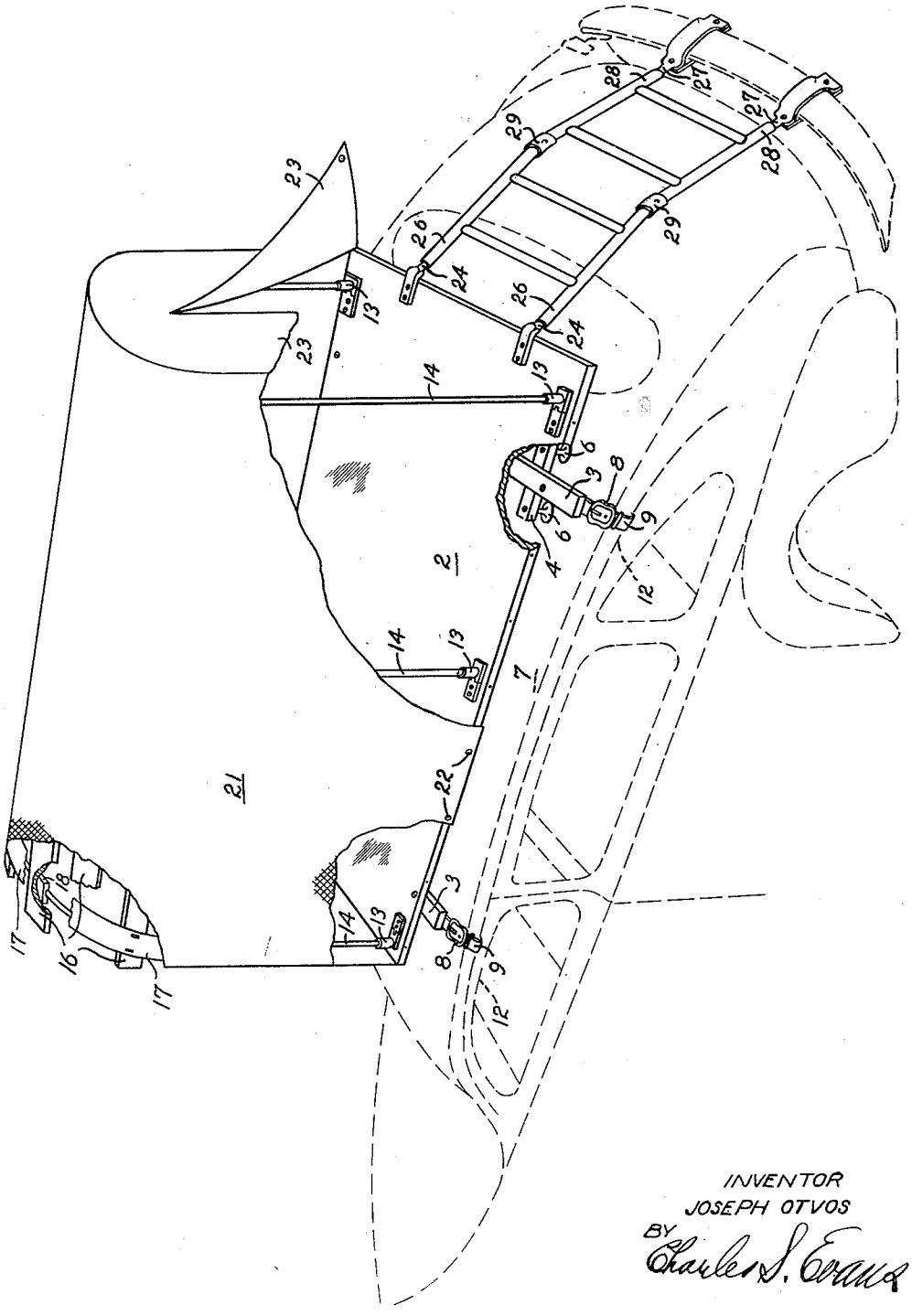
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FOLDING TENT FOR AUTOMOBILE TOPS

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FOLDING TENT FOR AUTOMOBILE TOPS

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4 Claims. (Cl. 135—4)

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My invention relates generally to folding tents and particularly to one adapted for erection on the top of an automobile.

One of the objects of the invention is the provision of a tent adapted in collapsed or folded condition to be packed and transported on the top of an automobile, and to be erected and occupied thereon as occasion requires.

Another object of my invention is the provision of a folding tent structure characterized by ease of manipulation and dependable stability when erected.

The invention possesses other objects, some of which with the foregoing will be set forth at length in the following description wherein is explained that form of the invention which has been selected for illustration in the drawings accompanying and forming a part of this specification. It is to be understood that the invention is not limited to a form shown in the drawings since the invention as set forth in the claims may be embodied in a plurality of forms.

Referring to the drawings: The figure is a perspective view of my folding tent structure as erected on the top of a sedan automobile which is indicated in broken lines. Portions of the figure are omitted to disclose the underlying parts.

It has long been the practice among campers to carry tents, beds and other camping equipment on the tops of their automobiles as well as in the interior of the car. In either case the problem of making camp at night always demands the selection of a level site for the tent and its erection. Frequently too, the matter of protection against snakes, ants and all the other crawling slithering things of a night in the wilds compel attention, especially if women are to be accommodated. Even a male, hardened to outdoor life has been known to object when waking in the chill dawn he found himself bedfellow to a rattler who had entered without knocking, seeking only warmth and affection.

With the rig of my invention the site of the tent is always ready; and it remains only to park the car on reasonably level ground. When the pack has been undone and the tent erected, the floor of the tent provides ample space for two sleeping bags, and three with a bit of crowding. Since the floor is at least five feet above the ground, and separated from it by the body and wheels of the car, practically complete protection is afforded against the crawling and walking invader.

In broad terms the rig of my invention comprises a platform with means to fix the platform

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securely on an automobile top. A plurality of bows are demountably hinged on the platform to support the covering. The covering is supported between the bows by parallel slats, which are held in a unit grouping by heavy tapes secured near the ends of the slats. The parts are so proportioned and arranged that when the bows are swung to upright position, the slat unit may be thrown over the tops of the bows. The frame work thus formed is fitted by the covering which is pulled down snugly and secured around its lower edges to the edge of the platform, thus holding everything in place. Flaps are arranged in the rear wall of the tent; and a demountable ladder between the rear edge of the platform and the rear bumper of the car, gives an easy means of getting up to and down from the tent floor.

By removing the covering and slat unit, the bows are folded over toward each other, after which the other parts, sleeping gear and other camp luggage is arranged on the platform, covered with a tarpaulin and lashed down. The car and its equipment is now ready for travel.

In greater detail, my invention comprises a platform 2, preferably of 5-ply panel stock, secured by screws to a cross bar 3 near each end. Each cross bar near its ends is fixed to a short shoe 4, which is equipped with a rubber suction cup 6 near each of its ends. The cups form direct contact with the car top 7; and since there are two under each end of each cross bar, or eight in all, ample non-skid support for the platform is assured. Further security is had by a strap-and-buckle connection 8, between the ends of the cross bars and the hooks 9, engaging the gutter bead 12 of the car.

Disposed at each corner of the platform and also preferably near the middle of each long side is a hinged socket 13. Each opposite pair of sockets provides a mounting for a bow 14, conveniently bent from tubing or light pipe. The bows constitute the upright or vertical framework of the structure, and each is demountably seated in the associated hinged sockets, so that it may be taken off when it is desired to use the platform for something else.

Extending between the bows are a plurality of slats 16, which at each end are connected by a fabric strip or tape 17, which holds all the slats together in parallelism and in a unitary assembly which can readily be thrown over the bows when they are erect. A block 18 on the underside of the central slat, notched shallowly to receive one-half the thickness of the bow, keeps the bows from folding over while the slat assembly is in position.

The cover **21** is shaped to fit closely down over the slats and bows, the slats supporting the cover across the top of the structure. When the cover is in place the lower edges are secured around the edge of the platform by snap fasteners **22** or other suitable attachment means. So secured, the cover holds the slat assembly and bows together and provides a tight tent above the platform secure against rain and wind.

The rear end of the tent is arranged with the usual flaps **23** for entrance; and a two-piece demountable ladder connects the rear edge of the platform and the rear bumper of the car.

Studs **24** bolted to the rear edge of the platform receive the hollow upper ends of the ladder sides **26** and studs **27** clamped to the rear bumper receive the hollow lower ends of the ladder sides **28**. A sleeve **29** pinned to each side **28** forms a loose socket for the lower end of the matching side **26**; and the proportions and sizes of the parts are such that the two ladder parts may be put together at an angle, and then straightened out to engage both sets of studs. Gravity then tends to hold the ladder in position of use.

By lifting the central slat free of the bows it is possible to fold the central bow forwardly, and the end bows toward each other and collapse the entire structure upon the beds on the platform. Lashings over this pack secure it for travel. Lifting the bows back to position again erects the tent structure.

If desired of course the tent may be unsnapped, removed, folded into a smooth bundle, and stowed on the platform with the bedding. The slat assembly can then be taken off, doubled and laid flat on the pack, and the bows folded down. A previously fitted tarpaulin may then be thrown over the pack and secured with fasteners to the platform edge.

I claim:

1. An auto-top tent comprising a platform, means for supporting the platform on the top of an automobile, a plurality of tent supporting bows disposed on the platform, a plurality of loose slats extending across the bows, a fabric strip connected across the slats near each end and forming therewith a demountable cover-supporting structure, and a cover comprising four walls and a curved top and fitting over the slats and bows to provide a tent above said platform.

2. An auto-top tent comprising a platform, means for supporting the platform on the top of an automobile, a plurality of pairs of sockets hinged to the platform, a bow demountably arranged in each pair of sockets, a plurality of loose slats extending across the bows, a fabric strip connected across the slats near each end and forming therewith a demountable cover-supporting structure, means fixed to one of the slats adjacent each of at least two bows and having therein a notch engaging the bow to hold the bows erect, and a cover supported by the bows and forming a tent above said platform.

3. A tent comprising a platform, a plurality of bows hinged to the platform, a plurality of spaced loose slats extending across the bows, a fabric strip connected across the spaced slats near each end and forming therewith a demountable cover-supporting structure, and a cover fitting over the slats and bows.

4. A tent comprising a platform, a plurality of bows demountably hinged to the platform, a plurality of slats extending across the bows, a fabric strip connected across the slats near each end and forming therewith a demountable cover-supporting structure, means fixed to one of the slats adjacent each of at least two bows and having therein a notch engaging the bow to hold the bows erect, a cover fitting over the slats and bows, and releasable fastener means for securing the covering to the edge of the platform.

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