

S. W. BANKS, JR.

FOLDING CRATE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 11, 1908.

937,913.

Patented Oct. 26, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

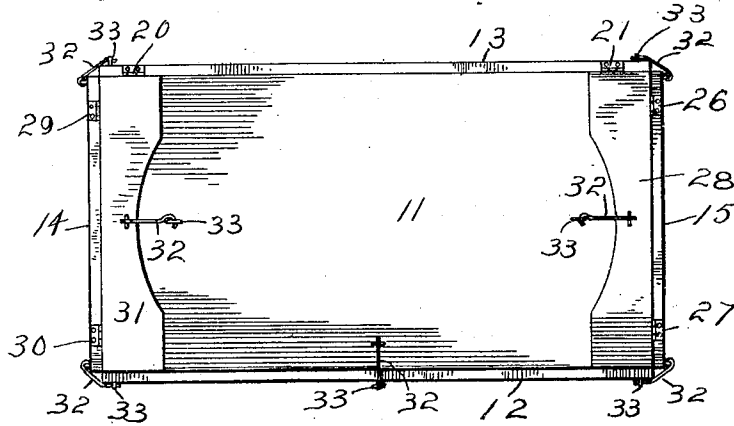


Fig. 1

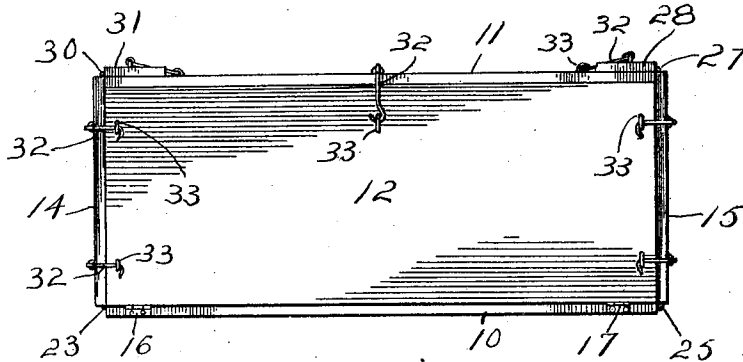


Fig. 2

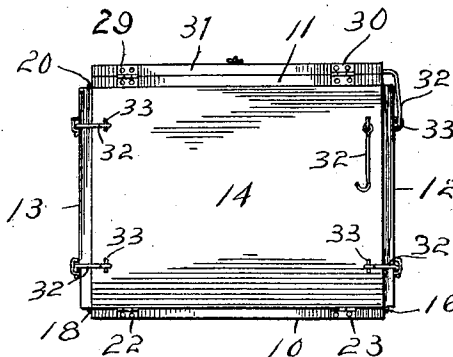


Fig. 3

Witnesses

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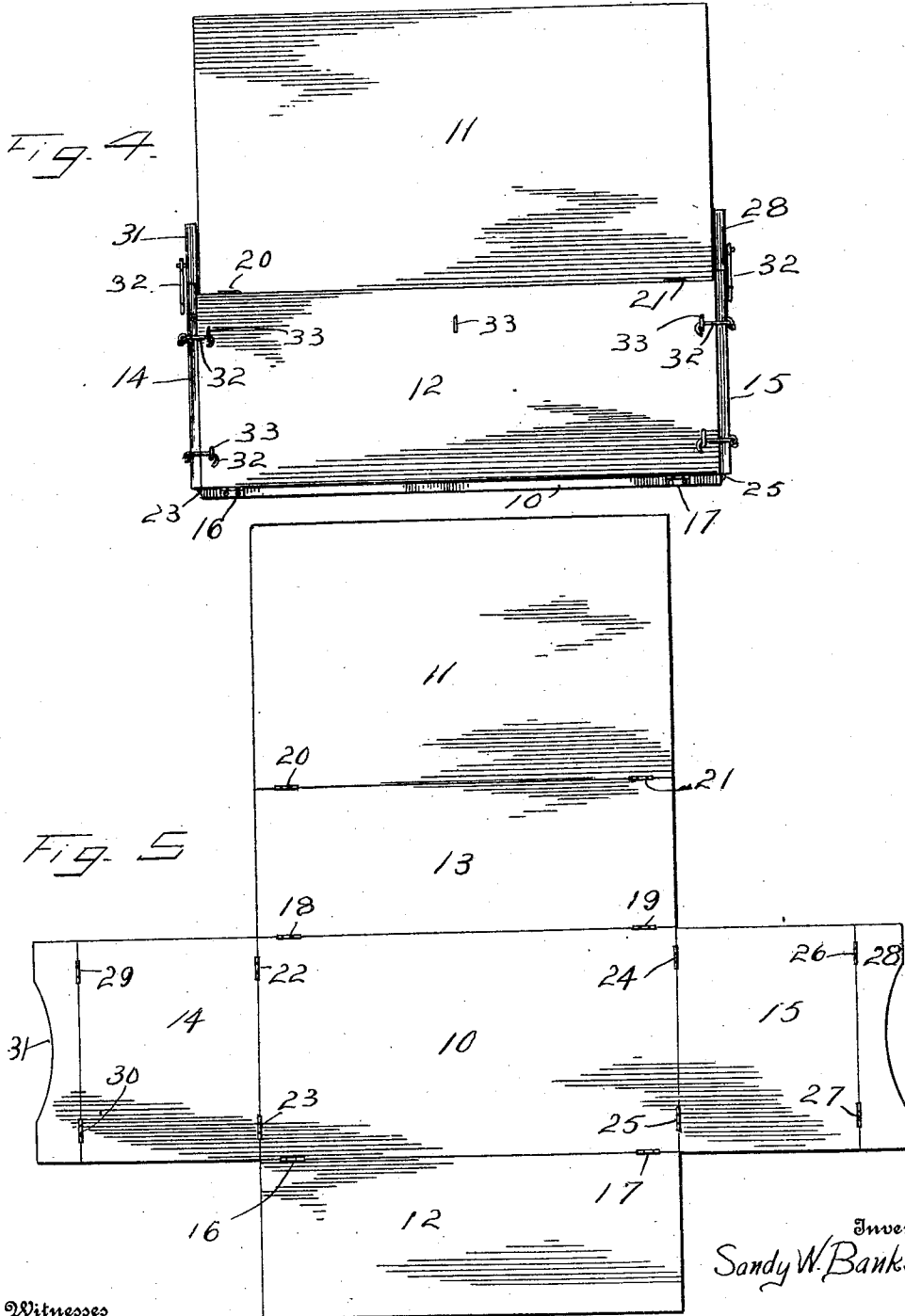
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SANDY W. BANKS, JR., OF ALANTHUS, VIRGINIA.

FOLDING CRATE.

937,913.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 26, 1909.

Application filed June 11, 1908. Serial No. 437,920.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SANDY W. BANKS, JR., a citizen of the United States, residing at Alanthus, in the county of Culpeper, State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Crates; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to folding crates, boxes, and the like, and has for its object to simplify the construction and improve the efficiency and utility of devices of this character.

Another object of the invention is to provide a simply constructed device which may be folded into box-like or crate form and with all the parts lying flat-wise and in a longitudinal plane when in open position.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in a plurality of members hingedly united with the hinges all upon the same sides of the various members, so that the members will be folded into box-like or crate form and lie flat-wise and in the same longitudinal plane when in open position, and fastening devices whereby the parts are detachably united when in folded position.

The invention further consists in a box or crate formed with top and bottom members, end members, and side members hingedly united and foldable into box-like or crate form, and with cleat members connected to the end members and foldable over the top member, with the hinges all arranged upon the same sides of the various members, whereby when the members are in open position they all lie flat-wise and in the same longitudinal plane.

The invention further consists in certain novel features of construction as hereafter shown and described and then specifically pointed out in the claim, and in the drawings illustrating the preferred embodiment of the invention, Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved device when in closed position, Fig. 2 is a front view of the improved device in closed position. Fig. 3 is an end view of the improved device in closed position. Fig. 4 is a front view with the top elevated. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the improved device with the parts opened out flat or in position for shipping.

The improved device may be constructed of any desired size or of any suitable material, according to the uses for which it is to be employed, and may be in crate-like or open construction or with solid members, as preferred, and for the purpose of illustration is shown with the various members solid, so that when in folded position it presents the form of a closed box.

The improved device comprises a bottom member 10, a top member 11, side members 12—13, and end members 14—15, the various members hingedly united, with the hinges all arranged upon the same sides, so that when in open position the various members lie flat-wise or with their opposite faces in the same longitudinal plane, and without projecting portions. The side member 12 is hingedly connected at 16—17 to one edge of the bottom member 10, the side member 13 is hingedly connected at 18—19 to the opposite edge of the bottom member 10, the top 11 hingedly united at 20—21 to the adjacent edge of the side member 13, the end member 14 hingedly united at 22—23 to one end of the bottom member 10, and the end member 15 hingedly united at 24—25 to the opposite end of the bottom member 10 so that the end members 14—15 and the side members 12—13 may be disposed at right angles to the bottom 10 and thus form the sides and ends of a box while the top member 11 may be folded over the upper edges of the members 12—13 and 14—15 and thus form a closure to the box-like structure. Hinged at 26—27 to the free edge of the member 15 is a cleat 28 foldable over the top member at one end when the device is in closed position, and hinged at 29—30 to the free edge of the end member 14 is a similar cleat 31 foldable over the top member 11 at the opposite end when the device is in closed position, as shown in Fig. 1. By this means a very complete and simply arranged receptacle is produced which may be quickly folded into box-like or crate form when required for use and is readily opened out into flat-wise form as shown in Fig. 5, when the boxes are to be returned to the shipper, the several parts lying in the same longitudinal plane as shown, so that a plurality of the devices may be piled one upon the other and occupy a comparatively small space. By arranging the hinges connecting the various members all upon the same sides of the members this

flat-wise arrangement is possible and could not be accomplished if the hinges were arranged partly upon one side and partly upon the other.

5 The flat-wise construction of the crate when in open position is an important feature of the invention and decreases materially the space occupied during the return shipment and thus materially decreases the
10 expense of such shipment, as will be obvious.

Fastening devices of suitable form, preferably hooks and staples, as shown at 32—33, will be employed to unite the various members when in folded position.

15 The device is simple in construction, can be inexpensively manufactured, and of any suitable material and of any suitable size, as will be obvious, and employed for various commodities, but is especially adapted for
20 use by farmers and gardeners in shipping produce to market, so that the shipping clo-

tures may be returned to the shipper at reduced expense.

What is claimed, is:—

In a folding crate a bottom member, a 25 front member, a back member, said bottom front and back members being hingedly united at their adjacent edges, a top member hingedly united to the back member, end members hingedly united to the bottom 30 member at its ends, cleats hingedly united to the end members and foldable over the top member when the device is arranged in box like form, and fastening devices between the cleats and the top member. 35

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

SANDY W. BANKS, JR.

Witnesses:

JOHN BANKS,
FRANK WALKER.