United States Patent [19]

Dittbenner

[11] **3,782,619**

[45] **Jan. 1, 1974**

[54] **SHIPPING CONTAINER**

[76] Inventor: **Clyde A. Dittbenner,** 15 North St., Andrew Dr., Ormond Beach, Fla. 32074

[22] Filed: **June 29, 1972**

[21] Appl. No.: **267,706**

[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **229/14 R,** 27/35, 206/46 FN, 229/23 BT, 229/41 R, 229/52 AL

[51] **Int. Cl.**..... **B65d 5/46,** B65d 5/50, B65d 25/22

[58] **Field of Search**..... 229/14 R, 23 R, 23 BT, 229/52 AL; 206/46 FN; 27/35; D19/1

[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

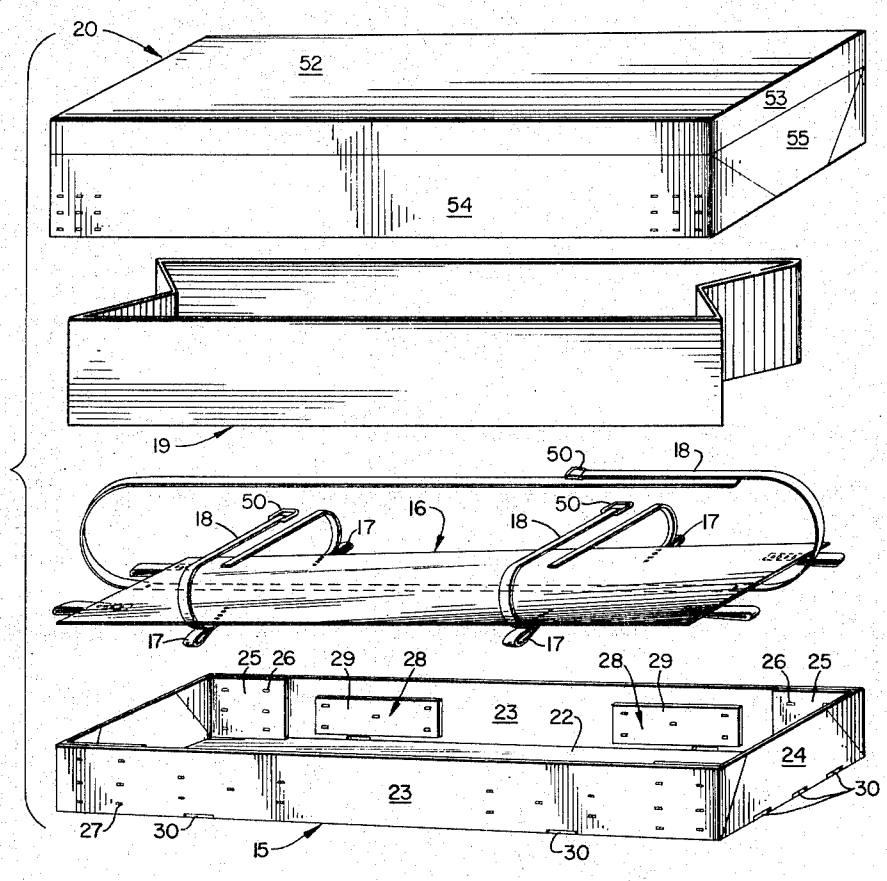
3,661,318	5/1972	Miller et al.	229/23 BT
2,346,466	4/1944	Belsinger	229/23 R
1,807,770	6/1931	Beaman	27/35
785,102	3/1905	Hougland	229/23 R
D227,247	6/1973	Dittbenner et al.	D19/1

Primary Examiner—Leonard Summer
Attorney—Wynne and Finken

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A shipping container for air transport of a casket or the like is provided, which can be shipped to the user in a compact condition, erected at the place of use, and discarded after use. The elements of the shipping container involve in combination a casket protecting enclosure and a lifting flat plate positioned beneath the casket. A shipping container is provided as well as a package made up of the parts of the shipping container.

3 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures



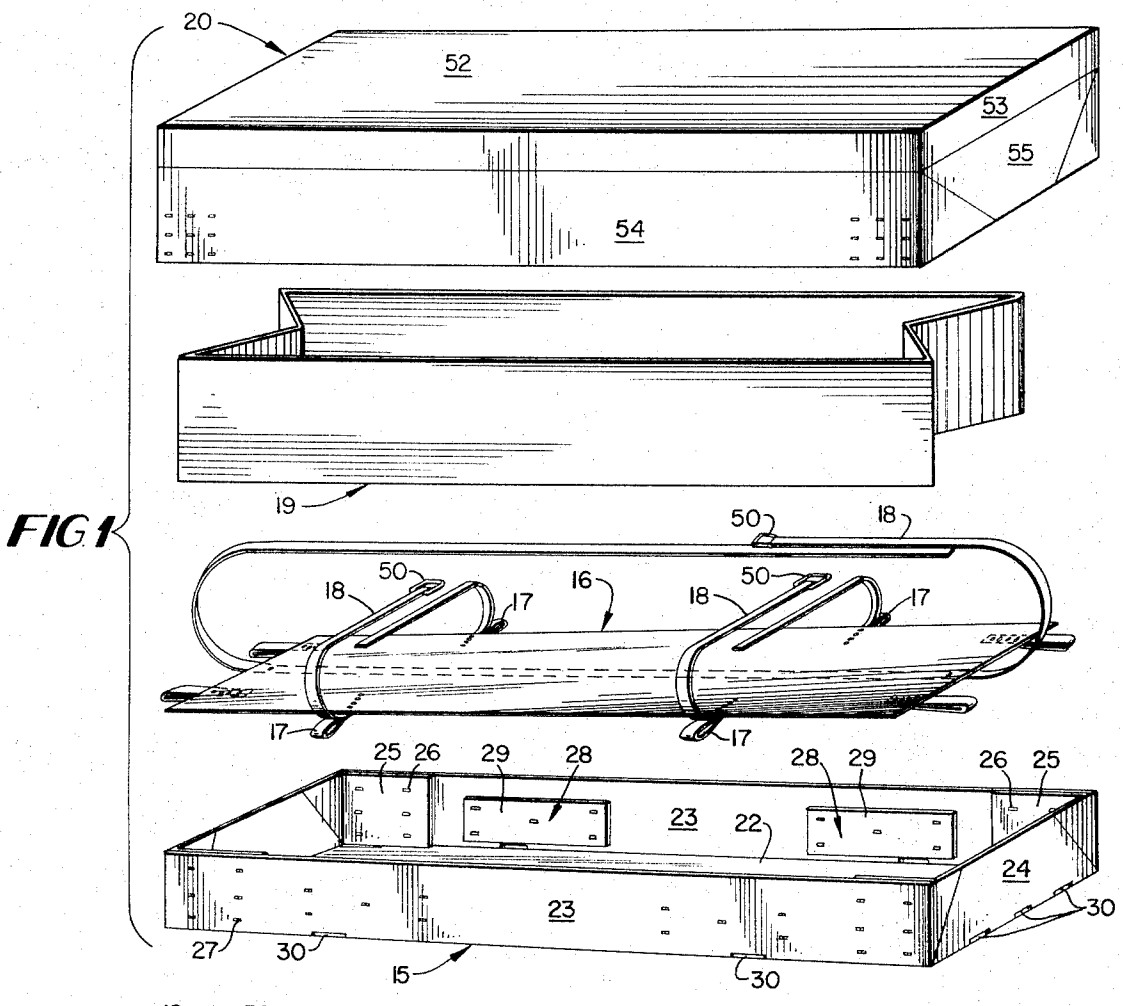


FIG. 1

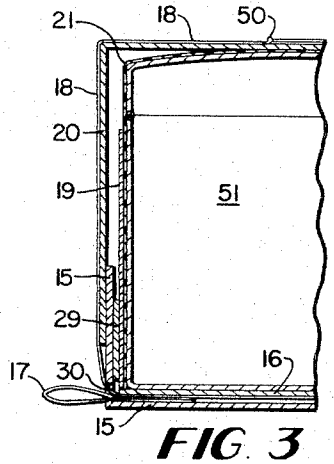


FIG. 3

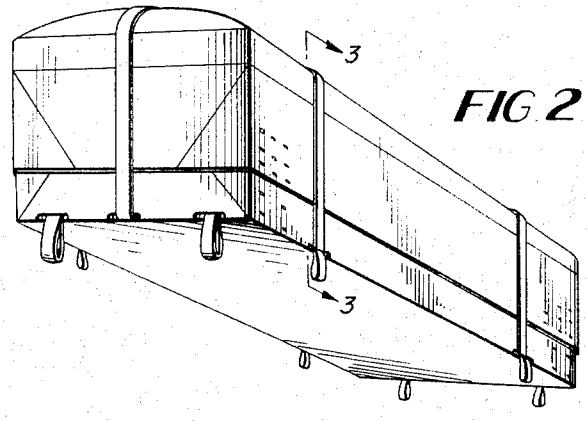


FIG. 2

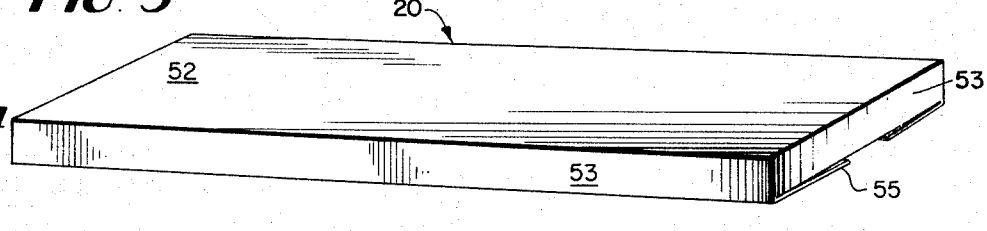


FIG. 4

SHIPPING CONTAINER

PRIOR ART

Air transport of caskets has presented a problem in that the shipping container for caskets must resist normal handling damage, weather, and the like. Therefore, shipping containers have been expensive and hence normally returned for further usage. As is known, breakage, loss, and return charges have been a burden and a significant part of the cost in the transport of caskets by air.

A package is provided which includes a bottom tray, a flat panel of strong material which engages the casket bottom, a box which serves as the shipping container top cover and which encloses the bottom tray when in package form. The height of the package is about four inches. Enclosed within the box is a reinforcing band in flattened condition which lines the walls of the shipping container when erected.

The drawings:

FIG. 1 shows an exploded perspective view of the parts erected and positioned for the production of a shipping container;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the shipping container assembled;

FIG. 3 is a cross-section taken on line 3—3 of FIG. 2; and

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the package.

The basic parts of the shipping container are:

bottom tray **15**;

flat plate **16** with lifting handles **17** and securing strap means **18**;

reinforcing band **19**;

box **20**; and

plastic film hood **21** (FIG. 3).

The bottom tray **15** has a bottom member **22** and fully connected side walls **23** and end walls **24** which form an upstanding rectangular tube. The end walls **24** have side extensions **25** positioned inside the side walls **23** and connected thereto, preferably by staples **26** which have their legs **27** clenched at the outer faces of the side walls **23.** Reinforcing means **28** are provided on the inside faces of the side walls to prevent injury to a casket or the like by lift trucks, preferably these being four rectangular pressboard members **29** stapled to the side walls in the manner previously discussed, at suitable positions. Slots **30** are provided in the side walls and end walls, preferably at the bottoms thereof, for passage of strap means **18,** and handles attached to the flat plate **16.** Two slots **30** are provided in each side wall **23** and three slots **30** in each end wall **24,** with the side wall slots serving both the handles **17** and the strap means **18.**

The flat plate **16** is flexible and hard and may be of pressboard or the like. It serves as a lifting force transmitting device for the casket. In a sense, the bottom tray **15** is suspended from the flat plate **16** when the integrated casket and shipping container are lifted. The flat plate **16** is substantially coextensive with the bottom member **22** and its four side fabric handles or loops **17,** as well as its strap means **18** made up of two transverse straps and one longitudinal strap, are preferably stapled thereto, with the staple legs clenched at the top surface so that the smooth flat staple member engages the bottom member of the tray. Suitable locking buckles **50** are provided on the straps which, as seen in FIG. **2,** encircle the box or top cover **20** which telescopes

over the tray **15** to produce an integrated tightly bound combination of the flat plate **16,** casket **51,** and box or top cover **20.**

The top cover, which serves as the package box **20,** as shown inFIG. **4,** has a rectangular top member **52,** a depending peripheral continuous flange **53** which forms a depending rectangular tube. Depending from this tube are fully-connected side panels **54,** and end panels **55,** which form an extension of the depending tube, thereby forming therewith a peripheral unit depending from the top member **52** for enclosing the upper portion of a casket. As with the bottom tray **15,** the top cover has side extensions, preferably connected by staples to the side panels **54.** However, in this case, the legs of the staples are clenched at the inside face of the extensions to provide a smooth outer surface for the container.

Preferably the end walls **24** and end panels **55** of the tray **15** and box **20,** respectively, are scored, as shown, to facilitate collapse in the normal fashion in the production of the package of FIG. **4.**

The upstanding rectangular tube of the tray telescopically and externally receives the depending rectangular tube of the box **20,** thus providing protection from rain damage.

Preferably, a reinforcing band **19** is provided which is in the form of a rectangular upstanding wall which seats along the outer periphery of the tray bottom member **22** and extends upwardly into the telescoping cover **20,** a distance sufficient to cover the inside clenched staple legs positioned in the lower portion of the side panels **54** of the cover. The reinforcing band **19** has a vertical score line in the middle of each end wall to enable inward collapsing or flattening when it becomes part of the package of FIG. **4.**

A plastic film hood **24** (FIG. 3) is provided for draping over the casket. Also a waterproof plastic pouch (not shown) is included with the package when shipped to the user for use for burial permits and accompanying papers.

FIG. **3,** from left to right, shows a strap **18,** box **20,** tray **15,** reinforcing member **29,** band **19,** hood **21,** and casket **51.** From bottom to top there are the tray **15,** the plate **16,** and the casket **51.**

The package of FIG. **4** is formed by placing the flat plate **16** in the tray **15,** collapsing the end walls **24;** placing the reinforcing band **19** in collapsed condition thereon, along with the hood **24,** and then placing the box **20** thereover with its collapsed end panels **55** and side panels **54** forming the bottom, its flange **53** providing the sides and ends of the package. The package may then be secured by straps or the like for shipment to the user.

In use, the tray is opened up or erected and the casket **51,** is placed therein on top of the flat plate **16,** the handles and straps having been passed through the appropriate slots. The plastic film hood **21** is then draped over the casket, and then the reinforcing band **19** is slid thereover and telescoped within the tray into seated position. The box **20** is then telescoped over the assembly and the straps tightened to form an integrated unit.

Caskets are about 88 inches long and 28 inches wide. The container is manufactured to provide reasonable clearance to facilitate assembly. For example, two inches of play at each end are provided and the telescoping of the parts takes care of different casket heights. The box is about 92 inches long, about 30

inches wide, with its flange 4 inches in height, and its panels 11 inches in height. Its staple zone extends upwardly from the lower panel edge about 6 inches. The reinforcing band **19** is about 15 inches high to insure its covering of the staples of the cover as well as those in the tray. The flat plate **16** is about 28 inches wide. The box **20,** band **19,** and tray **15** are preferably of waterproof cardboard. The walls of the tray are about 8 inches high.

What is claimed is:

1. A package made up of the parts of a shipping container for a casket or the like comprising,

a bottom tray having a bottom member and fully connected side walls and end walls forming an upstanding rectangular tube when the package is converted to a shipping container, one pair of opposed walls having means enabling the collapsing thereof, whereby said side walls and said end walls are in flattened pancaked superposition on said bottom member, the other pair of opposed walls having reinforcing means along their inside surfaces;

a flat plate substantially coextensive with said bottom member and having lifting handles and securing strap means affixed thereto, said bottom tray having slots allowing passage of said handles and said strap means when the package is converted to a shipping container;

a box which serves as the shipping container top cover having a top member, a depending peripheral continuous flange forming a depending rectangular tube; and fully connected side panels and end panels adapted to depend from said flange as an extension of said depending rectangular tube when the package is converted to a shipping container, one pair of opposed panels having means enabling the collapsing thereof whereby side panels and said end panels are in flattened enclosing condition under said bottom tray; and

a reinforcing band adapted for lining the interior walls of the shipping container when the package is so converted and which is collapsed and positioned within said box,

said box enclosing said bottom tray with said flat plate and reinforcing band sandwiched therebetween.

2. A shipping container for a casket comprising,

a bottom tray having a bottom member, side walls and end walls, said walls having slots;

a flat plate seated in said tray for substantially coextensive contact with the bottom of a casket and having handles and straps affixed thereto which extend out of said slots;

a reinforcing band seated in said tray and extending upwardly around and beyond the interior faces of the side walls and end walls thereof; and

a top cover telescopically positioned over said bottom tray having a top member, an unbroken peripheral flange depending therefrom, and end panels and side panels depending from said flange;

siad straps encircling said top cover to enable the production of a tightly integrated unit when a casket is within the container.

3. A shipping container for a casket comprising,

a bottom tray having a bottom member, side walls and end walls, said side walls having slots;

a flat plate seated in said tray for substantially coextensive contact with the bottom of a casket and having handles and straps affixed thereto which extend out of said slots;

a reinforcing band seated in said tray and extending upwardly around and beyond the interior faces of the side walls and end walls thereof; and

a top cover positioned over said bottom tray having a top member, and a peripheral unit depending therefrom for enclosing the upper portion of a casket;

said straps encircling said top cover to enable the production of a tightly integrated unit when a casket is within the container.

* * * * *