Feb. 1, 1966 W. F. HUNT 3,232,491

CONTAINER FOR A KEG OR THE LIKE

Filed May 22, 1963 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

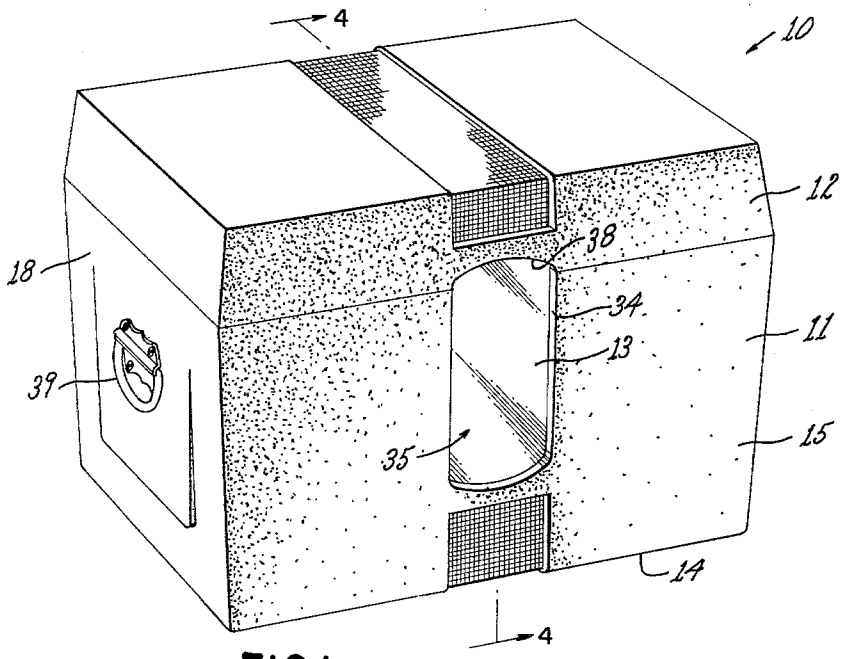


FIG.1

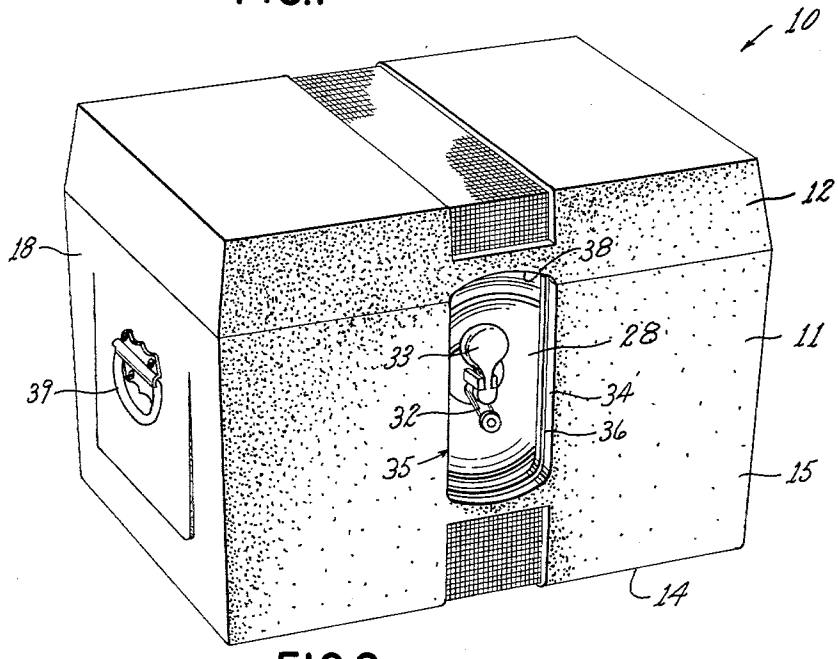


FIG.2

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CONTAINER FOR A KEG OR THE LIKE

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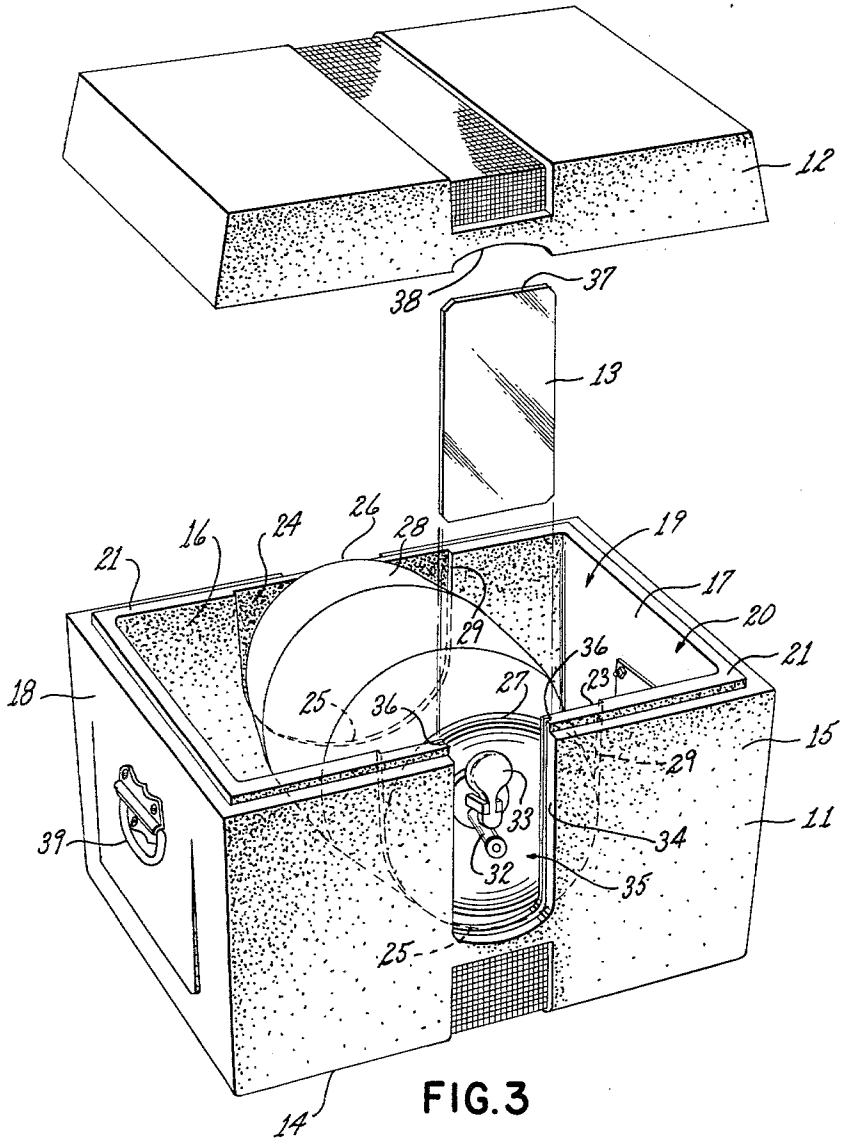


FIG.3

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CONTAINER FOR A KEG OR THE LIKE

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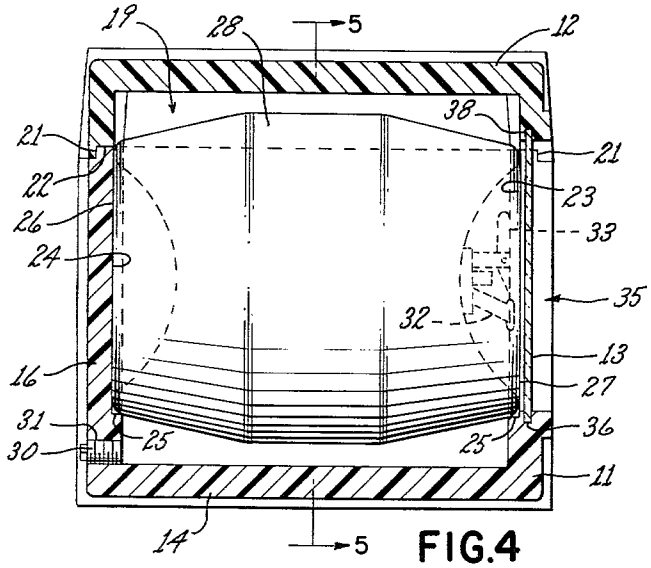


FIG.4

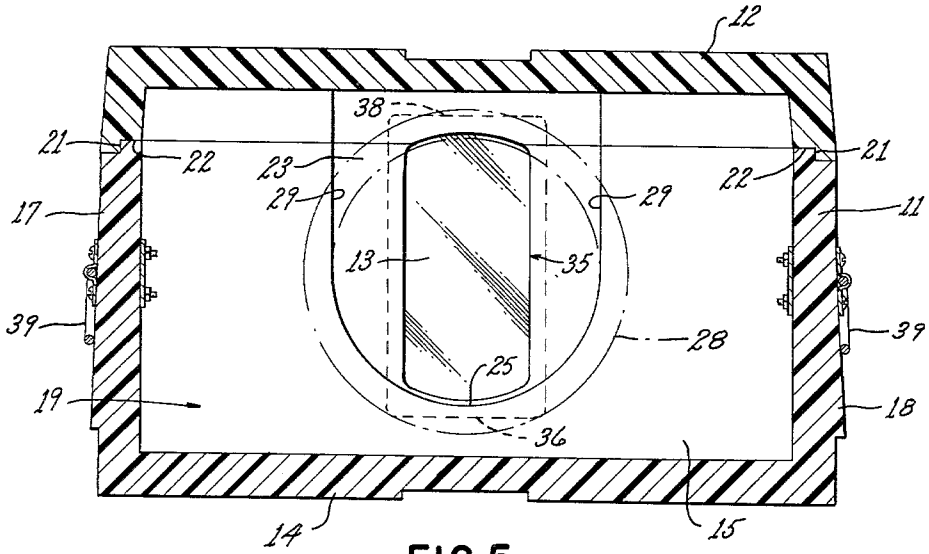


FIG.5

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Feb. 1, 1966 W. F. HUNT 3,232,491

CONTAINER FOR A KEG OR THE LIKE

Filed May 22, 1963 4 Sheets-Sheet 4

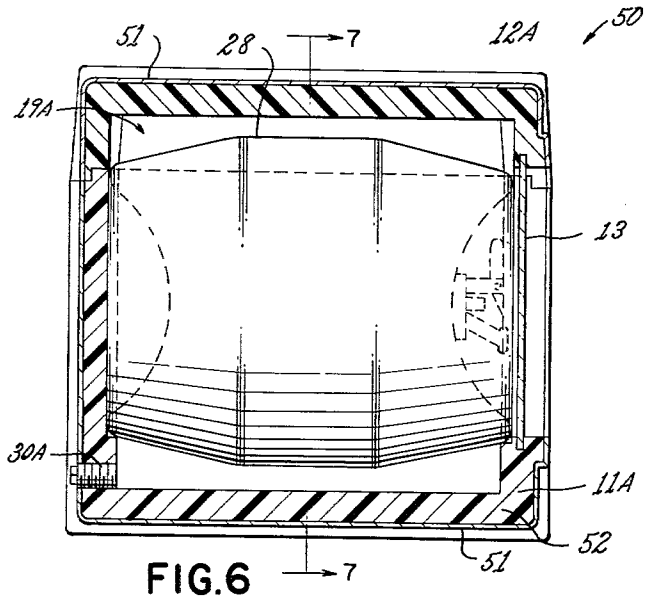


FIG.6

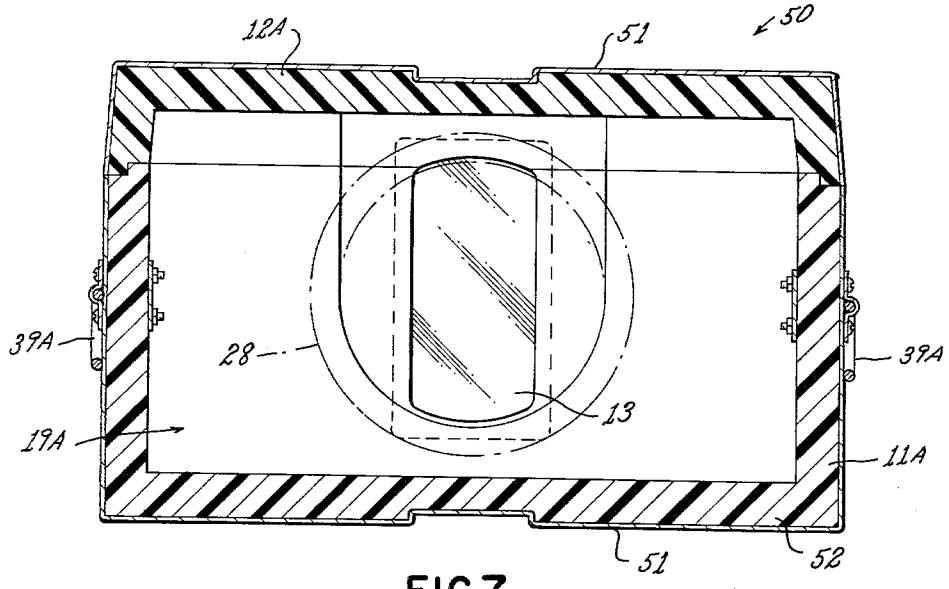


FIG.7

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United States Patent Office 3,232,491 Patented Feb. 1, 1966

3,232,491

CONTAINER FOR A KEG OR THE LIKE

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Filed May 22, 1963, Ser. No. 282,370
8 Claims. (Cl. 222—154)

This invention relates to an improved container for storing a keg of beer or the like.

It is well known that people are more frequently buying beer and other beverages in larger and more economical containers not only for home use but also for picnics and the like.

Thus, it has become necessary to provide some means for readily maintaining such large sized containers in a refrigerated manner so that the same can be utilized on the aforementioned picnics and other outings.

For example, beer is now being sold in barrel-shaped kegs formed of metallic material, such as aluminum-containing metallic material or the like, having a capacity of around 2 to 2½ gallons.

Such kegs are readily adaptable for being disposed on the conventional shelf in a refrigerator or the like in such a manner that the dispensing faucet of the keg will be disposed toward the front of the refrigerator whereby the ultimate consumer need only bring his glass to the dispensing means to draw the desired quantity of beer without requiring removal of the rather cumbersome keg for such dispensing purpose, the beer normally being under pressure in the keg so that tipping of the keg is not required even when the keg is almost empty.

However, before the teachings of this invention, no suitable means had been provided for maintaining the refrigerated condition of such keg for use on picnics and other outings where a refrigeration system cannot be utilized.

According to the teachings of this invention, however, an improved container is provided for receiving such a keg or the like wherein the container supports the keg in a novel manner to permit the same to be completely surrounded by ice or other cooling medium so that the keg will be refrigerated and the beverage remain cool until the same is dispensed from the keg.

Further, the improved container of this invention has means for readily dispensing the beverage from the keg or the like without requiring removal of the keg from the container of this invention whereby cumbersome handling of the keg is not required.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide an improved container for a beverage keg or the like, the container having one or more of the novel features of this invention as set forth above or hereinafter shown or described.

Other objects, uses and advantages of this invention are apparent from a reading of this description which proceeds with reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part thereof and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the improved container of this invention.

FIGURE 2 is a view similar to FIGURE 1 and illustrates the container with the window means thereof removed to permit dispensing of the beverage from the keg contained in the container of this invention.

FIGURE 3 is an exploded perspective view illustrating the various parts of the container of this invention.

FIGURE 4 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 4—4 of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 5 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 5—5 of FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 6 is a view similar to FIGURE 4 and illustrates another embodiment of this invention.

FIGURE 7 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 7—7 of FIGURE 6.

While the various features of this invention are hereinafter described and illustrated as being particularly adaptable for providing a container for a keg of beer or the like, it is to be understood that the various features of this invention can be utilized singly or in any combination thereof to provide a container for other devices as desired.

Therefore, this invention is not to be limited to only the embodiment illustrated in the drawings, because the drawings are merely utilized to illustrate one of the wide variety of uses of this invention.

Referring now to FIGURE 1, the improved container of this invention is generally indicated by the reference numeral **10** and comprises an open ended container body **11**, a cover **12** for closing the container body **11** and a removable member or window **13** utilized in a manner hereinafter described whereby it can be seen that the container **10** of this invention is formed from only a few basic parts.

As illustrated in FIGURE 3, the container body **11** has a substantially rectangular bottom wall **14** integrally interconnected to upstanding opposed pairs of side walls **15**, **16** and **17**, **18** integrally interconnected together at the corners of the bottom of the body member **11** to define a compartment **19** in the container body **11** that has an open upper end **20** defined by the upper edges of the side walls **15–18**.

The upper edges of the side walls **15–18** of the container body **11** are provided with inwardly offset and upwardly directed flange means **21** adapted to be received in recess means **22** formed in the cover member **12** in the manner illustrated in FIGURES 4 and 5 whereby the cover member **12** can be positively located on the container body **11** to completely close the open end **20** thereof. Further, by providing a snug fit between the flange means **21** of the container body **11** and the recess means **22** of the cover member **12**, a more air-tight container is provided.

The container body **11** and cover member **12** are preferably formed of heat insulating material. For example, the container body **11** and cover **12** can be formed of molded styrofoam or the like whereby the cover member **12** and container body **11** can each be formed in a relatively simple and economical manner.

The inside surfaces of the opposed side walls **15** and **16** of the container body **11** are respectively interrupted by recesses **23** and **24**, each recess **23** and **24** extending to the open end **20** of the container body **11** at one end thereof and terminating short of the bottom wall **14** at the other end thereof in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 4 for a purpose hereinafter described. Each recess **23** and **24** defines an arcuate lower shoulder or mounting means **25** at the bottom thereof to be complementary to the opposed cylindrical end walls **26** and **27** of a conventional keg-like member **28** to be disposed in compartment **19** of the container **10** of this invention in a manner hereinafter described.

The arcuate shoulder portions **25** of the recesses **23** and **24** are interconnected at the opposed ends thereof to substantially straight and parallel flanges or shoulders **29** that extend to the open end **20** of the container body **11**.

Thus, when it is desired to dispose the keg **28** in the container **10** of this invention, the cover **12** is removed and the keg **28** is inserted downwardly into the compartment **19** of the container body **11** by having the opposed end walls **26** and **27** thereof respectively received in the recesses **24** and **23** until the end walls **26** and **27** of the

keg 28 rest on the arcuate shoulders 25 of the recesses 23 and 24 in the manner illustrated in FIGURES 3 and 4 whereby the shoulders 25 suspend the keg 28 in the container body 11 in spaced relation from the bottom wall 14 thereof.

In this manner, ice or other cooling media can be disposed in the compartment 19 to substantially, completely surround the suspended keg 28 to fully cool the same, the heat insulating characteristic of the container 10 assisting the cooling media in maintaining the beverage in the keg 28 in the desired refrigerated condition thereof. Of course, the keg 28 could be refrigerated before insertion in the container 10, and the container 10 would maintain the beverage cool even though no cooling media is placed in the container 10 because of the heat-insulating qualities of the container 10.

In order to drain water or other moisture from the container 10 of this invention, a suitable drain plug 30 is threadedly disposed in a threaded bore 31 provided in the rear wall 16 of the container body 11 adjacent the bottom wall 14 thereof in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 4.

If desired, the drain plug 30 can merely be assembled to the container 10 by a press fit relation rather than by the threaded relation illustrated.

The front end wall 27 of the keg 28 is suitably recessed to receive a dispensing faucet 32 and actuating handle 33 thereof in the manner illustrated in FIGURES 3 and 4 whereby the dispensing faucet 32 and handle 33 of the keg 28 do not impede insertion of the keg 28 in the compartment 19 of the container 10 of this invention.

In order to permit the beverage in the keg 28 to be selectively dispensed without removal of the cumbersome keg 28 from the container 10 of this invention, the front wall 15 of the container body 11 is cut away at 34 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 3 to define an opening 35 that intersects the recess 23 and is, thus, disposed adjacent the dispensing faucet 32 and handle 33 of the keg 28 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 3, the opening 35 extending to the opened end 20 of the container body 11 and terminating short of the shoulder 25 of the recess 23 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 4.

The portion of the side wall 15 bordering the three sides of the opening 35 are respectively interrupted by a continuous slot 36 adapted to receive the peripheral edge of the member 13 when the member 13 is inserted vertically downwardly in the slot 36 in the manner indicated by the dashed lines in FIGURE 3, the member 13 being larger than the opening 35 and having the upper end 37 thereof extending beyond the open end 20 of the container body 11 when the member 13 is fully received in the slot 36 of the side wall 15.

Thus, the front portion of the peripheral flange of the cover 12 of the container 10 is provided with a cutout 38 to receive the upper portion 37 of the member 13 when the cover is disposed over the open end 20 of the container 11, the cover 12 also having a slot 38, FIGURE 4, to receive the peripheral edge of the upper end 37 of the member 13 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 4 whereby it can be seen that the member 13 can be substantially sealed to the container body 11 and cover 12 when disposed in the position illustrated in FIGURE 1.

While the member 13 can be formed of any suitable material, it is preferred that the member 13 be formed of glass or transparent plastic material so that a person can see the keg 28 in the container 10 when the member 13 is utilized in combination with the container 10 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 1.

However, it is desirable that the window member 13 be treated or colored in such a manner that the same tends to prevent infra-red rays from reaching the keg 28 to tend to heat up the beverage in the keg 28.

Thus, it can be seen that when the container 10 is assembled in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 1 and has the keg 28 disposed therein, not only does the container 10 tend to prevent heat from reaching the keg 10 to heat up the beverage thereof, but also the container 10 provides means for storing a cooling medium around the keg 28 to tend to maintain the beverage in a refrigerated form.

Thus, the container 10 is readily adapted to transport and store the keg 10 in its refrigerated form so as to be usable on picnics and other outings.

When it is desired to dispense the beverage from the keg 10, the cover 12 is removed from the container body 11 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 3 and the window member 13 is readily removed from the slot 36 in the side wall 15 whereby the resulting opening 35 in the side wall 15 completely exposes the faucet 32 and handle 33 of the keg 28.

Thereafter, the cover is replaced in its closed position in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 2 so that various people can approach the container 10 and dispense a glass of beer or the like by merely holding the glass under the faucet 32 and operating the handle 33 in the conventional manner.

Because the opposed end walls 26 and 27 of the keg 28 are snugly received against the opposed side walls 15 and 16 of the container body 11 at the recesses 23 and 24, it can be seen that the front end wall 27 of the keg 28 substantially seals the opening 35 from the remaining portion of the compartment 19 of the container 10 when the container 10 is disposed in the position illustrated in FIGURE 2 to tend to prevent an adverse amount of heated atmospheric air from reaching the interior of the container 10 to not only melt the ice or other cooling medium disposed in the compartment 19 but to also prevent the same from heating up the keg 28 to an adverse degree.

Thus, after the desired quantity of fluid has been dispensed from the keg 28, the window member 13 can be replaced therein in the manner previously described to further store the keg 28 in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 1.

However, with the window 13 removed in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 2, the container can still maintain the beverage in the keg 28 at the desired refrigerated condition for a relatively long period of time without replacement of the window 13 because of the aforementioned sealing effect of the end wall 27 of the keg 28 around the opening 35 in the container 10.

If desired, the opposed end walls 17 and 18 of the container 10 of this invention can be provided with suitable handle means 39 secured thereto in any suitable manner to provide grasping means for lifting and carrying the filled container of this invention.

When the container 10 is formed of the aforementioned styrofoam material, the overall weight of the keg filled container 10 is not much more than the weight of the keg 28 by itself.

While no previous mention has been made of means for decorating the container 10 of this invention, it is to be understood that the same can be decorated by the printing, embossing, or the like, of trademarks, etc., on the exterior of the container and the trim means illustrated can be provided by mylar or similar material, silk screening or the like.

Further, the cover member 12 of the container 10 of this invention is so designed that the same can be utilized as a holder for the keg 28.

In particular, when it is desired to utilize the keg 28 in an open manner, the cover member 12 can be removed from the container body 11 and placed in an upside down fashion on the center of the table or the like whereby ice can be placed in the upwardly facing cavity thereof so that the keg 28 can be placed down on top of the ice for dispensing purposes thereof.

In addition, it is also possible to place glasses, food, or the like in the ice surrounding the keg 28 for prechilling thereof.

Therefore, it can be seen that there are several ways

of utilizing the container **10** of this invention for dispensing beer or the like from the keg **28**.

Further, while the container **10** of this invention is previously described as being formed entirely of molded styrofoam or the like, it is to be understood that the container **10** of this invention could be made in many different ways while still incorporating the above described novel features of this invention.

For example, the container of this invention could be provided with a durable outer molded plastic or metal shell which would be lined inside with styrofoam, urethane or the like to complete the construction thereof.

In particular, another container of this invention is generally indicated by the reference numeral **50** in FIGURES 6 and 7 and parts thereof similar to the container **10** previously described are indicated by like reference numerals followed by the reference letter "A."

As illustrated in FIGURES 6 and 7, the container **50** of this invention includes a body member **11A** and a cover member **12A** with the body member **11A** and cover member **12A** each including an outer metallic or durable plastic shell **51** lined with suitable insulating material **52**, such as styrofoam, urethane or the like, the lining material **52** being formed in substantially the same manner as the cover member **12** and body member **11** previously described to hold the keg **28** and window means **13**.

Thus, it can be seen that the container **50** of this invention would be substantially more durable than the container **10** previously described because the container **50** has a protective outer shell **51** on both the cover and body portions thereof to provide a container construction which would be substantially long-lasting.

Therefore, it can be seen that this invention provides an improved container for not only readily supporting a keg of beer or the like therein, but also for maintaining the beverage in the keg at the desired temperature while still permitting the beverage to be dispensed from the keg without removing the keg from the container of this invention.

While the form of the invention now preferred has been disclosed as required by the statutes, other forms may be used, all coming within the scope of the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. In combination, a container having side wall means defining a compartment in said container, said side wall means having opposed recesses provided therein and interconnected to said compartment, said recesses respectively defining shoulder means, said side wall means having an opening passing therethrough, a member for selectively opening and closing said opening, and a keg or the like disposed in said compartment and having end walls received in said recesses and resting on said shoulder means, said keg having dispensing means disposed adjacent said opening.

2. A combination as set forth in claim **1** wherein said opening intersects one of said recesses.

3. A combination as set forth in claim **1** wherein said member provides window means.

4. A container for a keg or the like and having side wall means defining a compartment in said container, said side wall means having opposed recesses provided therein and interconnected to said compartment, said recesses respectively defining shoulder means for supporting said keg or the like in said compartment, said side wall means having an opening passing therethrough for exposing dispensing means of said keg or the like, said opening being selectively opened and closed by a member.

5. In combination, a container having a container body and a cover, said container body having a bottom wall means and side wall means cooperating together to define an open ended compartment in said container body, said cover closing said open end of said compartment, said side wall means having opposed recesses provided therein and interconnected to said compartment, said recesses extending to said open end of said container body and terminating short of said bottom wall means to define shoulder means, said side wall means having an opening passing therethrough, a member for selectively opening and closing said opening, and a keg disposed in said compartment and having end walls received in said recesses and resting on said shoulder means, said keg having dispensing means disposed adjacent said opening.

6. A combination as set forth in claim **5** wherein said opening has one end thereof bounded by said cover.

7. A combination as set forth in claim **6** wherein said cover and said side wall means has slot means to receive the entire peripheral edge of said member.

8. A container for a keg or the like and having a container body and a cover, said container body having a bottom wall means and side wall means cooperating together to define an open ended compartment in said container body, said cover closing said open end of said compartment, said side wall means having opposed recesses provided therein and interconnected to said compartment, said recesses extending to said open end of said container body and terminating short of said bottom wall means to define shoulder means to support said keg or the like in said compartment, said side wall means having an opening passing therethrough adjacent the dispensing means of said keg or the like, said opening being selectively opened and closed by a member.

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