

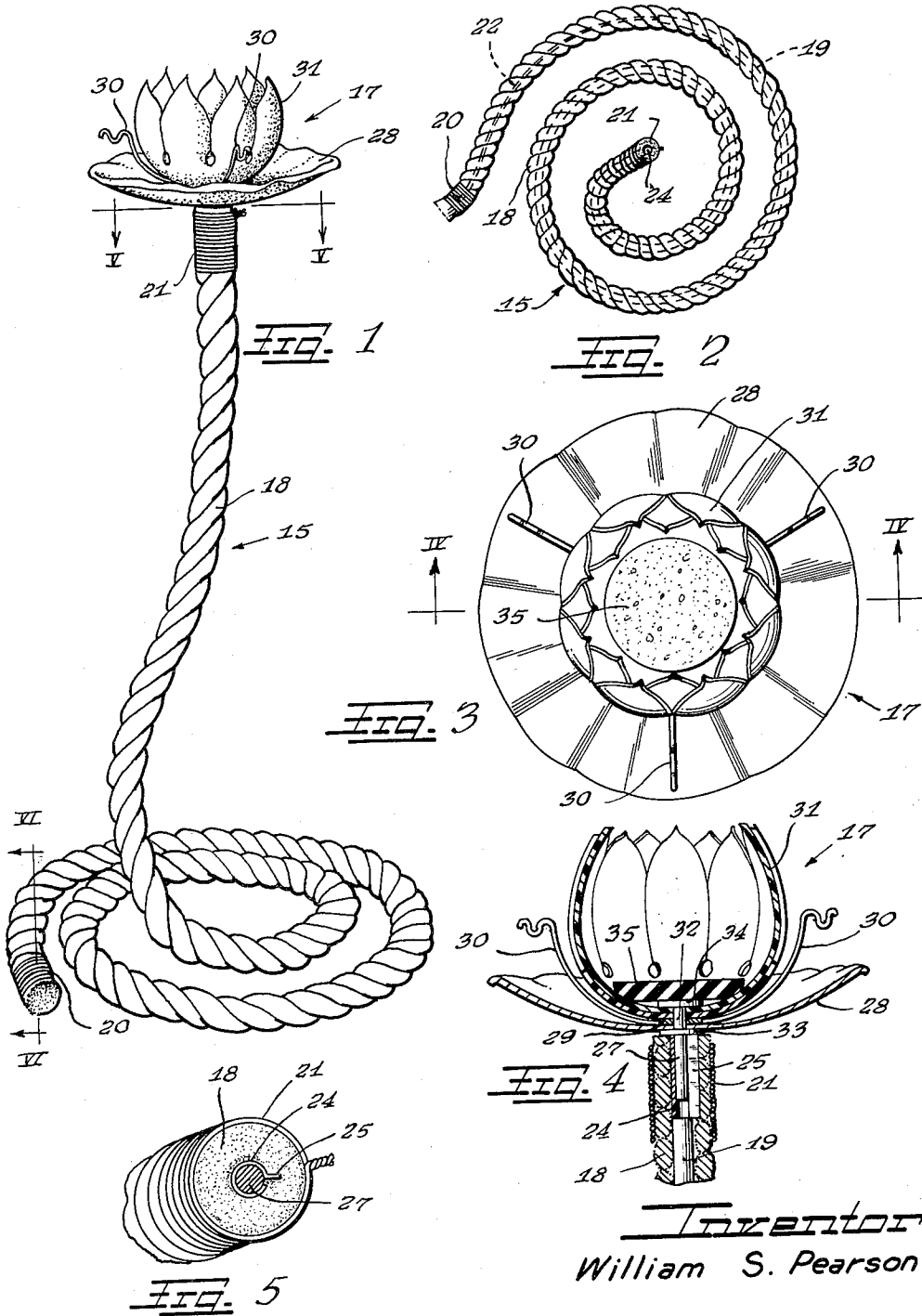
June 26, 1962

W. S. PEARSON  
SMOKING OR LIKE STAND

3,041,031

Filed Aug. 14, 1958

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Inventor  
William S. Pearson

By *Will, Sherman, Merani, Gross & Associates*

June 26, 1962

W. S. PEARSON  
SMOKING OR LIKE STAND

3,041,031

Filed Aug. 14, 1958

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

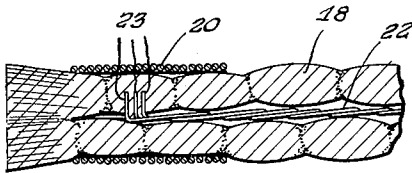


FIG. 6

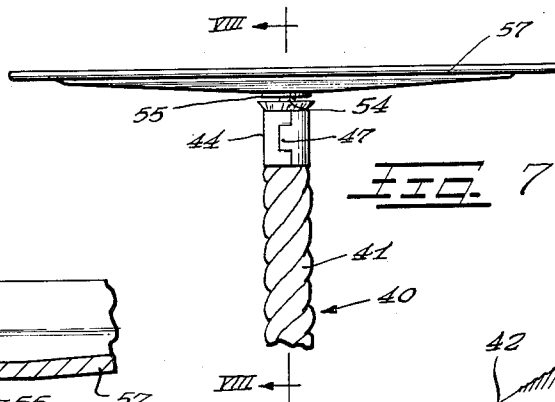


FIG. 7

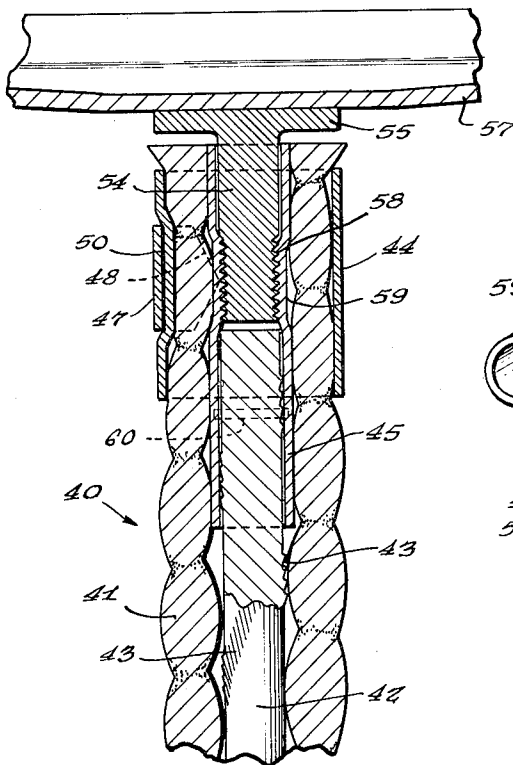


FIG. 8

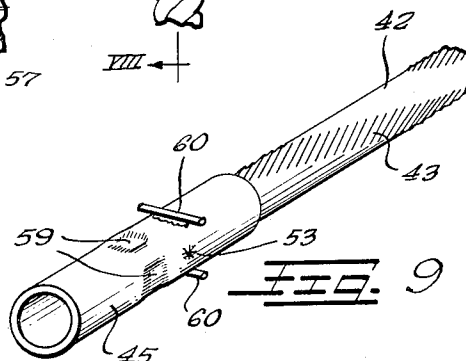


FIG. 9

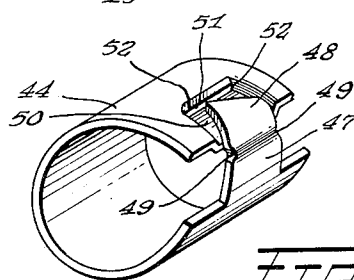


FIG. 10

Inventor  
William S. Pearson

By *Sill, Sherman, Murrie, Gross & Singer* Attys

1

3,041,031

## SMOKING OR LIKE STAND

William S. Pearson, 5821 Clearspring Road,  
Baltimore 12, Md.

Filed Aug. 14, 1958, Ser. No. 755,066  
12 Claims. (Cl. 248—158)

The present invention relates to improvements in portable stands especially suitable for use as smoking stands, tray supporting stands and combination types of such stands.

Although stands of the character herein contemplated are of necessity primarily utilitarian, it is also desirable to afford them with an attractive appearance as articles of furniture. Where the stand is of unusual appearance and possibly even affords a necromantic illusion, the stand provides an interesting conversation piece.

It is accordingly an important object of the present invention to provide a novel stand construction affording unusual appearance characteristics.

Another object of the invention is to provide a stand construction affording the appearance of consisting of a material known to be incapable of self-sustaining characteristics but which in the stand provides the illusion of self-sustaining rigidity.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel stand combining relatively rigid and inherently flexible materials in a manner to afford the illusion that the stand is composed of the flexible material while nevertheless receiving substantially rigid support from the rigid material.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a stand simulating the legendary Hindu rope trick.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide improved structure in a stand construction uniting in assembly an inherently flexible and primarily ornamental sheath and a supporting core device.

A still further object of the invention is to provide improved means for securing a substantially rigid core within a rope sheath or casing in an assembly especially suitable for supporting stands such as smoke stands and the like.

It is also an object of the invention to provide improved means for connecting a separable tray or ash receptacle to the upper end of a supporting stand.

Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be readily apparent from the following detailed description of certain preferred embodiments thereof taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a stand embodying features of the invention;

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the stand with the tray portion removed therefrom;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged top plan view of the tray portion of the stand of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 4 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the line IV—IV of FIGURE 3;

FIGURE 5 is a transverse sectional elevational detail view taken substantially on the line V—V of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional detail view taken substantially on the line VI—VI of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 7 is a side elevational view of the upper portion of a stand, including the tray supported thereby, showing a modified construction;

FIGURE 8 is a fragmentary sectional elevational view on an enlarged scale taken substantially on the line VIII—VIII of FIGURE 7;

FIGURE 9 is a fragmentary elevational view of the

2

head end portion of the core and tray supporting structure of the assembly of FIGURES 7 and 8; and

FIGURE 10 is a perspective view of an unassembled ferrule of the kind shown in the assembly of FIGURES 7 and 8.

In a practical form of the invention, there is shown in FIGURES 1 and 2 a stand 15 affording the illusion of the legendary Hindu rope trick and constructed and arranged to support a tray structure 17, in the illustrated instance comprising a combination smokers article and ash support and receptacle and a glass receptacle. In keeping with the rope trick illusion, the base portion of the stand has the appearance of a coil of rope, upwardly from the center of which the stem or standard portion of the stand projects to the desired height.

According to the present invention, the stand 15 comprises a flexible sheath or cover which, for utter realism, preferably comprises actual rope 18 in the usual helically wound twisted strand form made of hemp, manila hemp or other suitable fiber. If desired, of course, an imitation rope form sheath or casing made of plastic or other suitable material may be used. For special purposes, other types or forms of flexible more or less tubular sheathing or casing material may be used such as flexible conduit of the kind commonly referred to as BX.

Within the inherently flexible sheath 18 is assembled a substantially rigid core 19 (FIGS. 2 and 4), preferably in the form of a metal rod of suitable diameter. In a typical instance, a quarter inch steel rod has been used to good advantage, although obviously rods of other metal such as brass, hard aluminum alloy or the like may be used. The rod core is formed with a generally open spiral base portion from the center of which rises an upstanding standard portion, in as nearly as practicable the form that would be imagined for a rope standing up from a coil of rope resting upon a floor. Since the rod core is encased in the rope sheath 18, the rather striking illusion is afforded of the rope rising from the coil and holding itself erect. This illusion is accentuated by having the end portion of the rope on the outside of the base coil project substantially beyond the base loop or coil portion of the core rod 19, as best visualized from FIGURE 2, so that such terminal extension of the rope will afford a flexible portion which can be handled or shoved by the toe end of a person's shoe relatively flexibly yieldably.

In order to restrain the opposite end portions of the rope sheath 18 against unravelling or fraying, suitable binding means are preferably provided such as ferrule-like member 20 about the loop terminal end portion and a ferrule-like member 21 about the standard terminal end portion. These ferrules or binding members 20 and 21 may comprise a suitable cord or wire helically closely wound under suitable binding compression. Where wire is used, it may be coated or uncoated, plated, enameled or otherwise suitably finished. Where cord is used in the binding ferrules, it may be matching or contrasting color.

Insofar as the loop terminal portion of the rope sheath 18 is concerned, and more particularly that portion which projects beyond the end of the core rod base loop portion, means are preferably provided for imparting a certain amount of resiliency and more particularly for retaining the rope against unwinding of the helically wound strands. Suitable means for this purpose comprise one or more suitable wires, one practical form comprising three small gauge steel wires in suitable similar length strands 22 helically twisted upon one another for mutual resilient support and permanently secured as by welding or the like at one end of the twisted wire assembly to the base loop terminal of the rod 19. From such connection to the rod terminal, the wire core extension projects through the center of the rope base loop

terminal portion as best seen in FIGURES 2 and 6 and terminates short of the extremity of the rope terminal within the confines of the binding ferrule 20. Here the free terminals of the core wires 22 are directed angularly generally radially relative to the encircling rope sheath 18 to provide anchoring prongs 23 embedded in the rope sheath as held under compression within the binding ferrule 20. Thereby, since the core wires 22 strongly resiliently resist any twisting action thereon, they also resist any rope-unwinding twisting action, especially through the anchoring prongs 23. Additionally, the resiliently flexible helically twisted core wires 22 tend to resiliently maintain the otherwise flexible rope sheath terminal extension portion in generally spiral loop form as an extension of the more rigidly held base loop portion within which the base loop of the core rod 19 is encased.

At the upper end of the standard portion of the stand 15 the rope sheath 18 extends a predetermined distance beyond the upper extremity of the core rod 19 as best seen in FIGURE 4 and means are attached to the upper end of the core rod to serve primarily as connecting means for the tray structure 17 but also serving as means for preventing unwinding of the rope sheath in coactive relation to the upper terminal binding ferrule 21. To this end, a stiffly resilient longitudinally split tubular sleeve member 24 of about the same outside diameter as the core rod 19 is secured coaxially upon the upper tip of the core rod as by means of welding, brazing or the like as a head extension, within that portion of the rope sheath 18 extending beyond the tip of the core rod and with the upper extremity of the sleeve 24 substantially coincident with the upper head end extremity of the rope sheath. One edge of the sleeve along the longitudinal split therein is turned generally radially outwardly and provides a limited width anchor flange 25 (FIGS. 4 and 5) engaging within the encompassing rope sheath 18 as pressed into engagement with the sleeve by the externally encompassing retaining ferrule 21.

Because of its split construction, the sleeve member 24 provides a resilient, gripping socket for a substantially press fit depending stem 27 of the tray structure 17 (FIGS. 4 and 5). In a convenient form, the stem 27 comprises not only a connecting device for the tray structure 17, as a unit, for detachable connection thereof to the top of the standard portion of the stand 15, but also as means for securing together in a unit the several tray structure components.

Herein, the tray assembly 17 includes a lower principal tray component 28 providing an ash receptacle plate over which is carried a smoker's article supporting rack member 29 including a plurality of generally radially outwardly projecting article supporting arms 30 arranged in a generally basket-like relationship for accommodating a central, concentric upwardly opening, preferably resiliently flexible plastic, glass receptacle 31. For securing all of the tray components together, the connecting pin 27 is provided with a head portion 32 extending concentrically through each of the components and provided on its lower end at juncture with the body or shank portion of the stem 27 with a collar 33 underlying the tray pan 28, while on its upper end the head portion has a retaining enlargement or head flange 34 coactive with the collar flange 33 to clamp the components firmly together in assembly.

In the present instance, a pleasing, ornamental and utilitarian arrangement is provided by having a tray pan or plate 28 in more or less the form of a lotus leaf while the glass receptacle 31 is in the form of generally a lotus flower with the cup of the receptacle sub-divided into generally lotus petal configuration and with a double layer of the petal segments in mutually side joint overlapping relation as shown. In the bottom of the receptacle 31, a sponge rubber pad 35 of spongy, moisture absorbent character may be removably disposed. By virtue of the plastic construction of the glass receptacle

31, cold beverage glasses will be supported in a substantially insulated manner.

In the modification of FIGURES 7 and 8, a stand 40 may embody generally the structural features of the stand 15, including a sheath 41 which may be rope or other flexible desirable sheath encasing a supporting core 42 which may be in the form of a rod. To enhance resistance to unwinding of the helical strands of the rope sheath 41, the core rod 42 is preferably provided with spaced spiral lines of knurling 43 which may extend throughout the length of the rod and provide respective series of raised teeth which frictionally and bitingly engage with the opposing portions of the rope strands interiorly of the sheath and thus afford a highly effective resistance to unwinding of the rope strands.

Additional anchorage of the rope sheath 41 against unwinding, and also anchorage of the upper terminal portion of the sheath to the core rod 42 is effected by a binding ferrule 44 encompassing the upper end portion of the rope sheath and compressing the encompassed sheath portion about the upper terminal end portion of the core rod 42 and a tubular socket member 45 carried by such terminal end portion of the rod. In a desirable form, the ferrule 44 comprises a metallic strip which may be brass, steel, aluminum or the like of normally expanded split sleeve form as shown in FIGURE 10 and of a large enough inside diameter to fit easily over the terminal portion of the stand standard assembly to be gripped. Integrally from one end of the strip projects an extension tongue or tab 47 preferably located centrally on such end and providing with an angularly generally inwardly bent pointed tip terminal 48 which is inset from the plane of the base end portion of the tab 47 about the thickness of the material of the sleeve, with respective opposite aligned notches 49 in the opposite edges of the tab on the juncture between the terminal 48 and the body of the tab. In the opposite end portion of the sleeve strip is provided an inset seat 50 receptive of the body portion of the tab 47, with a slot 51 along the inner end of the seat where it joins the body of the sleeve and receptive of the terminal 48 of the tab.

In applying the ferrule member 48 about the upper end portion of the standard, the ferrule sleeve is closely compressed about the rope sheath 41 coincident with projection of the tab terminal 48 through the slot 51, and since the curvature of the terminal 48 toward its tip is on a smaller radius than the radius of the inside diameter of the sleeve, the terminal projects as a prong into the encompassed portion of the rope sheath 41 and serves as a positive anchor against unwinding of the rope. In the final increment of assembly compression of the ferrule sleeve 44, respective interlock shoulders 52 at the opposite ends of the slot 51 interlockingly snap into the notches 49 of the securing tab 47 and provide a positive locked retaining relationship of the ferrule 44 about the encompassed assembly. Only a slight undersize or differential in spacing between the opposite interlock shoulders 52 relative to the respective opposite shoulders of the terminal 48 defining the notches 49 is sufficient to afford a quite effective positive interlocked relationship to hold the ferrule sleeve under fairly tight, uniform encompassing compressive grip about the encompassed assembly.

Advantageously, the socket member 45 is in the form of a solid sleeve of an inside diameter to fit firmly about the head end portion of the core rod 42 and more particularly the knurling 43. Positive securement of the sleeve 45 to the rod may be effected as by spot welding 53 (FIG. 9). Beyond the tip of the core rod 42, the socket sleeve 45 projects to the terminus of the rope sheath 41 (FIG. 8) thereby providing a socket opening from the head end of the standard.

Within the socket afforded by the sleeve 45 is received a depending stem 54 having a head flange 55 secured con-

centrically in supporting relation to the lower side of a tray plate 57.

In order to effect a positive connection of the tray connecting stem 54 within the socket provided by the sleeve member 45, the free end portion of the stem is externally threaded and thereby threadedly engageable with internal threads 58 within the socket portion of the sleeve member 45 and conveniently provided on a plurality of annularly spaced inward indentations or embossments 59. Thereby, the general inside diameter of the socket portion of the sleeve member 45 may be slightly oversize relative to the diameter of the stem 54 so as to receive the same in freely slidable relation, while nevertheless a firm threaded interconnection of the stem within the socket is effected for preventing unintentional withdrawal of the stem 54 from the socket.

Additional protection against unwinding of the rope sheath 41 may be attained by providing the sleeve member 45 with lateral projection means such as one or more tangential anchor bars 60, the opposite ends of which engage within the rope sheath strands and afford positive anchorage against relative turning of the rope sheath and the core structure of the standard. The anchor bars 60 may be welded, brazed or otherwise secured to the outside diameter of the sleeve member 45.

It should be understood that various features or details of the forms of the present invention disclosed may be interchangeably utilized, as preferred. For example, the ferrule sleeve 44 may be substituted for both of the binding ferrule structures 20 and 21 of the form of FIGURES 1 and 2, or on the other hand the form of the ferrule structures represented by the ferrules 20 and 21 may be substituted for the sleeve 44 if preferred.

It will be understood that modifications and variations may be effected without departing from the scope of the novel concepts of the present invention.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a stand of the character described, a rod-like substantially rigid core having a base loop and a standard supported in erect position by the loop, a concealing sheath about the core and projecting a predetermined distance above the upper end of the standard portion of the core, a socket carried by the upper end portion of the core and concealingly surrounded by and opening upwardly from the projecting portion of the sheath, and a tray structure having a stem supportingly engaged in said socket.

2. A stand structure as defined in claim 1 wherein said socket comprises a resilient split sleeve for effecting a yieldable grip upon said stem.

3. A stand as defined in claim 1 wherein said socket comprises a sleeve having indented portions thereof threaded and engageable threadedly with threads on the stem.

4. In a stand of the character described, a rod-like substantially rigid core having a base loop and a standard supported in erect position by the loop, a concealing sheath about the core and projecting a predetermined distance above the upper end of the standard portion of the core, a socket carried by the upper end portion of the core and opening upwardly from the projecting portion of the sheath, and a tray structure having a stem supportingly engaged in said socket, said socket having lateral projection means thereon engaging within the encompassing sheath and holding the sheath against turning relative to the core.

5. A stand as defined in claim 4 wherein said projecting structure comprises a flange turned from said socket.

6. A stand as defined in claim 4 wherein said project-

ing structure comprises anchoring projections secured to the external surface of the socket.

7. In a stand simulating the Hindu rope trick, a rope sheath, a substantially rigid form-retaining core rod in said sheath and affording a base loop and an erect standard, means securing the rope sheath to the core, the rope sheath projecting a substantial distance beyond the end of the core base loop and being flexibly movable relative to the core, and a resilient wire member secured to the terminus of the core loop and extending within said projecting rope portion as a flexible resiliency imparting device and having anchor means coacting with the extremity portion of said rope portion to retain such rope portion against unwinding.

8. A stand adapted for use as an article of furniture, comprising a substantially rigid core including a base in the form of a horizontal loop of substantial diameter and an upwardly extending standard projecting as an integral extension of one end of the loop to a substantial height and substantially centered with relation to the loop, a covering sheath on the core inclusive of said base loop and said standard, means carried by the upper head end of the standard for supporting an article, said sheath having an upper end portion projecting above the head end of the core and about said means, and a member clampingly encircling said upper end portion of the sheath and said means and thus securing the sheath to the core.

9. A stand as defined in claim 8, wherein said loop is of spiral form with a free end at the outer side of the loop and said end from which the standard projects located at the inside of the loop.

10. In a stand structure of the character described, a core having a horizontal loop of substantial diameter defining a base and a standard extending as an integral upward extension of one end of the loop and projecting to a substantial height with relation to the loop, supporting means projecting upwardly from the upper end of said standard, a rope sheath enclosing said core including said loop and said standard and having an upper end portion projecting upwardly from said upper end portion of the standard about said supporting means, and a ferrule completely encircling and compressing said upper end portion of the rope sheath about the upper end portion of the standard and said supporting means and into tight engagement with the core.

11. A stand as defined in claim 10 wherein said ferrule comprises a tightly wound helical wire strand.

12. A stand as defined in claim 10 wherein said ferrule comprises a band having a slot and a locking tab engaged in said slot.

#### References Cited in the file of this patent

#### UNITED STATES PATENTS

55	D. 63,475	Levy	Dec. 11, 1923
	D. 168,484	Tobey	Dec. 23, 1952
	360,567	Dunham	April 5, 1887
	500,006	Kadletz et al.	June 20, 1893
	603,132	Drake	April 26, 1898
60	1,283,438	Boomer	Oct. 29, 1913
	1,237,014	Botty et al.	Aug. 14, 1917
	1,251,646	Day	Jan. 1, 1918
	1,297,802	Dambruch	Mar. 18, 1919
	1,370,697	Mann	Mar. 8, 1921
65	1,613,382	Clarke	Jan. 4, 1927
	1,614,338	Awoki	Jan. 11, 1927
	2,567,593	Bemis	Sept. 11, 1951
	2,607,648	Metcalf	Aug. 19, 1952