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Schlatter et al.

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[54] PORTABLE JAIL CELL

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **52/79**, 52/35, 52/106

[51] **Int. Cl.** **E04h 3/08**

[58] **Field of Search**....52/79, 106, 630, 36, 220, 143, 52/34, 35

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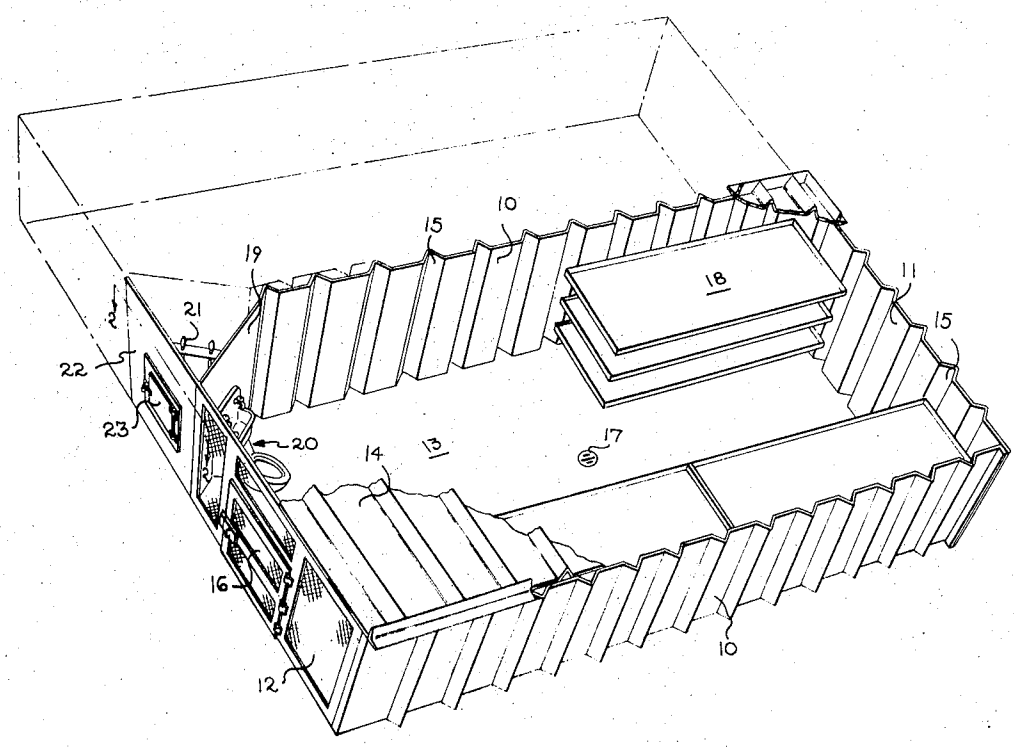
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A portable jail cell which can be transported as a unit and installed in a jail or designated building. A windowless structure which has a foraminous metal screen door for light and air, is of ribbed sheet metal panels except for the floor. The floor is of cast concrete provided with channels on which to set and weld a unit cell. Sheet metal bunks which are welded inside the cell create a solid one piece unit. At one corner is an angled wall portion connecting contiguous side walls, and on the inner side of which are the toilet and wash bowl and on the outer side are suitable plumbing fixtures. This enables two cells to be placed side by side with adjacent angled wall portions to provide convenient access chambers and dispose the plumbing for the two cells in conveniently accessible location. The sheet metal for the wall panels is not less than one-eighth inch in thickness to militate against manual cutting.

1 Claim, 2 Drawing Figures



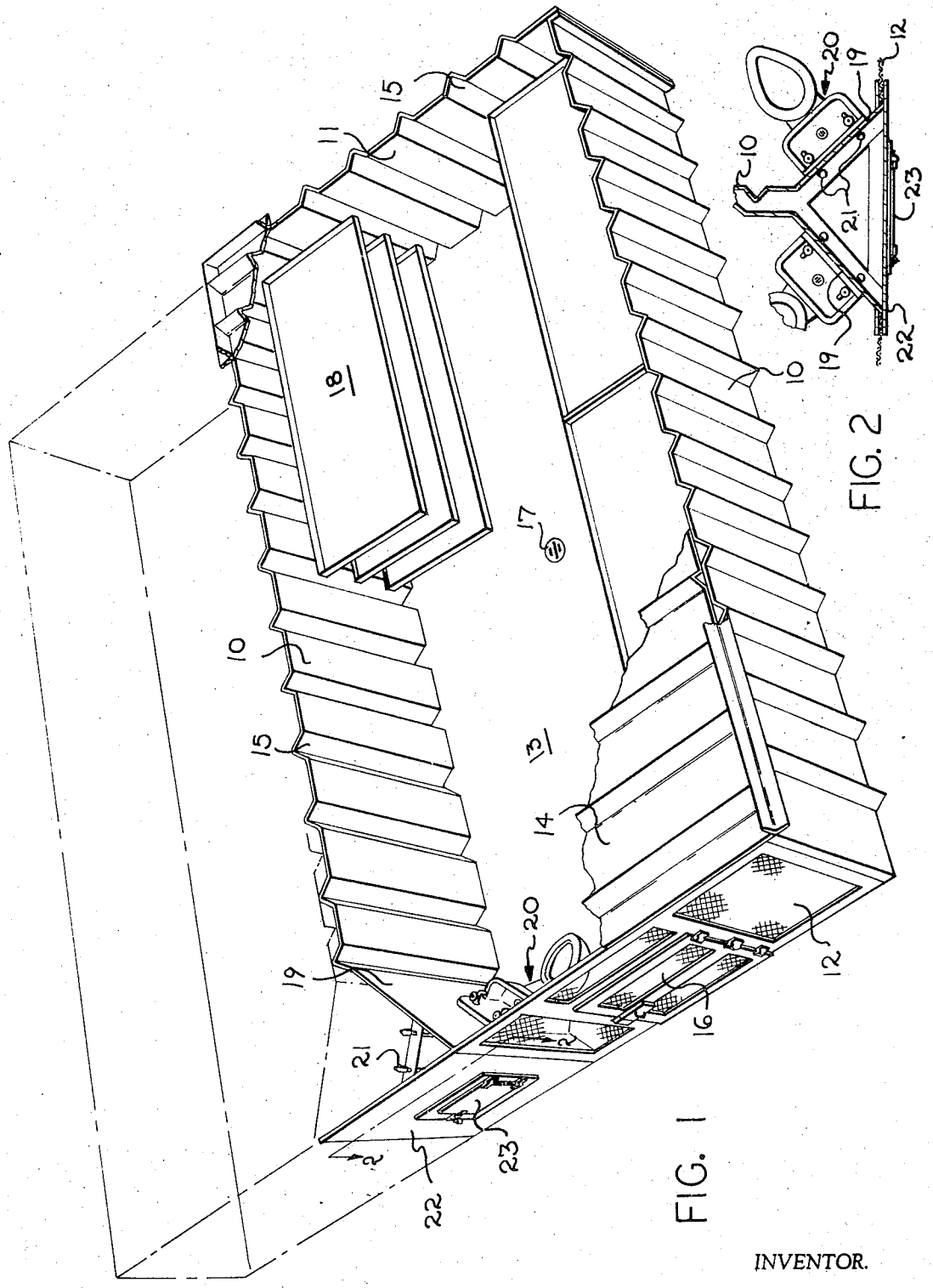


FIG. 2

FIG. 1

INVENTOR.

BY

ATTORNEY

PORTABLE JAIL CELL

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Many jails are old and inadequate, but to modernize them or replace them is so costly that nothing can be done in most instances. However, there is a great need for places where arrested individuals can be detained without excessive crowding and under sanitary conditions. Not infrequently a sizeable number of persons is arrested at one time, and jail capacity is not adequate and this presents a difficult problem. Therefore, the unit cell serves as a minimum security cell which can hold safely many more at much less cost than the customary maximum security cells.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A portable jail cell is provided which, by the use of suitable handling equipment, can be delivered and installed without great expense in any area where a crane can unload and set them in place. The portable cell is of rugged construction, having sheet metal side walls and ceiling which are ribbed to provide adequate strength for portability as well as to resist effectively manual attempts to cut escape holes. The cell is designed so that it can be placed with others in a row and the plumbing and fixtures are so arranged that both water and waste pipes can be provided in one access chamber for two adjacent cells, enabling servicing in a convenient manner without entering the cell structure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a top perspective view of the detention cell, a portion of the ceiling being broken away to show the interior, and, by broken lines, showing an adjacent cell; and

FIG. **2** is a fragmentary sectional view taken substantially on the line **2—2** of FIG. **1**.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The illustrated embodiment of the invention comprises a portable prisoner detention cell which constitutes in effect a unitary structure provided with ribbed sheet metal side walls **10** and an end wall **11** and a foraminous front wall **12** of metal screen affording light and air to the interior. The floor **13** is of a reinforced concrete slab with anchorage channels and the ceiling **14** is likewise of ribbed sheet metal. The joints between the sheet metal parts are welded seams.

The ribbing for the several walls is in the form of open V-shaped channels spaced about 2 feet from each other and arranged in parallel relation. The thickness of the sheet metal is of the order of one-eighth inch and this has been found empirically to be such that it cannot be manually cut through.

The screened front wall **12** is provided with a hinged door **16** to afford ingress and egress with respect to the

cell. In the floor **13** is a conveniently arranged drain **17** so that the inside of the cell can be cleaned by hosing and the drain can be conveniently connected to existing soil pipes. A suitable number of sheet metal bunks **18** are welded and braced, several arranged superposed.

At one end of the cell, preferably at the front, is a flat corner wall **19** formed by leaving one side wall **10** and the front wall **12** somewhat short and angling these ends by the wall **19**. On the inside of the wall **19** are disposed the toilet and wash bowl fixtures, indicated at **20**, and the water and soil pipes **21** extend through this wall to the outside. By arranging two cells side by side, as indicated on FIG. **1**, a V-shaped chamber C is provided which affords ready access to the soil and drain pipes **21** for both cells. The chamber C is closed by a wall **22** suitably welded in place and even with the adjacent walls **12**. In the wall **22** is an access door **23**. This places the water and soil pipes where they can be serviced conveniently without entering the cell.

It will be understood that the cell is a self contained unit which can be fabricated in one location and then picked up and transported to the desired location. It is of a size for example that it can be lifted by suitable equipment and placed on a flat car or truck. The walls are of sheet metal, strengthened by ribbing and are thus sufficiently sturdy to withstand stresses occasioned by such handling. In use, the positioning of the plumbing fixtures is of importance because of accessibility for installing and servicing, and the chamber formed by adjacent cells also has accoustical value by preventing noises to be transmitted from one cell to another.

What we claim is:

1. A prisoner detention cell adapted to be transported as a modular unit to the place of use comprising

a prefabricated self contained structure having a floor in the form of a cast slab, a ceiling and side walls,

each side wall and ceiling consisting of sheet metal panels having a series of integral, parallel reinforcing ribs generally V-shaped in cross section, and spaced substantially from each other,

adjacent side walls at one corner being truncated or terminating at an appreciable distance from each other,

a flat corner wall panel joining the edges of said truncated side walls, and providing a mounting panel for water and waste pipes common to plumbing facilities, whereby two detention cells can be arranged side by side so that plumbing can be conveniently installed in each of the adjacent mounting panels and arranged in close juxtaposition for economy and ease of inspection and servicing,

the ceiling and side walls being closed except for one side wall, and

a door in said last side wall having a foraminous section affording air, light and access to the cell.

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