



US005267672A

United States Patent [19]**Jacobsen et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,267,672**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 7, 1993**[54] **ICE DISPENSER AND DISPLAY**[75] **Inventors:** **Sam J. Jacobsen, Middleton; Jody W. Bigalke, New Lisbon, both of Wis.**[73] **Assignee:** **Leer Manufacturing Limited Partnership, New Lisbon, Wis.**[21] **Appl. No.:** **925,057**[22] **Filed:** **Aug. 4, 1992**[51] **Int. Cl.⁵** **B67D 5/38**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **222/159; 222/131; 222/144.5; 222/146.6; 222/227; 62/344; 198/716; 198/733; 198/860.3**[58] **Field of Search** **222/129.1, 131, 144.5, 222/146.6, 159, 227, 228, 241, 331, 415, 561; 62/344; 198/716, 733, 735.3, 860.3, 860.4, 860.5**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

2,249,588	7/1941	Waddle	198/860.3 X
2,652,808	9/1953	Wagner	198/735.3 X
4,093,066	6/1978	Mitchell et al.	198/860.4 X
4,871,060	10/1989	Dahl et al.	198/716

5,104,007	4/1992	Utter	222/146.6
5,112,477	5/1992	Hamlin	222/146.6 X
5,165,255	11/1992	Alvarez et al.	222/146.6 X

Primary Examiner—Gregory L. Huson
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Lathrop & Clark

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A rotatable auger is disposed within an ice chest to direct ice through an opening into a tubular conduit through which runs a flexible looped cable. Plastic paddles are fixed to the cable at spaced intervals and engage with ice received within the conduit and advance the ice through the conduit to an above-the-counter transparent display segment of the conduit having an outer transparent plastic tube surrounding an inner transparent plastic tube through which the conveyed ice is visible. The ice is conveyed to a discharge opening where a user activated gate valve controls ice discharge. An ice return tube directs undispensed ice back to the ice chest.

22 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets