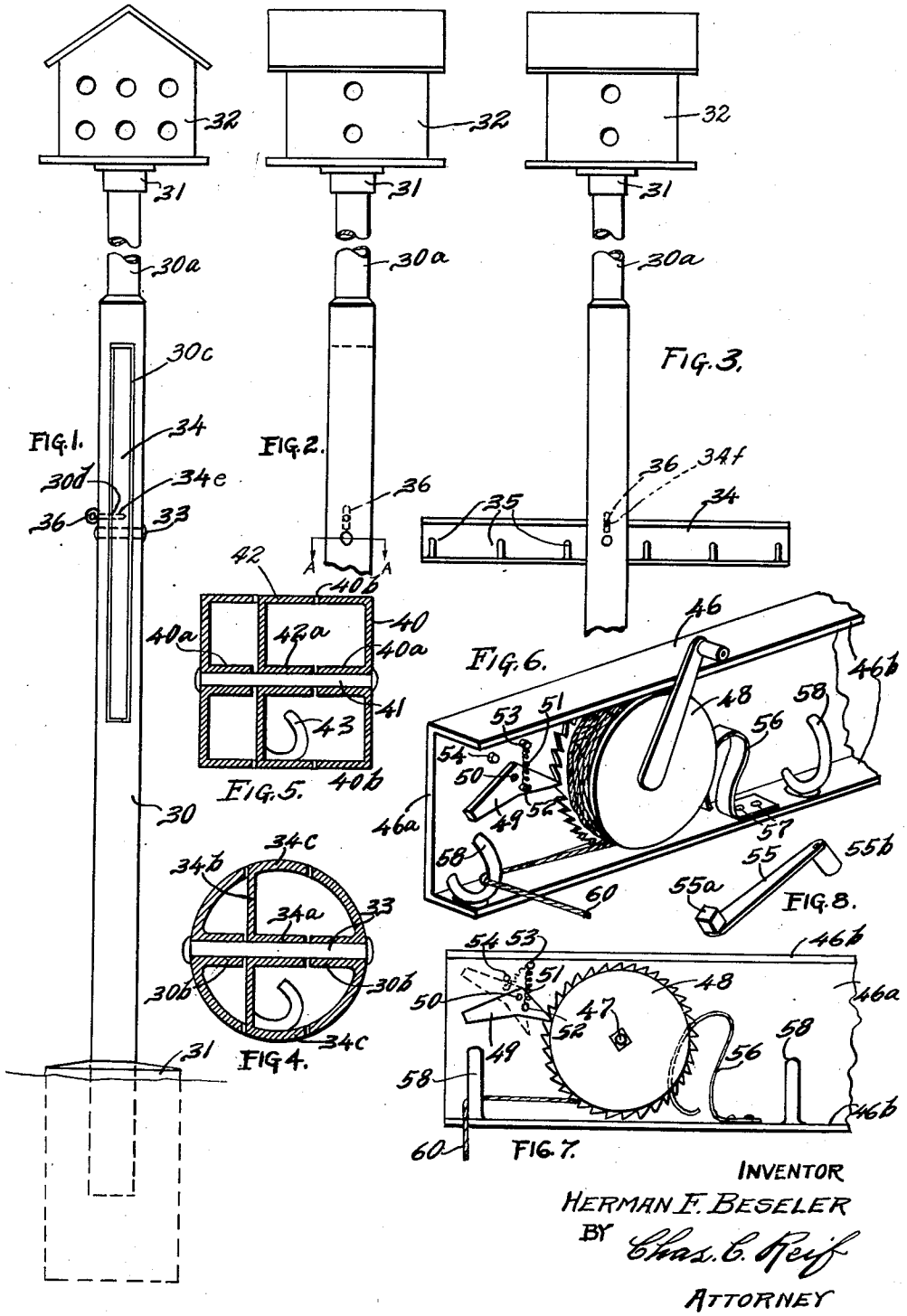
March 16, 1954 H. F. BESELER 2,672,242

CLOTHESLINE SUPPORT

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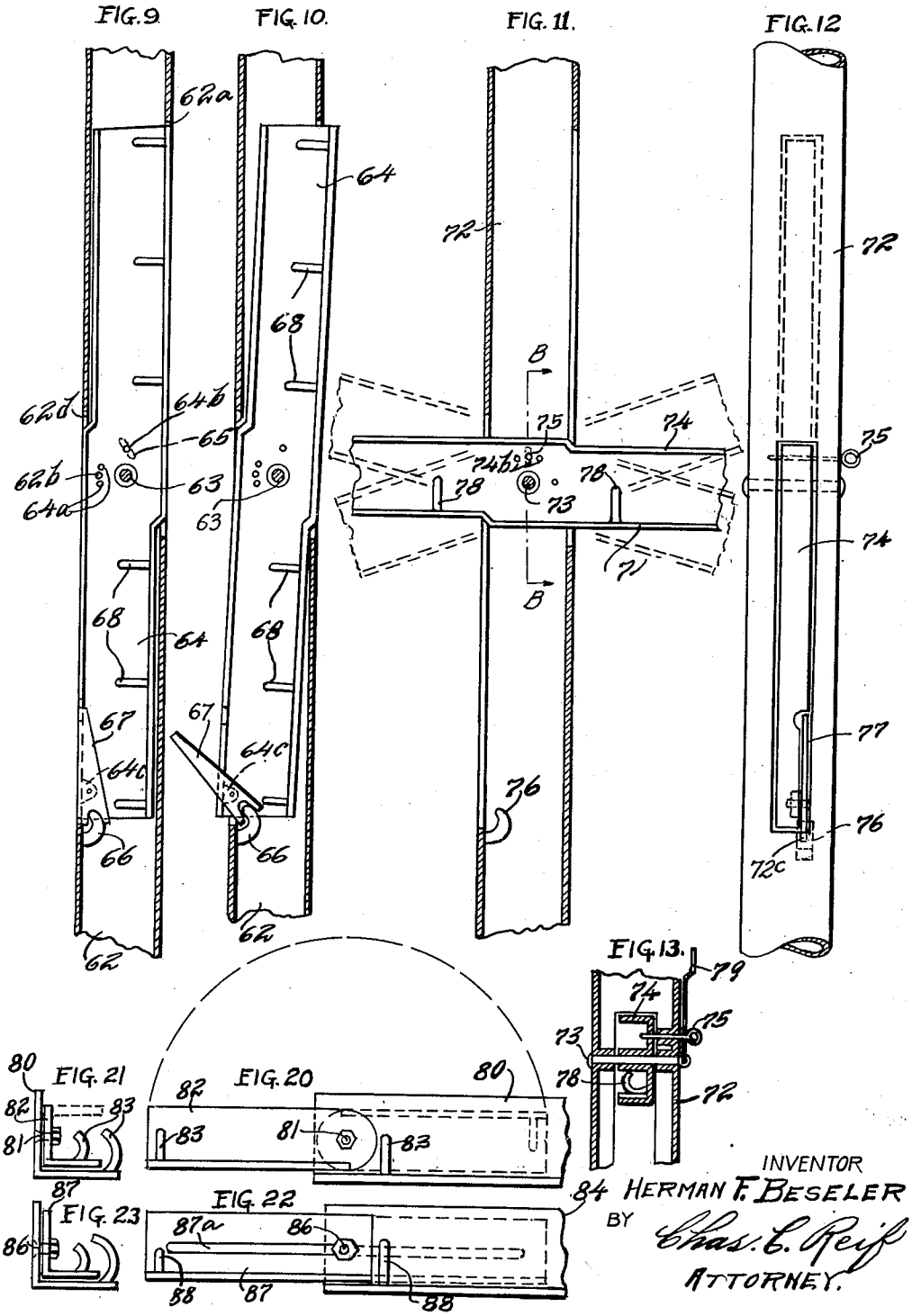


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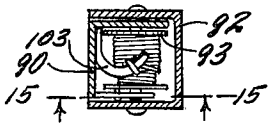
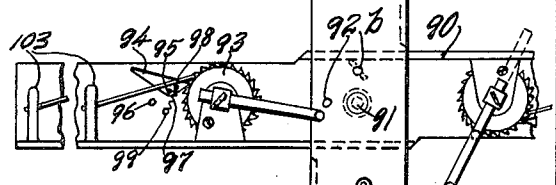


FIG. 19.



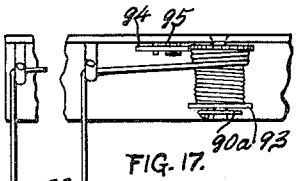
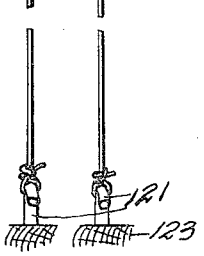


FIG. 17.



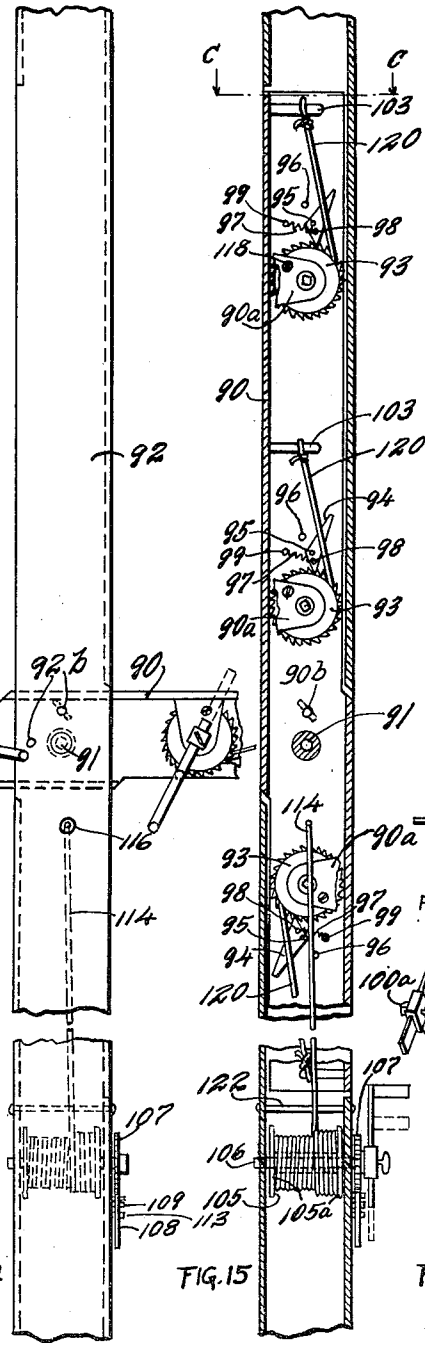


FIG. 14

FIG. 15

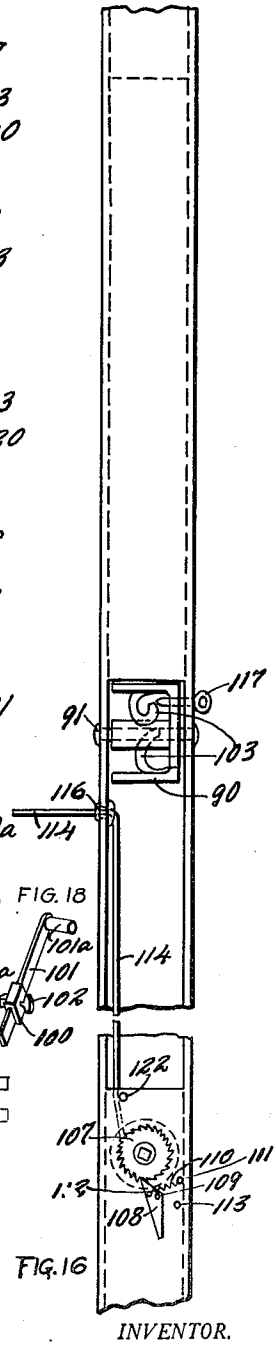


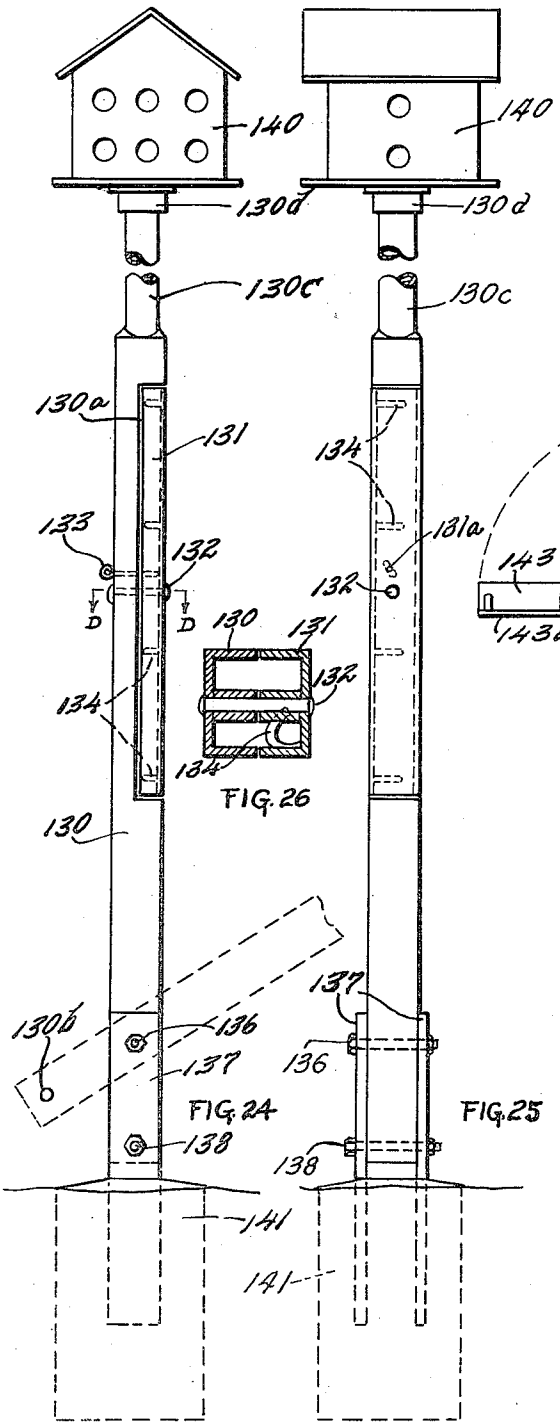
FIG. 16

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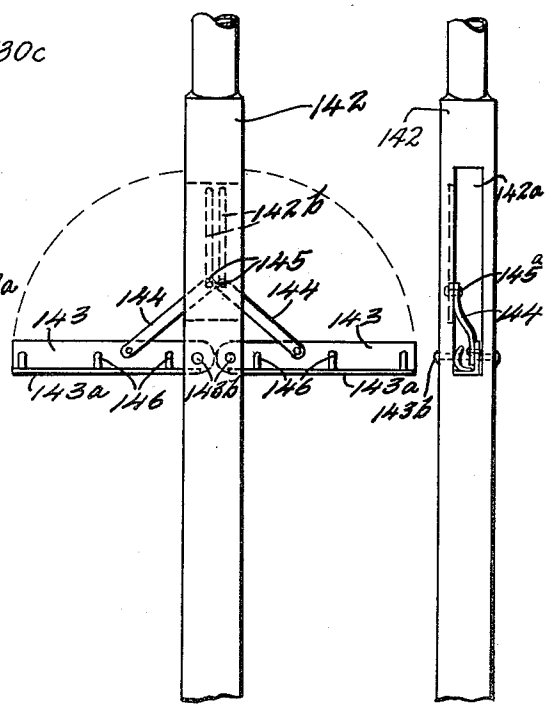


FIG. 27 FIG. 28

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CLOTHESLINE SUPPORT

Herman F. Beseler, Minneapolis, Minn.

Application April 14, 1949, Serial No. 87,453

3 Claims. (Cl. 211—119.15)

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This invention relates to a post structure for a clothesline support.

It is now a common practice to have posts disposed in a yard of a residence or other building, which posts usually have a cross arm adjacent the top thereof with a plurality of spaced hooks or other means for holding a clothesline secured in said cross arm. There are usually two or more posts with such cross arm. Such structures while useful for supporting the clothesline and clothes are unsightly and mar the appearance of the yard, especially when it is desired to have a lawn or flower beds in the yard or to have a landscaped yard giving a pleasing appearance.

It is an object of this invention to provide a structure of clothesline support or post which will appear as a simple post, to the top of which may be applied a bird house, bell or other ornamental structure.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a structure of clothesline support or post comprising a post and a member carried thereby swingable or movable to horizontal position and having means to be engaged by a clothesline for supporting the latter, which member and means is swingable to vertical position within the periphery of said post so that when not in use it can be swung to said latter position and appears as just part of the post.

It is another object of the invention to provide a clothesline support comprising a post, a member carried thereby swingable to horizontal position and swingable to vertical position within the periphery of said post, said member having therein one or more reels rotatably mounted therein for carrying clotheslines, together with means for holding said reels in stationary position, said member and reels being movable to vertical position within the periphery of said post.

It is further an object of the invention to provide a clothesline support comprising a post, a member pivoted intermediate the ends thereof and swingable to substantially horizontal position, said member carrying a plurality of means for engaging a clothesline, said member being swingable to substantially vertical position within the periphery of said post and having outer surfaces which are flush with and form in effect part of the periphery of said post.

These and other objects and advantages of the

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invention will be fully set forth in the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawings in which like reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views and in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in front elevation of the device, a portion being broken away;

Fig. 2 is a partial view in side elevation as seen from the right of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing some parts in different positions;

Fig. 4 is a horizontal section taken on line A—A of Fig. 2, as indicated by the arrows;

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 showing a modified form of the device;

Fig. 6 is a partial diagonal view of a portion of the device showing a modified form;

Fig. 7 is a view in front elevation of the device shown in Fig. 6 with the operating crank removed;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of an operating crank used;

Fig. 9 is a partial longitudinal section;

Fig. 10 is a view similar to Fig. 9 showing the parts in different positions;

Fig. 11 is a view similar to Fig. 9 showing the parts in different positions, other positions being indicated in dotted lines;

Fig. 12 is a partial view in front elevation of one form of the invention;

Fig. 13 is a partial vertical section taken on line B—B of Fig. 11, as indicated by the arrows;

Fig. 14 is a partial view in side elevation of one form of the device, some parts being broken away;

Fig. 15 is a partial vertical section taken substantially on line 15—15 of Fig. 19, as indicated by the arrows;

Fig. 16 is a partial view in front elevation showing a modified form of the device;

Fig. 17 is a partial top plan view of a portion of the device shown in Fig. 14 showing an arrangement of clotheslines;

Fig. 18 is a perspective view of a crank used;

Fig. 19 is a horizontal section taken on line C—C of Fig. 15 as indicated by the arrows;

Fig. 20 is a partial view in side elevation showing a modification;

Fig. 21 is a view in end elevation as seen from the left of Fig. 20;

Fig. 22 is a partial view in side elevation showing a further modification;

Fig. 23 is a view in end elevation as seen from the left of Fig. 22;

Fig. 24 is a view in front elevation showing a modified form of the device, some parts being indicated in different positions in dotted lines, some parts being broken away;

Fig. 25 is a view in side elevation as seen from the right of Fig. 24;

Fig. 26 is a horizontal section taken on line D—D of Fig. 24, as indicated by the arrows;

Fig. 27 is a partial view in side elevation showing a modification; and

Fig. 28 is a view in front elevation as seen from the right of Fig. 27.

Referring to the drawings, particularly Figs. 1 to 4, a device is shown comprising a post **30**. Post **30** extends vertically and while it could be variously supported, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated it is shown as being secured in a body of material **31**, such as concrete, disposed in the ground. While post **30** could take various shapes, in Figs. 1 to 4 it is illustrated as of cylindrical form. Post **30** has a reduced portion **30***a* at its upper part and has a cap **31** secured to the top of reduced portion **30***a* which forms the support for an ornamental or utilitarian device, such as the bird house **32** shown. Post **30** intermediate its ends is provided with hubs **30***b* in which is disposed a pivot member **33**. While pivot **33** could take various forms, it is shown as a headed rivet. A member **34** is provided having a hub **34***a* supported on pivot **33** and swingable about the axis of pivot **33**. Member **34** extends equal distances above and below pivot **33** so that the hub **34***a* is at the longitudinal center of member **34**. It will be noted that post **30** has slots **30***c* at opposite sides thereof forming an opening through said post and that member **34** is disposed in said opening. Member **34** is generally in the form of a channel having a bottom or web **34***b* and sides or flanges **34***c*. Flanges **34***c* are curved in accordance with the periphery of post **30** so that the outer sides of flanges **34***c* are disposed substantially in the same circle as the periphery of post **30**. As shown, the inner sides of flanges **34***c* are disposed substantially in the same circle as the inner sides of post **30** although this is not essential. Member **34** has secured thereto in spaced relation along one side or flange **34***c* a plurality of members **35** adapted to be engaged by a clothesline and while these might take different forms, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated they are shown as hooks disposed in planes at right angles to the web **34***b*. One side of post **30** and web **34***b* are provided with aligned holes **30***d* and **34***f* respectively adapted to receive a headed pin **36** when member **34** is in vertical position as shown in Figs. 1 and 4. Member **34** is provided with another hole **34***f* adapted to be brought into alignment with hole **30***d* to receive pin **36** when member **34** is in horizontal position, as shown in Fig. 3.

In Fig. 5 a post **40** is shown, the same being rectangular in cross section and illustrated as substantially square in cross section. Post **40** has hubs **40***a* intermediate its ends which are bored to receive a pivot member **41**. While member **41** could take various forms, it is shown as a headed rivet or bolt. A member **42** has a hub **42***a* at its longitudinal center which is bored to receive member **41** and member **42** is rotatable about the axis of member **41**. Member **42** will have a length substantially the same as member **34** and post **40** will have slots at opposite sides to accommodate the swinging movement of member **42**. Member **42** is in the form of a channel and the exterior surfaces of its sides are substantially flush with the outer surfaces of the sides of post **40**. Member **42** can be swung to vertical and horizontal positions just as can member **34** and when in vertical position does not project beyond the sides of post **40** and in effect forms part of the post. Member **42** will be provided with a plurality of spaced members **43** similar to members **35** and shown in the form of hooks, the same being adapted to be engaged by a clothesline.

In Figs. 6 and 7 a member **46** is shown which will be similar to and mounted in the same manner as member **42**. A stud **47** is secured in the side or web **46***a* of member **46** substantially midway between the sides or flanges **46***b*, the same projecting into the member **46** and having journaled thereon a reel **48**. Reel **48** has a flange at each side and the flange adjacent web **46***a* is provided with teeth to form a ratchet. A pawl **49** is mounted on a pivot **50** secured in web **46***a* and adapted to engage the teeth of said ratchet. A tensile coiled spring **51** is secured at one end to a pin **52** secured in pawl **49** and is connected at its other end to a pin **53** secured in web **46***a*. A stop pin **54** for pawl **49** is also secured in web **46***a*. Spring **51** thus moves pawl **49** in position to engage the teeth of the ratchet on reel **48**. The outer flange of reel **48** is provided with a square hole adapted to receive a projection **55***a* of square cross section extending from one end of a crank **55** having a handle **55***b*. A spring **56** of plate form is reversely bent to engage the clothesline wound on reel **48**, said spring being secured at one end to one of the flanges **46***b* by rivets **57**. Member **46** is provided with a plurality of hooks **58** similar to hooks **35** and **43**, the same being spaced longitudinally thereof and secured to the lower flange **46***b*.

The member **46** will be swung to horizontal position and will be held in horizontal position by pin **36** in the same manner as is member **34**. The operator can then take hold of the end of the clothesline **60** and place it around one of the hooks **58** and take it to the member on the other post or support. At this time pawl **49** would be released from the ratchet. Crank **55** can be used to tighten the line, and the ratchet and pawl will hold it in tightened condition. After the clothes are dried and removed the clothesline can again be wound up on reel **48**, crank **55** removed and member **46** swung to vertical position in the post in which it is carried. Crank **55** could be conveniently placed in member **46** above reel **48** and spring **56**.

In Figs. 9 and 10 a post **62** is shown which is traversed by a pivot member **63** on which is carried and swingable a member **64**. Post **62** has slots **62***a* at opposite sides thereof and above and below pivot **63** respectively. It will be noted that member **64** has offset portions at opposite sides of pivot **63**. Member **64** is swingable to vertical position, as shown in Fig. 9. When in vertical position the surface which is not offset is substantially flush with the outer surface of the post, as shown in Fig. 9. The offset surface enables the member **62** to swing to such position. Post **62** is provided with a hole **62***b* and member **64** is provided with a plurality of spaced holes **64***a* and with another hole **64***b*. A headed pin **65** can be placed through hole **62***b* and through one of the holes **64***a* or through holes **64***b* to hold

member 64 in the desired position. A hook 66 is provided at the inner side of post 62 adjacent the lower end of the slot 62a. A small lever 67 is pivoted to member 64 to a small lug 64c and has a slot at its lower end in which the upper end of hook 66 is disposed. Should member 64 be inclined to stick in its vertical position the operator can place his finger over the top of lever 67 and pull it outwardly which will swing the lower end of member 64 outwardly and start its swinging movement. In Figs. 9 and 10 members 62 and 64 are shown as of angular cross section. Member 64 is provided at its lower side with a plurality of spaced clothesline engaging members 68 which may take the form of hooks.

In Figs. 11 and 12 a structure is shown substantially identical with that shown in Figs. 9 and 10 except that the posts 72 are of cylindrical form or in the form of pipes. The member 74 corresponding to member 64 will have the outer surfaces of its sides 74a curved so as to be substantially flush with the periphery of posts 72 when member 74 is in vertical position. Member 74 is mounted upon a pivot 73 similar to pivot 63 and is provided with holes 74b adapted to receive a pin 75 similar to pin 65. If a heavy rug or other extra long piece of material or an extra long garment is hung at one side of pivot 73, pin 75 could be placed in the outer hole 74b at that side. Post 72 has a hook 76 and a lever 77 pivoted to a lug 72c, said lever and hook having a structure and function similar to those of lever 67 and hooks 66. Member 74 has a plurality of clothesline holding members 78 which, as shown in Fig. 13, may take the form of hooks. A lever 79 is pivoted to rivet 73 and has a portion embracing pin 75. Lever 79 is offset outwardly at its upper end and can be pulled outwardly to withdraw pin 75.

In Figs. 20 and 21 a member 80 is shown which is in the form of an angle iron having sides at right angles and could represent the member 64 shown in Figs. 9 and 10. Member 80 has a stud 81 secured therein adjacent its outer end and a smaller angle member 82 is pivoted on stud 81, the same having a rounded or semi-circular inner end. Member 82 can thus be swung inwaardly to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 21. Members 80 and 82 are provided with clothesline holding hooks 83. With such a construction member 82 would be swung to its inner position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 20 and it would then be swung with member 80 to vertical position when the device was not in use.

In Figs. 22 and 23 a member 84 is shown which could take the place of member 64 and the same is in the form of an angle bar having flanges at right angles to each other. A stud 86 is secured in one flange of member 84 adjacent the outer end thereof. A smaller angle bar 87 is provided, the same having a vertical flange with a longitudinal slot 87a extending therein through which stud 86 projects. With this construction member 87 can be slidably moved inwardly to the dotted line position shown in Fig. 22. Members 84 and 87 are shown as provided with clothesline holding hooks 88. In operation when the clothesline was to be used and member 84 was in horizontal position member 87 would be moved to the position shown in full lines in Fig. 22 just as member 82 would be moved to the full line position shown in Fig. 20. When the device was to be placed in inoperative position member 87 would be moved inwardly to the dotted line position shown in Fig. 22 and it would then be swung with member 84 to vertical position within the supporting post.

In Figs. 14 to 19 a form of the invention is shown in which some parts are absent and a member 90 similar to member 64 is shown, the same being mounted on a pivot member 91 shown as a headed bolt or rivet extending through the sides of a post 92. Member 90 at each side of pivot member 91 has secured thereto a bracket 90a and a reel 93 has a shaft journaled in said bracket and the opposite side of member 90, which member, as shown in Fig. 19, is in the form of an angle bar. Reel 93 has flanges at either side and the flange adjacent the side of member 90 is in the form of a ratchet. Said ratchet is arranged to be engaged by a pawl 94 swingable on a pivot 95 secured in member 90 and adapted at times to engage a stop pin 96 secured in member 90. A tensile coiled spring 97 is secured at one end to a pin 98 secured in pawl 94 and secured at its other end to a pin 99 secured in member 90. The shaft of reel 93 extends through bracket 90a and is provided with a square hole or socket adapted to receive a projection 100a of square cross section extending from a clip 100 slidable on the shank of a crank 101 having a handle 101a. Clip 100 may be secured in various positions on said shank by a set screw 102. Hooks 103 are secured to member 90 adjacent the reels 93 and are adapted to have the end of the clotheslines secured thereto when the device is in inoperative position or to have the lines pass thereover when the clothesline is in use.

A reel 105 having end flanges 105a is disposed in post 92 below member 90 and carried on a shaft 106 journaled in the sides of said post. Shaft 106 has a ratchet 107 secured thereto at the outer side of post 92 and said ratchet is arranged to be engaged by a pawl 108 pivoted to post 92 by a pivot 109. Pawl 108 is moved toward ratchet 107 by a tensile coiled spring 110 having one end secured to a pin 111 fixed in post 92 and its other end secured to a pin 112 secured to pawl 108. A pin 113 fixed in the side of post 92 forms a stop for pawl 108. A line 114 may be wound on reel 105 and pass along a rivet 122 through an apertured bushing 116 in one side of post 92. Member 90 is provided with a hole 90b adapted to alternately receive a pin 117 which may be passed through either one of two holes 92b in post 92. Screws 118 in brackets 90a engage reels 93 and act as brakes.

When the device is in inoperative position it will occupy the position shown in Figs. 15 and 19. Member 90 at this time will extend vertically and the parts carried thereby will be disposed within post 92. The outer side of member 90 will form in effect a continuation of the sides of post 92. These outer sides of member 90 will, as shown in Fig. 15, be disposed at opposite sides of the post above and below the pivot member 91. When the lines are to be strung pin 117 will be withdrawn and member 90 swung to a position at right angles to post 92, as shown in Fig. 14. Pin 117 can then be inserted in the proper holes 90b and 92b to hold member 90 in this position. The lines 120 can now be drawn from the reels 93 over the hooks 103, pawls 94 being released from ratchets on the flanges of reels 93. The ends of lines 120 will be made fast to suitable stationary supports, such as hooks 121, secured in suitable supports 123. When the lines are no longer needed their ends will be disconnected from hooks 121, pawls 94 will be moved

to engage the ratchets on the reels 93 and said reels will be turned by crank 101 to rewind the lines on the reels. The ends of the lines can be secured to the hooks 103, as shown in Fig. 15. When the member 90 is again swung to vertical position within the post the post merely presents the appearance of an ornamental post supporting a bird house or other suitable ornament.

In Figs. 24 and 25 a post 130 is shown and while this could take various forms, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated it is shown as square or rectangular in transverse cross section. A member 131 is provided and constructed to substantially fit in a recess 130*a* in one side of post 130 and to be pivoted to said post by a pivot 132. While pivot 132 could take various forms, it is illustrated as a headed rivet. Member 131 is pivoted substantially at its longitudinal midpoint and will be provided with holes 131*a* adapted to receive a pin 133 insertable through a hole in post 130 to hold member 131 in vertical or horizontal position. Member 131 is provided at its inner side with a plurality of spaced hooks 134 to which clotheslines may be attached. Post 130 is pivoted adjacent its bottom on a headed and nutted bolt 136 to spaced standards comprising spaced plates 137 suitably anchored in a concrete base 141. Post 130 is provided with a hole 130*b* adjacent its bottom adapted to receive another headed and nutted bolt 138 for holding said post in vertical position. Post 130 is shown as having an upper portion 130*c* cylindrical in form and of reduced transverse dimension having at its top a cap 130*d* which supports a bird house 140.

When the device is not in use it will be in the position shown in Fig. 25. At this time post 130 is in vertical position and member 131 is in vertical position. The outer sides of member 131 are substantially flush with the sides of the post 130 respectively and post 130 merely forms an ornamental support. When the clotheslines are to be strung, pin 133 will be withdrawn and member 131 swung to horizontal position. Pin 133 will then be inserted in the hole 131*a* to hold member 131 in horizontal position. The lines can now be attached to the hooks 134 and used in the usual manner. When the lines are taken down member 131 will again be swung to vertical position and secured in this position by pin 133. Should access be desired to the bird house 140, post 130 can be swung about bolt 136 by removing bolt 138, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 24.

In Figs. 27 and 28 a post 142 is shown illustrated as square or rectangular in cross section. Post 142 will be suitably supported at its base and may be supported as is post 130. It has a reduced cylindrical portion at its upper end which will be provided with a suitable cap to support a bird house or other ornament. Post 142 has an opening 142*a* extending transversely therethrough, this opening being rectangular in transverse section. Slots 142*b* will be formed in the side of post 142 and angle members 143 are provided, the same having rounded ends and being pivoted on spaced pivots 143*b* to post 142. Each member 143 has connected thereto a link 144, the other end of which carries a pin 145 extending through one of the slots 142*b*. Pin 145 will preferably have a head 145*a* at the inner side of slot 142*b*. Each member 143 is provided with a plurality of hooks 146 adapted to have clotheslines secured thereto.

When the device is not in use, members 143 will be swung to vertical position and the sides 143*a* thereof will have their outer surfaces flush with the outer surfaces of post 142. Sides 143*a* will substantially fill the opening 142*a* so that the post will appear just as an ordinary square post. When it is desired to string the lines the members 143 will be swung to horizontal position, as shown in Fig. 27, in which position they will be held by the links 144. The lines can now be attached to hooks 146 and used in the customary manner. Members 143 will be arranged to move with sufficient friction to hold them in vertical position.

From the above description it will be seen that I have provided a clothesline support which when not in use forms a support for an ornament such as a bird house, bell, etc., and which does not in any way mar the appearance of the yard, grounds or lawn. The device can very easily and quickly be placed in operative position for stringing the lines and the lines can be very quickly and conveniently handled by means of the mechanism above described. A very desirable, useful and efficient device is thus provided. It will be apparent that the same will have a high degree of utility for the purpose intended.

It will of course be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details, arrangement and proportions of the parts, without departing from the scope of applicant's invention, which generally stated, consists in a device capable of carrying out the objects above set forth, in the parts and combinations of parts disclosed and defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A post structure for a clothesline support having in combination, a post having substantially vertical side surfaces, a member pivoted to said post to swing about a substantially horizontal axis to horizontal position, said axis being disposed substantially midway between the ends of said member, a plurality of reels rotatably mounted within said member, a ratchet at one side of each of said reels, a pawl disposed to respectively engage said ratchets to hold said reels in stationary position, brakes for respectively retarding rotation of said reels, said member, ratchets, pawls and brakes being swingable to vertical position within the periphery of said post with the outer surface of said member disposed substantially in said periphery.

2. The structure set forth in claim 1, members respectively carried by said first mentioned member at one side of each of said reels for guiding clotheslines respectively disposed about said reels, said last mentioned members being swingable with said first mentioned member to vertical position within the periphery of said post.

3. A post structure for a clothesline support having in combination, a post having substantially vertical sides, a pivot extending horizontally of said post, a member swingable about the axis of said pivot to substantially horizontal position, said axis being disposed substantially midway between the ends of said member, said post having slots therethrough above and below said pivot at opposite sides thereof respectively, said member being swingable through said slots, means for holding said member in horizontal and vertical positions, said member being of channel form, a reel disposed in said member between the sides of said channel, guiding means for a clothesline said guide means being disposed adjacent said reel and carried by said member,

said member being swingable to vertical position with said reel and guiding means and said member all disposed within the periphery of said post.

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