

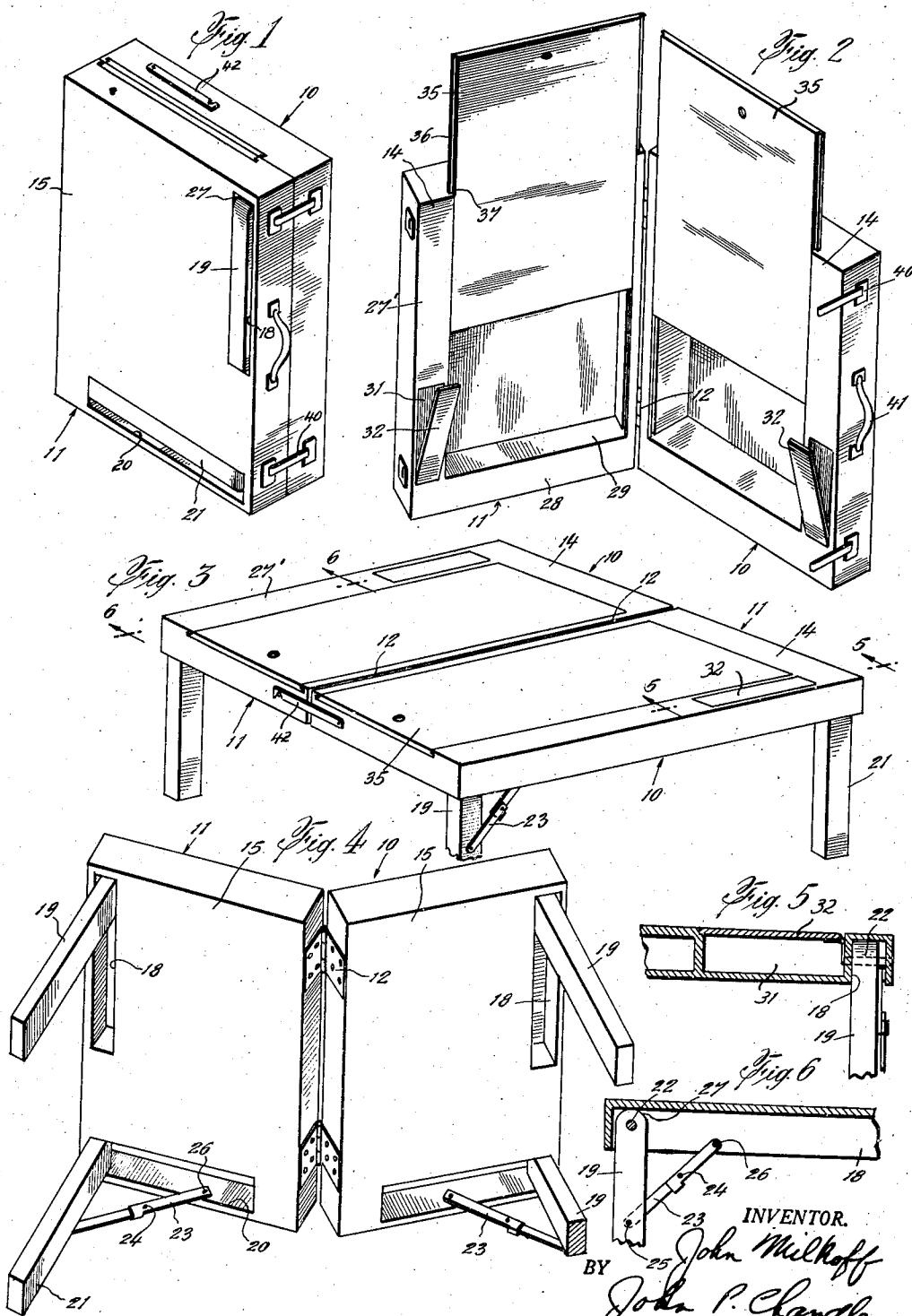
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COMBINED CARRYING CASE AND TABLE

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COMBINED CARRYING CASE AND TABLE

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1. Claim. (Cl. 190—11)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a combined folding table and carrying case, the invention having for its principal object the provision of an improved device of this character having two complemental sections which are hinged together, and which, when in closed position, form a convenient carrying case for articles of food, bathing suits, and other paraphernalia, and which may readily be opened to provide a table for beach use, or any other desired purpose.

In many portable picnic tables of this general character, suitable folding leg structures are adapted to be swung inwardly to the interior of the case, and the two complemental sections folded together to form the portable carrying case. In all of the devices of the prior art, however, the outer surfaces of the folded case form the upper wall of the table when in open position, and accordingly the folding legs, when in folded position, are positioned within the interior of the case along with the contents which are to be carried. In accordance with the present invention, however, the surfaces which form the upper surface of the table when in open position form the meeting surfaces when the two complemental sections of the table are closed, and accordingly such upper surfaces of the table, when in open position, are not subjected to wear, or exposure to dirt and other contamination, when the table is closed and in carrying position.

Following this novel arrangement, the outer surfaces of the case, when in folded position, are formed with suitable recesses to receive the folding legs, and accordingly the leg sections are separated from the interior of the case and from the food or other articles carried within the case. The picnic or beach table of the present invention can be readily set up for use, and can, with equal facility, be folded to enable it to be carried from place to place.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the folding table of the present invention when in folded position ready for carrying.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the table in partly unfolded position, the view also showing certain details of the interior of the case.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the table in set-up position.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the lower surface of the table in partly set-up position.

Fig. 5 is a broken section taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a broken section taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 3.

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Referring now more particularly to the drawing, it will be noted that the folding table of the present invention comprises two complemental sections 10 and 11 which may, if desired, be of substantially identical construction. Hinge elements 12 along the upper edges of the complemental sections, when in open position, join the two sections together. The upper surfaces 14 of the complemental sections are thus in face-to-face engagement when the case is closed, and the lower surfaces 15 form the outer walls of the closed case. Such upper surfaces 14 are substantially flat, and accordingly when the case is in folded position, form a substantially dust-proof seal between such upper surfaces. Thus, the lower surfaces 15 of the sections, when the case is in closed position, form the outer walls of the case.

The several sections may be formed from any suitable material, such as plywood, sheet plastic, or other suitable material. Each section is formed along one edge thereof with a recess 18 which receives leg 19, and another recess 20 which receives leg 21. The precise cross-sectional contour of legs 19 and 21 is a matter of choice, and in the drawing these legs are shown as being rectangular in such cross-sectional contour. They may, of course, be square, round, or otherwise shaped. By forming these legs either rectangular or square, however, the recesses 18 and 20 may be similarly shaped, so that when the legs are in folded position, they substantially completely fill the recesses. Pivot members 22 pass through openings formed adjacent to the upper terminals of the legs, and the legs may be maintained in open position by means of the usual brace structures 23, each formed of two links which are centrally pivoted at 24, and are pivoted at their opposite ends to the leg, as shown at 25, and to the table, as shown at 26. The upper ends of the legs are preferably rounded, as shown at 27.

The precise length of legs 19 and 21 is a matter of choice, and when the case is designed primarily for beach use, these legs may be relatively short, although if it is desired to provide a table which must be of sufficient height to permit the users to sit in chairs, these legs may be lengthened appropriately. It is preferred, however, to form legs 21 of a length slightly less than the width of each section 10 and 11, and accordingly if a relatively long leg is desired, it is preferred to form an extensible leg structure of any suitable type.

Referring now more particularly to Figs. 2 and 3, it will be noted that portion 27' on the upper

wall of the sections forms the upper wall of the housing for legs 19, and that portions 28 form the housings for legs 21. This leaves the balance of the structure for the reception of articles within each compartment 29. It will be apparent that the internal walls separate the legs when in folded position from such compartments 29. By forming leg 19 of the length shown, there may be further provided a smaller compartment 31 which may be used for the reception of smaller articles like tableware, which compartment is normally closed by means of a hinged closure plate 32. Compartment 29 in each section may be closed by means of closure member 35 which may be formed with a flange 36 received within a slot 37. Suitable locking members 40 may serve to retain the two sections in face-to-face engagement for carrying, and a handle 41 be provided on one or both of the sections. When in open position, the upper surfaces of the sections are maintained in a horizontal position by means of latch 42.

While one form or embodiment of the invention has been shown and described herein for illustrative purposes, and the construction and arrangement incidental to a specific application thereof have been disclosed and discussed in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is limited neither to the mere details or relative arrangement of parts, nor to its specific embodiment shown herein, but that extensive deviations from the illustrated form or embodiment of the

invention may be made without departing from the principles thereof.

What I claim is:

A combined carrying case and table comprising two complementary, rectangular sections of the same general size and shape, the length of each section being substantially two times its width, hinge means along the adjacent upper marginal edges of the sections to permit the sections to be folded upwardly, causing their upper surfaces to meet in face-to-face engagement for carrying, means for maintaining the case in open and in closed relation, a carrying handle associated with the case, the lower wall of each section having two elongated recesses therein of lesser length than the width of such section, and a hinged leg of slightly lesser length than the length of the recess, mounted within each recess, one of such recesses extending from an outer corner portion laterally of the section, and the other of such recesses extending from the other outer corner portion longitudinally of the section, the upper wall of the section being provided with a narrow compartment extending from adjacent the inner end of the latter recess substantially the balance of the longitudinal edge of the section, the remaining area of the section providing a second compartment, and slidable closure members on the upper wall of each section for closing such compartments.

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