March 26, 1946. C. E. REEVES 2,397,433

ARTICLE OR LUGGAGE CARRIER

Filed Feb. 25, 1944

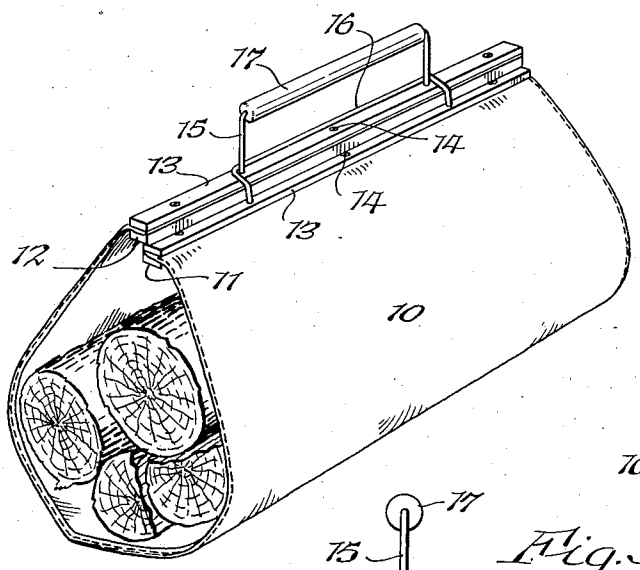
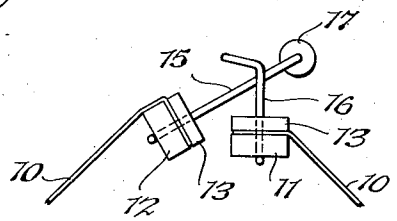


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



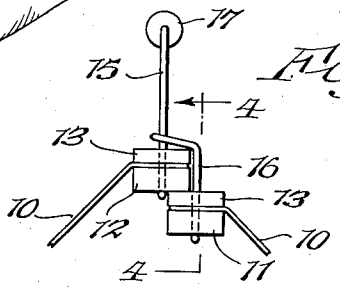


Fig. 3.

Fig. 7.

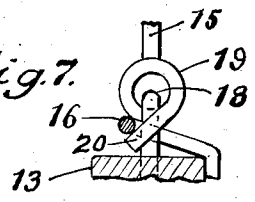


Fig. 4.

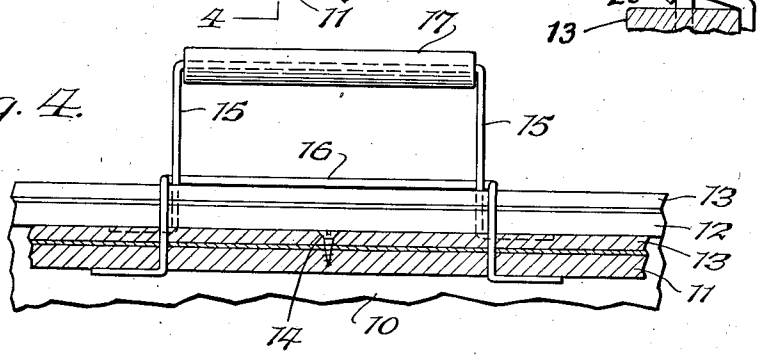


Fig. 5.

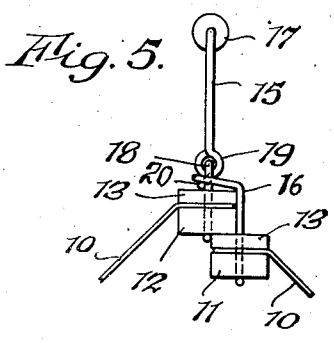
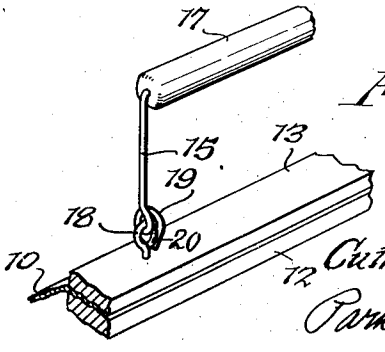


Fig. 6.



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2,397,433

ARTICLE OR LUGGAGE CARRIER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 224—49)

This invention relates to improvements in carriers for firewood, luggage or other articles, and more particularly to improvements in carriers for such purposes of that kind which comprise a body or strip of canvas or other suitable, flexible material adapted to be laid or opened out flat on the floor or ground, and to have its opposite ends brought or closed together over pieces of wood or other articles laid on the strip, so as to retain such articles in place and facilitate carrying them, as by handle means provided at the closed ends of said body or strip.

In such carriers as ordinarily constructed, separate handles or hand grips are provided at the opposite ends of the carrier strip and the ends of the carrier are retained closed about its contents and the device carried by grasping the two handles in the hand, no means being provided for retaining the ends of the carrier body or strip together when the device is set down or the handles released, so that the ends of the carrier body or strip will fall apart or open out when the handles are released or the device is set down, and allow the pieces or articles in the carrier to spread or shift about in the carrier or escape therefrom.

One object of my invention is to provide a desirable and practical wood or luggage carrier of improved, novel construction that overcomes such objections.

Other objects of the invention are to provide the carrier strip or body with means at its opposite ends which, when the ends are closed together over the contents, cooperate to provide a convenient carrying handle for the device, and also act to retain the ends closed together and prevent them from opening out when the carrier is set down; also to provide the carrier strip with bails or members at its opposite ends which, when the ends are brought together, interengage with each other so as to form a carrying handle for the device and to hold its ends together when the device is released or set down; and also to provide a carrier in which end cross bars are provided at the opposite ends of the carrier strip to which bails or members are attached of a construction adapting one member to be passed through the other member to form a single carrying handle for the device, and at the same time interlock or retain said end bars together one below the other so as to prevent the ends of the carrier body from separating or opening out when the handle is released.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following specification of preferred embodiments of the invention, shown in the accompanying drawing, and the novel features of the invention are set forth in the appended claims.

In said drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an article carrier embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary end elevation thereof illustrating the manner of closing the ends of the carrier.

Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the position of the parts when the carrier is closed.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional elevation, enlarged, on line 4—4, Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 3, showing a slightly modified form of the device.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary, perspective view of the handle member of the device of the form shown in Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged fragmentary view illustrating the action of the lugs on the handle for prying open the carrier.

The carrier comprises a body 10, which may consist of a strip or piece of suitable flexible material, such for instance as canvas, the opposite end portions of which body are adapted to be closed together over pieces of wood or other articles placed on the body or piece between said end portions. Suitably attached to the opposite ends of this body or strip and extending transversely thereof along its end edges are stiff or rigid end cross bars 11 and 12. These bars may be secured to the ends of the body in any suitable manner. For instance, as shown, each end of the body is secured between one end bar 11, or 12, and a fastening strip 13 secured to the end bar, as by screws or other fastenings 14 passed through the fastening strip and the end of the body piece and screwed or secured in the end bar. While the strip 13 has been designated a fastening strip, it is, in effect, one part of a two part end bar.

A handle member 15 is attached to one end bar, as 12, at its middle portion, and a cooperating holding member 16 is attached to the other end bar 11 at its middle portion, or opposite the handle member, and in its preferred form is in the nature of a bail of such size that the handle member can be passed through it and extend upwardly from its end bar so as to serve as a handle or hand grip for carrying the device. As shown, each of these members 15 and 16 is of bail or substantially inverted U-shape and may be attached to its end bar, for example, as shown in Figs. 1-3, by passing the legs of the bail through holes in the associated end bar and fastening strip and upsetting or bending over the ends of

the legs to anchor them in place, or other suitable means for attaching these members could be employed. The handle, which may consist of a bent wire or rod of suitable stiffness, may be equipped on its cross rod or portion with a cylinder or tube 17 of wood or other suitable material adapted to provide a comfortable hand grip on the handle bail.

The holding member or bail 16 extends upwardly from the end bar 11 to which it is attached, and its outer portion or cross bar is preferably offset laterally from its leg portions to extend over the other end bar 12 when the handle bail is passed through the holding member 16, so that the offset portion will pass around the legs or attaching portions of the handle member 15 and can bear against the top of the end bar 12—13. When upward pull is exerted on the handle member, as when lifting or carrying the device, the holding member 16 will be thus held in connection with the attaching portions of the handle member and the weight of the carrier and its contents will cause the offset portion of member 16 to bear downwardly on the end bar 12 and thus act to throw the end bar 11 on the other end of the body inwardly under the end bar 12 to which the carrying handle is attached, as shown in Fig. 3. In this way the end bars will be interlocked or held in engagement one beneath the other, so that if the carrier is set down, while the connected ends of the carrier body may collapse or fall down against the contents of the carrier, nevertheless the end bars will be held together and prevent the separation or opening of the ends of the body, thereby preventing possible opening up of the carrier and disarrangement or escape of its contents.

As shown in Figs. 1–3, the lower ends of the legs of the handle bail 15 are rigidly attached to the end bar and the handle bail is thus held rigid with the end bar, projecting upwardly therefrom when the end bars are held together, as explained, for carrying the carrier. It is not, however, essential that the handle bail shall be rigid with or immovable relatively to the end bar, but the handle bail or member 15 can be hinged or movably connected with its end bar 12. For example, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the handle bail 15 can be provided at the lower ends of its legs with attaching portions or members 18 fastened to the end bar and hinged in eyes 19 on the legs of the handle bail. With this construction, as in the construction shown in Figs. 1–3, when the handle bail or member is passed through the holding bail or member 16, on the opposite end bar, the offset outer portion of the holding member 16 can engage over the eyes of the attaching members 18, so that thereby the member 16 will be held in connection with the end bar 12 and will cause the other end bar 11, to which holding member 16 is attached, to be thrown inwardly under the end bar 12 to interlock or hold the end bars together and prevent the separation or opening out of the ends of the carrier body. In this construction, when the handle member is passed through the cooperating holding member 16 and pulled upwardly, it will act as a lever to pull the cross bar of the member 16 over the eyes of the handle-attaching members 18 to lock or hold the end bars together.

As shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7, the lower or hinged ends of the handle bail may be provided with lugs or extensions 20 adapted by swinging the handle bail downwardly or inwardly, to engage under the cross bar of holding bail 16 and thus pry it over the eyes of the attaching members 18 and thus serve as a convenient means for disengaging the holding bail from the eyes or holding parts on the cross bar 12 to permit the ready opening of the ends of the carrier.

It should be apparent from the foregoing specification, that the ends of the carrier body, or parts thereof that are moved toward and from each other for closing and opening the mouth or entrance opening of the carrier, are locked or retained together and prevented from unintentional opening by the simple expedient of moving the handle member on one end of the body into carrying position through or into holding engagement with the cooperating holding member on the opposite end of the body. No separate or additional locking or holding means, requiring separate operation, are necessary for this purpose. Thus the carrier is locked or held closed by means of exceedingly simple and inexpensive construction. Manifestly, the invention is not limited to means for such purpose of the particular constructions shown in the drawing, but embraces other equivalent means as comprehended in the following claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. An article carrier comprising a flexible body piece, parallel transverse end bars secured along opposite end edges of said body piece, a holding bail attached to one end bar and having a laterally offset cross-piece spaced outwardly from the end bar a distance somewhat greater than the thickness of the other end bar, and a carrying handle which is hinged at its inner end by attaching members to said second end bar and is movable through said holding bail to carrying position in engagement with said holding bail and by said engagement moves said bail into holding engagement with said handle attaching members, said handle having adjacent its attaching members, spurs which project beneath the holding bail and act when the handle is swung downwardly from carrying position to engage said holding bail and disengage the same from the handle attaching members for opening the carrier.

2. An article carrier comprising a flexible body piece having transverse end bars secured along opposite parallel end edges of said body piece, a handle which is attached to and projects outwardly from one of said end bars, a holding bail attached to and projecting outwardly from said second end bar at one side of the first end bar and having a laterally offset cross-piece spaced outwardly from the end bar a distance somewhat greater than the thickness of said first end bar, said handle being insertable through said bail into carrying position in engagement with the cross-piece of said bail and by said engagement holding said bail in connection with said handle, whereby when the carrier is lifted by said handle so engaged, the leverage action of the handle on the holding bail due to the weight of the carier on the handle will shift said first end bar inwardly between said second end bar and the cross-piece of said holding bail and said bars will be interlocked and held together.

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