To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANTON ROSENQUIST, a citizen of Sweden, residing at Superior, in the county of Douglas and State of Wisconsin, have invented new and useful Improvements in Ax Sheaths or Carrying Cases, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to carrying cases or sheaths such as are used by sportsmen, prospectors and others for carrying small camp or hunting axes suspended from belt or shoulder straps and consists in the novel features to be hereinafter described and claimed.

An important object is the provision of a sheath of this character which is so constructed that it will firmly hold the ax to be carried and yet readily permit the necessary manipulation involved in inserting or withdrawing the ax from the sheath, thus eliminating the necessity for the user to remove his mittens or gloves.

Another object is the provision of a sheath of this character which is so constructed that it may be readily manufactured from comparatively small pieces of material, thus reducing the cost to the minimum.

A further and more specific object is the provision of a sheath of this character which includes a guard pivotally mounted in such manner that it may be swung into or out of engagement with the blade of the ax, the said guard being provided with means whereby it may be secured and prevented from movement with respect to the body of the sheath, the particular advantage of the guard being that it extends throughout the length of the blade so as to positively prevent injury to the fingers of the user.

Still another object is the provision of a sheath of this character which even when stripped of the pivoted guard is so arranged that it still forms a very efficient device in which to carry the ax without danger of losing the same.

With the above and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists in the details of construction to be hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation showing my device associated with an ax,

Fig. 2 is an elevation of the opposite side,

Fig. 3 is a rear edge view,

Fig. 4 is an end view,

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken longitudinally through the blade of the ax, and

Fig. 6 is an elevation similar to Fig. 1 but showing the pivoted guard swung to permit withdrawal of the ax.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the letter A designates an ax of the type commonly used by sportsmen, prospectors and others. This ax of course includes the usual head B and handle C.

In carrying out my invention I provide a case 10 which is formed preferably from a single piece of leather bent into substantially U-shape in cross section whereby to partially inclose the head of the ax. The corners of this case adjacent the juncture of the blade with the handle of the ax, are secured in spaced relation by means of a rivet 11 passing through the material of the case and through a spacing washer 12 interposed between the sides thereof. The purpose of this washer is to prevent the sides of the case from engaging the blade too tightly. At its opposite end the case is partially closed by a plate 13 also of leather which materially assists in holding the case in shape. At its sight portion or rear edge the case is provided with an elongated opening 14 designed to receive the butt end of the ax blade and of greater length than the butt.

Pivoted upon the upper end of the case, that is the end provided with the plate 13, is an inverted U-shaped loop 15 held in place by rivets 16 and 17 and the purpose of this loop is to permit engagement of the case with a shoulder strap. Disposed against the rear side of the case is an elongated strap 18 held in place at one end by a rivet 17 and at its other end by a rivet 19, and the purpose of this strap is to permit the engagement of the case upon the wearer's belt.

If desired, the device may be used in this form only, that is with the guard member,
to be hereinafter described, omitted. When the ax is in position within the case it will be seen that the handle C thereof will be confined within the lower portion of the case and will be prevented from disengagement therefrom by virtue of the rivet 11 and washer 12. The butt of the blade will be disposed within the opening 14 and it will consequently be apparent that the ax may be conveniently carried.

I find it preferable, however, to make use of a guard member which comprises a substantially triangular sheet 20 of material, preferably leather, pivoted upon the rear side of the case, as by a rivet 21. At its free edge, this triangular sheet is formed preferably curved and has secured upon its inner face a strip 22 held in spaced relation to the body of the sheet by a spacing strip 23, the parts being secured together by suitable rivets 24. The spacing of the strip 22 from the body of the sheet 20 forms a pocket 25 which receives the edge of the ax blade and consequently protects the same against injury and also prevents it from cutting the hands of the user.

In order that the guard may be held immovable with respect to the body of the case, I provide a strap 26 secured upon the case as by a rivet 27 and having its other end provided with a slot 28 engageable upon a headed stud 29 carried by the guard 20.

In the use of my device equipped with the guard, when it is desired to insert the ax within the same, it is necessary that the strap 26 be disengaged from the stud 29 and the guard be swung upwardly, that is away from the handle of the ax, as clearly shown in Fig. 6. The end of the ax handle is then passed between the sides of the case and inserted through the opening at the lower end thereof, the ax being subsequently slid along until the head thereof may have its butt end passed through the opening 14 in the bight portion of the case. The operator then grasps the guard and swings it upon its pivot 21 so that the cutting edge of the blade will be received within the pocket 25 of the guard. The strap 26 is then engaged upon the headed stud 29. When the parts are in this position it will be readily observed that the ax may be conveniently carried either from a shoulder strap or a belt and that injury from contact with the cutting edge of the blade will be prevented and at the same time injury to the blade will also be obviated.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is of course to be understood that I reserve the right to make such changes in the form, construction, and arrangement of parts as will not depart from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A device of the character described comprising a case U-shaped in cross section and having one end partially closed and the corners at its other end secured together in spaced relation whereby to provide a loop for receiving the handle of an ax, the bight portion of the casing being provided with an opening through which the end of the ax head may project and carrying loops secured to the casing and adapted selectively for engagement upon a shoulder strap or a belt whereby the device may be suspended from the person of the user.

2. A device of the character described comprising a case having one end partially closed and its other end formed to provide a loop adapted to receive the handle of an ax, one edge of said case being open and the other edge being provided with an opening through which the butt end of the ax head may project, means carried by said case whereby it may be suspended from the body of the user, and a movable guard member carried by the case and engageable with the cutting edge of the ax whereby to inclose the same.

3. A device of the character described comprising a case having one end partially closed and its other end formed to provide a loop adapted to receive the handle of an ax, one edge of said case being open and the other edge being provided with an opening through which the butt end of the ax head may project, means carried by said case whereby it may be suspended from the body of the user, and a guard member pivoted upon one side of the case and provided at its free end with a pocket adapted to receive the cutting edge of the blade, and means for holding said guard against movement.

4. A device of the character described comprising a case having one end partially closed and its other end formed to provide a loop adapted to receive the handle of an ax, one edge of said case being open and the other edge being provided with an opening through which the butt end of the ax head may project, means carried by said case whereby it may be suspended from the body of the user, a guard member substantially triangular in shape pivoted upon one side of the case, a strap secured upon said guard member at the free end thereof and in spaced relation to the body thereof whereby to define a pocket engageable over the cutting edge of the ax, a strap secured at one end upon said case, and securing means whereby said strap may be detachably connected with said guard member to prevent movement of the latter.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ANTON ROSENQUIST.