Aug. 3, 1965 B. E. SANDERS 3,198,200

SPORTSMAN'S TENT

Filed May 20, 1963

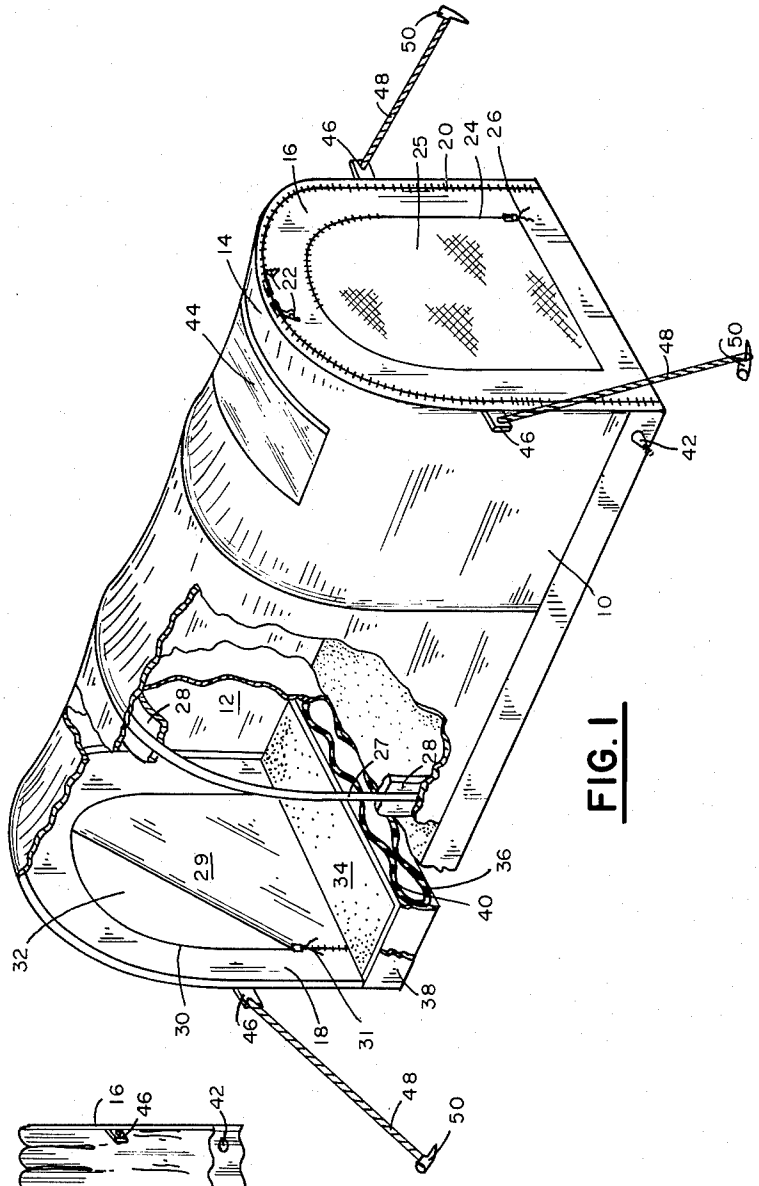


FIG. 1

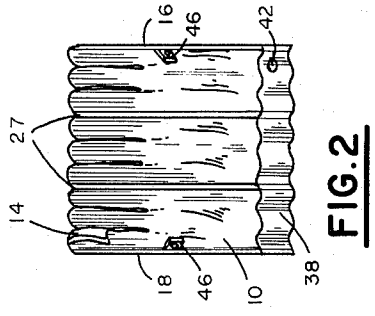


FIG. 2

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SPORTSMAN'S TENT

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This invention relates to a collapsible sportsmen's tent.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a collapsible sportsmen's tent or canopy structure which is capable of being readily erected for use or collapsible when not in use for easy storage and transportation.

Another principal object of the invention is the provision in a sportsmen's tent of flexible metal structural members which function not only to support the covering of the tent but also, due to the inherent flexing action, serve to maintain the bottom portion thereof in flat form wihout the use of bottom structural members.

Another object of this invention is to provide a collapsible sportsmen's tent structure which includes an inflatable portion and upon being inflated aids in the erection and support of the canopy structure for use.

Another object of this invention is to provide a collapsible sportsmen's tent or canopy structure which includes one or more transparent windows spaced around the walls of the tent.

Another object of this invention is to provide a collapsible sportsmen's tent or canopy structure which can be supported either horizontally or in a vertical position and which is adaptable to be used as a blind for hunting game.

These and other objects of this invention will become more apparent upon further reading of the specifications and claim when taken in conjunction with the following illustrations of which:

FIGURE 1 is an isometric view, partly in section and partly broken away to describe the collapsible canopy of this invention.

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of the canopy of this invention in its collapsed position.

Referring now to the drawings in specific detail, the numeral **10** indicates one side wall of the tent, usually of a waterproof and lightweight material, such as canvas or the like. The numeral **12** depicts the opposite side wall, while numeral **14** describes the curved top wall. The walls, as previously described, are constructed of a single piece of material and terminate their ends with end wall member **16** and end wall member **18**. The one end wall member **16** is attached to the sides and top by a releasable connection, such as a zippered connection **20** which can be released by dual opposed zippers **22**. End wall member **16** also includes an additional zippered opening **24**, which can be released by zipper **26** and replaced by a screen member **25** as shown and/or a solid member, not shown.

A series of frame or structural members **27** are axially spaced along the length of the tent walls and are retained in their respective positions by retainer straps **28**. The other end wall **18** is preferably affixed to the side and top walls and end frame member **27** but includes a vent flap **29**, or possibly a screen member, which is releasably attached such as with a zippered connection **30** and zipper **31** to provide an opening **32** as desired.

The function of the structural members **27** is an important element of the invention. Each of the structural members **27** is a single length of flexible material, such as spring steel. The structural members **27** may be of a variety of cross-sectional configurations, such as the flattened cross-section shown, or they may be of round, square, or of any other desired configuration. The structural members **27** are straight or at least substantially straight in their natural shape. During assembly of the tent of this invention the structural members are flexed within their elastic limits to the U-shaped configuration

shown. Due to their natural flexing action the structural members spread apart and hold flat the bottom of the tent.

The provision of the flexing structural members **27** has several advantages. First, these light weight members give rigidity to the tent to hold it in shape even in strong wind, or even if a snow accumulation builds on top of the tent. Second, the flexing structural members **27** are very light for the degree of rigidity they impart so that the overall portability of the tent is retained. Third, the flexing action of the structural members **27** eliminate the need for any bracing or structure members across the bottom of the tent thus reducing the overall weight of the tent and eliminating any protrusions across the bottom which might otherwise interfere with sleeping comfort provided by the tent. And fourth, the provision of the spaced-apart flexing structural members **27** make possible a tent which can be quickly and easily compacted for hauling or carrying without any hinge action or other coupling arrangement between the structural frame work.

The bottom of the tent includes a pocket comprised of upper member **34** and lower member **36** and side members **38** which may be sealed to form an air pocket, or in the alternative provide means for an air mattress **40**, having an air inlet means **42** in connection therewith.

The use of an air mattress or air pocket in the lower end of the collapsible canopy of this invention will in most instances provide sufficient longitudinal rigidity to the tent in its extended or use position. When the tent is to be utilized for longer periods, or in windy weather it is desirable to use loops **46** and ropes **48** which are tied to the ground stakes **50** for further support.

In use, the tent of this invention is transported to the desired location somewhat in the position shown in FIGURE 2. Upon reaching location the tent is easily and quickly opened to the use or extended position shown in FIGURE 1. Inflation of the air mattress in the bottom pocket will sustain the tent in extended position as above described, however, use of hold down stakes is preferred.

In some instances it is desirable to use the tent of this invention as a blind for hunting game, such as ducks or other game birds and the like. In that instance the collapsible tent of this invention is placed on one end such as end **18** with the upper flap **16** fully open or closed as the case may be. In this manner with a transparent window **44** facing the direction of the incoming game the hunter or sportsman can view the situation from an enclosed, protected canopy.

In the drawings and above description the tent is shown with four flexible structural members **27**. This is the preferred embodiment although it is realized that a larger or smaller number of such elements may be utilized.

Although this invention has been described with reference to its specific and preferred embodiments, it will be apparent, however, that many modifications can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. Accordingly, this invention should be construed not to be limited to the embodiment herein described but should be limited only by the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed:

A portable sleeping tent comprising:

an elongated structure of flexible waterproof material having substantially straight sides, an integral continuous arcuate top, and substantially vertical end portions;

a zipper means attaching at least one of the end portions to the sides and top portions, the zipper means affording access into the structure;

a multiplicity of spaced apart structural members attached to the interior of the top and sides of the structure, each of the structural members formed of a substantially straight unitary metallic member arcuately flexed within its elastic limit, the flexed

structural members serving to laterally support the sides and top of the structure;

paralleled, spaced apart horizontally extending bottom panels, the bottom panel forming the bottom of the structure and forming a mattress receiving pocket therebetween; and

an inflatable mattress in the pocket formed by the panels, the mattress when inflated affording longitudinal support to maintain the structural members in extended spaced relationship, wherein the structure is longitudinally compactably collapsible when the mattress is deflated and extended to full length when the air mattress is inflated.

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