United States Patent

[11] **3,542,170**

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[21] Appl. No. **725,454**
[22] Filed **April 30, 1968**
[45] Patented **Nov. 24, 1970**

[54] **ARTICLE OF LUGGAGE**
7 Claims, 12 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **190/41,** 190/43, 211/94, 223/88
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A45c 3/00**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 190/41, (all), 43; 211/94, 94.5, 46, 113, 116; 206/7H, K, M; 312/Inq

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ABSTRACT: A portable wardrobe which carries articles of clothing in an extended position upon a locking garment support bar attached to one of its peripheral walls. Means are provided for receiving hangers and for preventing the hangers from accidental disengagement from the support bar.

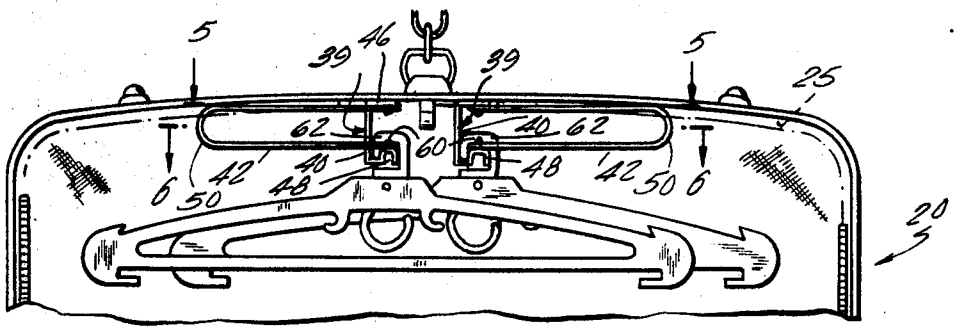

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FIG. 1

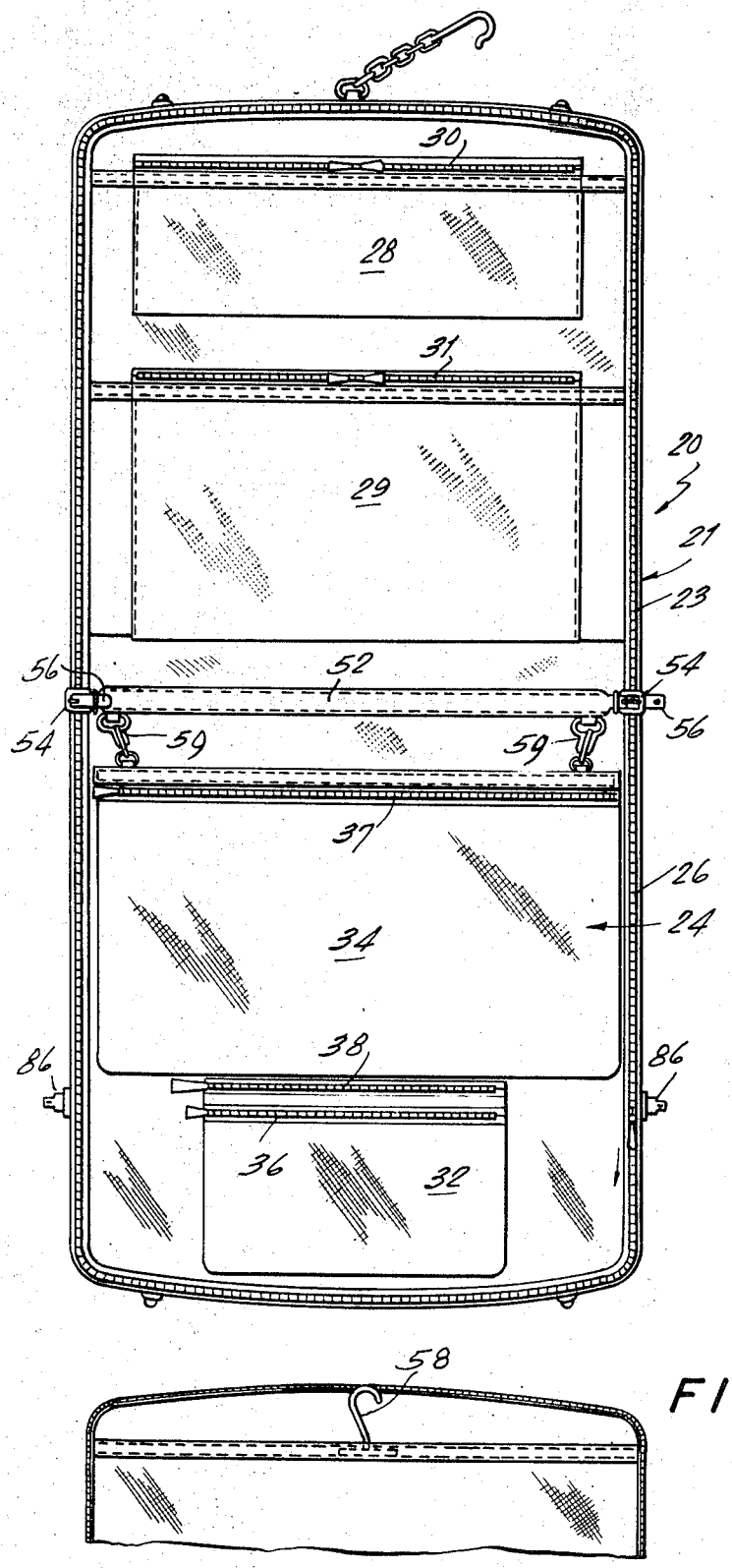

FIG. 2

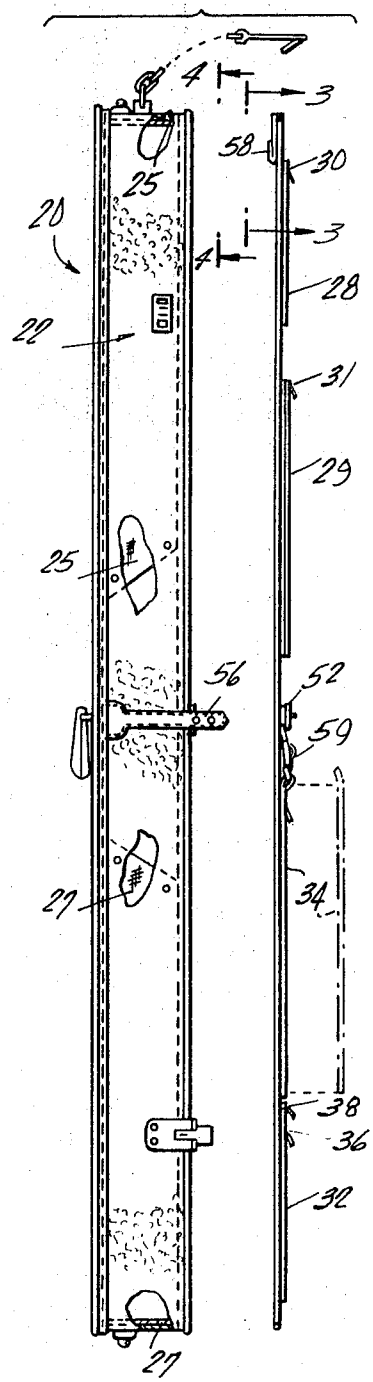

FIG. 3

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FIG. 4

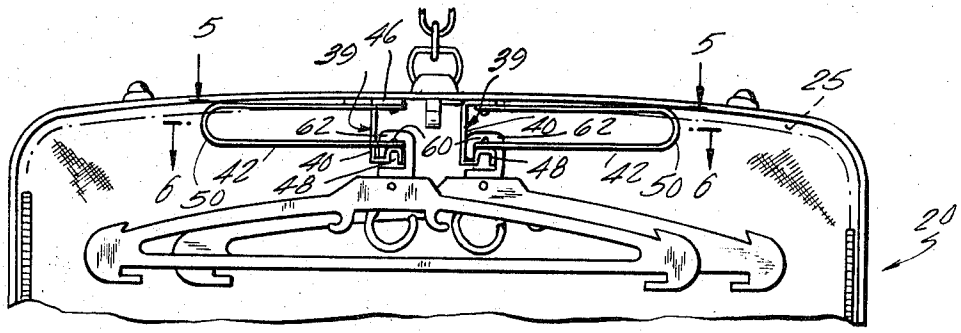


FIG. 5

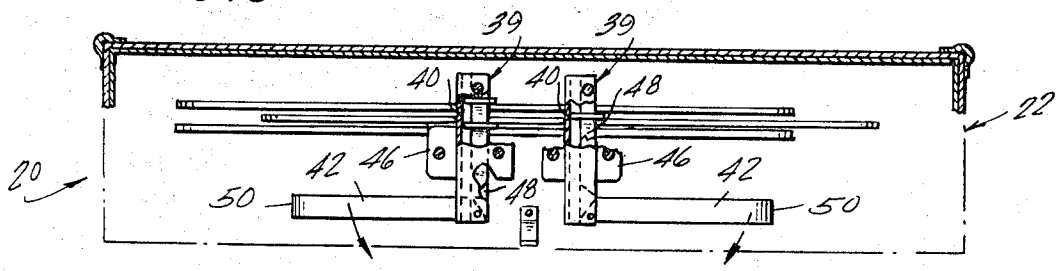


FIG. 6

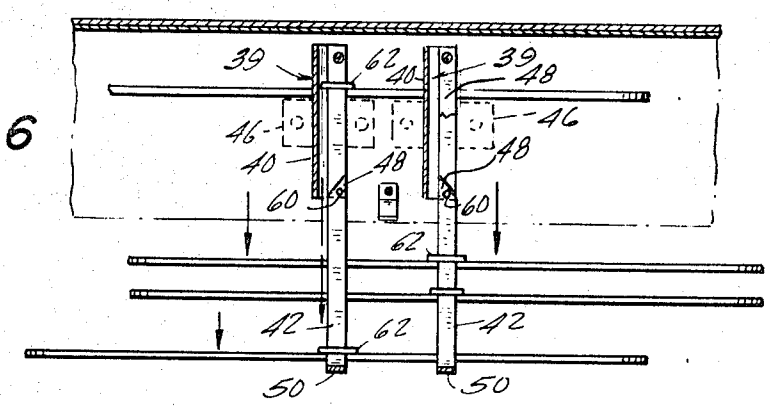


FIG. 7

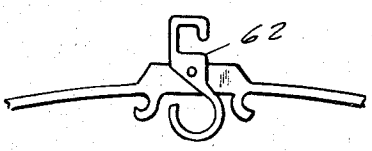
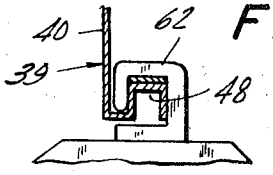


FIG. 9



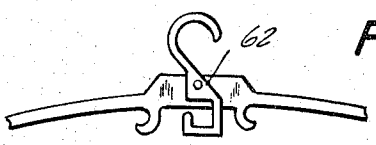


FIG. 8

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FIG. 10

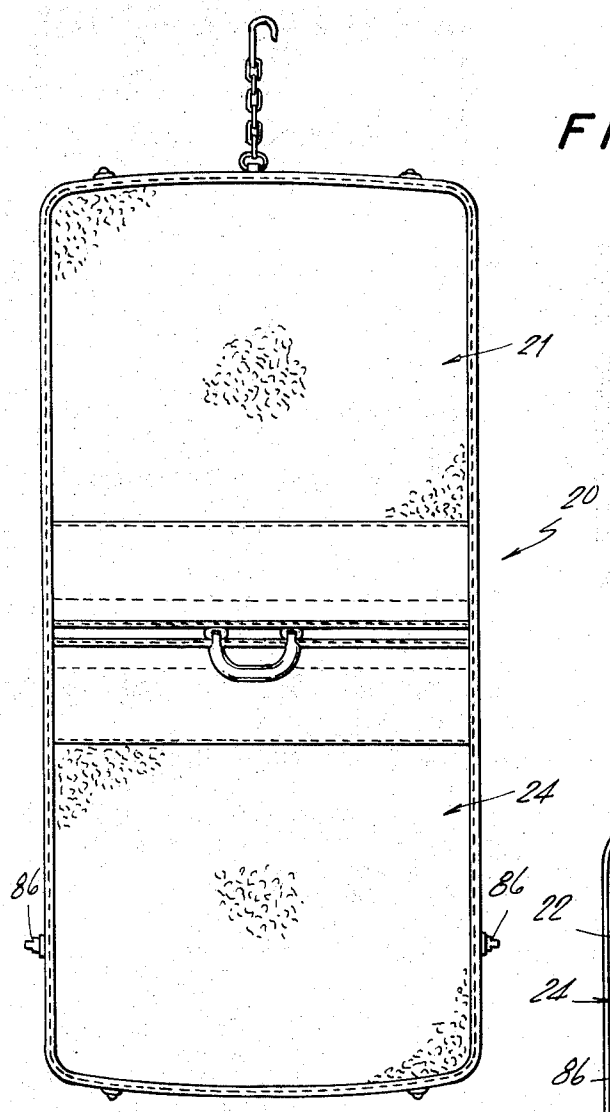


FIG. 11

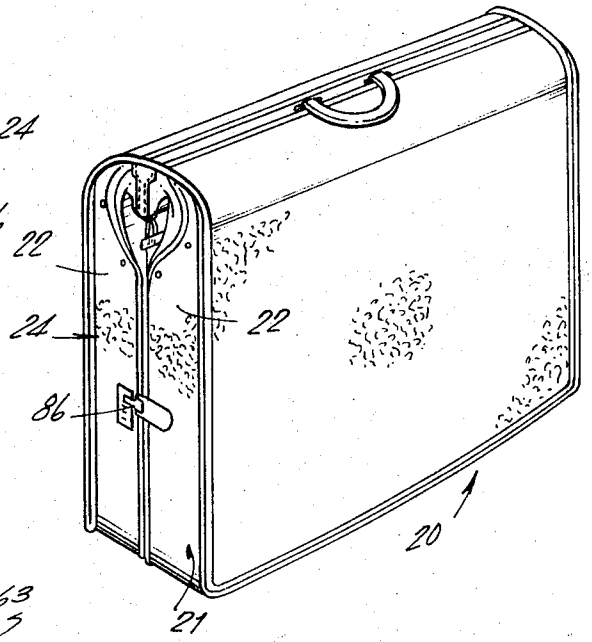
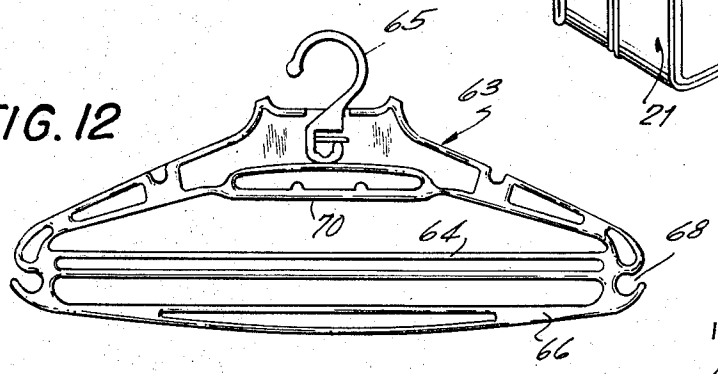


FIG. 12



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ARTICLE OF LUGGAGE

This invention relates to an article of luggage and more particularly to a portable wardrobe in the form of a foldable car bag or the like.

An object of the present invention resides in the provision of a versatile article of luggage designed to hold men's suits including coats and trousers, ladies dresses and like garments in an extended position and without requirement of folding the garments to enable them to fit in the luggage.

A further object of the invention resides in the provision of an article of luggage having hanger means for supporting various articles of clothes, such as coats, trousers, dresses and the like in a normal position utilizing hangers which may be securely locked in place within the article of luggage and which may be removed for use in hanging the garments on a conventional garment pole or rack.

The construction of this invention features an arrangement of a garment support bar and extension which extension provides means for facilitating the positioning of the garments within the garment bag and when not in use and with the garments ready for travelling is employed for lockingly holding the garments on the support therefor.

A further object of the present invention resides in the provision of a versatile article of luggage employing an arrangement of a panel having various compartments formed thereon and detachable therefrom for carrying such items as shirts, socks, dirty clothes and the like separate from the other garments and which is secured to the article of luggage by means of slide fasteners in a convenient manner so as to retain all of the garments in position in a dirt and dust free manner.

Yet another object of the present invention resides in the provision of a hanger having means for conveniently supporting on the hanger various garments such as trousers in a manner which frictionally prevent the trousers from sliding off the hanger and which can conveniently support neckties and a suit coat thereon.

Still further objects and features of this invention reside in the provision of an article of luggage that is attractive in appearance, extremely durable, capable of being easily manufactured out of readily available materials and which is provided with means for securing it in a compact closed position and theft resistent, yet which is especially convenient to use and carry.

These, together with the various ancillary objects and features of the invention, which will become apparent as the following description proceeds, are attained by this article of luggage, a preferred embodiment of which is shown in the accompanying drawings, by way of example only, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front elevational view of the article of luggage in an open position showing its panel section constructed in accordance with the concepts of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an exploded side elevational view of the article of luggage panel section;

FIG. 3 is a partial rear elevational view of the panel section taken along the plane of line 3–3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a partial elevational view of the top portion showing the interior of the article of luggage with the panel section removed from looking along the plane of line 4–4 in FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 is a horizontal sectional view of the top portion of the interior of the article of luggage taken along the plane line of line 5–5 of FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is another horizontal sectional view of the top portion of the interior of the article of luggage taken along the plane of line 6–6 of FIG. 4, with the U-shaped support members pivoted to their opened position;

FIGS. 7 and 8 are partial elevational views of the top portion of a hanger constructed in accordance with this invention shown respectively in different positions of the pivotally mounted hook;

FIG. 9 is an enlarged partial sectional view illustrating the manner of attachment of the pivotally mounted hook of a hanger to a hanger receiving member constructed in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a rear elevational view of an article of luggage in open position constructed in accordance with this invention;

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of the article of luggage in a closed position; and,

FIG. 12 is a front elevational view of a modified form of hanger having a pivotally mounted hook.

With continuing reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate similar parts throughout the various views, reference numeral **20** generally designates an article of luggage constructed in accordance with the concepts of the present invention. The article of luggage **20** is of a generally rectangular shape and includes a container section generally indicated at **21** which is provided with a peripheral wall **22** having a peripheral flange of fabric **23** on which one half of a slidable fastener is secured and which interengages with the corresponding slidable fastener half on a panel section **24**. The slidable fastening is indicated at **26**. The peripheral wall **22**, formed by covering two rigid U-shaped frames **25** and **27** which are spaced at a distance from each other with, for example, a synthetic plastic fabric material so as to provide a foldable center portion, is joined to the interior of the bottom of the container section by two U-shaped metal frame support bars, not shown, each extending the entire width of the bottom of the container section and bolted or riveted to opposite walls. On the frame **25** there is secured by rivets or like means a pair of garment support bars **39**, each of which comprises a hanger receiving member **40** and extension member **42**. Garment support bars **39** will be described more fully hereinafter.

Referring now to FIG. **1**, the panel section **24**, manufactured from any suitably sturdy fabric, is provided with non-removable fabric pockets **28**, **29** having slidable fastening closures **30**, **31**. The panel section **24** includes a detachable fabric envelope **32** and a detachable fabric bag **34**. Fabric envelope **32** is equipped with a slide fastener **36** and may be removed from fabric panel section **34** by unfastening slidable removal means **38**. Moreover, when the fabric envelope **32** is plastic lined, it is particularly suitable for the carrying of toiletries, fluids, spillable items and the like. Fabric bag **34**, having a slide fastener **37** is secured by metal clips **59** to a reinforcing strip of material **52** sewn across the width of panel section **34** having buckles **54** at each end which interconnect with perforated tongues of straps **56** located at the exterior of peripheral wall **22** when the luggage is readied for travelling. Fabric bag **44** may be conveniently used to carry small items such as socks, handkerchiefs and the like. At the uppermost rear portion of panel section **24** is a hook **58** which facilitates the hanging of panel section **24** on a conventional garment pole or rack when the traveller arrives at his destination.

Referring in particular to FIGS. **4** through **6** and **9**, the garment support bars **39** are formed of sheet metal and are secured to the interior of peripheral wall **22** by any suitable means, *e.g.*, bolting, riveting, etc. The bracket portions **46** of the metal garment support bars **39** lie flush against the interior of the luggage. Hanger receiving members **40** are generally C-shaped and are provided with elongated channeled openings **48** in their lower portions as can best be seen in FIGS. **4** and **9**. Extension members **42** have their free ends connected by pivotal means **60** to the hanger receiving member **40** and are of an elongated U-shape having spaced leg portions.

Thus, hanger receiving member **40** will receive a hanger having a pivotally mounted hook **62** such as that shown in FIGS. **7** and **8**. When an extension member **42** is in a closed or normal position with respect to hanger receiving member **40**, hangers will be securely locked within the article of luggage and held in place by the extension member **42**. By pivoting extension member **40** to an open position extending linearly in alignment with and beyond hanger receiving member **40**, a hanger may be slid along and thereby removed from extension member **42**. The central connecting portions **50** of the extension members form stops for preventing accidental disengagement of a hanger.

With reference to FIG. 12, this invention further conceives of a novel hanger 63 having integrally attached to the downwardly extending ends of its yoke and widely spaced from its center a central garment support bar 64 and a lower garment retaining support bar 66 which is spaced a lesser distance from central garment support bar 64 than the distance between the center of the yoke and central garment support bar 64. The lower garment support bar 66 is integrally attached at both of its ends to the central garment support bar 64 so as to form two inwardly directed pockets or hooks 68 which may be utilized to carry belts, and garments having two loops sewn to their insides, such as women's skirts. The combination of central garment support bar 64 and lower garment support bar 66 is readily adaptable to the frictional carrying of men's or women's slacks or trousers, thereby preventing such garments from sliding off the hanger. Also, closely spaced from and integral with the center of the yoke is an upper garment support bar 70 which is less than half the length of central garment support bar 64. The upper garment support bar having two raised ridges 72, can conveniently support neckties and the like. Finally, the hanger 63 has a hook 65, pivotally mounted thereon, adapted to engage a hanger receiving member in a manner similar to that in which pivotally mounted hook 62 connects hanger receiving member 40.

A pair of combination lock assemblies 86, FIG. 11, are used on either side of the luggage 20 to hold the luggage in its closed position for travelling.

A latitude of modification, substitution and change, is intended in the foregoing disclosure, and in some instances some features of the present invention may be employed without a corresponding use of other features.

I claim:

1. An article of luggage comprising an outer casing having attached to one side of the peripheral wall thereof at least one locking hanger support means, said support means including a hanger receiving member having a channeled opening therein, said member having a longitudinal axis, an extension member of narrower width than said hanger receiving member and having spaced leg portions, means pivoting said extension member to said hanger receiving member for movement from a closed position normal to said hanger receiving member to an open position extending linearly in alinement with and beyond said hanger receiving member and in the same direction as said axis so that when said extension member is in its said closed position said extension means forms a stop for preventing removal of a hanger from said hanger receiving member and when said extension member is in its open position said extension member facilitates removal of a hanger from said hanger receiving member.

2. An article of luggage according to claim 1, wherein said hanger receiving member is of substantially C-shape having an upper bracket portion lying flush with the interior of said peripheral wall, said hanger receiving member having a lower portion provided with said channeled opening therein, said opening being elongated.

3. An article of luggage according to claim 2, wherein said extension member is substantially U-shaped.

4. An article of luggage according to claim 3, wherein said U-shaped extension member has a pair of free ends, one of said free ends being pivotally attached to said upper bracket portion of said C-shaped hanger receiving member, the other free end being pivotally attached to said lower portion of said C-shaped hanger receiving member.

5. An article of luggage having a peripheral wall, a hanger support means secured to said wall and having an elongated channeled opening therein provided with a raised portion, said elongated channeled opening being adapted to receive a plurality of hangers whose pivotally mounted hooks rest upon said raised portion of said elongated channeled opening, and an extension member pivotally attached to said hanger support means for locking said hangers in their position upon said hanger support means when said extension member is in a closed position normal to said elongated channeled opening in said hanger support means.

6. An article of luggage according to claim 5, wherein said hanger support means comprises a substantially C-shaped hanger receiving member provided with an upper bracket portion lying flush with the interior of said peripheral wall.

7. An article of luggage according to claim 6, wherein said extension member is substantially U-shaped, one of the free ends of said U-shaped extension member being pivotally attached to said upper bracket portion of said C-shaped hanger receiving member.