Aug. 23, 1966 L. A. HARVEY 3,268,282

PORTABLE IMITATION FIREPLACE AND STORAGE ARTICLE

Filed May 4, 1965

FIG. 1

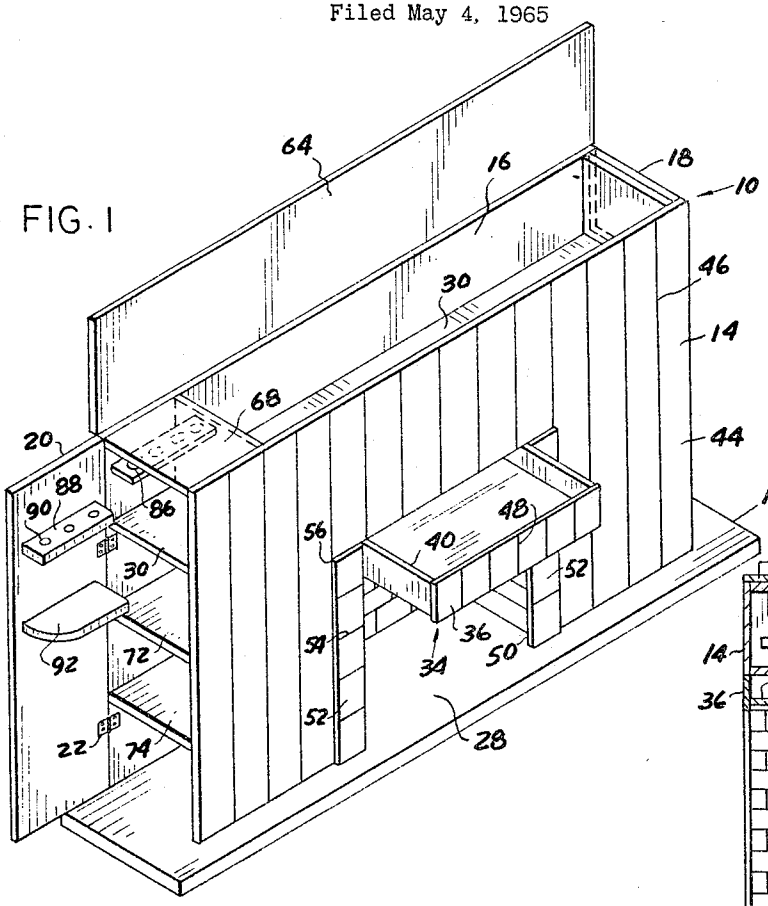


FIG. 3

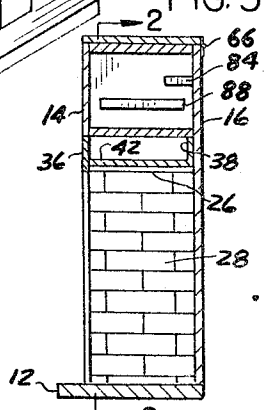
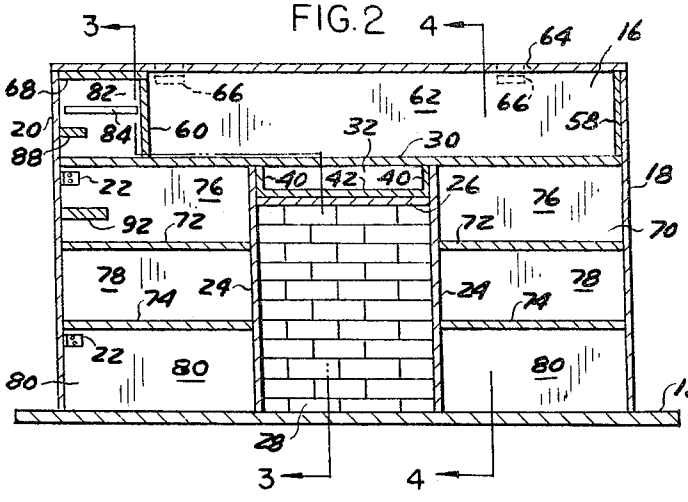


FIG. 2



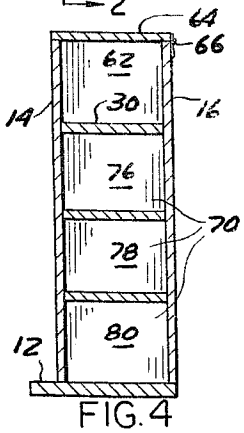


FIG. 4

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PORTABLE IMITATION FIREPLACE AND STORAGE ARTICLE

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This invention relates to furniture and, in particular, to article storage structures.

Hitherto, persons living in small houses and apartments have frequently been hampered by a lack of adequate storage space for clothing, bed-clothing, beverages and the like. This is particularly true where the living room has been equipped with a davenport which can be opened out to form a bed, where it has been necessary to store the bedclothing in a closet or other room at a considerable distance from the davenport. Most small apartments also lack fireplaces, and a fireplace is often deemed an ornamental addition to the room, even if it is incapable of being used for the combustion of actual fuel. The present invention eliminates these disadvantages by providing a portable imitation fireplace which serves as an article of furniture, which can be installed in any room, and which not only simulates a fireplace but also provides storage compartments.

Accordingly, one object of this invention is to provide a portable imitation fireplace and storage article containing compartments for receiving any articles requiring storage, such as personal clothing, bedclothes, and table linen and table ware.

Another object is to provide a portable imitation fireplace and storage article of the foregoing character wherein the structure containing the fireplace opening has end compartments with shelves therein reached by hinged doors and suitable for the storage of china, glassware and beverages in instantly accessible locations which are, however, normally concealed from sight by the end doors.

Another object is to provide a portable imitation fireplace and storage article as set forth in the object immediately preceding, wherein one of the end compartments is equipped with a so-called cellarette for the storage and serving of beverages in a convenient and instantly accessible manner.

Another object is to provide a portable imitation fireplace and storage article of the foregoing character wherein a sliding drawer is mounted at the top of the fireplace opening for receiving small articles adapted for horizontal storage.

Another object is to provide a portable imitation fireplace and storage article of the foregoing character wherein there is provided a horizontally-elongated compartment above the fireplace opening and reached by a hinged mantel, this elongated compartment being suitable for the storage of bedclothes and the like.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent during the course of the following description of the accompanying drawing, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a front perspective view, looking downward from above, of a portable imitation fireplace and storage structure, according to one form of the invention, with all of the various compartments except the right end compartment in their open positions;

FIGURE 2 is a longitudinal section through the portable imitation fireplace and storage structure of FIGURE 1 with the front wall, in effect, removed, but with all of the compartments in their closed positions, taken along the line 2—2 in FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 3 is a cross-section through the upper portion of the left end compartment and fireplace opening, taken along the broken line 3—3 in FIGURE 2; and

FIGURE 4 is a cross-section through the right end compartment, taken along the line 4—4 in FIGURE 3.

Referring to the drawing in detail, FIGURE 1 shows a portable imitation fireplace and storage article, generally designated **10**, according to one form of the invention as mounted on a rectangular base **12** and having spaced parallel front and rear outer walls **14** and **16** secured to and rising from the base **12**, which is preferably in the form of a board or plank. Extending between the outer front and rear walls **14** and **16** are vertically-elongated opposite right and left-hand end doors **18** and **20** respectively hinged as at **22** to the rear wall **16**, so as to swing rearwardly into open positions or forwardly into closed positions.

Also extending between the front and rear walls **14** and **16** in spaced parallel relationship to one another and to the end doors **18** and **20** are vertical inner side walls **24** (FIGURE 2) which with a lower inner horizontal wall **26** extending between them near their upper ends define an imitation fireplace compartment **28** extending rearwardly to the rear wall **16**. Extending entirely across the interior of the structure **10** between the front and rear walls **14** and **16** and the end doors **18** and **20** is an upper inner horizontal wall **30** disposed immediately above the upper ends of the vertical walls **24**.

The upper and lower inner horizontal walls **30** and **26**, the inner vertical walls **24** and the central portion of the rear wall **16** define a box-shaped drawer compartment **32** in which is slidably mounted a drawer **34** having front and rear walls **36** and **38**, opposite side walls **40** and a bottom wall **42** (FIGURES 2 and 3). The outer front wall **14** for ornamental purposes may consist of actual or simulated parallel vertical planks **44** separated from one another by actual or simulated vertical edges **46**. Similarly, for ornamental purposes, the front wall **36** of the drawer **34** is provided with ornamental vertical dividing lines **48** simulating the vertical adjoining edges of tiles. In order to complete this ornamental effect, the rectangular front opening **50** of the fireplace compartment **28** may be provided with laterally-spaced vertical panels **52** subdivided by horizontal lines **54** to simulate tiles and, when the drawer **34** is in its closed position, forming with the drawer front **36** a simulated tile border **56** around the opening **50** of the fireplace compartment **28**.

Rising form the horizontal wall **30** are right and left-hand vertical inner upper partition walls **58** and **60** respectively, the wall **58** being immediately adjacent the right end door **18** and the wall **60** spaced inwardly away from the left end door **20** (FIGURE 2). The elongated upper horizontal compartment **62** thus formed by the walls **14**, **16**, **30**, **58** and **60** is closed at its upper end by a top wall or mantel **64** hinged as at **66** to the rear wall **16**. The top of the left-hand vertical compartment formed between the left end door **20** and the upper and lower inner walls **60** and **24** is closed by a horizontal partition wall **68**.

The right and left lower end compartments **70** and **72** closed by the right and left end doors **18** and **20** respectively are subdivided by horizontal upper and lower shelves **72** and **74** into subcompartments **76**, **78** and **80** with the upper end of the compartment **70** closed by the upper inner horizontal wall **30**. The left-hand end portion of the upper inner horizontal wall **30** forms with the adjacent portions of the walls **14**, **16** and **60** an upper end compartment **82**.

The upper end compartment **82** is optionally equipped with a tumbler shelf **84** which is provided with holes **86** (FIGURE 1) for the reception and storage of beverage glasses and a similar tumbler shelf **88** with similar holes **90** is bolted or otherwise secured to the left end door **20**. Also optionally secured to the left end door **20** below

the tumbler shelf **88** is a quadrant shelf **92** which swings into the left end subcompartment **76**.

In use, the portable imitation fireplace and storage article **10** is transported in the same manner as a buffet, chiffonier, chest of drawers or other such article of furniture. It is set up in any desired location and in any room, preferably with the rear wall **16** backed up against the wall of the room so as to most nearly simulate an actual fuel-burning fireplace. The articles to be stored are placed in the various compartments **62, 76, 78, 80** and **82** or in the compartment **32** occupied by the sliding drawer **34**. To make the resemblance to a real fireplace more vivid, an imitation fire device, with or without andirons, can be placed in the imitation fireplace compartment **28**. Such imitation fire devices are known to the furniture and building structure art and are available on the market. One such imitation fire device is shown, for example, in the Berry Patent 1,336,500 of April 13, 1920 for Imitation Fire, and such devices are beyond the scope of the present invention.

What I claim is:

1. A portable imitation fireplace and storage article, comprising

a hollow upright walled structure having spaced front and rear outer walls and opposite end openings and a top opening;

and end and top closure members movably secured to one of said outer walls and movable relatively thereto between open and closed positions relatively to their respective end and top openings,

said front wall having an imitation fireplace opening in the lower portion thereof and inner vertical side and rear walls and an inner upper horizontal wall defining with said opening an imitation fireplace compartment,

said inner side walls defining with said end closure members two laterally-spaced end compartments and said upper horizontal wall defining with said top closure member a top storage compartment adjacent to but separated from said fireplace compartment.

2. A portable imitation fireplace and storage article, according to claim **1**, wherein an inner lower horizontal wall is connected between said inner side walls in vertically-spaced parallel relationship to said inner upper horizontal wall and wherein a drawer is slidably mounted in the space therebetween.

3. A portable imitation fireplace and storage article, according to claim **1**, wherein said closure members are hingedly secured to said rear wall, said top closure member being swingable upward from said rear wall and said end closure members being swingable outward from said rear wall.

4. A portable imitation fireplace and storage article, according to claim **1**, wherein said inner rear wall of said fireplace compartment is integral with the lower central portion of said outer rear wall.

5. A portable imitation fireplace and storage article, according to claim **1**, wherein a horizontal shelf extends between said front and rear outer walls and is secured thereto in at least one of said end compartments.

6. A portable imitation fireplace and storage article, according to claim **1**, wherein a horizontal shelf is also secured to one of said end closure members and moves therewith into and out of its respective end compartment.

7. A portable imitation fireplace and storage article, according to claim **1**, wherein a partition is mounted transversely across said top compartment in spaced relationship to one of said end closure members while in its closed position.

8. A portable imitation fireplace and storage article, according to claim **1**, wherein a horizontal base member is secured to and beneath said front and rear walls in supporting relationship thereto.

9. A portable imitation fireplace and storage article, according to claim **1**, wherein a beverage glass shelf with means therein for supporting beverage glasses is secured to one of said outer walls within one of said end compartments.

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