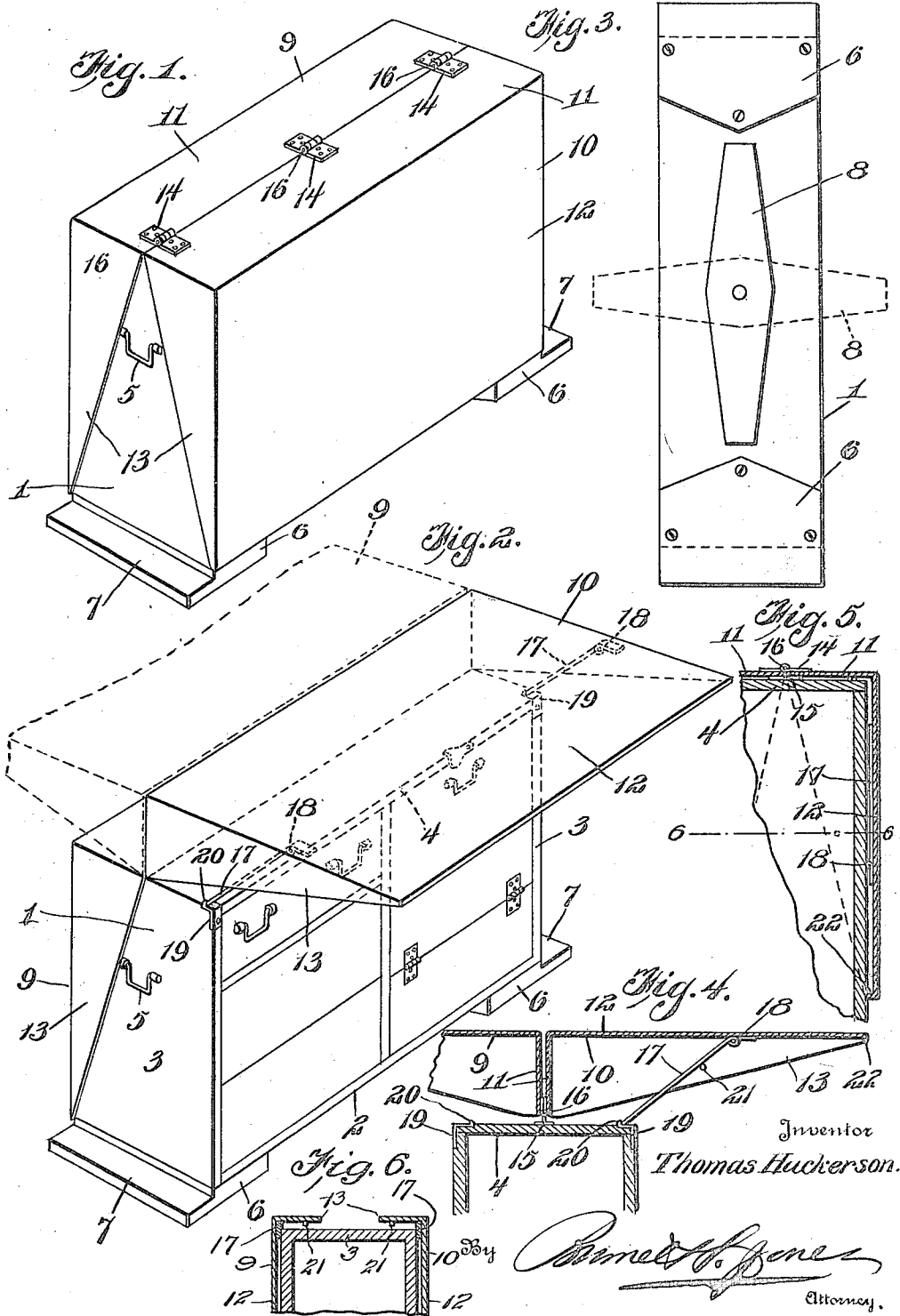


T. HACKERSON.
 AUTO KITCHENETTE.
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Inventor
 Thomas Hackerson.

Carroll D. Jones
 Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS HACKERSON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

AUTO-KITCHENETTE.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS HACKERSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Auto-Kitchenettes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

10 This invention relates to a kitchenette or commissary device designed particularly for the use of automobilists and others, for convenience in carrying food stuffs and other articles, and also adapted to be set up for
15 use as a table, whereby an article of general utility to campers, picnickers, outing parties and tourists is afforded.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a device of the character
20 described comprising a cabinet of suitable construction to contain food stuffs, a cooking outfit, kitchen and table utensils, and such other articles as the user desires to carry, which cabinet is provided with a table
25 top of novel construction and comprising leaf sections which are adapted when not in use to be folded to partly inclose the cabinet body, thereby providing a compact device for storage or shipment and one in which the
30 sections of the table top will normally inclose, strengthen and protect the cabinet itself.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel mode of mounting the table
35 leaves and supporting the same in horizontal position for use, the supporting means being foldable between the table top sections and cabinet when said top sections are folded down, and serving to automatically move to
40 engaging position when the table top sections are elevated for use.

A still further object of the invention is to provide table top sections which may be
45 light in weight and yet will be strong, durable and rigid in construction so that a strong and durable article may be made without making the device as a whole unduly heavy.

The invention consists of the features of
50 construction, combination and arrangement of parts, hereinafter fully described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device
55 in closed condition and as adapted to be ap-

plied to the running board, fender or trunk rack of an automobile.

Fig. 2 is a view of the device as set up for use as a table.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the device
60 showing in full and dotted lines the foot brace disposed in folded and unfolded positions.

Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse section through a portion of the cabinet and the
65 table top sections, showing said sections supported in position for use.

Fig. 5 is a vertical section through a portion of the cabinet and table top sections,
70 showing said sections in folded position.

Fig. 6 is a detail section on line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

Referring to the drawing, 1 designates an auto kitchenette or commissary cabinet, comprising a box or casing preferably of ob-
75 long rectangular form and made of metal, wood or of a composite construction. This cabinet is provided with suitable compartments, drawers and doors, forming inclosures to hold the goods of various kinds to
80 be carried and for normally concealing and protecting the same. As the interior construction of the cabinet constitutes no part of the present invention, no description thereof is given, except as may hereinafter
85 be found necessary in describing the novel features of construction to which the invention relates.

As shown the cabinet includes in its construction a bottom wall 2, end walls 3 and
90 a top wall 4, and the end walls 3 are provided with handles 5 for lifting the cabinet and transporting the same from place to place. The cabinet normally rests at its base upon
95 foot blocks or plates 6, secured to the bottom wall 2 adjacent to the end walls 3, and having portions 7 projecting beyond said end walls for engagement with suitable fastening
100 devices whereby the cabinet may be secured to the running board, fender or trunk rack of an automobile. The foot plates 6 also
105 serve as supports when the device is removed from the automobile and is set up for use upon the ground. In order to prevent the cabinet from tilting over when removed
110 from the automobile and used as a table, a pivot brace 8 is employed and disposed upon the underside of the bottom wall 2, said brace being centrally pivoted so as to normally lie longitudinally in the space between the foot

plates 6 and adapted to be turned to a position at right angles to the cabinet, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3, to project beyond the sides of the cabinet and thus make extended side supports to prevent the cabinet from overturning under the weight of articles thereon.

A table top is provided comprising leaves 9 and 10, which are of counterpart construction, each leaf comprising a top section or wall 11, a body section or wall 12, and end sections or walls 13. The top sections or walls 11 of the two leaves are adapted to conjointly cover the top wall 4 of the cabinet when the leaves 9 and 10 are in folded position, as shown in Fig. 1, in which position of the leaves the body portions 12 thereof are adapted to diverge upon opposite sides of the cabinet and to cover and protect the same. The end walls 13 project over upon the end walls 3 of the cabinet covering and protecting the same to a large extent from injury. The end pieces or walls 13 of the leaves are preferably of triangular form, their adjacent edges being arranged to diverge in a downward direction when disposed in folded position, so as to cover the corners of the cabinet while leaving the handles 5 exposed so that they may be easily reached and manipulated.

The top walls or sections 11 of the leaves are provided with hinge members or plates 14, the knuckles of which are adapted for coöperation with the knuckles upon hinge brackets 15 fixed to the top wall 4 of the cabinet, said plates and knuckles being suitably connected, as by pintles 16, whereby the leaves are hinged to each other and also to the top of the cabinet, thereby adapting them to fold downwardly over the top, sides and ends of the cabinet, as described, and also to be elevated to the horizontal position shown in Fig. 2, in which the body walls 12 are disposed in the same horizontal plane, thereby adapting the leaves to serve as a table top of maximum area.

For supporting each leaf in an elevated position a pair of brace rods 17 is provided, the said rods being hinged or pivoted at one end, as at 18, to the underside of the wall 12 at a point between the longitudinal edges thereof, and the opposite end of the rods being free for coöperation with keepers 19 upon the cabinet body for holding the leaf sections in an elevated position. The keepers 19 are disposed at the top corners of the cabinet and each comprises a wear plate of L-form, each wear plate having a vertical arm fitted and secured within a recess in the vertical edge of the end wall 3 and a horizontal arm fitted in a recess in the top wall 4, providing a surface over which the free end of the coöperating brace rods 17 may slide in the opening and closing movements of the leaf. The horizontal arm of

each wear or keeper plate is provided with a stop bead or shoulder 20 to hold the brace rod from sliding inwardly beyond a predetermined position, in which position the brace rods hold the table leaves in alignment and with their top walls 12 disposed in the same horizontal plane. The brace rods 17 extend at a downward and inward angle of inclination when in supporting position and are limited in downward movement beyond such position by stop pins 21 upon the end walls 13, the rods being sustained and held between the shoulders 20 and the pins 21 and thereby firmly holding the elevated leaves in a horizontal position.

In releasing and folding each leaf, the leaf is slightly elevated or tilted upwardly beyond a horizontal position sufficiently to release the free ends of the brace rods 17 from the stops 20, after which the rods 17 are lifted by the hand to clear the stops 20 and the leaves are dropped, the rods sliding in this action over the surface of the keeper or wear plates and swinging to a vertical position parallel with the walls 12 of the leaves 9 and 10, as clearly shown in Fig. 5. In this position the rods lie in spaces between the walls 12 and adjacent sides or walls of the cabinet, the outer or free edges of the leaves 9 and 10 being preferably provided with flanges 22 to abut against the sides of the cabinet and hold the leaves slightly in spaced relation thereto. In elevating and locking the leaves in elevated position, the free outer longitudinal edges of the leaves are grasped and manipulated to swing the leaves upwardly to a horizontal position, and in this action the rods 17 automatically tilt from the position shown in Fig. 5 to the position shown in Fig. 4, and their free ends ride over the keeper or wear plates 19 and into engagement with the shoulders 20, making the locking action entirely automatic in the movement of the leaf sections to table top forming position. The rods 20 lie in close proximity to the walls 13 on which the stops 21 are mounted, and, when in supporting position, extend slightly beyond the line of the outer surfaces of the walls 3. The walls 13 are spaced sufficiently from the walls 3, when the leaves are folded, to provide intervening spaces into which the stops 21 project, thus adapting said stops to be moved into and out of engagement with the rods when the leaves are swung upwardly and downwardly.

It will be observed that the described angular form of the table top sections or leaves gives more strength and rigidity, and accordingly these leaves may be made of comparatively thin sheet metal so as to be light in weight while at the same time exceedingly strong, rigid and durable. It will also be seen that when the leaves are closed or swung downwardly, they will inclose and

cover and reinforce the cabinet body to a great extent, making the cabinet as a whole compact, strong and rigid for transportation, and as the leaves snugly inclose the body rattling will be prevented and a dust and waterproof cover will be afforded.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim:

1. A device of the character described comprising a cabinet, leaves mounted to swing upwardly to a horizontal position and downwardly to vertical position on opposite sides of the cabinet, said leaves having walls to project over the top of the cabinet, said walls being hinged to each other and to the cabinet top, and means for supporting the leaves in an elevated position.

2. A device of the character described comprising an oblong rectangular cabinet, a pair of leaves, each comprising a top section, a body section and end sections, said top sections being hinged to each other and

to the top of the cabinet, keeper members upon the cabinet, and pivoted braces carried by the leaves to fold therewith and adapted for automatic movement by gravity to engage said keepers.

3. A device of the character described comprising a cabinet, including top and end walls, leaves on opposite sides of said cabinet and having top walls pivoted together and to the top wall of the cabinet and adapted to cover the same when in folded positions, end walls for said leaves partially covering the end walls of the cabinet when said leaves are folded, and means for supporting said leaves in adjusted positions.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS HACKERSON.

Witnesses:

GUSTAVE NELSON,
JAMES A. DONNELLY.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."