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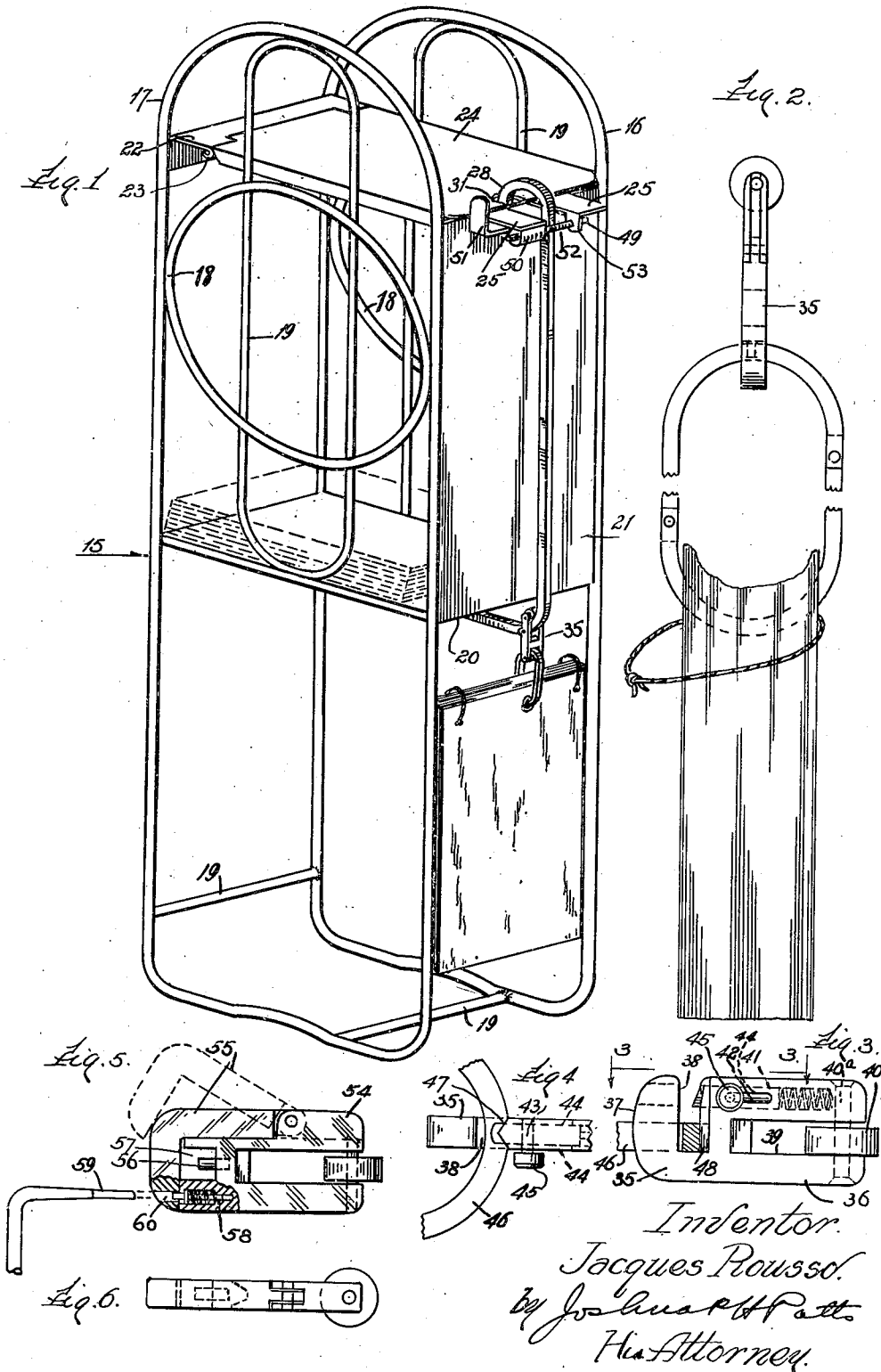
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2,483,153

TOWEL-HOLDING AND STORING MEANS

Filed Jan. 19, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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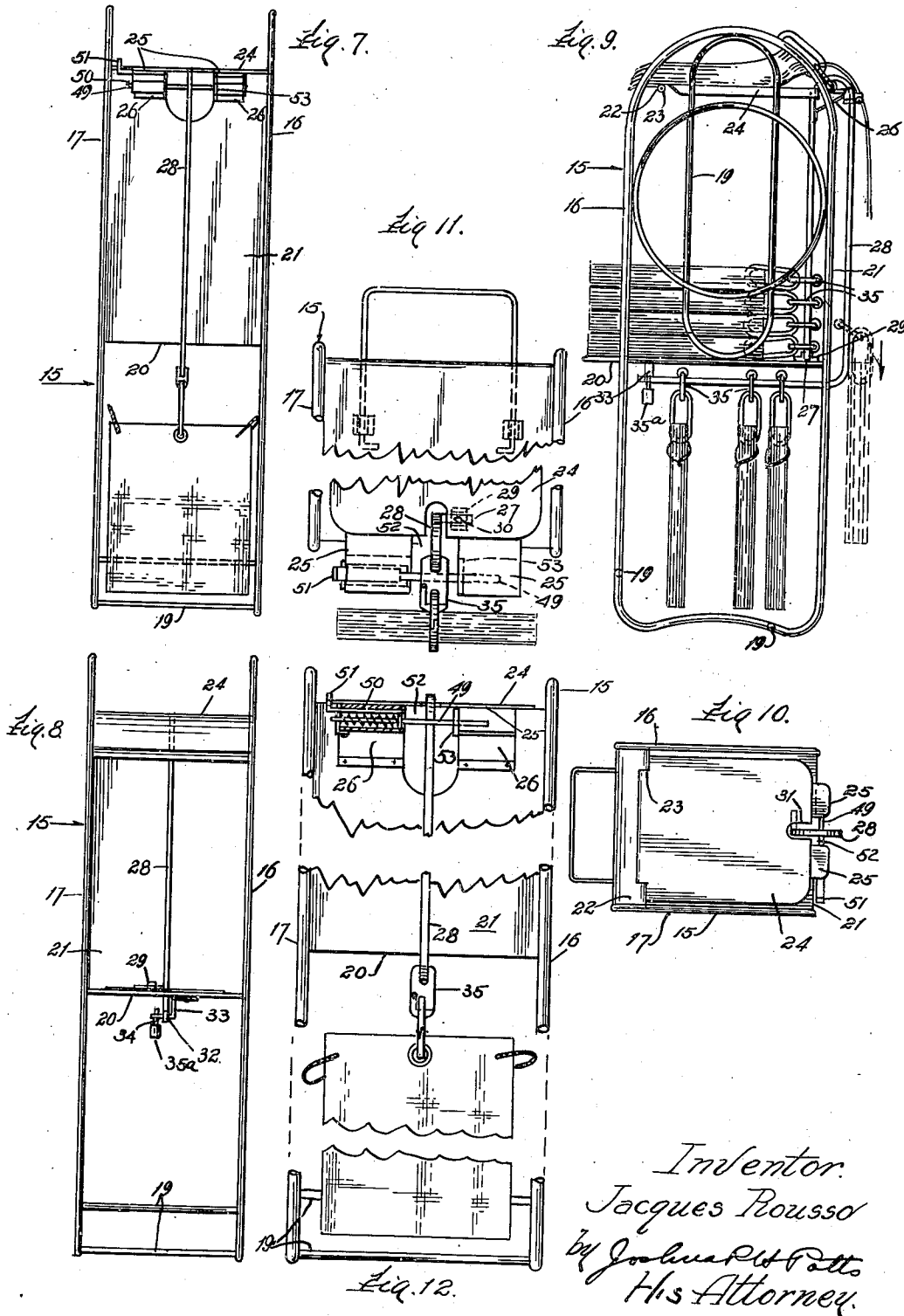
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TOWEL-HOLDING AND STORING MEANS

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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TOWEL-HOLDING AND STORING MEANS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 312—37)

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This invention relates to improvements in towel cabinets or towel dispensing means.

According to the principle of my invention, I have provided a towel cabinet having a trackway adapted to receive coupling locks or ring holders for one or more rings, each having a bundle of towels.

I have provided for the storage of unclean towels, in one portion of the cabinet and storage of clean towels in another portion of the cabinet.

I have provided a means for withdrawing a bundle of clean towels from the clean-towel storage compartment and placing it, for example, on a platform, or shelf, where the towels may be used singly.

After all the towels in the bundle have been used, the whole bundle may be dropped on the trackway, to pass to the soiled-towel compartment.

I have also provided means for holding the clean-towel bundle at a point where the towels may be used until it is desired to pass them to the soiled-towel compartment.

In addition, I have provided an efficient means for locking the ring holders.

I have provided such in the form of key-operated means, and, also in the form of keyless operated means.

Also, I have provided a very simple cabinet, which is both sanitary in appearance and use, and which is easy to clean and in which practically all parts are visible to the user.

The cabinet is simple in respect of providing for easy and efficient removal of soiled towels and insertion of clean towels.

Another advantage of my invention is the provision of a cabinet which has a practical minimum of parts and is relatively simple and inexpensive to make.

Other objects and advantages will appear and be brought out more fully in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device.

Fig. 2 is a view of a bundle of towels, and the ring and coupling locking means therefore.

Fig. 3 is a face view of one form of the coupling locking means.

Fig. 4 is a detailed fragmental view of the device shown in Fig. 3, on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a face view of a key form of coupling locking means.

Fig. 6 is an end view of the same.

Fig. 7 is an elevational view of the front of the device from the standpoint of the user.

Fig. 8 is an elevational view of the rear of the device, from the same standpoint.

Fig. 9 is a side elevation, showing bundles of towels in various positions.

Fig. 10 is a top view of the cabinet.

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Fig. 11 is a fragmentary top view, also showing the coupling locking means.

Fig. 12 is a vertical fragmentary view.

Referring to the drawings, in which I have selected the preferred form for the purpose of illustrating the principle of my invention, I have shown a cabinet 15, having a right frame 16 and a left frame 17.

I have also provided ornamental tie-pieces 18, and cross pieces 19, as will be readily understood by those skilled in the art.

There has also been provided a lower shelf 20, which may be formed in one piece with, or welded to, a front wall 21, which may also be joined to the frames 16 and 17.

Also provided is another piece 22 which serves as a tie-piece and shelf support to which is hinged, as at 23, a shelf 24.

The shelf is adapted to rest on a pair of flat pieces 25, which may be welded to the front piece 21, which pieces are adapted to be supported by braces 26.

Joined at a right angle, is a foot-piece 27 of a towel track 28.

The foot-piece may be removably anchored by a channel member 29, by means of screws and flanges 30, of said channel member 29.

The trackway is arranged to extend upwardly through a slot 31 in the top shelf 24.

The track extends upwardly through a slot 31 in top shelf 24, and curves forwardly and downwardly below the lower shelf in the form shown. The track has a cross slot 32.

A bracket 33, welded at one end to the lower shelf, extends through the slot in the track, and this end of the bracket 33 has a hole 34, for a lock 35a, as shown in Fig. 8.

The track is adapted to receive a plurality of roller coupling locks 35.

These locks may be in rectangular form 36, may have rounded edges 37 and may have a short horizontal cut-out 38 and a relatively long vertical cut-out 39.

A roller is provided upon a fixed pin 40, for riding on the rail, which may be somewhat square in form.

In the roller coupling lock 35, I have provided a bore 41, for a spring-pressed plunger 42, having a stop-pin 43, extending through slots 44, on opposite sides of the roller coupling lock 35, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

A thumb-piece 45 may be located on one end of each of the stop-pins 43.

It is understood that there will be a locking member for each ring.

The plunger 42 is adapted to be pulled down to let the ring 46 pass beyond the plunger into the locking member.

The rings may have a V-shaped groove 47, and the surface 48 of the locking members may be

bevelled to correspond to the V-shaped groove in the ring 46, to hold the ring in substantially one positive position, extending preferably in the plane with the link of the ring.

The plunger may be released to lock the ring 5 in the locking member.

Mounted on the under surface of the flat pieces 25, may be a spring-operated rod 49, as shown in Fig. 12.

The rod may be mounted in a housing 50, and 10 a handle 51 may be secured to the rod.

The rod 49 is arranged to extend across a gap 52, into an apertured lug 53, to bar the passage of a locking member and its associated ring and bundle of towels, unless such passage is desired. 15

When such is the case, the handle may be pulled, and the locking member may slide down the trackway with its ring and bundle of soiled towels.

The foregoing locking member has been shown 20 as a keyless type; however, I have also shown a key-type locking member in Figs. 5 and 6.

In these figures, the lock 54 is similar to the lock 35, except that I have arranged a pivoted arm 55 and a stop-pin 56, forming a space 57 in 25 closed position.

When it is desired to lock a ring, the pivoted arm 55 may be pulled out and the ring placed in the space 57, formed between the stop-pin 56 and the pivoted arm 55.

Thereafter, the pivoted arm 55 may be closed, and snapped locked by a spring-pressed plunger 58.

In order to open the lock, there may be used a pointed wrench 59, which may be inserted into the opening 60, to depress the plunger 23.

Referring again to the front wall 21, this wall acts as a separator between the clean towels and the soiled towels, to insure that no soiled towel shall contact any clean towel, and insuring 40 against any spillage of any kind onto the clean towels, from a user.

In operation, the clean towels may be placed in bundles upon the lower shelf.

When it is desired to use the machine, the top shelf will be lifted to a vertical position, one of the bundles will be lifted up with its ring and coupling lock, to clear the top shelf, and then the top shelf may be moved downwardly to a horizontal position, and the top bundle may be 50 dropped down upon the top shelf, as clearly shown in Fig. 9.

In this position, the towels may be used singly, and then when soiled, may be dropped downwardly upon the particular ring of the particular bundle. 55

When all the towels have been used in a particular bundle, then the spring-pressed rod 49 may be pulled, to allow the coupling lock to move downwardly upon the trackway, through the horizontal leg of the trackway beneath the bottom shelf, to hang there, as clearly shown also in Fig. 9.

Then the following bundles may be brought up to the top successively, as in the manner used to bring the top bundle upon the top shelf.

Eventually, all the soiled towels will travel down to the bottom of the cabinet and will hang, upon their rings, upon the coupling locks supported on the horizontal leg of the trackway.

In this condition, the soiled towels may be removed by an operator with a key wrench or equivalent means, as described.

In a similar way, he will secure the coupling

locks from which the rings have been removed, and insert new rings with new bundles of towels, and deposit them upon the lower shelf, with the coupling members upon the trackway, behind the front of the cabinet.

In this manner, I have provided a cabinet whereby a towel service man may provide a large supply of towels, which may be handled with the utmost convenience for removal and insertion, and for laundry.

In the operation just described, the laundryman may use the form of coupling locks shown in Fig. 3, for a form of locking means, or there may be used the key-locked coupling lock of Fig. 5.

In practice, it will be found that the key lock will give the greater security.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail myself of such variation and modifications as come within the scope 25 of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. Apparatus of the character described, comprising: means for storing a plurality of bundles of towels; independent means for supporting said bundles, one at a time, for use, said independent means being shiftable to permit transfer of a bundle from said plurality of bundles to placement upon said independent means; means for securing individual towels of each bundle for use 30 individually; an elongated trackway; and flexible link means interposed between each of the securing means of each of said bundles, and the said trackway. 40

2. Apparatus of the character described, comprising: means for storing a plurality of bundles of towels; independent means for supporting said bundles, one at a time, for use, said independent means being shiftable to permit transfer of a bundle from said plurality of bundles to placement upon said independent means; means for securing individual towels of each bundle for use 45 individually; an elongated trackway; means movably connecting the securing means of each bundle with said trackway; and detachable means for arresting one of said bundles at a predetermined point with reference to said trackway and adjacent to said independent supporting means 50 when the towels of a bundle are being individually used. 55

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