

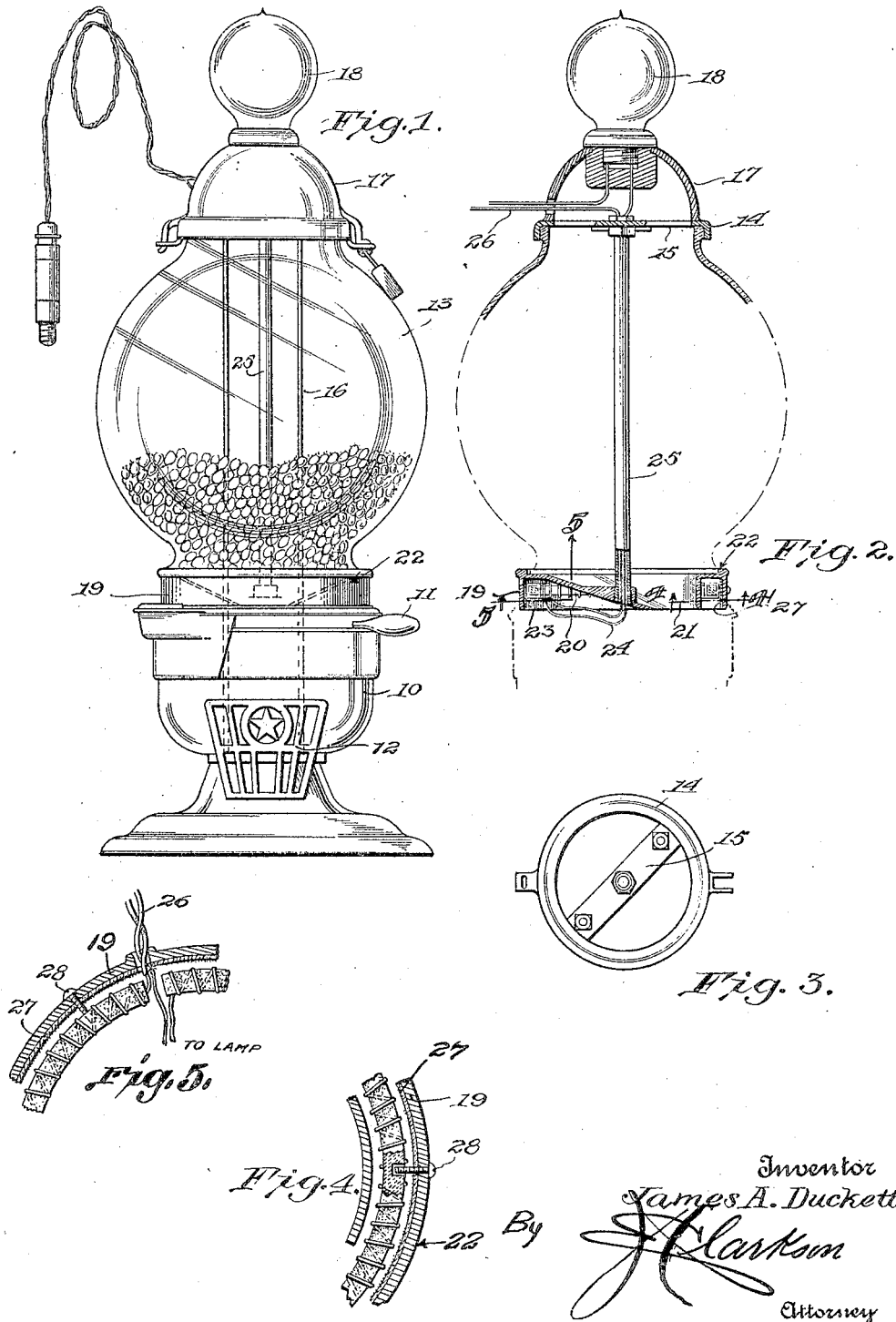
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J. A. DUCKETT

VENDING MACHINE

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES A. DUCKETT, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

## VENDING MACHINE.

Application filed February 1, 1922. Serial No. 538,258.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that JAMES A. DUCKETT, citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, has invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vending Machines, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to vending machines and has special reference to a vending machine for dispensing hot edibles such as peanuts, popcorn and the like.

More particularly the invention relates to an improvement on the peanut vending machine for which application for Letters Patent of the United States was made on August 29, 1921, the application bearing the Serial Number 496,198 and being made by James A. Duckett and Joe H. Leslie.

In the apparatus forming the subject matter of the aforesaid prior application the contents of the peanut holder were arranged to be heated by an ordinary incandescent lamp suspended centrally of the mass of peanuts. It has been found by experience that, under these conditions of heating, the peanuts adjacent the delivery opening or gate were ineffectually heated and whenever the machine stood for some time without being used the first peanuts delivered were practically cold.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide an improvement of the device of the aforesaid application wherein the peanuts are heated in such manner that they are always hot when delivered.

A second important object of the present invention is to provide an improved attachment for peanut vending machines which is arranged to heat the peanuts immediately adjacent the delivery opening or gate of the machine.

A third important object of this invention is to provide an improved attachment for peanut vending machines of the type in which the peanuts are stored in a glass globe, the attachment being of such character that it may be interposed between the globe and base and when in operation effectually heat the peanuts ready for delivery.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists in general of certain novel details of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and specifically claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, like characters of reference indicate like parts in several views, and:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the vending machine with the improved heating arrangement in place.

Figure 2 is a vertical section through certain parts of the device showing the heating attachment.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the globe cap or ring used herewith.

Fig. 4 is a detail section through a portion of the heating attachment showing the heating element in position, the view illustrating the channel structure adjacent the delivery opening of the device.

Fig. 5 is a detail view similar to Fig. 4, but showing the slight modification of the manner of supplying electric current to the heating end, both Figures 4 and 5 being taken substantially on the line 4—4 and 5—5 respectively of Fig. 2.

In the embodiment of the invention herein illustrated the general construction is similar to that of the application above mentioned and like that form of the device the construction embodies a base 10 wherein is located the coin controlled apparatus which serves to lock and release the usual valve lever 11 controlling the flow of peanuts through the gate 12.

The reservoir body of the device consists of a hollow glass globe 13 on top of which rests a ring 14 having a cross bar 15 extending diametrically of the ring. Through this cross bar extends a pair of bolts 16 which serve in the usual manner to secure the globe on the base. A cap 17 is provided which acts as a closure for the top of the globe, being removable for the purpose of filling the apparatus and being provided with a suitable locking device to prevent tampering with the contents of the globe by unauthorized persons. These parts are, in their general features, old and well known and, as the present invention does not reside in any specific features of these parts, it is not deemed necessary to describe and illustrate the exact details of construction of such parts. On top of the cap 17 may be arranged an electric lamp 18 as shown in the prior application.

The improvement itself consists in interposing between the base and the globe a heating device which consists of ring 19 of

inverted channel shape and within the inner periphery of this ring is a floor or bottom 20 on which the contents of the globe rests. This bottom is inclined downward toward the portion of the ring adjacent the gate and is there provided with an opening 21. Around the outer periphery of the ring extends a bead 22 and within the space bounded by this bead rests the bottom of the globe 13. The ring itself rests on the base so that the device is thus interposed between the globe and base and forms a bottom for the former.

The opening 21 communicates by the usual valve controlled passage (not shown) with the delivery gate 12. Within the channel of the ring is fitted a heating element 23 of the usual spirally wound form and the lead wires 24 from this element may either run up through a tube 25 to the cap 17 and be there connected to the lamp and line wires 26 or may run laterally out of the channel as shown in Figure 5. An asbestos lining 27 is preferably used in the channel to keep the outside from getting too hot and the heating element is preferably held in place by set screws 28.

In operation it will be seen that the peanuts on the false bottom will receive the greater amount of heat and that the greatest heat will be received by those peanuts lying against the ring at the opening 21. Thus the peanuts ready for delivery will always be the hottest.

There has thus been provided a simple and efficient device of the kind described and for the purposes specified.

It is obvious that minor changes may be made in the form and construction of the invention without departing from the material principles thereof. It is not therefore desired to confine the invention to the exact form herein shown and described, but it is wished to include all such as properly come within the scope claimed.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, is:—

1. In a vending machine, a reservoir for articles to be dispensed, a delivery mechanism connected therewith, and a heating device arranged around the periphery of the reservoir bottom which heats said periphery only and located adjacent the path of the articles from the reservoir to the delivery mechanism.

2. In a vending machine, a reservoir for

articles to be dispensed, said reservoir having a bottom provided with a delivery opening, a delivery mechanism beneath the reservoir and communicating therewith through said opening, and a heat generating device interposed between the reservoir and delivery mechanism and arranged beneath the periphery of the reservoir bottom to heat the articles in the reservoir and as they pass from the reservoir to the delivery mechanism.

3. In a vending machine, a reservoir body for articles to be dispensed, a delivery mechanism beneath the reservoir body, a heating device interposed between the reservoir body and delivery device, the reservoir body having a delivery opening in its bottom adapted to feed into the delivery device, said heating device being arranged beneath the periphery of the bottom.

4. A heating attachment for a machine for vending peanuts and the like including a ring member of inverted cup shape, said ring member having a bottom provided with horizontally disposed peripheral portion, the bottom extending vertically downward from one part of the peripheral portion and being inclined down from the opposite part, there being an eccentrically disposed opening in the bottom at the lower ends of the inclined and vertical portions, and an electrical heating element supported in the cup beneath the horizontal portion of the bottom.

5. A heating attachment for machines for vending peanuts and the like including a ring member of inverted cup shape provided with a bottom having an eccentrically disposed opening, said bottom sloping downward toward the opening, and an electric heating element mounted in said channel ring.

6. A heating attachment for machines for vending peanuts and the like including a ring member of inverted channel shape provided with a centrally disposed bottom having an opening at one portion adjacent the ring, that portion of said bottom at the side of the opening remote from such periphery sloping downward toward the opening and at the other side sloping vertically, and an electric heating element mounted in the channel thus formed around the opening.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JAMES A. DUCKETT.