Aug. 18, 1925. 1,549,934

F. VANEK ET AL

CONVERTIBLE CAMP FURNITURE

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Fig. 1.

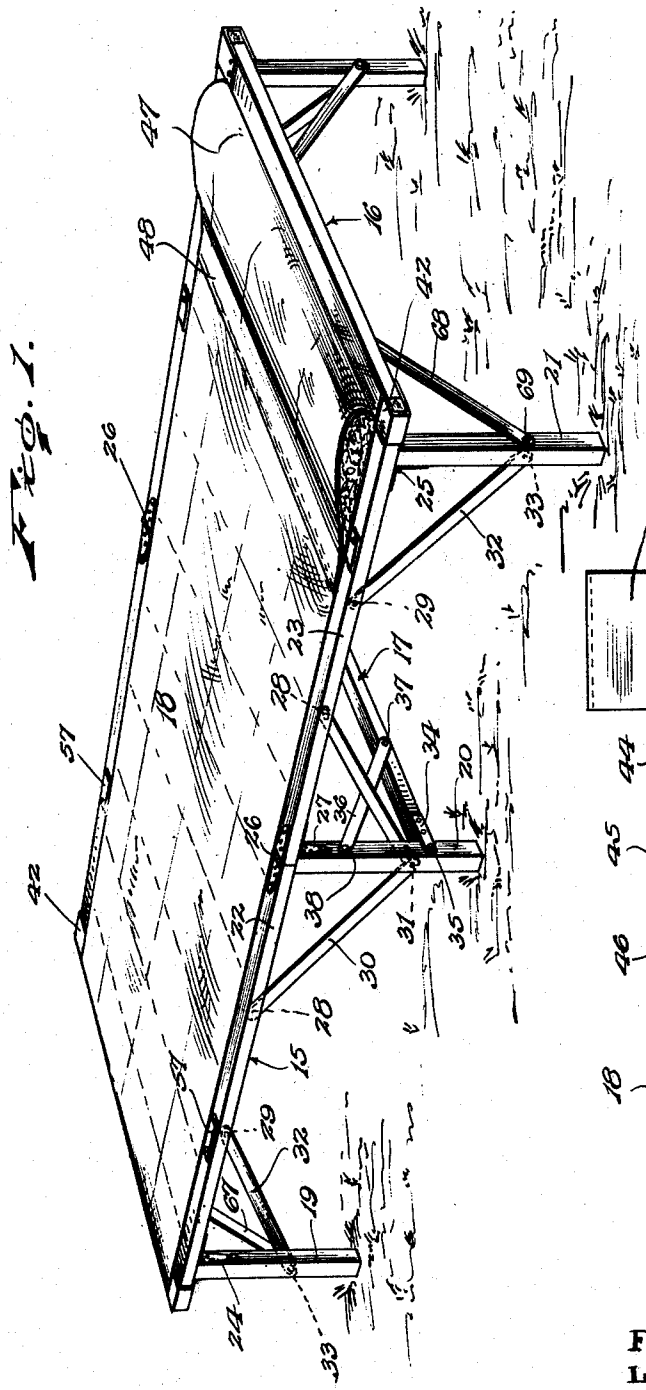
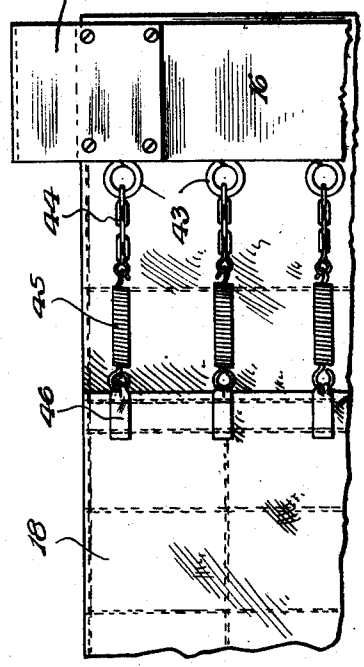


Fig. 5.



Inventors

Frank Vanek.
Lee R. Marsh.

By Lacey & Lacey, Attorneys

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Fig. 2.

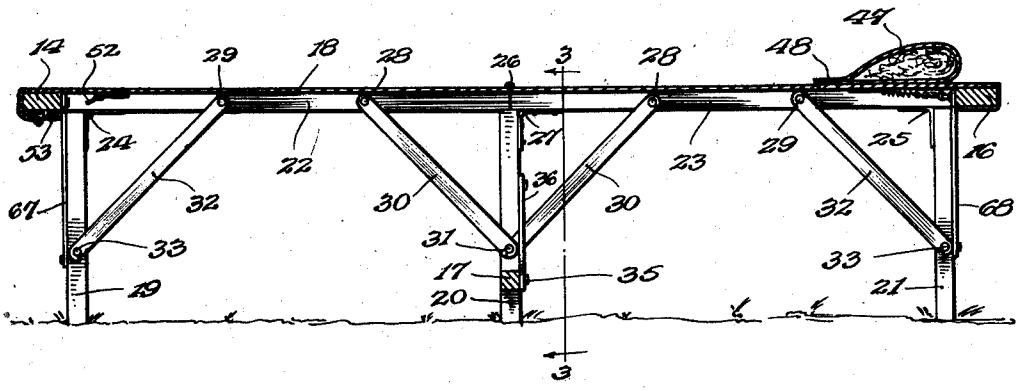


Fig. 3.

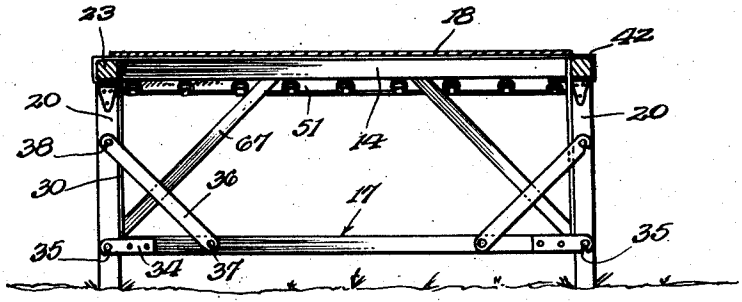
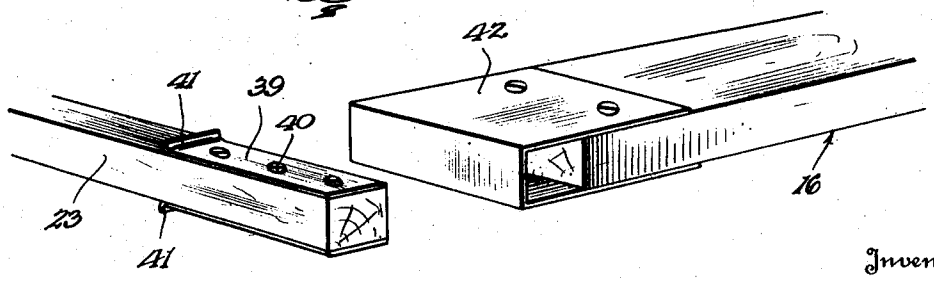


Fig. 4.



Inventors

Frank Vanek.
Lee R. Marsh.

By Lacy & Lacy, Attorneys

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Fig. 6.

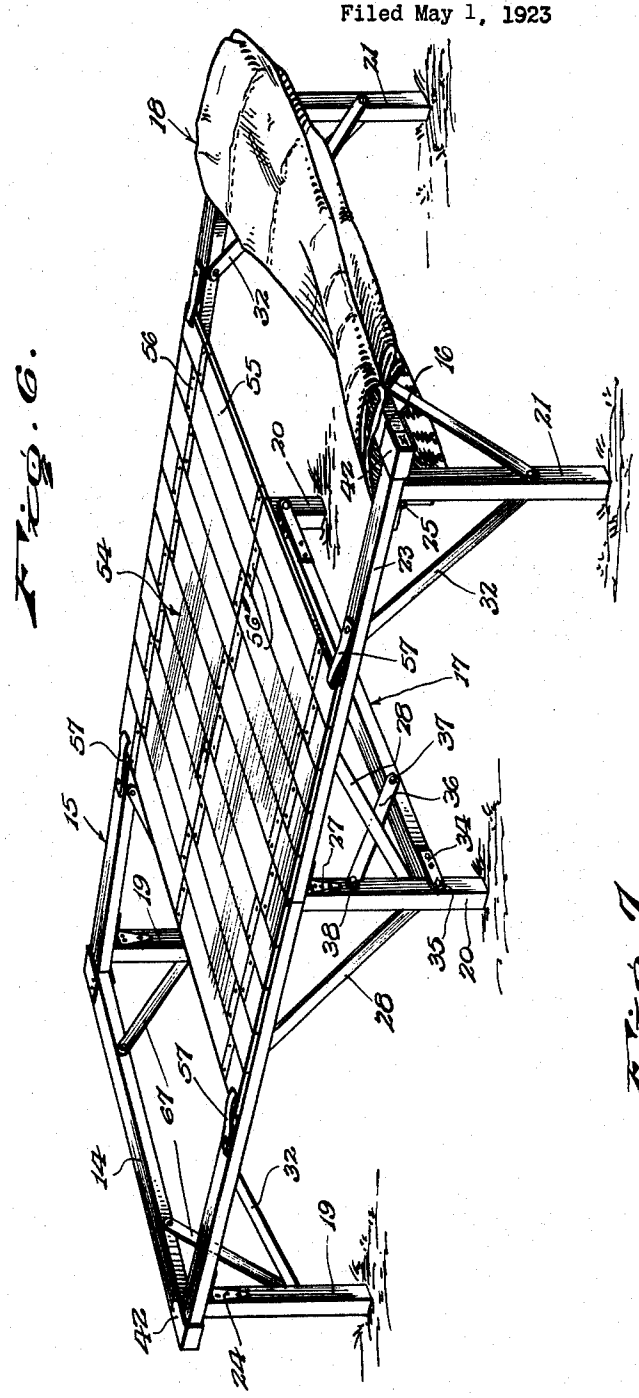


Fig. 8.

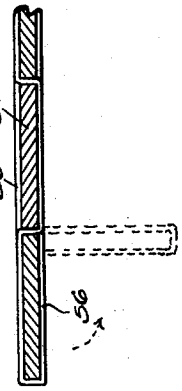
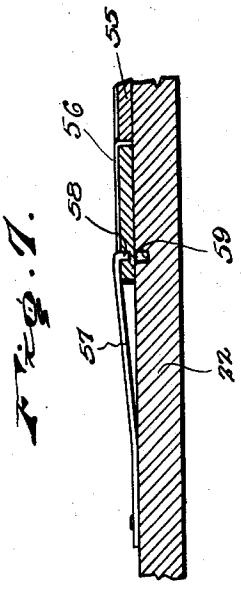


Fig. 7.



Inventors

Frank Vanek.
Lee R. Marsh.

By Lacey & Lacey. Attorneys

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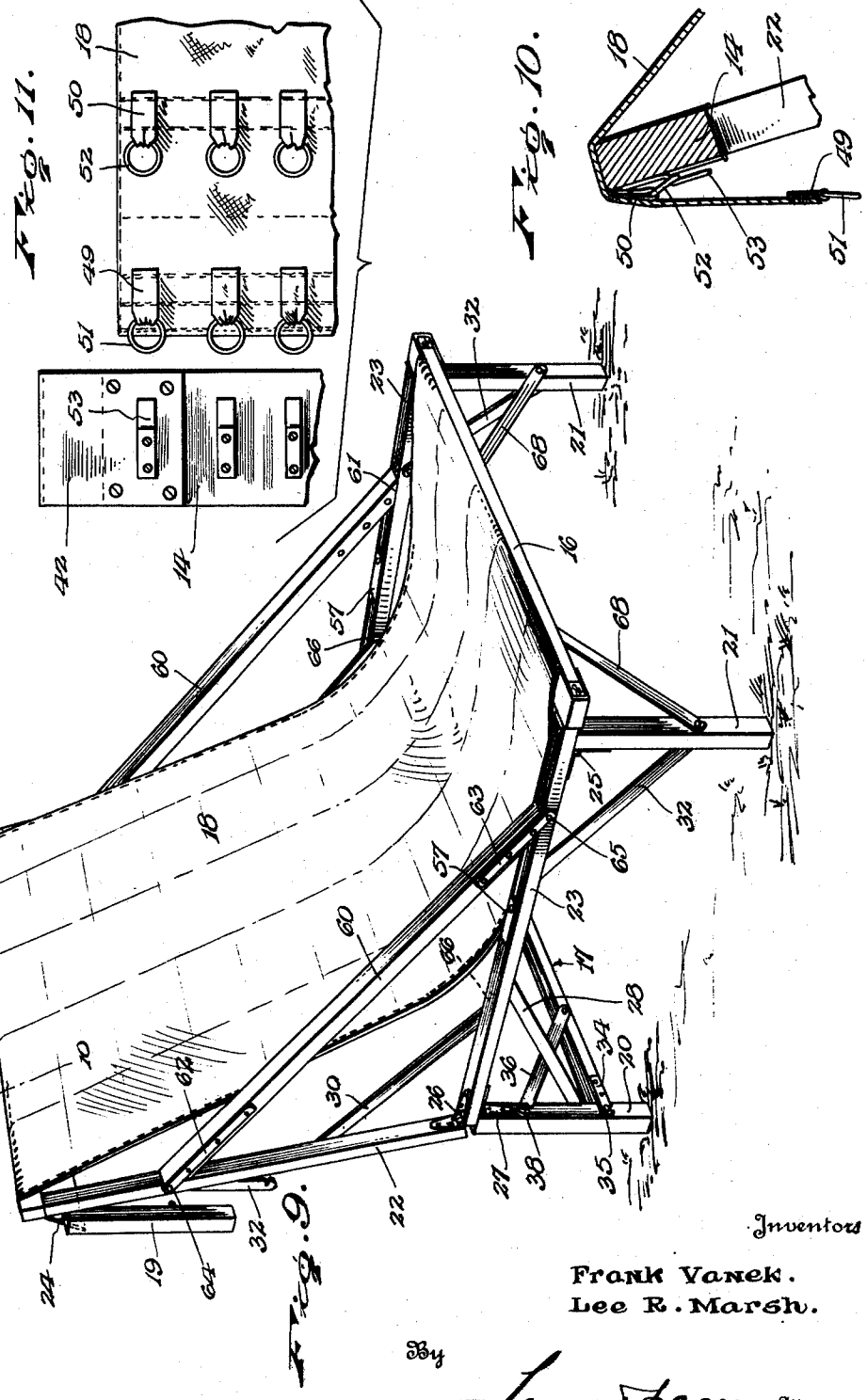

Fig. 9.

Fig. 11.

Fig. 10.

Inventors

Frank Vanek.
Lee R. Marsh.

By Lacey & Lacey, Attorneys

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK VANEK AND LEE R. MARSH, OF BILLINGS, MONTANA.

CONVERTIBLE CAMP FURNITURE.

Application filed May 1, 1923. Serial No. 635,974.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FRANK VANEK and LEE R. MARSH, citizens of the United States, residing at Billings, in the county of Yellowstone and State of Montana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Convertible Camp Furniture, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to furniture intended for use by camping parties, and the main object of the invention is to provide a single piece of furniture which may be set up either as a table, a chair, or a bed.

Another object of the invention is to make this piece of furniture collapsible so that it will fold neatly and take up very little room during transportation in an automobile or other vehicle, and a further object of the invention is to so construct this piece of furniture that it may be quickly set up for either one of its different uses.

This device combines lightness with strength and has the advantage of providing a comfortable chair, a comfortable bed, or a good sized table without detriment to the good qualities of any of these three uses.

In the accompanying drawings one embodiment of the invention is illustrated; and—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device set up as a camp bed;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a transverse section of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of some of its details;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary bottom plan view of other details;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the device arranged as a table;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary longitudinal section of the table;

Figure 8 is a similar view of the table top;

Figure 9 is a perspective view of the device set up as an easy chair;

Figure 10 is a fragmentary section along line 10—10 of Figure 9; and

Figure 11 is a fragmentary bottom plan view of some of the details.

In first describing the device when used as a camp bed, reference is particularly made to Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 11. When set up as a bed, the device comprises the following parts, namely, two side supports 15, two end bars 14 and 16, a central bar 17, and the canvas top 18.

The two side supports each consist of three legs or standards 19, 20 and 21, and side runners 22 and 23. The latter are of equal length and hinged in the middle as at 26. The legs 19 and 21 are hinged respectively a short distance from the outer ends of the side runners 22 and 23, as at 24 and 25 in such a manner that they can be folded inwardly under the side runners 22 and 23. The central leg or standard 20 is hinged as at 27 to the side runner 23 in such a manner that it overlaps the joint when the side support is erected, as best seen in Figures 1 and 2. The side runners and the legs are preferably made of strong wood, while the hinges would naturally be made of metal. In order to lock the legs in erected position, the side runners 22 and 23 are provided with band metal braces. These braces are hinged about one-third of the length of each side runner from the inner and outer ends thereof, as at 28 and 29, so that they will lie flat along the sides of the side runners when folded. The braces 30, hinged at 28, are intended to hook over a stud 31 on the center leg 20, and end braces 32, hinged at 29, are each intended to hook over a similar stud 33 on each of the end legs 19 and 21. Similar transverse braces 67 and 68, hinged respectively on the end bars 14 and 16, engage with studs 69 furnished on the outer faces of the legs 19 and 21 to keep the structure firm in transverse direction.

The center legs 20 of the side supports 15 are cross connected by the bar 17, which has a plate 34 at each end, formed as a hook and adapted to engage with a stud 35 on the two center legs 20. The blunt ends of the bar 17 abut against the inner sides of the legs 20. To still further strengthen the side bracing of the device, band braces 36 are hinged as at 37 on the cross bar 17, and the upper end of these braces 36 are hook shaped and adapted to engage on studs 38 furnished on the center legs 20.

As best seen in Figure 4, the ends of the side runners 23 are provided with reinforcing metal strips 39 at their outer ends secured thereto by countersunk screws or rivets 40. These reinforcing plates are laid flush with the sides of the runners, and their inner ends terminate with an upturned lip

41. The length of these reinforcing strips corresponds to the width of the end bars 14 and 16. The ends of these bars 14 and 16 are provided with plate shoes 42 which fit snugly over the reinforced ends of the side runners 22, 23. It will now be evident that when these shoes are slipped over the ends, they will abut against the lips 41 to hold the end bars 14 and 16 in engagement with the outer ends of the side runners 22 and 23.

The end bar 16, which is placed at the head of the bed, is provided with eyelets 43 screwed into the bar on the inner side thereof, as best seen in Figure 5. These eyelets carry chains 44 intended to engage with the hooked ends of tension springs 45 secured on the under side of the canvas top 18, by means of straps 46. In this manner it is possible to stretch the canvas at this end by engaging the hook of the spring 45 in different links of the chain 44. The part of the canvas extending beyond the reinforced portion thereof where the links 46 are sewn on, or fastened in any other suitable manner, is doubled up, as seen at 47, and the edge 48 sewn down on the reinforced part of the canvas. In this manner a bag, open at both ends, is formed, and into which straw or any other suitable filling material may be inserted to provide a pillow. The other end of the canvas 18 has similar loops 49 and 50 arranged in two or more parallel rows, as best seen in Figure 11, these rows being spaced apart in the longitudinal direction of the canvas for a purpose that will be described further on. Each loop 49 or 50 carries a ring 51 and 52 respectively, and these rings are intended to engage over fingers 53 secured on the under side of the end bar 14. These fingers 53 point inwardly and the canvas is of such length that it can be taken around the outer edge of the end bars 14 and folded under the same, and each ring 51 engage with the corresponding finger 53, while the rings 52 are idle.

When the device is used as a table, the setting up of the same is identical with what has now been described as the camp bed, with the exception that the top 18 is rolled over to one end, as seen in Figure 6, or entirely detached from the end bar 16, but the end bars and other connection with the side supports is the same as before. The table is best shown in Figures 6, 7 and 8. The table top 54 consists of a plurality of narrow slats 55 of the same length as the width of the table, or the distance between the outer edges of the set up side supports 15. These slats are held together by means of canvas bands 56 secured alternately on the top and bottom sides of the slats, as seen in Figures 6 and 8. In this manner the slats are held securely together when spread out over the tops of the side supports, and can be rolled together into a bundle of the same width as one of the slats and the added thickness of all of them, and may be carried in a suitable bag for transportation.

As shown in Figure 6, the top does not extend the entire length of the side supports, but only covers the middle portion thereof, but it is evident that by adding more slats to the top, a greater length to the same may be obtained, extending from end to end of the supports. In order to secure the top 54 to the side supports, flexible fingers 57 are secured on the upper face of the side runners 22 and 23. These fingers have a downwardly directed projection 58 adapted to engage in corresponding recesses formed in the outermost slats 55, but when the device is used as a chair or camp bed, these projections engage in corresponding recesses 59 on the top face of the side runners 22 and 23, as best seen in Figure 7. In this manner, the fingers and other projections form no obstruction when the device is folded or used as a chair or bed.

When the device is used as a chair, the frame or side supports are broken at the middle hinges 26, so that only the side runner 23 with its legs 20 and 21 rest on the ground, while the side runners 22 are turned upwards with the legs 19 hanging loosely on their hinges 24, as best seen in Figure 9. The side runners 22 are secured in this position by means of arm rests 60 having beveled end faces 61 adapted to rest on the side runners 23 and against the inclined side runners 22, while the plate hooks 62 and 63 at each end of the arm rests 60 are adapted to engage over studs 64 and 65 provided on the outer surfaces of the side runners 22 and 23 respectively. The braces 30, which otherwise engage with studs 31 on the center legs 20, have now been unhooked from the same and engage instead over studs 66 furnished on the side runners 23.

The end bar 14 now engages with its fingers 53 in the second row of rings 52 on the under side of the canvas 18, as best seen in Figure 10, while the tension springs 45 at the other ends of the canvas engage, as before, with their hooks in the chains 44 or the eyelets 43 on the end bar 16. The position of the second row of rings 52 has been so selected that a suitable slacking of the canvas 18 is obtained in the manner of camp stools or deck chairs.

In order to erect the device either for a chair or for a bed, the best way to go about it is to, first, arrange the parts in the manner of a chair, as seen in Figure 9, that is to say, with the side runners 23 locked to the legs 20 and 21, and the end bar 16 slipped over the outer reinforced ends 39 of these runners, while the canvas 18 is attached to the eyelets and chains 43 and 44, as already described. The other end of the canvas is next attached, in the

case of the chair, by means of rings 52 to the fingers 53 on the end bar 14, but in the case of erecting the camp bed, with rings 51 engaging the same fingers. With the canvas thus attached at both ends, the end bar 14 is now slipped over the reinforced ends 39 of the side runners 22. If a bed is now intended to be erected, the side runners 22 are lowered and the legs 19 then placed in position, and the braces 30 attached to the legs 20. In this manner, no exertion is needed to stretch the canvas as it is slack during the setting up operation until the side supports are in position.

As already described, the side rails, cross bars, and legs are preferably made of wood, and all the other parts are metal, but it is evident that metal can be used for all of these parts. Lightness may be preserved in the latter case by using some aluminum alloy for the metal parts, the compactness of the device when folded remaining the same in both cases.

For transportation, a long narrow bag is preferably used for the table top, while the frame may be neatly folded and rolled up in the canvas 18.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new is:

In furniture of the type described, the combination of side bars each consisting of alined sections hinged together at their inner meeting ends whereby one section may be swung upwardly relative to the other section, cross bars removably engaged with and extending between the ends of the side bars, legs hinged to the side bars adjacent the ends thereof, intermediate legs hinged to one section of the side bars at the inner end of said section and arranged to extend under and across the joint between the sections, braces pivoted to the sections and detachably connected with the intermediate legs, the brace pivoted to one section being adapted to be detachably connected to the other section when one section is swung upwardly, braces detachably connecting the first-mentioned legs and the side bars, and braces detachably connecting said legs and the cross bars.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

FRANK VANEK [L. S.]
LEE R. MARSH [L. S.]