

July 29, 1924.

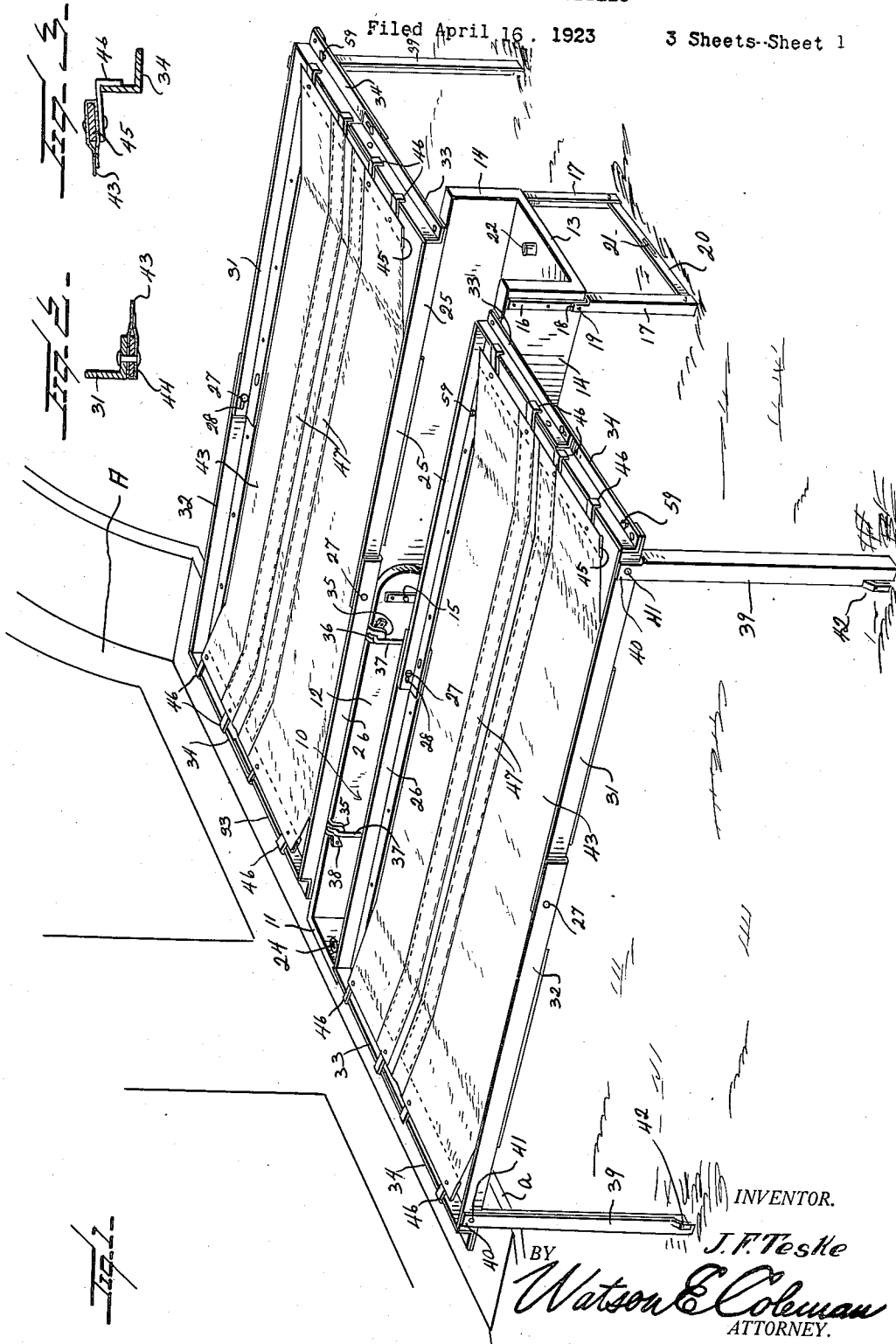
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J. F. TESKE

FOLDING BED FOR AUTOMOBILES

Filed April 16, 1923

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



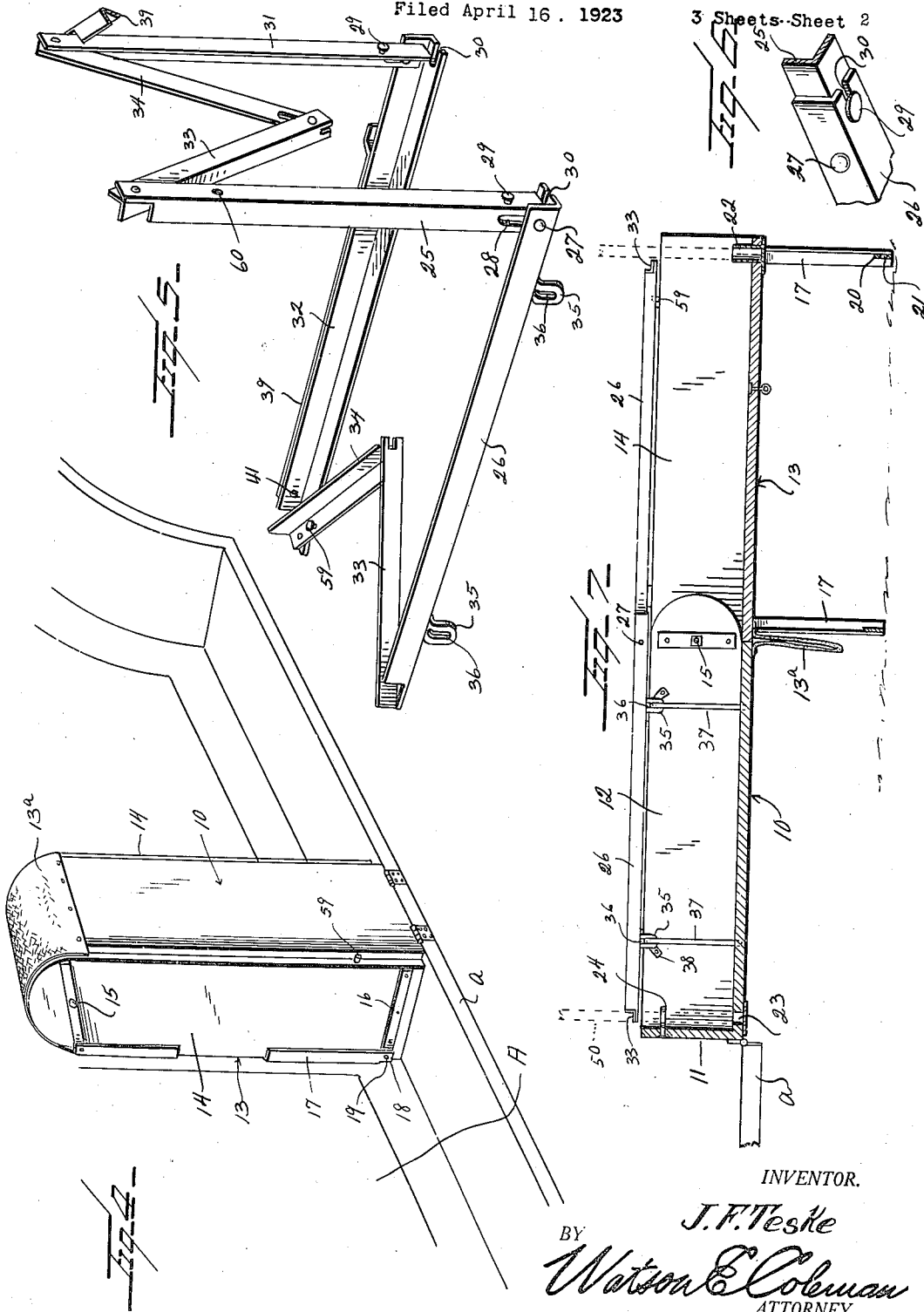
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July 29, 1924.

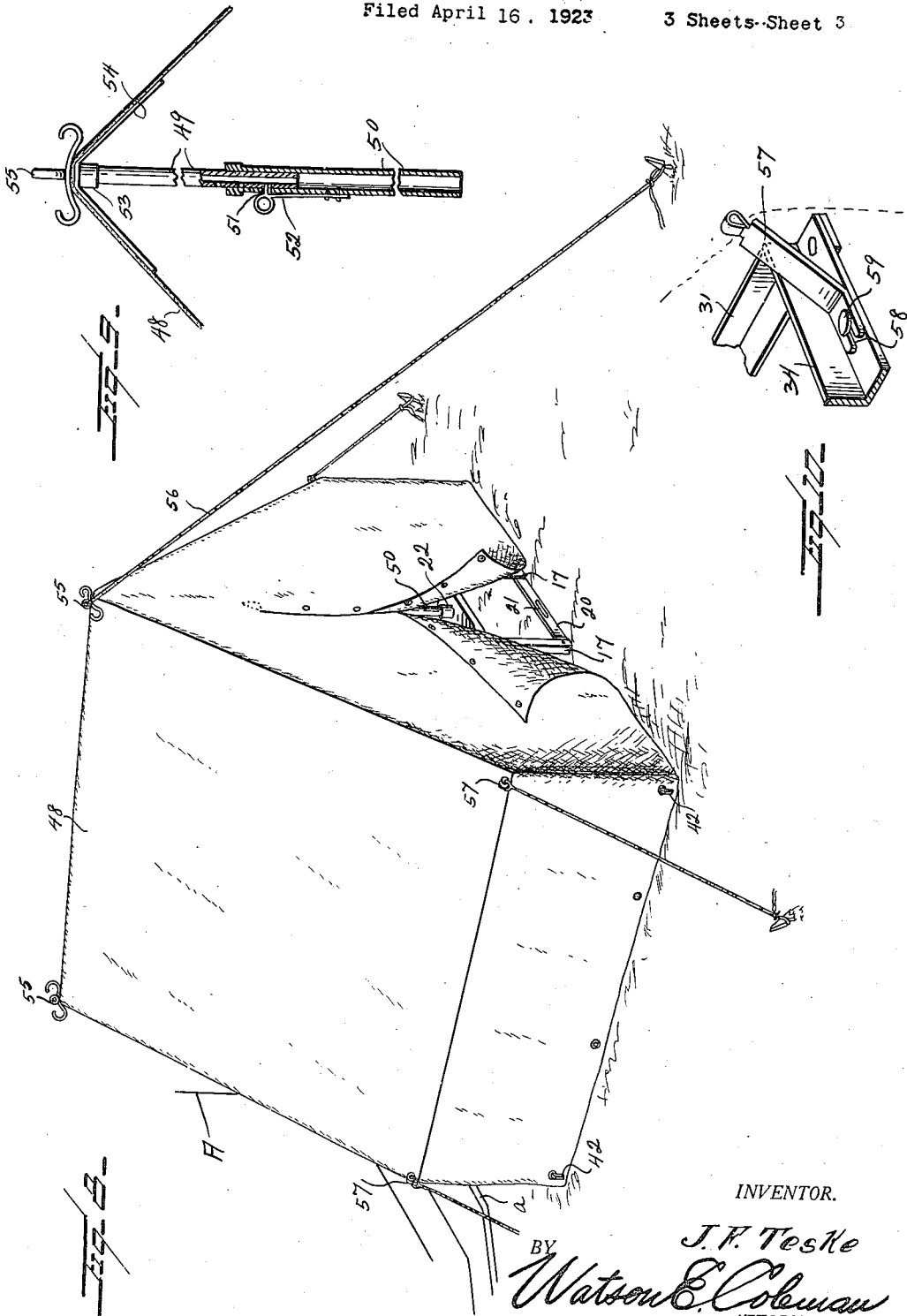
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JULIUS F. TESKE, OF MOBRIDGE, SOUTH DAKOTA.

FOLDING BED FOR AUTOMOBILES.

Application filed April 16, 1923. Serial No. 632,506.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JULIUS F. TESKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mobridge, in the county of Walworth and State of South Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Beds for Automobiles, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to camping outfits, and particularly to a folding camp bed adapted to be mounted upon the running board of an automobile.

The general object of this invention is to provide a construction of this character comprising a foldable supporting frame which is normally carried in a folded up condition upon the running board of the automobile but which may be unfolded and will provide oppositely disposed bed frames each supporting a mattress web, there being a tent adapted to be mounted upon the supporting frame and which, when unfolded, extends over the oppositely disposed beds and engages with the legs thereof.

A further object is to provide a construction of this character which does not require any stakes, ropes or unnecessary equipment, which is very simple to operate and only requires a few minutes to set up or take down and folds into a relatively small box which is hinged stationary on the side of the running board and will not be in the way of either door.

A still further object is to provide a device of this character which is adapted to provide two single beds for accommodating two persons, one in each bed, or two double beds which will accommodate four persons.

Another object is to provide tent poles for the tent and provide means whereby these tent poles may be collapsed or expanded and held in an expanded condition so as to properly support the tent above the beds.

Still another object is to provide joints between the sections of each bed frame whereby these bed frames may be locked in proper position.

Other objects will appear in the course of the following description.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my folding bed for automobiles showing the same unfolded;

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view through one of the members 31, showing the manner in which the canvas is attached thereto;

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view through one of the members 34, showing the manner in which the canvas is hooked to the end members of the bed frame;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the running board of an automobile, showing the box enclosing the beds and tent folded;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of one of the bed frames, showing the manner in which it folds;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the manner in which two of the sections of the folded bed frame may be locked to each other;

Figure 7 is a longitudinal sectional view through the unfolded sections of the box;

Figure 8 is a perspective view of the tent disposed over the bed frame;

Figure 9 is a fragmentary sectional view through one of the tent poles;

Figure 10 is a perspective view of a corner of the bed frame showing the member 57 by which the tent is held stretched.

Referring to these drawings, 10 designates a box, the end wall 11 of which is adapted to be hinged to the running board *a* of the automobile A so that this box may be turned either into a vertical position or into a horizontal position. The box is formed with one end 11 before referred to and two sides 12 so that when the box is turned into a horizontal position it is open at its outer end. Hinged to the box section 10 is a box section 13 having a bottom and two sides 14. The sides 14 overlap the outer faces of the sides 12 and the sides 14 are pivoted to the sides 12 by means of a pivot bolt or equivalent element 15 so that the box section 13 may be turned over upon the box section 11 in the position shown in Figure 4.

The box section 13 at its opposite ends has the reinforcing strip 16 which is riveted or otherwise attached to the sides 14, and pivoted to each reinforcing strip are the legs 17. These legs are formed of channel iron and one flange of each leg is extended beyond the other flange, as at 18, to form a hinge leaf, through which passes the pivot 19 which might be a rivet or a bolt. The legs are connected at their lower ends by means of a transverse rod 20, the outer rod

being formed with a longitudinally extending slot 21 at its middle through which a staple is adapted to extend when the leg is folded against the box. A sheet of canvas 13^a is attached to the edge of the bottom 10 and extends to the edge of the bottom 13 across the joint between the two sections. The bottom of the section 13 at its outer end carries an upwardly extending, tubular socket 22 in which one tent pole is adapted to be disposed, and at its inner end the box section 10 is provided with a corresponding tubular socket 23. Mounted upon the end wall 11 of the box section 10 above the tubular socket 23 is an eye 24 and one of the tent poles is adapted to extend through this eye and through the socket 23.

Coacting with the box sections 12 and 14 are two bed frames adapted to be folded up entirely within the box or unfolded and extended laterally from the box. Inasmuch as both bed frames are alike, it is only necessary to describe one of these bed frames. Each bed frame is made of sections of angle iron 25 having any desired size, and each section consists of two longitudinal bar elements and the longitudinal bars are formed of two sections of angle iron, designated 25 and 26, each section having an upwardly extending flange and a horizontally extending flange. The section 25 is pivoted to the section 26 at 27, the vertical flange of the section 25 being formed with a longitudinally extending slot 28 through which the rivet 27 passes. The horizontal flange of section 25 is formed with a downwardly extending stud having a relatively wide head 29 and the horizontal flange of the section 26 is formed with a slot 30 which, when the sections are forced toward each other, engages with the headed stud 29 and locks the sections in a horizontal position.

When it is desired to fold the sections upon each other, the sections are drawn apart, thus releasing the locking stud 29 from its engagement with the slot 30, and then the sections may be folded over one on top of the other, as illustrated in Figure 5. The same construction is used for the sections 31 and 32 of the outside lateral frame and for the sections 33 and 34 of the end frames. Thus it will be seen that the rectangular frame upon which the webbing for the bed is adapted to be stretched is foldable twice so that the bed frame occupies only a quarter of its normal extent.

The section 26 of each bed frame has attached to its under face the curved irons 35, these irons being formed with slots 36. Attached on the inside of each side wall of the box is a guide rod 37, the lower end of which is inserted in the floor of the box section 10 and the upper end of which is inwardly deflected toward the wall 12 and then laterally deflected and attached to the side of the

box, as at 38. These rods pass through the slots 36 and thus form a sliding hinge for the bed sections so that the bed sections may be lifted from the bottom of the box, then unfolded and extended in a horizontal plane from the upper edges of the side walls of the box. Attached to the ends of the sections 31 and 32 are the legs 39. These are also made of angle iron and one flange of the angle iron is extended, as at 40, and pivoted to the vertical flange of section 31 by means of the rivet or bolt 41. Thus this leg may be folded up against the section 31 or be shifted downward into a vertical position. The lower extremity of the leg has one flange formed with a deflected tongue 42 whose purpose is to engage an eye on the wall tent to hold the sides of the tent down into position.

Permanently attached to the side rails of each bed section is a canvas web 43. The sides of this canvas web are folded over for a certain distance and disposed within this canvas web and within the pocket formed of this folded-over portion are the two metallic strips 44. These strips are riveted to the horizontal flanges of the side pieces 31 and 32. The ends of the canvas web are folded over and stitched to form pockets, and disposed in these pockets are the reinforcing strips 45. There are two of these strips for the purpose of permitting the canvas to be folded longitudinally. The ends of the canvas web have attached to them a plurality of hooks 46 made of strap iron and riveted to the reinforcing members 45. These hooks are adapted to engage over the vertical flanges of the end sections 33 and 34 to stretch the canvas web longitudinally. Preferably the canvas web is longitudinally strengthened by reinforcing strips of canvas 47. The tent 48 is, of course, made of suitable weight canvas and of suitable length and width. It is approximately in the form of an A tent. There is no ridge pole but the canvas is supported by means of the tent poles at each end, these tent poles being formed in two sections 49 and 50. The section 50 is intended to be inserted in the socket 22 or 23 as the case may be, and the section 49 telescopes within the section 50. Preferably the section 50 is formed with an opening 51 and a resilient latch 52 is provided having a tooth which extends through this opening and through an aperture in the section 49. There may be a plurality of apertures in the section 49 so that this section may be adjusted vertically to any desired height to take up any slack in the canvas.

I do not wish to be limited to any particular latch for holding the section 49 adjusted upon the section 50, but I have found the latch which I have illustrated very convenient. The section 49 is formed with a

cap 53 at its upper end, and mounted upon this cap is the angular iron 54 to which the canvas is stitched. Mounted upon the upper end of each tent pole above the tent 48 is an eye or equivalent member 55, to which a guy rope 56 is attached. This guy rope is for the purpose of guying the tent in case of storm but is ordinarily not needed. Along the line of junction between the end wall of the tent and the roof of the tent there is disposed a small iron 57, the inner end of the iron being longitudinally slotted, as at 58, and angled so that the inner end of the iron will rest upon the horizontal flange of the section 34 and engage the stud 59 thereof and support the outer margin of the tent in spaced relation to the outer margin of the bed. The tent may be constructed in any suitable manner and is provided at its opening and at any desired point with eyes whereby the tent may be laced up and whereby it may be packed down in case of need. Obviously other guy ropes might be used if desired wherever it is necessary to strengthen the tent against wind. Preferably the side walls of the case or box section 14 are formed with upwardly projecting studs 59 and the section 25 of the foldable bed frame is formed with an opening 60 which fits this stud so that when the frame is turned into a right angular position with the wall 14 and opened out, the section 25 will be held from any longitudinal movement which would unlock it from the section 26 and permit it to be folded over or cause the joint to break.

It will be seen that with this construction the frames are foldable into a very small compass and may be readily folded inward within the box or casing section 10, the webbing forming the bed, of course, folding up into the frame. The guide rods 37 permit these frames to be folded down into the bottom of the box 10 and then the tent itself may be rolled up or folded up and with the collapsible tent poles placed within the box. When all has been compactly folded within the box the section 13 is folded over upon the section 10 to form a cover therefor and then the two sections are turned upon the hinges and into an upright position on the running board of the automobile.

Ordinarily the box 10 is 11" deep, 12" wide and 3' long. When the box is unfolded and the frames unfolded this provides two beds disposed about 11" off the floor with a space of 12" between the two beds, each bed being 6' in length. Obviously the box 10 might be made larger as, for instances, 18" or 24" wide or any width desired which would allow for whatever space was desired between the beds when unfolded and yet at the same time this would permit a very compact folding of the structure. This camp outfit does not require any stakes, ropes or unnecessary equipment. It

is very simple to operate and only requires a few minutes to set up or take down and folds into a small box which is hinged permanently to the side of the running board into a position which will not foul either the front door or the back door.

Obviously slight changes might be made in the details of construction and arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:—

1. A folding bed structure of the character described comprising a box formed in two sections and adapted to be permanently hinged to the running board of an automobile, the sections of the box being adapted to be folded out into a horizontal position and aligned relation, the outer section of the box having folding legs at both ends whereby it may be supported from the ground, a foldable bed frame operatively mounted within the box adapted to be shifted to a horizontal position at right angles to one wall of the box, and a webbing constituting a bed operatively connected at its sides to the sides of the foldable bed frame and adapted to be operatively connected at its ends to the ends of the foldable bed frame.

2. A folding bed and tent structure of the character described comprising a box formed in two sections and adapted to be permanently hinged to the running board of an automobile, the sections of the box being adapted to be folded out into a horizontal position and aligned relation, the outer section of the box having folding legs at its outer end whereby it may be supported from the ground, a foldable bed frame operatively mounted within the box adapted to be shifted to a horizontal position at right angles to one wall of the box, and a webbing constituting a bed operatively connected at its sides to the sides of the foldable bed frame and adapted to be operatively connected at its ends to the ends of the foldable bed frame.

3. A foldable bed and tent structure for automobiles comprising a box formed in two sections, one of the sections being adapted to be permanently hinged to the running board of the automobile, the other section being hinged to the first named section and both sections being adapted to be turned down into a horizontal position and folded upon each other into a vertical position, foldable bed frames operatively connected with each side wall of the first named box section and when unfolded to extend approximately the length of both box sections and extend laterally in a horizontal position, foldable legs on the bed sections adapted to be turned into a vertical position to support the side of each bed section remote from the box, and a webbing of textile

fabric attached to the sides of said frames and adapted to be engaged with the ends of the frames.

4. In a foldable bed structure for automobiles, a box section adapted to be turned down into a horizontal position and having vertical guides mounted upon one side wall thereof, a bed frame having sides and ends, each side consisting of two sections pivotally connected to each other and adapted to be locked in an aligning relation or unlocked to permit the two sections to be folded one on top of the other, two end sections at each end of the bed frame pivotally engaged with each other and adapted to be locked in an aligning relation or unlocked to permit the bed sections to fold, one of the said sections being slidably engaged with the vertical rods on the wall of the box, the opposite side sections being provided with folding legs, and a web of textile fabric attached to the side sections of the bed frame and adapted to be folded up with said side sections and having means at the opposite ends of the web whereby it may be detachably engaged with the end sections of the frame.

5. A camping outfit of the character described comprising a box section having sides, a bottom and one end wall, the opposite end of the box section being open, a second box section having a bottom and two side walls pivoted to the open end of the first named box section so that the two sections may be turned over upon each other or into horizontal alignment, legs carried upon the free ends of the second named box section, guide bars extending upward parallel to a side wall of the first named box section and then extending inward adjacent the edge thereof, a bed frame formed of foldable sections, one of said sections having a length equal to the length of the side wall and being slotted, curved lugs extending

therefrom and through which the guide bars pass, legs pivotally mounted upon the sections of the frame remote from said lugs, a webbing of textile fabric permanently attached to the lateral sections of the bed frame and having hooks at its outer end whereby it may be attached to the end sections, the end sections of the frame having upwardly projecting headed studs.

6. A bed attachment for automobiles comprising a foldable box having hinges whereby it may be hinged upon the running board and normally stand in an upright position thereon but adapted to be turned into a horizontal position, the box being formed of a plurality of sections, means for supporting the outer end of the outer section of the box, bed frames permanently connected to the box but foldable into or out of the box and when unfolded extending laterally from the box, legs supporting the outer sides of the bed frames, webbing mounted upon said bed frames and foldable therewith into the box.

7. In a camping outfit of the character described, a box made of two sections, one adapted to be hingedly connected to the running board of the automobile and the other pivotally connected to the first named section, supporting legs at the free end of the last named section whereby both sections may be supported in a horizontal plane, two supporting frames hingedly engaged with the walls of the box, each of said frames consisting of laterally and longitudinally expansible sections, and foldable legs connected to the sides of the frame remote from said box, and webbing connected to each frame.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

JULIUS F. TESKE.