Feb. 16, 1960 H. R. LITTLETON 2,925,190

GARBAGE CAN AND COVER

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Fig.1

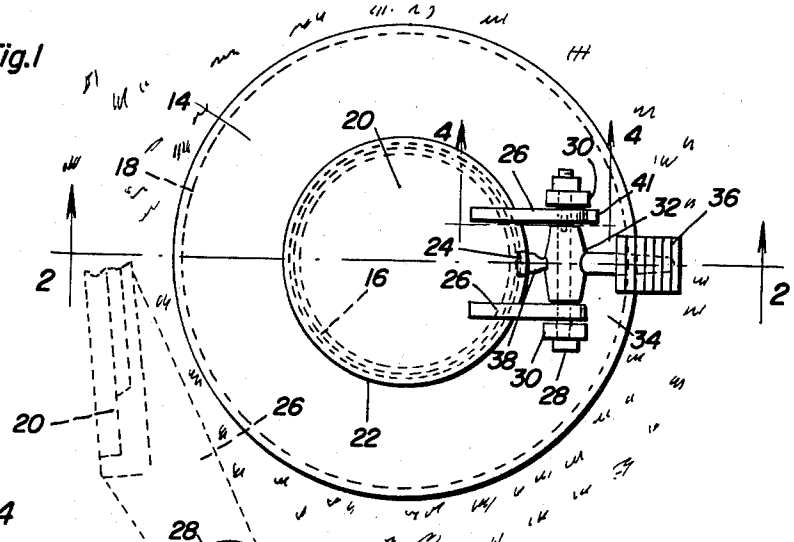


Fig.4

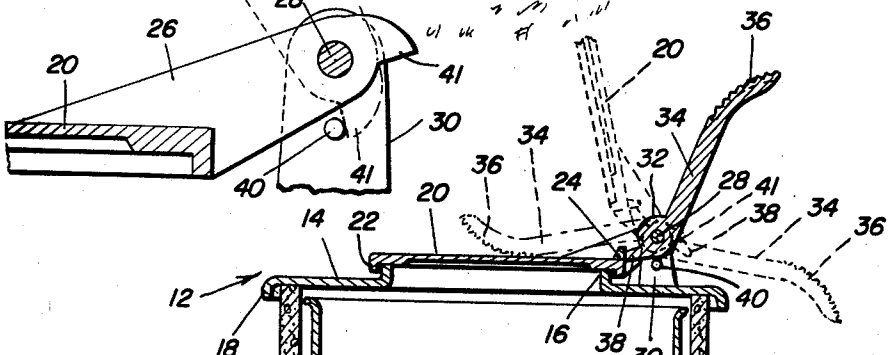
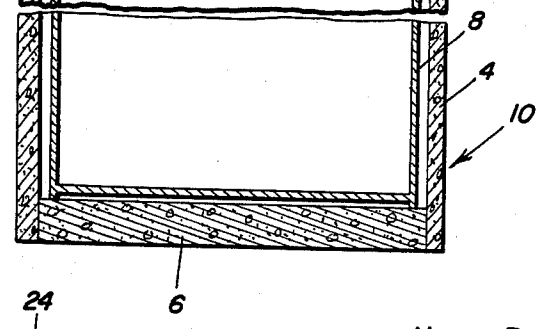


Fig.2



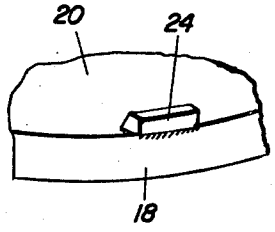


Fig.3

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GARBAGE CAN AND COVER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 220—18)

The present invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in a two-part or an equivalent sectional cover, more particularly, a cover which lends itself to practical use on and in association with a garbage can.

As appears to be reasonably well evident from the preceding general statement of the invention, the cover means under consideration has to do with an outer annular main section defining the entrance opening or mouth, and an inner auxiliary section which is hinged on the outer section and provides an openable and closable lid for the entrance opening. It is also common practice in this line of endeavor to provide a lever which assists in opening and closing the inner section or lid. For the most part it is customary to construct the lever so that it serves, as is generally the situation, as a foot lever or pedal.

As will be hereinafter evident it is an object of the instant matter to provide simple, practical and reliable cover means which is such that it may be used to provide a satisfactory underground garbage can or container. This is not to say that the cover necessarily has to be employed with a submerged garbage or refuse container or can for, obviously, the container and the receiver therefor may be above ground level or, for that matter, even elevated and used at table or shelf level. In any event, in carrying out the principles of the instant invention the components which go to make up the overall cover means, including the foot pedal, lend themselves to practical and economical construction from aluminum, a material which is not only light in weight and easy and expedient to utilize in manufacturing procedures but is rustproof.

Also, in carrying out the invention a folding or so-called retractible foot pedal is utilized and is so constructed as to use the weight of the pedal to help lift a lid section of the over-all cover means.

Novelty is also predicated on a cover construction which is such that it will fit over, that is rest atop or upon the upper end of a tile, either concerete or terra cotta or the like with the tile embedded, if desired, in the ground. To this end the tile does not have to be specially made to accommodate the cover or vice versa. In the construction seen the pedal may be used either as a hand lever or foot pedal depending on whether the can contained in the concrete tile is located above or below surface level.

Novelty is also predicated on the combination of a suitable piece of concrete or equivalent tile or pipe section having a bottom therein forming a receiver. Any suitable garbage can or receptacle, whether disposable or not, is placed in the concrete receiver. Then the sectional cover means is placed atop the tile portion of the receiver, whereby to thus provide a novel and practical garbage can.

Other objects, features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing, wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the views:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a so-called garbage can which may be assumed to be embedded in the ground and which is provided with the improved cover means;

Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the lifting and lowering abutment carried by the marginal portion of the hinged lid; and

Fig. 4 is an exaggerated detail section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

With reference now to the drawing the aforementioned concrete or equivalent tile is denoted by the numeral **4** and is fitted around the margin of a disk-like insert of concrete as at **6** with the parts **4** and **6** going to make up a receiver which is open at the top. A garbage "can" or equivalent receptacle is denoted at **8**. Actually this part **8** may be almost any available receptacle around the house such as a discarded paint can, large size food product can which has been dispensed with and so on. As a matter of fact, waxed ice cream cartons of suitable capacity and even disposable prepared garbage pail lining bags and the like may constitute the "can" under consideration. The components **4** and **6** make up the open top closed bottom receiver **10** and the receptacle **8** constitutes the can. The cover means, looking at it as a structural entity, is denoted generally by the numeral **12**. As already mentioned it comprises an aluminum annulus **14** of suitable size or diameter. The center opening thereof is surrounded by an upstanding collar **16** which goes to make up the opening or mouth. There is a marginal depending lip or flange **18**. This outer annulus constitutes the outer or primary section of the cover means. The inner section is an imperforate disk-like aluminum cover which is here referred to as a lid **20**. It is of course suitably proportioned and preferably provided wtih a downturned marginal lip **22**. As seen in Fig. 3 the marginal top surface of the lid has an offset aluminum block or the like **24** welded in place and constituting a lifting and lowering abutment. There are two outstanding or radial arms **26** formed integral with the lid and they extend out and are hingedly mounted on end portions of a bolt **28** which here serves as a hinging shaft. The bolt is mounted in posts or uprights **30** formed integrally with the cover section **14**. The bolt, that is the section between the arms **26** also serves as a shaft for the bearing **32** forming a part of the lever means. The shank of the lever is denoted at **34** and the trip at **36**. There is a short shank **38** on the other side of the bearing which is proportioned and constructed to serve as a lifting and lowering finger. It is aligned with and cooperates with the abutment **24**. Here the term "lever" means handle, pedal, foot piece or an equivalent member. The pedal is retractible and operates in the manner which is thought to be evident by considering Figs. 1 and 2 collectively and particularly the full line and dotted line representations in Fig. 2.

As the introductory portion of the specification clearly implies your applicant is not unmindful that it is old in the art to provide cover means characterized by so-called primary and secondary or auxiliary components or sections with the outer one serving as a sort of a collar for the cover proper, and the inner one as an openable and closable lid. It is also old in the art to provide foot pedals and levers which may be used either as handles or foot pieces. It is to be pointed out that in the instant presentation the cover means **12** with the attending foot pedal constitutes a novel structural entity, not one which must necessarily be built in or form a part of a complicated and companion can or receptacle. So, it is important to keep in mind here the idea that the concrete receiver **10** (comprising the tile **4** and disk or base **6**) can be constructed from available material and either embedded or not. As already pointed out the "can" **8** is of any suitable type. Novelty is predicated, however, on the receiver and can when the receiver serves

to accommodate the readily applicable and removable closure or cover means 12.

With reference now to Figure 4, this view brings out a further feature; namely, a stop pin 40 carried by one of the posts or uprights 30 and with which an extended lug or abutment 41 has engagement as seen in dotted lines. This construction has been aptly utilized to limit the upward movement of the cover or lid at a point of about 5° from the perpendicular. Consequently the cover cannot "flop over" and fall accidently on the operator's foot.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. In combination, a length of terra-cotta tile adapted to be embedded in the ground with an upper end thereof adapted to project slightly above ground level, an insert of concrete plugged into the bottom of said tile and cooperating therewith and providing a receiver for an insertable and removable garbage can, and non-corrodible cover means for outdoor use, said cover means being of appreciable weight, independent of but resting firmly but removably atop the upper end of said tile and comprising a first cover section annular in plan with a generally flat body portion, the central portion of said annular section defining a center opening, the outer marginal edge of said section having a depending flange, the flat body portion of said section being adapted to provide a weatherproof joint between itself and said receiver, a second cover section comprising a disc-like lid adapted to close over said center opening, said center opening being surrounded by an upstanding flange, said lid having a marginal depending flange cooperable with said upstanding flange in providing a substantially weatherproof joint between the cooperating surfaces of the lid and said flanges, said first cover section having a pair of upstanding ears arranged midway between the inner and outer peripheral edges of the cover section, said second cover section having a pair of marginal arms projecting outwardly beyond the outer peripheral edge and hingedly connected with a shaft supported between said ears, and a foot pedal having a bearing rockably mounted on the shaft between said arms, said bearing being provided on one side midway between its ends with an outstanding shank terminating in a foot piece, said bearing being provided on a diametrically opposite side with an outstanding lifting finger, the marginal edge portion of said lid adjacent the finger being provided with an upstanding lug serving as a lifting and lowering abutment, and said finger being releasably engageable with said abutment.

2. For ready and adaptable use where a simple length of concrete tile with a plug-closed bottom provides a receiver for a garbage can, non-corrodible cover means for the upper open end of said tile comprising an annular outer section, the outer marginal edge of which is downturned to provide an endless lip, the inner peripheral edge having an upstanding endless flange constituting a collar, a complemental inner section comprising an imperforate lid resting atop said collar and having a depending flange snugly encircling said collar and providing a substantially weatherproof joint between the cooperating surfaces of the inner periphery of the depending flange and outer peripheral surface of said collar, said lid being provided adjacent a marginal edge with an upstanding lug constituting an abutment, means hingedly joining said lid with the outer annular section and permitting the lid to readily open and close, a foot pedal having a bearing hingedly supported on said annular outer section, said bearing being provided on one side with a lifting and lowering finger releasably engageable with the abutment, being provided on a diametrically opposite side with an outstanding shank and said shank terminating in a foot piece, said hinging and joining means comprising a pair of upstanding hinging posts carried by said cover section, said posts supporting an intervening horizontal shaft, said inner lid section having spaced marginal arms located between said posts and pivotally connected with said shaft, one of said posts having a laterally projecting stop pin fixed to an inner vertical side of the post, one of said arms having a stop lug extending radially and located in a path of movement to strike the pin in a manner which serves to limit the upward swinging of said lid.

3. For ready and adaptable use where a length of terra-cotta tile has been embedded in the ground with the upper end thereof projecting above the surface of the ground and the lower end thereof closed by a concrete plug in a manner to provide a receiver for a garbage can, cover means for the upper open end of said tile, said cover means being made of relatively heavy metal so that the complete means is 25 pounds, more-or-less, in weight whereby when it is positioned for use atop the upper end of the tile the self-embodied weight retains the means in operative position against displacement and obviates not only the likelihood of displacement but the need for any positive connection whatsoever between the means and tile, said cover means comprising a first cover section annular in plan having a generally flat body portion the central part of which defines an intake opening, the outer marginal edge of said first cover section having a depending flange which is sufficient to overhang the projecting upper end of the terra-cotta tile in a manner to guard against lateral shifting and displacement of said section and also to minimize the likelihood of water and mud entering the receptacle portion of the receiver, a second cover section comprising a disk-like lid, said lid having a marginal depending flange, said center opening being surrounded by an upstanding flange constituting a collar, and depending flange snugly surrounding the collar and providing a substantially weatherproof joint between cooperating surfaces of the flange, collar and lid, said first cover section being provided with a pair of upstanding ears located midway between the inner and outer peripheral edges of the cover section, said second cover section having a pair of marginal outwardly projecting arms extending beyond the outer peripheral edge of the cover section and extending between the respective ears and being hingedly connected with a shaft operatively supported between said ears, a marginal outer edge of said lid having an upstanding lug serving as a lifting and lowering abutment, said lug being positioned between the arms, a barrel-like bearing mounted for angular rotation on said shaft and occupying the space between inner adjacent surfaces of said outstanding arms, said bearing being provided on one side midway between its ends with an outstanding shank terminating in a foot-piece, said bearing being provided on a diametrically opposite side with a lifting finger in alignment with the axis of said foot-piece shank, said finger being aligned and releasably engageable with said abutment, the vertical inner side of one of said ears having a laterally projecting stop pin, the aforementioned arm which is adjacent to said one ear terminating in a stop lug, said lug operating in a path of movement to strike the stop pin in a manner which serves to limit the upward swinging of said lid when the lid is swung to an open position.

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