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McClure et al.

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(54) **PARTS WASHING SYSTEM**

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

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(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... **B08B 3/04**

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(58) Field of Search ..... **134/111, 201, 134/109, 110; 210/611, 615, 620, 604, 922; 4/291; 435/264**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided is a "parts washer" that includes a fluid that performs a cleaning function and maintains the viability of microorganisms in the fluid which biodegrade organic material in contact with a biological component, the parts. "Parts" include objects befouled with organic material and/or particulate matter. The cleaning fluid includes a surfactant that functions to separate organic waste from the parts being washed. A multi-tiered basin houses the cleaning fluid and the biological component living within the fluid that breaks down organic wastes produced by the cleaning fluid. The multi-tiered basin which forms the mechanical component of the washer, includes a sink member with a false bottom, and a support grid and filter to support microorganisms interposed between the false bottom and a bottom panel of the sink member. The tank is partially filled with the cleaning fluid and a pump and conduit assembly directs a flow of the cleaning fluid to the basin and aerates the cleaning fluid. Recirculation is facilitated by discharge of the cleaning fluid into the basin to flow through a drain hole in the false bottom, through the filter and support grid, and then through a drain hole in the bottom panel of the sink member back into the tank for reuse. A heater, thermostat, and a level control assembly function to maintain the cleaning fluid within a certain temperature range so as to maintain a proper environment for the microorganisms.

**14 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**

