This invention relates to the tent art. Particularly it relates to canopy construction or the like adapted for use with picnic benches or tables.

To preclude disappointment on outings resulting from rain or insects, a suitable covering such as a tent or canopy adapted to afford shelter during meals is a frequent requirement.

Conventional picnic benches, in wide use, comprise a wooden table on opposite sides of which a pair of elongated seats, for multiple seating, are rigidly secured. Such conventional picnic benches customarily are of uniform length and width, the standard length being six (6) feet. An efficient protective cover should be easily portable and should also be characterized by the fact that it is easily mountable about a picnic bench in a rigid construction.

It is an object of the instant invention to provide a canopy or tent-like construction adapted for use with picnic benches.

It is another object of this invention to provide a portable canopy or tent-like construction adapted to be secured to the opposite ends of a picnic table and providing a stable shelter about the table to protect the table, its contents and those within the shelter.

It is an additional object of this invention to provide a canopy or tent-like construction for a picnic bench and the like having a plurality of panels forming a shelter and extending from above the picnic bench and secured to the ground with tent stakes, and having a pair of hollow bracing members supporting the uppermost of the panels at opposite ends of the picnic bench and being secured at their lower ends to the table top, and a pair of oppositely extending cords extending through the bracing members, the opposite end portions of each chord supporting the opposite ends of the side panels, respectively.

Other and further objects of the invention will become apparent from the following description and appended claims, the reference being had to the accompanying drawings and numerals of reference thereon.

On the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the invention shown disposed about a picnic bench, parts of the tent or canopy being broken away for the purpose of illustration.

Fig. 2 is a view taken on section line 2—2 of Fig. 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 3 is a view taken on section line 3—3 of Fig. 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 4 is a schematic plan view of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1 and illustrating the relative relationship of the cords.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, a conventional picnic bench or table 10 is shown in Fig. 1. The picnic bench or table 10 is provided with two pair of crossed legs 11, each pair of which is rigidly connected to the top of table 10 in any suitable fashion. A pair of parallel transversely extending seat supports 12, each of which is rigidly connected to an opposite pair of legs 11, as illustrated in Fig. 1, provide two pair of shoulders on which a pair of longitudinally extending seats 13 are rigidly secured on opposite sides of table 10.

A portable collapsible tent or canopy, generally designated as 14, is shown in mounted position in Fig. 1 to provide a shelter for table 10. The canopy or tent 14 comprises a top panel 15 of any suitable fabric construction such as transparent, non-rigid, plastic or mosquito netting, or the like. At each opposite end of the top panel 15 it is secured to the top of one of a pair of end panels 16. The side panels 36 and the end panels 16 are preferably of non-rigid fabrication and may be of transparent plastic material or mosquito netting or the like. A preferred construction of the canopy or tent 14 embodies a plastic top panel 15 and the remainder of the panels of mosquito netting.

The end panels 16 are each openable to provide access into the shelter when in mounted position. One means for permitting access is illustrated on the illustrated end panel 16 in Fig. 1. Such means forms panel 16 in two sections 16a and 16b. Section 16b has secured to along the inner margin thereof a plurality of connectors such as buttons 17, or the like disposed in vertical alignment. To close panel 16, as illustrated in Fig. 1, buttons 17 are extended through aligned apertures in the reinforced margin of panel 16a.

A bracket comprising a well 19 and having a pair of integral jaws 20 and a clamp screw 21 threaded through the lower of the jaws 20 is releasably securable on each end-flange 22 of the top of table 10. An enlarged view of one of said brackets is illustrated in Fig. 2. Each of the wells 19 is adapted to releasably seat the lower end 23 of a vertical standard 24. In the preferred construction a T connector 25 is threaded on the upper end of each standard. The inner ends of a pair of hollow tubes 26 are threadedly mounted on the opposite sides of each connector 25 to provide a pair of transversely extending hollow braces 27 which are disposed in opposed relationship in a horizontal plane when mounted as illustrated in Fig. 1, for example.

Fabric loops or a conduit 28 is formed in each of the opposite ends of top panel 15 by turning each end edge back and securing same by lines of stitching 29 which extend through a double thickness of the top panel 15 and the upper end of a respective panel 16, as illustrated in Fig. 2. To accommodate the connectors 25 an intermediate portion of each conduit 28 is cut away, the respective pairs of tubes 26 each being carried in said conduits 28.

A cord 30 extends through each of the hollow braces 27, as illustrated in Fig. 4. Intermediate portion 31 of cord 30 underlies and supports side 32 of top panel 15. The opposite end portions 33 of cord 30 emerge from the braces 27 on a side opposite the cord portion 31. A cord 34 extends through each of the braces 27, as illustrated in Fig. 4. An intermediate portion 35 of cord 34 underlies and supports side 37 of top panel 15. The opposite end portions 38 of cord 34 emerge from braces 27 on a side opposite the cord portion 35. Upon pulling the opposite end portions 33 and 38 of respective cords 30 and 34, taut, rigid support is given the sides of top panel 15. To align the intermediate portions 31 and 35 properly, each may be extended through a corresponding loop 39 formed in the upper end of each of the sides 36. The formation of one such loop or conduit 39 is shown in Fig. 3, illustrating that lines of stitching 40 are used to make the conduit and secure the upper end of the respective side panel 36.
The end portions 33 of cord 30 underlie and support the corners of the canopy 14 on one side and the end portions 38 of cord 34 underlie and support the opposite corners of canopy 14. To additionally support each side of the canopy 14 a plurality of cords 41 are provided for one side 36 and a plurality of cords 42 are provided for the other side 36. The upper end of each of the cords 41 and 42 has an eyelet 43. Said eyelets 43 are arranged in opposed aligned pairs and cord portions 31 and 35 extend through said eyelets 43, as illustrated in Fig. 4. Of course appropriate portions of the loops 39 should be cut away to accommodate the connection between the eyelets 43 and the cord portions 31 and 35.

There is provided an eye 44 at the outer end of each cord to permit sucession to the ground by means such as tent stakes, or the like.

The instant disclosure provides an inexpensive construction for rapidly erecting an enclosure about a picnic bench. Such construction is easily disassembled and readily portable and supplies a long standing need in the art.

And inasmuch as many changes could be made in the above described construction, and inasmuch as many apparently widely different embodiments of the invention within the scope of the claims could be constructed without departing from the scope and spirit thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the accompanying specification shall be interpreted as being illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. A canopy construction adapted to cover picnic benches, comprising a top panel; a pair of end panels, each end panel, at the upper end thereof, being secured to an opposite end of said top panel; a pair of side panels, each side panel, at the upper end thereof, being secured to an opposite side of said top panel; a plurality of loops, said loops being formed at opposite ends of said top panel and the upper ends of said end panels to provide a pair of opposed conduits; a pair of standards, each of said standards comprising a depending support and a transversely extending tube, each tube extending through one of said conduits and supporting one end of said top panel; a first flexible cord, extending through both of said tubes, said first cord having an intermediate portion thereof between a first end of each of said tubes disposed in engagement with and supporting one side of said top panel, the ends of said first cord extending freely from a second end of each of said tubes; a second flexible cord disposed in both of said tubes and extending in a direction opposite to said first cord, said second cord having an intermediate portion thereof between the second end of each of said tubes disposed in engagement with and supporting the other side of said top panel, the ends of said second cord extending freely from the first end of each of said tubes, the opposite free ends of said first and second cords being adapted to be pulled to provide a taut frame for said top panel.

2. A canopy construction comprising a top panel, a plurality of side panels secured at their upper end portions to said top panel, said side panels being adapted to be secured to the ground; a plurality of opposed loops formed at the opposite end portions of said top panel; a pair of opposed braces mounted in said loops, said braces having therein a pair of bores; a pair of opposed flexible cords extending through said bores and between said braces, each of said cords forming an opposed side support for opposite sides of said top panel and said side panels, respectively, and a pair of standards connected to said braces.

3. A canopy construction comprising a top panel; a pair of side panels; a pair of end panels, said side and end panels being secured together at their edges, and at their upper ends to the sides and ends of the top panel; a first cord, an intermediate portion of said first cord engaging and supporting one side of said top panel; a second cord, an intermediate portion of said second cord engaging and supporting the other side of said top panel; a pair of opposed standards, each thereof including a hollow transversely extending brace supporting an opposite end of said top panel, the non-supporting portions of each of said cords extending through and freely out of said braces in opposite directions, whereby a rigid frame is formed for said canopy construction when said non-supporting ends are drawn taut.

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