

WILMETTE MAN INVENTS NEW AUTOMATIC HEATER

F. W. Vodoz, 1523 Central Avenue, Invites Residents to See Coal Burning Device

F. W. Vodoz, of 1523 Central avenue, Wilmette, has invented an automatic coal heater which is now in operation in the basement of his home. It is called the V-C Automatic Stoker, and is said to be different from anything of its kind now in use.

Mr. Vodoz has submitted to WILMETTE LIFE an explanation of the new device. He begins as follows: "The V-C Automatic Stoker is unusual in that it does mechanically and electrically the labor generally imposed on the housewife—and it does it in much the same way. For example, the fuel (small sizes of coals or cokes) is fed on top of the fire and the grates are shaken. However, these operations are done automatically by the V-C stoker at the exact time the fire demands attention. The small amount of fuel added immediately ignites, with the result that better and more thorough combustion is obtained, with practically no smoke.

Fire Regulates Stoker

"The V-C stoker is regulated entirely by the demands of the fire. The fire, in turn, is controlled by the drafts which may be operated by hand or by a thermostat. There is no mechanical or electrical connection between the stoker and the drafts. Therefore the regulation is controlled directly by the fire, which furnishes the desired heat."

How the fire is automatically controlled is explained by Mr. Vodoz as follows: "To begin with let us recall that a material burned into ash weighs less than the material before it has been burned. The grate of the V-C stoker is located on a lever, normally horizontal, which may swing freely from a fixed point but which remains within a limited line of travel by a counterbalance. When the grate is supplied fresh fuel it lets down the lever. As the fuel burns into ash the weight on the grate reduces, thus causing the grate to raise. It is these movements which cause electrical contacts to be made. These contacts furnish electrical power to the motor which injects fresh fuel and shakes out the ash."

Basic Patents Obtained

Basic patent claims have been allowed which cover the fundamentals of the device completely. This indicates to those familiar with patents that the device is a radical departure from all other coal heaters, Mr. Vodoz believes.

The quarter horsepower motor which furnishes the motive power operates less than a minute in an hour, Mr. Vodoz points out. Obviously, he says, it is unlike other automatic devices in which the motors operate half an hour or more at frequent intervals to maintain the desired heat. This, Mr. Vodoz believes, indicates a small electric operating expense, which adds to the savings made possible by the burning of small sizes of coals and cokes.

Mr. Vodoz is a mechanical engineer who has been active in the development of new machinery for the mining of coal. He states that he has disclosed his new device to the community because it has been developed here. It will be shown by appointment to those interested.

Miss Theresa Backus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Trumbell Backus of Cumnor road, Kenilworth, who has been visiting Mrs. Hamilton Howe (formerly Peggy Backus) in San Diego, Cal. has been making a tour to Brewerton and other points, visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Scharf, 509 Cherry street, and Lois, have returned from the east where they had been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Runyon and their small son for the past several weeks. Mrs. Runyon was formerly Miss Dorothy Scharf. The Runyons rented a home at Jamaica, Long Island for the time that the Scharfs were east since the other grandparents of the new baby were visiting them at the same time and their city apartment would not have housed so many comfortably.

Mrs. L. H. Mettler and Miss Barbara Mettler of 119 Sheridan road left for the east last Tuesday afternoon to attend a wedding at Newport, R. I. They will be gone about a week.

Mrs. Joseph C. Markley and daughter Jean of 777 Burr avenue are spending a month at Eagle Knob Lodge, Lake Owen, Wis.

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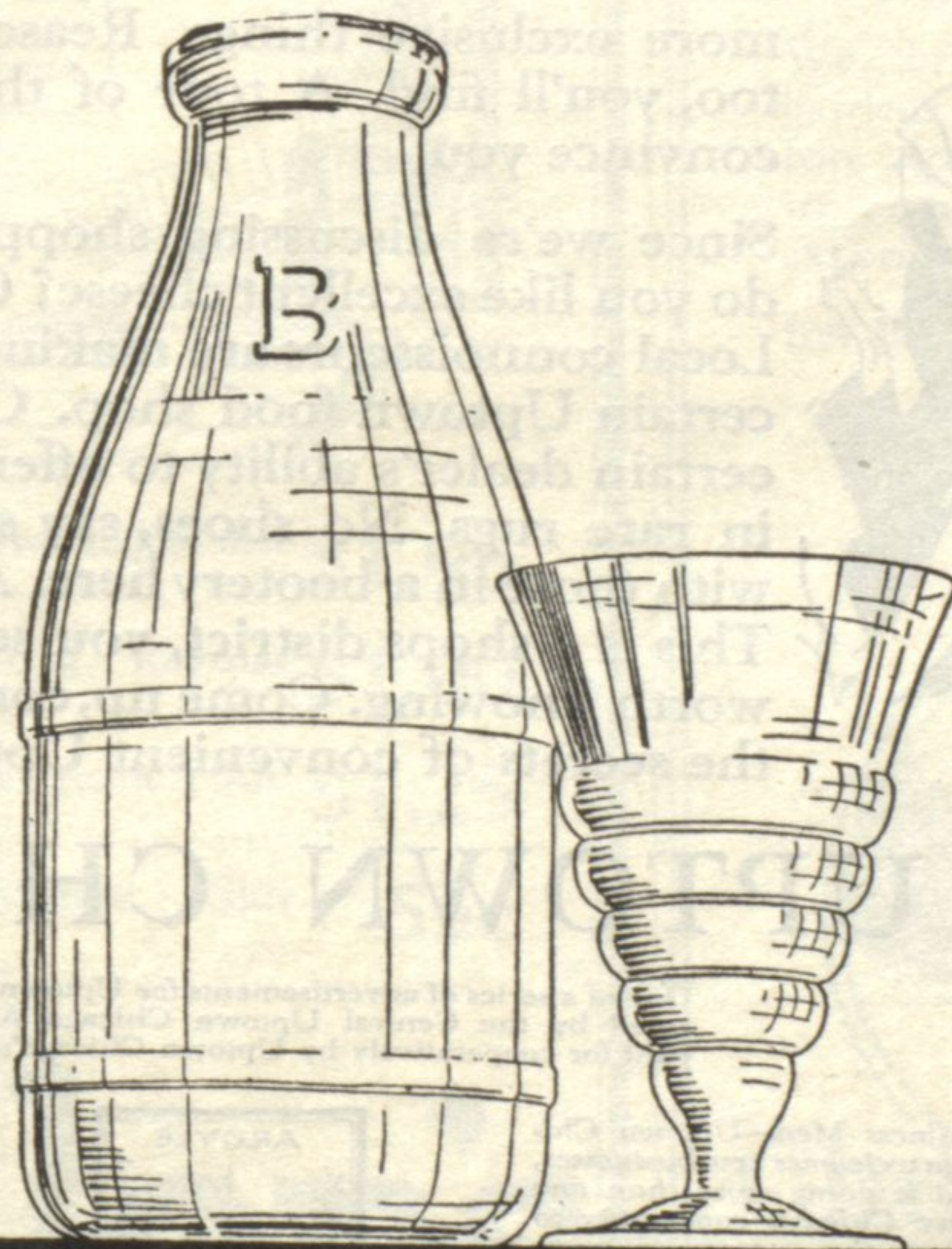
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