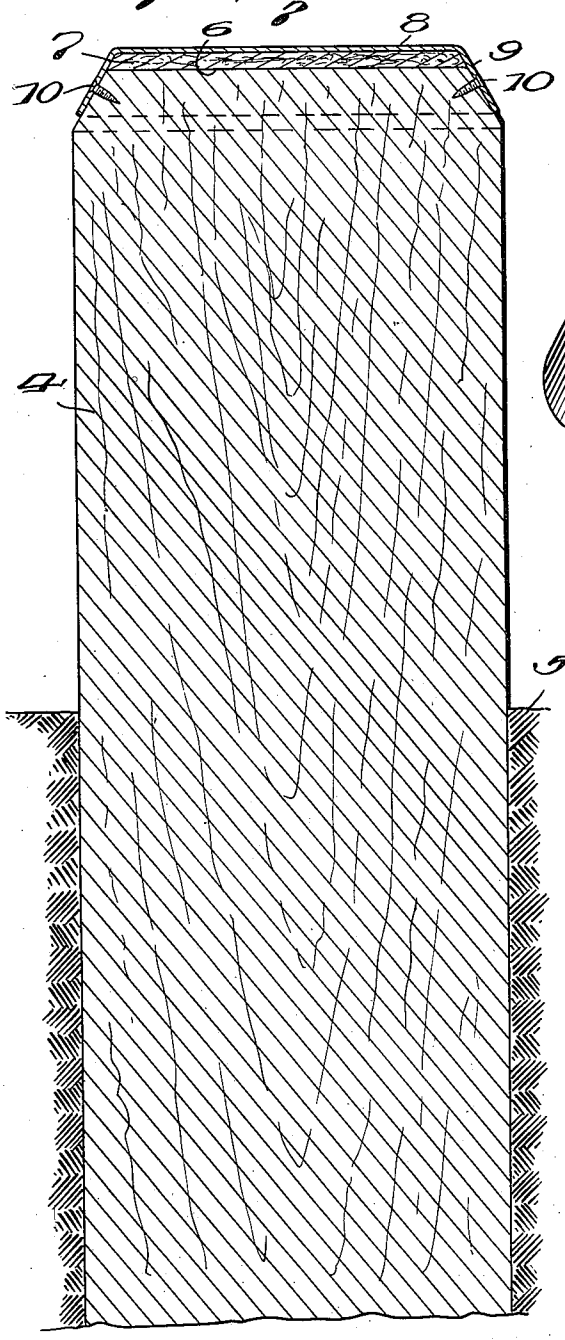
April 2, 1935. E. L. BOWEN 1,996,400

MEANS FOR PRESERVING PILE HEADS

Filed Sept. 1, 1934

Fig. 1.



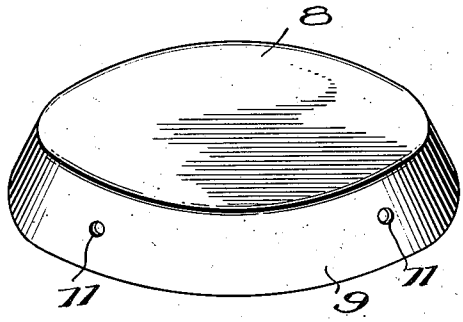


Fig. 2.

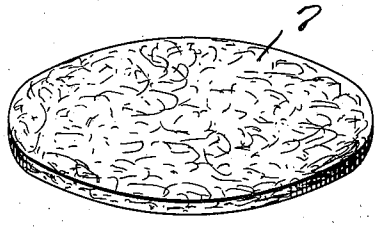


Fig. 3.

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MEANS FOR PRESERVING PILE HEADS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 61—77)

This invention relates to the art of wood preserving, particularly to the preservation of wood piling, and has as a primary object the provision of a method of treating the upper ends or heads of driven piles with preserving means renewable at desired intervals whereby the effective life of piles may be prolonged over practically an indefinite period of time. Another object is the provision of novel means for practicing the method. Other objects will be apparent from the description to those skilled in the art.

At the present time it is conventional to preserve piles by impregnating with creosote. However this method is not effective in preserving the pile heads due to the fact that under the powerful blows of a pile driver a large proportion of the creosote is exuded from the body of the pile at and adjacent the head. This area of the body thus lacks a requisite quantity of the preservative and deterioration and decay sets in progressively downward from the pile head. On installations where pile heads remain exposed it is customary to nail a square sheet of copper onto the flat head and to bend down the corners where they are not trimmed off. This practice gives the pile head a rough appearance and in the majority of instances fails to cover the entire area of the head so that there is exposure to the action of the elements which hastens the inevitable deterioration of the head resulting from the insufficiency of creosote, or the particular preservative employed.

In the practice of my method, the creosoted pile after being driven into position is treated at the head in a manner to insure a continuous capillary distribution of a liquid preservative, such as creosote, into that portion of the pile at and adjacent the head from which preservative has been exuded in the driving operation, thus supplying the deficiency. Furthermore, the pile head is periodically so treated to replenish preservative lost through surface discharge.

In carrying out the method of this invention I employ a liquid preservative reservoir seated on the pile head and protected by a cover removably attached to the head, the pile head being fitted as by appropriate trimming into the cover. In the accompanying drawing which is illustrative of the mechanical aspects of the invention:—

Figure 1 is a vertical section through a piling installation as treated in accordance with the invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the cover element employed.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the preservative reservoir.

As illustrated, a pile or post 4 after being driven into position in the ground or bed 5, is treated at its upper end or head 6 by laying thereon a gravity feed reservoir of creosote, such as a fibrous body 7, in this instance a circular felt pad, super-saturated with creosote.

Over the saturated pad there is then placed a flat cover comprising an annular plate 8 of suitable material, preferably thin copper, formed as substantially an inverted pie plate with a flared depending marginal flange 9, the pile head having first been trimmed for a tight fitting engagement within the flange. Detachable securing elements such as screws 10 engaged through screw holes 11 in the flange 9 serve to fasten the cover in position with the attaching screws engaging the pile head beneath the plane of the reservoir pad 7. The external diameter of the cover is the same or slightly less, but not greater, than the diameter of the pile so that the flange 9 does not project circumferentially of the pile, and a tight fitting engagement of the cover is assured.

The tight engagement of the cover seals the creosote reservoir pad against loss of the preservative so that the entire content is available for capillary distribution throughout the pile head and upper end portion of the pile. At suitable intervals the detachable cover is removed and the reservoir pad is replenished, after which the cover is replaced until the next period of treatment.

I claim:

1. In combination, a wood pile provided with a bevel trimmed portion at its upper peripheral edge, a fibrous pad saturated with a liquid preservative and seated loosely on the pile top, an annular cover plate loosely seated over said pad and having a flared depending marginal flange tightly fitting the bevel portion of said pile, and detachable securing elements engaging the body of said pile through said depending flange, the maximum diameter of said flange being no greater than that of the pile.

2. In combination, a wood pile having a frustoconically trimmed top, a pad saturated with a liquid preservative and seated loosely on the flat portion of the top, a frusto-conical cover plate seated loosely over said pad and tightly engaging the trimmed pile top, securing elements detachably engaging the pile body through the peripheral wall portion of the cover plate, and the

maximum diameter of said cover plate being less than the diameter of the pile immediately below the base of its frusto-conically trimmed top.

3. A preservative cover for wood pile heads, comprising a flat annular plate provided with an outwardly flared depending marginal flange of a lesser diameter than the diameter of a pile with which the cover may be associated, in combination with a creosote saturated flat fabric pad of an area less than the area of the flat portion of said plate, and loosely underlying said plate when associated therewith in service position.

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