Feb. 28, 1956 E. C. WEATHERSBY 2,736,157

NUT GATHERER

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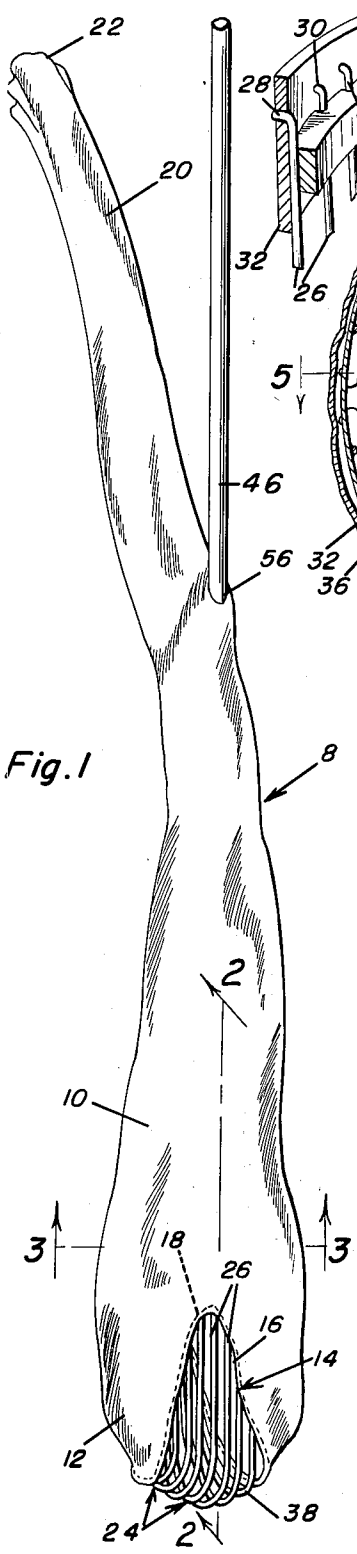

Fig. 1

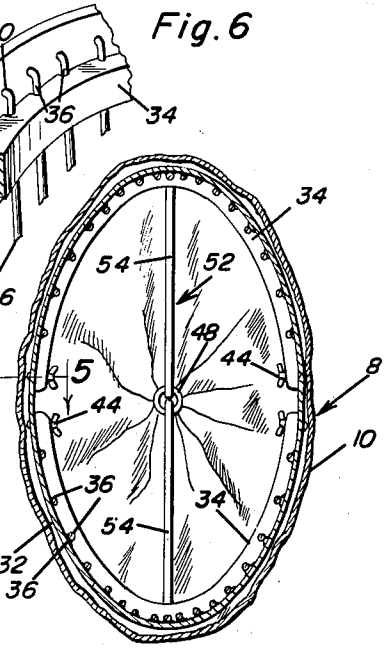

Fig. 6

Fig. 3

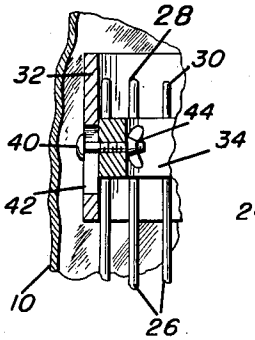

Fig. 5

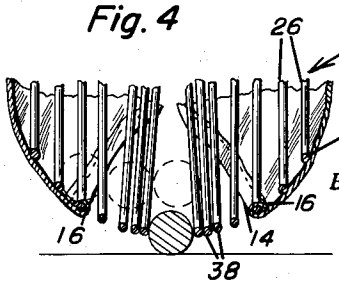

Fig. 4

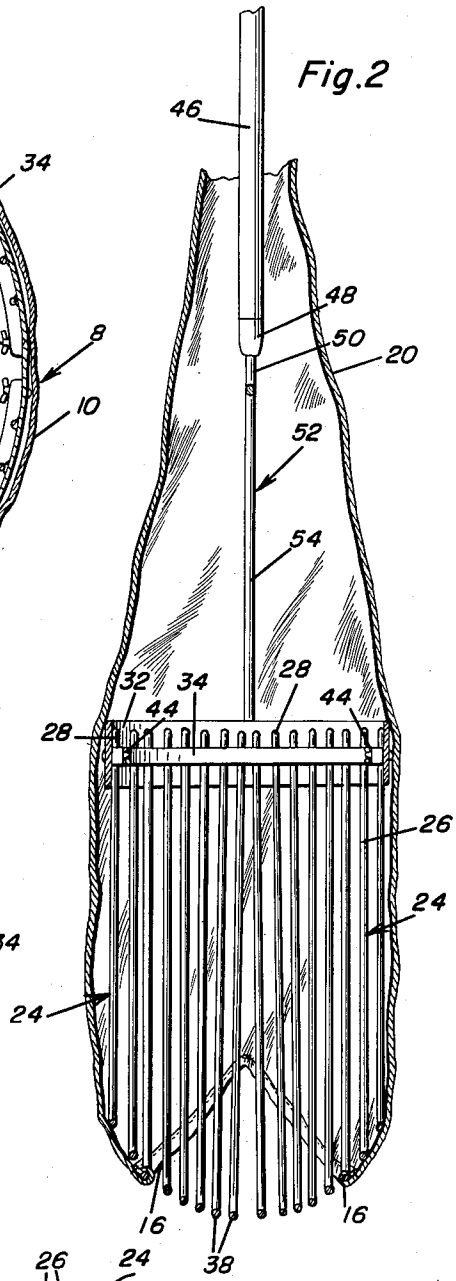

Fig. 2

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5 Claims. (Cl. 56—328)

The present invention relates to an improved device through the medium of which a user may walk over a ground covered with nuts and while doing so, may conveniently pick up nuts, gather the same in a bag of reasonably limited capacity, and then dump or empty the same into a shoulder-type sack or an equivalent container.

It is a matter of common knowledge to those familiar with the prior art that many and varied patents have been issued on devices for picking up objects while in a standing position, these being often referred to as pickups for golf balls, table tennis balls, walnuts, etc. It is also a matter of common knowledge that prior art pickup devices have to do with an elongate handle, a collecting receiver of one type or another on the lower end portion of the handle, said receiver having an entrance opening for the articles to be picked up and means of one type or another being associated with or spanning the entrance opening and being responsive to the articles picked up and serving to hold the articles once they are trapped.

The present invention has to do with a construction which is characterized by a receiving and accumulating bag having an intake opening or a so-called mouth at the bottom, suitable handle means being provided for the bag, and a novel trapping device which is here referred to as a pressure responsive pickup cage.

More specifically, the improvement has to do with a pecan gatherer which is characterized by a receiving and accumulating bag of elongate form having an intake mouth at its bottom and an elongated sleeve-like portion joined at one end to the top portion of said bag and gradually tapering in cross-section and defining a flexible snout-like emptying funnel for cooperation with a separate shoulder sack or similar container, pressure responsive pickup members operatively mounted in said bag with certain of said members registering with, spanning and providing an expansible and contractible grille for the otherwise fully open mouth and a trapping cage for the gathered nuts, and handle-equipped means operatively connected with said cage.

What is more, novelty is predicated on the structural assemblage briefly comprehended above and wherein the means referred to is characterized by an endless metal or equivalent frame, a bail whose arms are affixed to the frame, said bail being provided with a manipulating handle, the members which go to make up the cage being U-shaped and having limbs and said limbs being handily attached to the frame.

Other objects, features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying sheet of illustrative drawings.

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

Figure 1 is an elevation of a nut gatherer or bagging device construction in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged view in section and elevation

taken on the vertical line 2—2 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 3 is a horizontal section also on an enlarged scale taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 4 is a view of the bottom portion of the device shown in Figure 2, with parts broken away and shown in section, showing the manner in which the resilient U-shaped members spread apart to respond to and pick up a nut;

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional and elevational view showing certain of the details, said view being taken approximately on the line 5—5 of Figure 3; and

Figure 6 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view, with parts broken away and shown in section, illustrating other details in the over-all construction.

Referring now to the drawings, and with reference first to the part which is herein described as the "bag," this is denoted, in a unitary sense, by the numeral 8. It comprises a slender cloth or equivalent receiving and gathering bag, the body portion of which is denoted at 10. The bottom portion 12 is formed with a central substantially V-shaped opening which is broadly referred to as a substantially elongated mouth 14. The marginal edges of the mouth are formed into hems 16 which serve in the manner to be further described. The stitchings of the hems are denoted at 18 in Figure 1. It is desirable to trap the nuts or other articles in this bag by way of the mouth and to empty the same from time to time in a shoulder sack or an equivalent carrying and transporting container (not shown). It is therefore desirable to provide the instant bag with an emptying neck and the latter is also elongated and of general snout-like form, as denoted at 20. The restricted discharge opening 22 serves to permit the neck to be bent in any suitable direction and to funnel the nuts into a handily arranged shoulder sack.

Means is provided on the interior of the bag which serves to pick up and trap and temporarily hold the nuts. This may be conveniently designated, it is believed, as a wire cage. The cage is made up of a plurality of spaced parallel resilient U-shaped wire members denoted by the numerals 24. The limb portions 26 have upper laterally directed ends 28 (see Figure 6) which are fitted into keeper holes or openings provided therefor, as at 30, in an ovate endless band or frame 32. More specifically, bracing and clamping means is provided here, and, to this end, I provide a pair of substantially horseshoe-shaped clamps which are denoted by the numerals 34. They are arranged on the interior of the band or frame and have keeper notches 36 to accommodate the laterally bent ends of the limbs of the U-shaped members. The centrally disposed U-shaped members have their rounded bight portions 38 extending through and beyond the mouth of the bag where they provide pressure responsive members which spread apart, take in the nuts and then spring together in an obvious substantially automatic manner.

With reference to Figure 5, it will be seen that the horseshoe-shaped clamps are held in place by bolts 40 as clearly depicted, and these bolts operate in slots 42 provided therefor in the band or frame, the threaded ends of the bolts passing through the respective end portions of the clamps and being provided with thumb nuts, as at 44. This provides a convenient manner of assembling and combining the parts into a satisfactory cage structure. It is further to be pointed out that at least two of the U-shaped members 24 are fastened in the aforementioned hems 16, as illustrated best in Figure 4. This provides the ways and means of joining the cage with the bag and also forms a sort of openable and closable grille

to span the mouth of the bag. The handle, which is used in a standing position, is denoted by the numeral 46, and it has a ferrule 48 joined with a shank 50 carried by an inverted U-shaped bail 52 whose arms 54 straddle and are connected to the respective diametrically opposite end portions of the frame. The upper end of the handle extends through an opening 56 in the bag where it is accessible alongside of the funneling neck 20. The handle may be a simple length of bamboo or the like. The U-shaped formation of the wire members ensures effective cooperation of the pressure responsive "grille" with the ground and nuts residing thereon.

The bag is one which may be used while standing up and walking about, and the nuts can be picked up easily by way of the openable and closable U-shaped members whereupon the nuts are trapped and when the bag is substantially full, it is inverted and the nuts are funneled by way of the snout-like neck into a shoulder sack or the like. Obviously, this device is simple, practical, ensures handy and rapid gathering of nuts and virtually eliminates stooping.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, 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 shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be restorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A nut gatherer comprising, in combination, a nut receiving and accumulating bag of elongate form having an intake mouth at its bottom portion and a complemental elongated sleeve-like extension at its top portion and gradually tapering in cross-section and defining a flexible snout-like bag emptying funnel for cooperation with a separate shoulder sack or similar container, pressure responsive pickup members operatively mounted in said bag with certain of said members registering with, spanning and providing an expansible and contractible grille for the otherwise fully open intake mouth and a trapping cage for the gathered nuts, and handle-equipped means operatively connected with said cage.

2. A nut gatherer comprising, in combination, a nut receiving and accumulating bag of elongate form having an intake mouth at its bottom, pressure responsive means embodying pick-up members operatively mounted in said bag with certain of said members registering with, spanning and providing an expansible and contractible grille for the otherwise fully open mouth of said bag and a trapping cage for the gathered nuts, and handle-equipped means operatively connected with said cage.

3. The structure defined in claim 2, wherein said means

embodies an endless frame, a bail fixed on said frame, a handle joined to said bail, said members being U-shaped and having limbs joined to said frame.

4. A nut gatherer comprising a cloth bag in which the nuts are gathered and accumulated and later on dumped into a larger sack or the like, said bag having an elongate slot at the bottom forming a mouth, the marginal edges of said mouth having lengthwise hems, a cage structure comprising a frame and a plurality of U-shaped wire members having limbs attached to and depending from said frame, the majority of said members being confined in said bag, and certain of said members having their bight portions registering and cooperating with said mouth, at least two of the bight portions of said members being attached to the bag by way of the adjacent respective hems, a handle, and means connecting said handle with said frame.

5. A nut gatherer comprising, in combination, a cage structure comprising an endless rigid frame, a plurality of spaced normally parallel U-shaped wire members having cooperating bight portions and opposed coplanar limbs, said limbs being resilient, said limbs having free end portions fastened to said frame and thus defining the aforementioned cage, the bight portions of the respective U-shaped members cooperating in providing an expansible and contractible grill, certain cooperating U-shaped members having their adjacent bight portions adapted to spread apart to permit nuts to be picked up and collected in the cage, a handle secured to said frame and extending from a side of the frame opposite to that on which and from which said U-shaped members extend, and a complemental nut receiving and accumulating bag having a slotted portion at the bottom attached to and cooperating with certain of the bight portions of the U-shaped members, the remainder of the bag being imperforate and enclosing and encasing the essential portion of the U-shaped members, the top portion of said bag extending beyond said frame and encompassing a portion of said handle and being restricted in cross-section to facilitate dumping accumulated nuts from the cage and bag.

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