Nov. 17, 1953 P. RECORDS 2,659,642

TABLE

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Fig. 1.

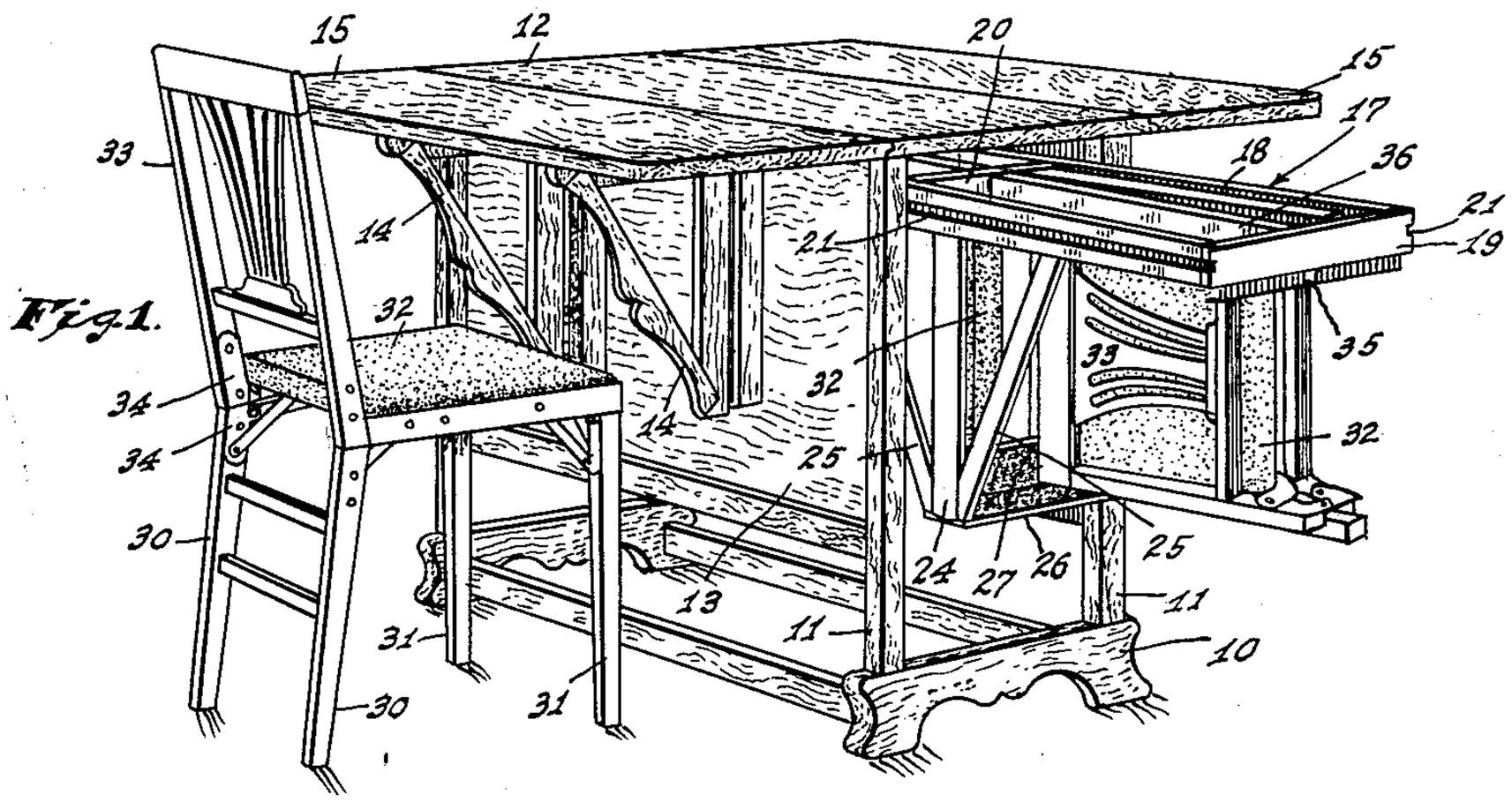

Fig. 2.

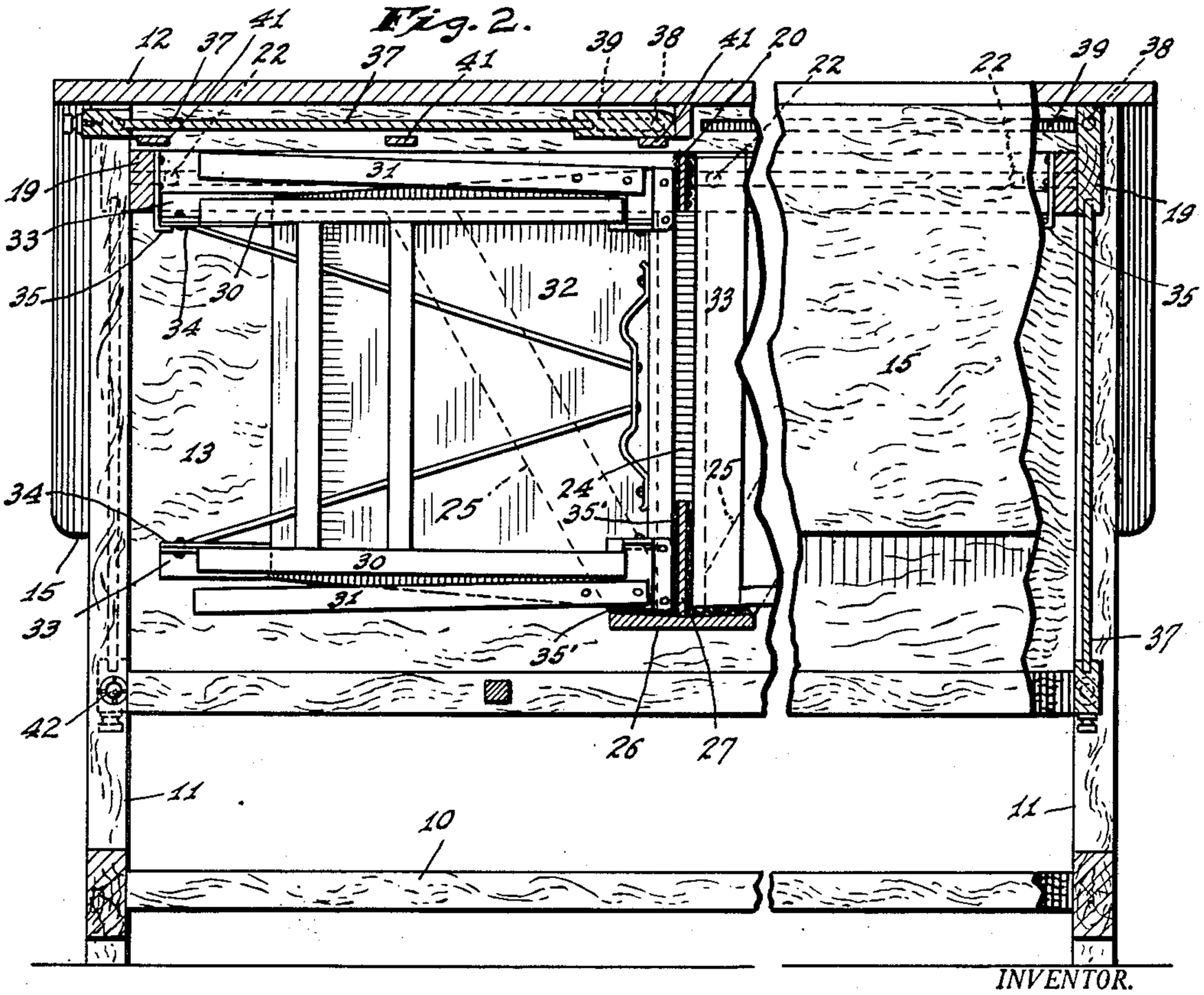

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TABLE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 311—103)

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This invention relates to a table adapted to provide for the storage and concealment of chairs suitable for use at the table. Such a table is of value in small apartments, in trailers, or in other situations where floor space is restricted.

It is an object of the invention to provide a table which, while still capable of performing all common functions of a table, will in addition provide a space within which chairs may be stored and concealed. A further object of the invention is to provide for a table a chair-supporting means which will facilitate insertion of the chairs into the storage space and their withdrawal therefrom. Still another object of the invention is to produce a chair-storing table which can be simply and economically manufactured, which will be of attractive appearance, and which will prove sturdy and durable in use.

In carrying out the invention, I form the table preferably as a drop-leaf table having a leg-supported center section and drop leaves hinged thereto. Within the center section of the table there is slidably mounted a chair-support adapted to be partially withdrawn through either end of the center section. The chairs, which desirably are of the foldable type in which the back and legs fold against opposite sides of the seat, are supported in the slidable support, which is desirably formed to receive two chairs at each end. The sides of the center table-section are closed by suitable panels, while the ends of the sections are provided with doors which can be opened to permit withdrawal of the slidable chair support or closed to conceal the slidable support and any chairs therein and also to prevent accidental withdrawal of the sliding chair support.

The accompanying drawing illustrates the invention: Fig. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the table extended and showing the chair-supporting slide partially withdrawn; and Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the table with portions thereof broken away to illustrate the interior construction.

The table shown in the drawing has an open, generally rectangular base frame 10 from the corners of which legs 11 extend upwardly to support the center section 12 of the table-top. Extending between the legs 11 at each side of the center section is a panel or wall 13 providing a mounting for pivoted brackets 14 which may be swung outwardly about a vertical axis to support a drop leaf 15 hinged adjacent a side edge of the center section 12 of the top.

Supported for sliding movement between the two walls 13 on opposite sides of the center section is a slide designated generally by the reference numeral 17 and comprising parallel side rails 18, end cross members 19, and a center cross member 20. To provide for the sliding support of the slide 17, the outer faces of the rails 18 may be grooved, as indicated at 21, to receive rollers 22 or other suitable slide-supporting elements mounted on the inner faces of the side walls of the center section.

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Posts 24 braced by obliquely extending braces 25 extend downwardly from the midpoints of the side rails 18 and have their lower ends interconnected by a cross member 26 disposed in a horizontal plane. If desired, a second cross member 27, disposed in a vertical plane, may also extend between the posts 24 intermediate the width of the horizontal cross member 26. The slide 17 is adapted for the support of folding chairs, two of which may be received in each end of the slide. The chairs themselves form no part of my invention. The chairs shown in the drawing are of a common type in which rear legs 30 and front legs 31 fold against the bottom of a seat 32, while the chair-back 33 folds forwardly over the top of the seat. In the chair shown, the rear legs and back are connected with the seat through metal hinge plates 34, and the rear legs 30 and back 33 project beyond the rear edge of the seat 32 when the chair is collapsed, as will be clear from Fig. 2. To adapt the slide 17 for support of such chairs, there may be secured to the inner face of each end cross member 19 a metal plate having an inwardly extending flange 35. When supported on a slide 17 of the construction described, each chair is received at one front corner of the seat on the cross member 26 of the slide, while the hinge plates 34 at the opposite corner of the seat rest on the flange 35. To prevent injury to the chairs, the cross members 20, 26, and 27 may be faced with cloth or other cushioning material 35'. If desired, a divider 36 may be arranged in the slide to extend between each end member 19 and the center cross-member 20 and keep the two chairs at each end of the slide from engaging each other.

In order to conceal the slide 17 and chairs supported thereby, each end of the center section may be provided with a door 37. Conveniently, such a door is supported through trunnions 38, which extend outwardly from the door for reception in horizontal grooves 39 provided on the inner face of the side walls of the center section. With the trunnions 38 in the outer ends of the grooves 39, the door 37 may occupy the vertical position shown at the right in Fig. 2, in which

position it closes the end of the space between the side walls 13 of the center section. When it is desired to withdraw the slide 17, the lower end of the door is swung outwardly to bring the door into a horizontal position, and the door is then pushed inwardly of the table until it lies wholly below the center section 12 of the table-top, as illustrated at the left in Fig. 2. In this position, the door may rest on transverse slats 41 which extend between the side walls of the center section below the grooves 39. Spring detents 42 mounted on the inner faces of the legs 11 may be employed to hold each door 37 releasably in closed position.

The chairs, when stored, are in collapsed condition and occupy the positions illustrated at the left in Fig. 2 and at the right in Fig. 1, each chair being supported at its upper outer corner on a flange 35 and at its lower inner corner on the cross member 26. The slide 17 lies between the walls 13 which, in co-operation with the closed doors 37, conceal the slide and chairs. When it is desired to use the chairs, the door 37 at one end of the center section is swung upwardly and slid inwardly into the position illustrated at the left in Fig. 2, and the slide 17 is withdrawn, as shown in Fig. 1, until the inner end of the chair clears the end of the center section of the table-top, whereupon one or both chairs in that end of the slide may be removed. If a chair or chairs from the opposite end of the slide are desired, the opposite door 37 is raised and the slide reversed to extend through the opening thus created. When the desired number of chairs have been removed, the slide is restored to its center position illustrated in Fig. 2, and the doors 37 may then be closed.

It will be noted that when the doors 37 are in their vertical or closed positions they not only conceal the slide 17 and any chairs carried thereby but also serve to maintain the slide in its center position. This feature is of importance when the table is used in a trailer, for it prevents road shocks from causing the slide to work out from beneath the center position 12 of the top. Also of importance when the table is used as in a trailer is the fact that each chair when in place is supported at diagonally opposite corners. With the chair so supported, the line joining the two points of the support passes close to the center of gravity of the chair, and road shocks have little tendency to cause undesirable swinging of the suspended chair.

I claim as my invention:

In a table, a floor-supported center section having a top, parallel walls extending downwardly from said top, a slide supported for sliding movement beneath said top and between and parallel to said walls, means on said slide for supporting a folded chair, and a drop leaf pivotally mounted on said center section adjacent to the top thereof for swinging movement between horizontal and vertical positions about a horizontal axis parallel to the direction of slide movement.

PAUL RECORDS.

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