Aug. 5, 1958 C. L. SHERRILL 2,846,257

LOCKING DEVICE FOR STEEL BARRELS AND DRUMS

Filed March 23, 1954

FIG. 1.

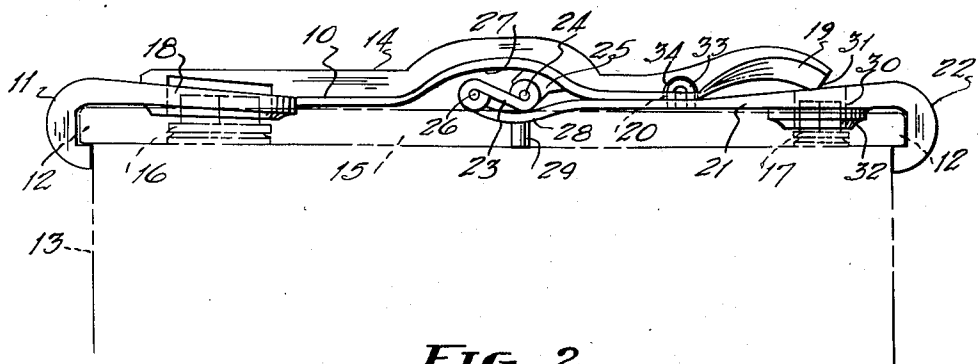


FIG. 2.

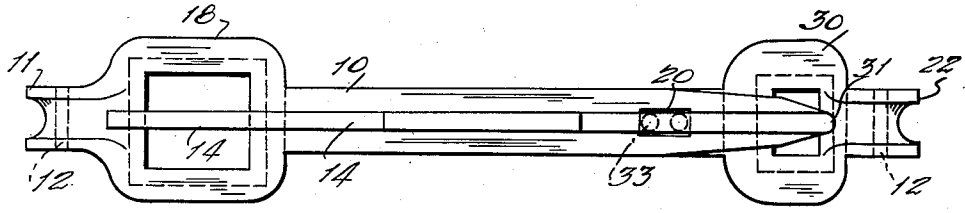
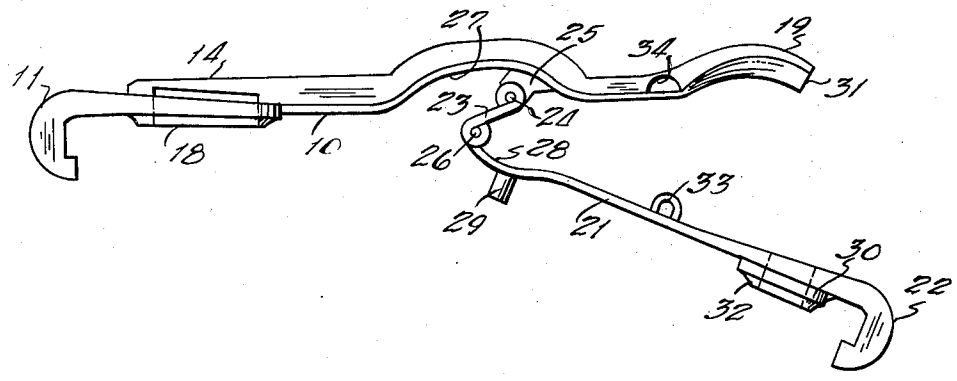


FIG. 3.



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LOCKING DEVICE FOR STEEL BARRELS AND DRUMS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 292—288)

This invention relates to locking devices for barrels, and the like, and it has particular reference to apparatus for locking steel barrels or drums generally employed for storing and transporting fuel and lubricating oils, gasoline, and similar materials, and the principal object of the invention resides in the provision of a simple and economical device by which the plugged filler and bung openings can be securely locked against pilferage when such barrels are left unattended.

An object of the invention is that of providing a compact device which can be easily applied to the barrel head, in which the filler and bung openings are usually arranged to securely embrace the rim of the barrel at diametrically opposing sides of the barrel, and be secured by a padlock whereby unauthorized persons cannot gain access to the contents of the barrel.

Broadly, the invention contemplates the provision of a locking device for steel barrels or drums by which both filler and bung plugs can be protected against removal so that contents of the barrels cannot be disturbed or removed therefrom, while affording a convenient and readily actuated mechanism for the custodian of the container.

While the foregoing objects are paramount, other and lesser objects will become manifest as the description proceeds, taken in connection with the appended drawings wherein:

Figure 1 illustrates the invention, in elevation, as applied to a conventional type of steel barrel or drum, the latter being shown in broken lines.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the invention in operative position, and

Figure 3 shows the invention in position to be applied to a barrel and clamped thereto.

Steel barrels or drums of the type herein referred to are often used in storing fuel and lubricating oils, as well as gasoline, at roadsides in remote locations, as by bridge and road contractors, or by farmers in fields, and the like, where the barrels are often left unattended for prolonged periods of time. The device is also useful in filling stations, warehouses and trucking headquarters, and in numerous installations where such type of storage, as steel drums or barrels, is utilized.

Accordingly, therefore, the invention comprises an assembly which consists of a lever **10** which has a hook **11** formed on one end capable of overreaching and embracing the bead **12** of a steel barrel **13**, the latter being shown in broken lines in Figure 1. The member **10** may be cast, if desired, and formed with suitable webbing or bosses **14** to provide sufficient strength.

It is common practice in the production of steel barrels or drums to provide filler openings on one side of the head **15** thereof and close the same with a threaded plug **16**, in the manner shown in Figure 1. Diametrically opposite the filler opening is a bung or discharge opening which is closed by a threaded plug **17**, also shown in broken lines in Figure 1. Such construction and arrangement of the filler and bung openings is standard among manufacturers of this type of steel barrel so that the invention can be

used on all makes of these containers. In some exceptional instances steel barrels are constructed with the filler plug on one side but such type is not here under consideration.

The lever **10** has a frame portion **18** formed therein near the hook **11** which is of such dimension as to embrace and cover the plug **16** in the filler opening in the head **15**. The web or boss **14**, which is formed longitudinally of the member **10**, transverses the frame **18**, as shown in Figure 2, and prevents any access to the plug **16** by which it can be removed. The end of the lever **10**, opposite the hook **11**, has a handle **19** formed thereon by which it can be manipulated. The web **14** has an opening therein rearwardly from the handle **19** over a slot **20** in the lever **10** whose function will presently become manifest.

A link **21** complements the lever **10** to complete the assembly and is formed with a hook **22** on its outer end to diametrically oppose the hook **11** of the lever **10**, engaging and overreaching the opposite side of the bead or rim **12** of the barrel **13**. The link **21** is connected to the lever **10** by a hinge **23** which is pivoted by a pin **24** at one end to an integral lug **25** formed beneath the lever **10** and at its opposite end to the inner end of the link **21** by a pin **26**, in the manner shown in Figures 1 and 3. By thus connecting the lever **10** and the link **21** a clamping action is attained when the lever is urged downwardly in axial alignment with the link **21** in the operative position shown in Figure 2.

At the point where the hinge **23** is operatively arranged on the underside of the lever **10** the latter has an arcuate portion **27** to afford proper clearance for the operation of the hinge **23**. Likewise, the inner end of the link **21** may also be curved downwardly and upwardly, as at **28**. Beneath the curved portion **28** of the link **21** is secured a stud **29**, projecting downwardly, as shown in Figures 1 and 3, to engage the center of the head **15** of the drum or barrel **13** to insure rigidity of the assembly when in locked position, as shown in Figure 1.

The link **21** has a frame portion **30** formed therein rearwardly from the hook **22** thereon and aligned with the bung or outlet plug **17** to embrace and cover the same to prevent access thereto, in the manner shown in Figure 1. When the lever **10** is in locked position, or in alignment with the link **21**, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, the inner end **31** of the handle **19**, which is curved downwardly, is adapted to engage, or at least be directed toward, the plug **17** and protect the same against removal. A boss **32** is formed on the underside of the link **21** about the frame portion **30**.

In the top of the link **21** is a loop **33** which extends through the slot **20** in the lever **10** and into an arcuate notch **34** in the web **14**, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, so that a padlock (not shown) can be applied through the loop **33** and about the boss or web **14** to secure the lever **10** in locked position to the link **21**.

It is apparent, by reference to Figure 3, that the assembly can be released from the barrel head **15** by lifting the lever **10**, by the handle **19** thereof, the hinge member **23** being of such construction as will enable the members **10** and **21** to be extended to disengage the bead **12** about the top of the barrel **13**. Application of the invention to the barrel **13** is accomplished by arranging the hooks **11** and **22** over the bead **12** of the barrel **13**, on diametrically opposite sides thereof, and moving the lever **10** to alignment with the link **21**. The stud **29** bears against the head **15** to make the assembly rigid and provide a counter-pressure against the hooks **11** and **22**.

Manifestly, the structure herein shown and described is capable of certain changes and modifications of the invention, by persons skilled in the art, without departing

from the spirit and intent thereof or the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In a locking device for a steel barrel, and the like, having a sealed head with plugged filler and bung openings therein, a clamp assembly comprising, a lever having a hook on one end adapted to engage the rim of said head and having an integral frame portion for embracing said plugged filler opening, a companion link hingedly connected to said lever and foldable thereagainst and formed with a corresponding hook on its outer end engageable with said rim opposite from the hook on said lever, means formed on said link for embracing the plugged bung opening in said head and means for engaging said head, and means for locking said lever to said link transversely of the axis of said head.

2. In a device for locking a barrel having a sealed head and plugged openings therein, in combination, a clamp assembly comprising a lever member having means formed on one end engageable with the rim of a barrel and overreaching the edge of the head thereof, a frame portion formed on said lever member for embracing and covering one of said plugged openings, a link eccentrically hinged to said lever member intermediate the ends thereof and having means formed thereon engageable with the rim of said barrel opposite to the engagement of said

lever therewith and means for engaging the said head, an integral portion on said link for embracing and covering the other plugged opening, and means for locking said lever to said link in stationary relationship transversely of the axis of said barrel.

3. In a locking device for a steel barrel having a sealed head with plugged openings therein, a clamp assembly adapted to span said head diametrically and comprising a lever member having a hook on one end engageable with the rim of said barrel, means formed with said lever for embracing a plug in one of said openings, a link having a hook on its outer end engageable with the rim of said barrel opposite the hook of said lever, the said link having an eccentric hinged connection with said lever intermediate the ends thereof, and means for associating said lever and said link for locking the same to secure said head.

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