United States Patent [19]

Lorenzo

[11] **3,841,019**

[45] **Oct. 15, 1974**

[54] **SNOWMAN FEATURE AND ACCESSORY SYSTEM**

[76] Inventor: **Phyllis Kay Lorenzo,** 5406 Bush St., White Marsh, Md. 21162

[22] Filed: **Mar. 7, 1973**

[21] Appl. No.: **338,741**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **46/16,** 46/22, 46/135 R

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63h 3/36**

[58] **Field of Search** 46/16, 22, 135, 165, 170

[56] **References Cited**

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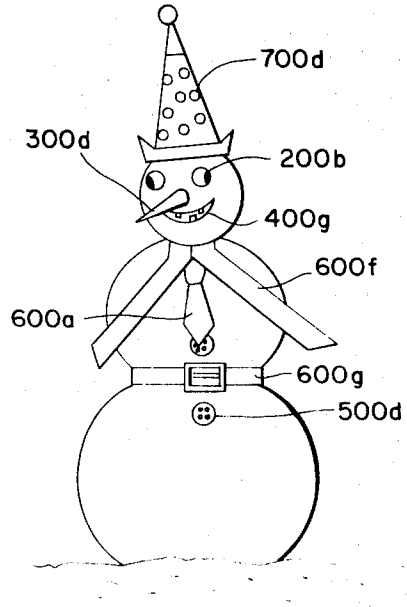
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Primary Examiner—Antonio F. Guida
Assistant Examiner—Robert F. Cutting
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—John F. McClellan, Sr.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A snowman/snowwoman feature and accessory system comprising transparent hollow members, each having an interior cavity and a connecting tubular shank with the shank bore connecting to permit stuffing or filling the cavity with colored snow, cloth, paper, marbles, fluid, or other suitable material to vary the appearance; the exterior of the bulbous member is in various embodiments specially shaped and may be roughened to receive exterior coloring; slits are provided in some embodiments; special shapes provided are generally longitudinally compressed and laterally extended with respect to the shank axis; special boring and gripping shank ends and exteriors are disclosed.

6 Claims, 57 Drawing Figures



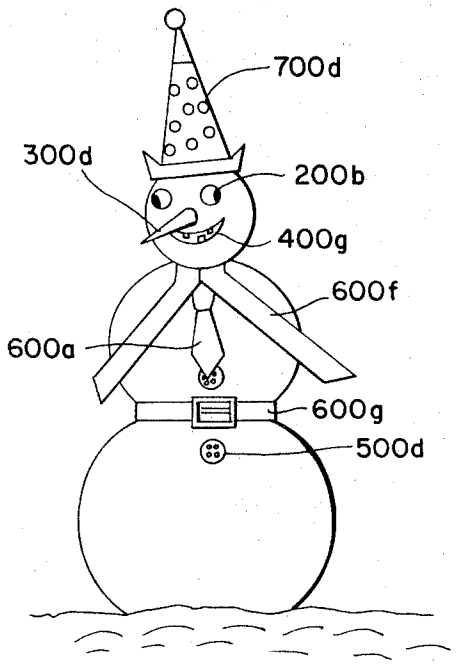


FIG. 1a

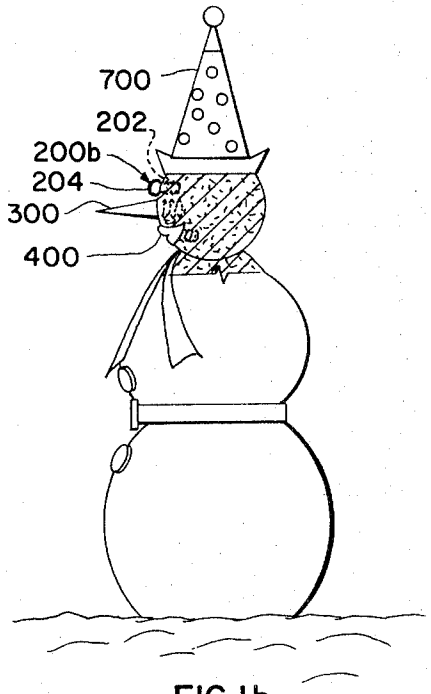


FIG. 1b

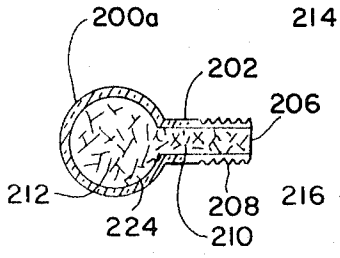


FIG. 2a

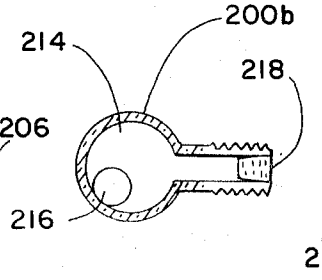


FIG. 2b

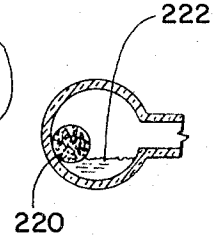


FIG. 2c

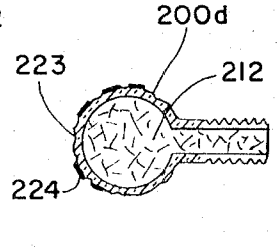


FIG. 2d

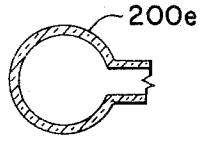


FIG. 2e

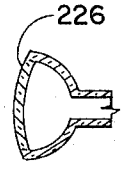


FIG. 2f

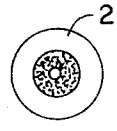


FIG. 2g

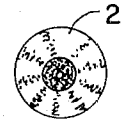


FIG. 2h

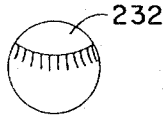


FIG. 2i

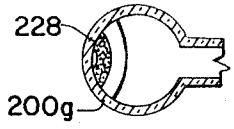


FIG. 2j

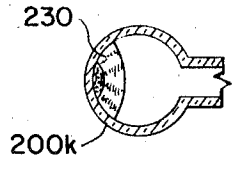


FIG. 2k

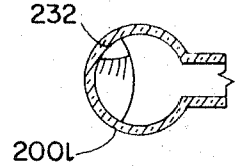


FIG. 2l

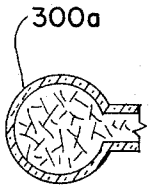


FIG. 3a

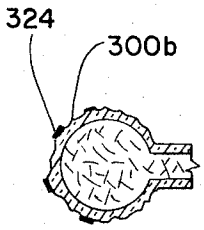


FIG. 3b

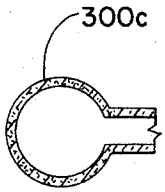


FIG. 3c

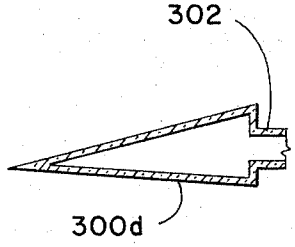


FIG. 3d

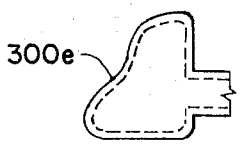


FIG. 3e

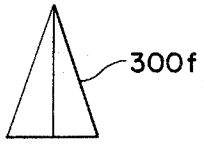


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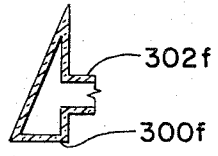


FIG. 3g

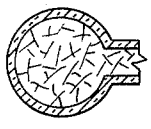


FIG. 4a

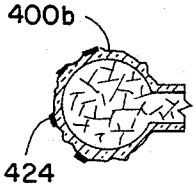


FIG. 4b

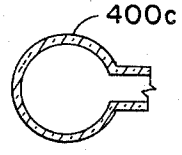


FIG. 4c

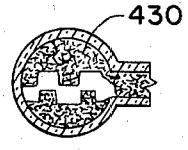


FIG. 4d

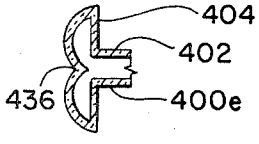


FIG. 4e

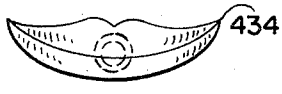


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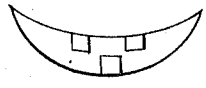


FIG. 4g



FIG. 4h



FIG. 4i



FIG. 4j

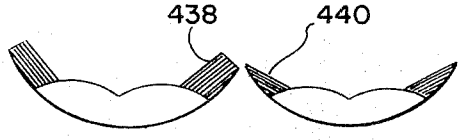


FIG. 4k

FIG. 4l

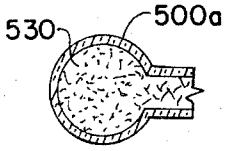


FIG. 5a

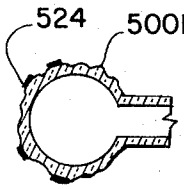


FIG. 5b

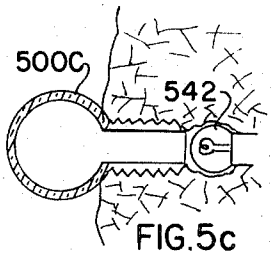


FIG. 5c

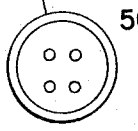


FIG. 5d

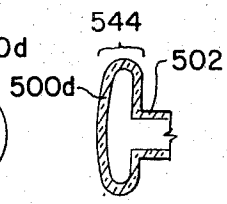


FIG. 5e

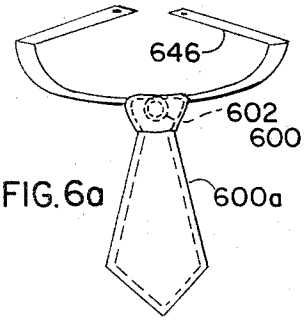


FIG. 6a

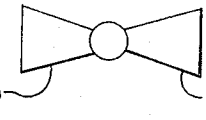


FIG. 6b

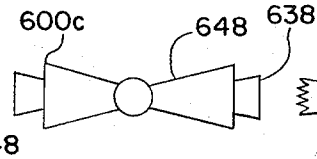


FIG. 6c

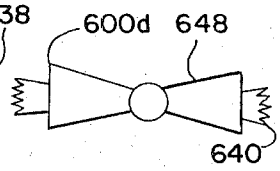


FIG. 6d

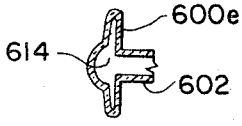


FIG. 6e

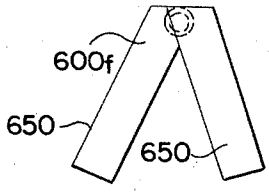


FIG. 6f

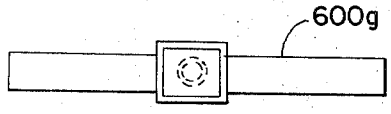


FIG. 6g

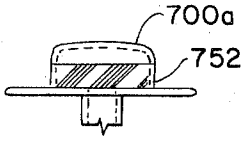


FIG. 7a

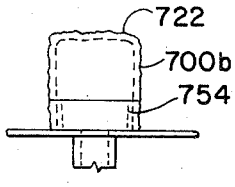


FIG. 7b

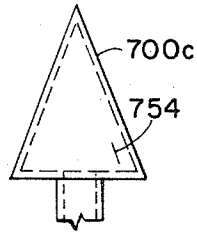


FIG. 7c

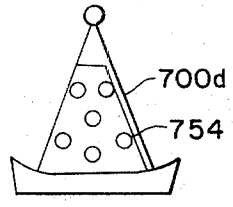


FIG. 7d

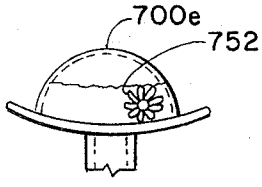


FIG. 8e

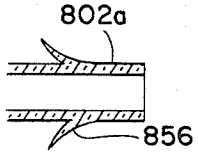


FIG. 8a

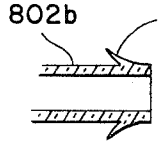


FIG. 8b

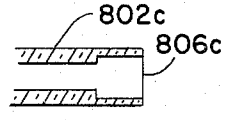


FIG. 8c

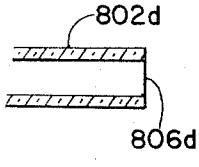


FIG. 8d

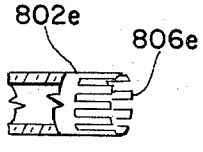


FIG. 8e

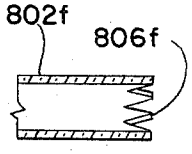


FIG. 8f

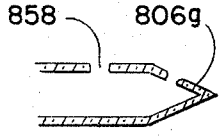


FIG. 8g

SNOWMAN FEATURE AND ACCESSORY SYSTEM

This invention relates generally to snowmen, both of natural and artificial materials, and specifically relates to appurtenances such as features and apparel for snowmen.

According to past practice, eyes, ears, buttons, ties and other snowman accessories were usually improvised from materials at hand such as carrots, bits of coal, sticks, and cast-off items of clothing. Small children, however, are unable to select and affix such articles in pleasing and secure arrays on snowmen. The selection is haphazard and offers very little chance for creative change by the children. Even adults find lack of real variety, and difficulty in selecting and affixing attractive snowman features and clothing items, both in snow and in styrofoam snowmen.

A principal object of this invention is to provide a unified system of visually attractive snowman features and clothing items which are easily and securely attachable in both natural and artificial snowmen, and which are internally and externally changeable in some aspects to vary the appearance as desired, allowing participation by the users as in preparation of the items prior to use.

Other objects of the invention are to provide snowman accessories which are safe, durable, easy to use, economical to manufacture and to distribute, educational for small children and fun for adults to use.

The above and other objects and advantages of this invention will become more readily apparent on examination of the following description, including the drawings in which:

FIG. **1***a* is an isometric view of a snowman with accessories and features according to this invention;

FIG. **1***b* is a side detail in partial section of the FIG. **1** device;

FIG. **2***a* is a side section, FIGS. **2***b*–**2***f* and **2***j*–**2***l* are side section details, and FIGS. **2***g*–**2***i* are front details;

FIGS. **3***a*–**3***d* and **3***f* are side section details, FIGS. **3***e* and **3***f* are a front view and a side detail;

FIGS. **4***a*–**4***e* are side section details, FIGS. **4***f*–**4***l* are front views;

FIGS. **5***a*, **5***b* and **5***c* are side section details, FIG. **5***c* is a side elevation in partial section, FIG. **5***d* is a front view;

FIGS. **6***a*–**6***d*, *f* and *g* are front views, FIG. **6***e* is a side section detail;

FIG. **7** shows elevation details;

FIGS. **8***a*–**8***d*, *f* and *g* show side section details, and FIG. **8***e* shows an isometric side view.

In the drawings, like numerals refer to like parts.

FIG. **1***a* shows a snowman S with accessories according to this invention, as follows: eyes **200***b*, nose **300***d*, mouth **400***g* buttons **500***d*, scarf **600***f*, tie **600***a*, belt **600***g* and hat **700***d*.

FIG. **1***b* shows a detail of the FIG. **1** device in partial section.

The accessories are designed to provide easily installed, attractive snowman features and articles of apparel, with the eyes, nose, mouth and buttons being of the same general configuration, a configuration affording the user opportunity to vary the appearance of these features using his own materials.

The general configuration of the eyes, nose, mouth and buttons comprises, in the context of eye **200***b*, a tubular shank **202** with a larger diameter bulbous portion **204** on the outer end, and a specialized holding and material admittance inner end **206**, both of which ends are provided in various modifications, as will be described.

FIG. **2** shows an array of eyes **200**. In FIG. **2***a*, eye **200***a* is representative of the general complete form being shown, with shank **202** having screw threads **208** for installation. As will be seen later in reference to FIG. **8**, other shank configurations are provided for special purposes and are adapted for use as a part of any embodiment. The screw threads allow each eye to be inserted and removed repeatedly to alter the visual characteristics, and allows the extent of eye protrusion to be adjusted.

The shank **202** is in the form of a circular-section tube having a bore **210** with an open end **206**. The bore connects with the interior of the bulbous shell **204** shown here in spherical form, forming the eyeball. In diameter, the bulbous portion is greater across than the shank, forming a stop which prevents too-deep insertion into the snow. Transparent plastic such as polyethylene is used for the structure, allowing vegetable-coloring colored snow **212** to be thrust into the eye cavity **214** producing red-veined eyes or other interesting variations. Alternatively, as in FIG. **2***b* a marble **216** or other body proportioned for movement within the "eye" **200***b* can be used to form an eyeball, with or without the addition of snow. A cork **218** may be inserted to prevent snow from entering. FIG. **2***c* shows a polyethylene or other lightweight "pupil" **220** floating on water **222** or other fluid. FIG. **2***d* shows another inventive provision in the form of an eyeball **200***d* having an outer surface **223** roughened as with sandpaper to receive and retain markings **224** of chalk, crayon, or paint, providing other appearance variations. A stuffing of material **212** as in FIG. **2***a* can be used with this embodiment also. FIG. **2***e* shows an eyeball **200***e* of colored plastic which is particularly effective when illuminated from within.

The longitudinally compressed or flattened front **226** of the FIG. **2***f* embodiment provides a shallow curve of the eyeball which fits well against the body of the snowman. It also is particularly effective in use with inserts such as the paper or cloth inserts shown in face view in FIGS. **2***g* through *l* which are shown with spherical eyeballs. The insert **228**, FIG. **2***g*, may be a flat sheet, with markings on it, forced into place, as indicated in side section in FIG. **2***j*, or may be a crinkled paper ball **230** colored and thrust in as similarly shown in FIGS. *h* and *k*, or bundles of soft material such as the eyelash-bearing bundle **232** illustrated in FIGS. **2***l* and **2***l*. Both the spherical "pop" eyes and flattened eyes can be rotated in place to vary the slant of the eyes and the protrusion, producing unexpected and startling changes in snowman expression.

FIG. **3** shows snowman noses for use with the eyes of this invention. The noses **300***a*, *b* and *c*. FIGS. **3***a*, **3***b* and **3***c* are preferably of different size but otherwise similar in structure to the plastic devices of FIGS. **2***a*, *d* and *e* being clear, solid color and having a rough exterior respectively, and can be used in the same manner described, to produce nose variations. Similarly, FIG. **3***d* shows a hollow longitudinally extended, conical or "carrot" **300***d* nose, axially aligned parallel with the shank, which can be filled partially or entirely, preferably with colored material. FIG. **3***e* is a side view of a

nose **300***e* having a conventionally shaped front protrusion with nostrils and a high bridge, the tubular shank protrudes from an intermediate portion of the body which is flat. This comprises a "regular" nose, which can be filled and can be rotated in place to vary the slant of the nose in the face of the snowman while preserving the nose location. FIG. **3***f*, *f*[1] are front view and side section of a "Wizard of Oz" type triangular nose **300***f*, broad at the base and pivoted at the top, protruding at the lower front and with the shank **302***f* extending from a substantially flat back. This can be filled, as for example, with tinsel, and can be rotated to vary the appearance.

FIG. **4** shows snowman mouths for use in conjunction with the eyes and noses of FIGS. **2** and **3.** The mouths **400***a*, *b*, and *c* of FIGS. **4***a*, *b* and *c* are preferably different in size but similar in construction and function to the noses of FIGS. **3***a*, *b* and *c* respectively, and, as indicated in FIG. **4***d* can be stuffed with marked-paper **430** or other material to show teeth; alternatively they can be filled or partially filled with colored snow or fluid. FIG. **4***e* shows a side section of an embodiment **400***e* similar to the eye of FIG. **2***f* and to the nose of FIG. **3***f*[1] in that the bulbous portion **404** is longitudinally compressed, and is extended in a plane transverse to the axis of the shank **402,** in this case forming a mouth. The mouth preferably has a halfmoon shape and curvature terminating in corners, see **434** FIG. **4***f*, a divided lip contour **436** across the front. The shank **402** preferably attaches at the midpoint of the back of the mouth. As in views **4***f*, **4***g*, **4***h*, **4***i*, and **4***j*, the mouths **400***f*, **400***g*, **400***h*, **400***i*, and **400***j* can be colored, can be supplied with teeth by insertion of marked material or by filling with colored liquid, and can be inverted. The mid-point shank location allows the lips to be pivoted to a slanted or to an inverted position, altering a symmetrical mouth arrangement, or changing a smile to a snarl. The flat back prevents digging into the snowman face, so that pivoting does not leave a scar. If desired, as in FIGS. **4***k* and **4***l*, flat or pointed end tabs **438** and **440** can be provided at the sides of the mouth for better securance and to prevent the mouth from rotating. The lip division **436** provides also a realistic upper and lower tooth array protrusion when provided with teeth.

FIGS. **5***a*, **5***b* and **5***c* show buttons **500***a*, **500***b* and **500***c* for use with the snowman devices of the other Figures; these buttons are similar in structure and function to the clear, solid color, and roughened devices of FIGS. **4***a*, **4***b* and **4***c* and function the same. The buttons can be filled with material **530** such as aluminum foil, beads, cloth, colored fluid or snow, or other suitable materials, can be exteriorly marked as at **524,** FIG. **5***b*, or can be illuminated from behind by a lamp **542** to make a striking showing as in FIG. **5***c*, which is of a uniform translucent, colored plastic. Particularly in cold weather and at night. the small amounts of heat given off by electric light bulbs of the wattage of small Christmas tree bulbs does not appreciably melt snow, and even less so if flashing. FIGS. **5***d* and **5***e* show face and side section detail respectively of a conventional-appearance button **500***d* embodied with a longitudinally compressed portion **544** having a communicating shank **502** allowing the button to be filled, colored, or illuminated.

FIG. **6***a* shows a face view of a four-in-hand necktie **600***a* similar in structure and function to the previously described devices, especially the mouths of FIG. **4***e*–**4***j*, except that the tie has a shank **602** at one end, the upper end so that the tie can be pivoted in pendulum fashion about it. Stays **646** can be provided which extend to either side of the upper portion of the tie to stabilize the side to side motion. Also similar to the mouths, are the bow-ties **600***b*, **600***c* and **600***d* of FIGS. **6***c*, **6***c* and **6***d*, which have, respectively, plain, transversely extended lobes **648,** a plain tab **638** on the end of each lobe, and toothed tab **640** on the lobes. These structures are alike in having, as shown in FIG. **6***e*, the connecting shank structure **602** and internal cavity **614** adapting them for insertion of materials to make a bright display.

The scarf **600***f* of FIG. **6***f* is similar in construction and function to the four-in-hand tie, but has a split, divided lower body **650, 650**[1] to prevent covering buttons below it. The belt **600***g* of FIG. **6***g* is similar to the ties of FIG. **6***b*–**6***e*.

FIGS. **7***a*–**7***e* shows hats of similar construction to the foregoing snowman features and accessories, **7***a* being a straw hat **700***a* with a band **752** inserted and displayed, FIG. **7***b* being a top hat **700***b* with a roughened exterior **722,** and slits **754** for insertion of a band. Embodiments **700***c* and **700***d* of FIGS. **7***c* and **7***d* are dunce hats, with similar slits **754** for holding a band as in FIG. **7***d*. FIG. **7***e* is a lady's hat **700***e* stuffed with a coiled flowered paper band **752** which has been allowed to uncoil. It will be apparent that the dunce hat **700***c* of FIG. **7***c* is similar to the nose of FIG. **3***d*, and can be used when filled with water to produce a nose with icicles dripping from it. The slits are optional in the hats, but preferable in those shown.

FIG. **8** shows other shanks adapted for use with snowman, in addition to the screwthread shank of FIG. **1.** Where maximum grip is desired, the raked barbs **856, 856**[1] extending radially from shanks **802***a* and **802***b* of FIGS. **8***a* and **8***b* are used together with a full bore-diameter opening in the end of the shank. The devices are pushed in and twisted, engaging the barbs in undisturbed snow. If artificial material is to be gripped, the tapered shape of the FIG. **8***a* shank **802***a* tends to be sprung outward against the resilient holding of the barbs, making a tight assembly.

In general, the plain tubular open ends **806***d* and **806***c* as in FIG. **8***d* (uniform bore) and FIG. **8***c* (enlarged-end bore) are inserted in the same manner as the barbed ends and with less distortion when rotated all the way during insertion.

Engagement of the snow, with the snow gripping both interior and exterior, secured the device better. Axially serrated end structure **806***e* as in FIG. **8***e*, a side detail, increases the gripping effect, and sharp serrations **806***f* as in FIG. **8***f* can be used to cut into icy snow as the device is inserted with rotation about the long axis. The snow can be painted at the desired spot and the device can be rotated about the long axis and inserted allowing the painted portion to appear inside. Closed conical ends **806***g* as at FIG. **8***g* can also be used, but are in many cases less secure than the other fastenings shown, and must be perforated, as at **858** to allow filling with fluid, if desired.

Obviously many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is, therefore, to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

What is claimed and desired to be secured by United States Letters Patent is:

1. In a snowman system, an appurtenance comprising: an elongate shank for insertion into a snowman, the shank having portion at one end larger across than the shank, the shank having a bore substantially uniform in diameter throughout the length thereof and opening through the opposite end of the shank, the larger portion having a cavity connecting with the bore, all said shank and larger portion being at least partially light transmissive, and the opposite end of the shank having serrations exteriorly thereon.

2. In a snowman system as recited in claim **1,** the serrations on the opposite end of the shank comprising soft plastic barbs extending radially therefrom.

3. In a snowman system as recited in claim **1,** the larger across portion being conical in shape, with the cone axis parallel with the shank axis and the cone having a slit in at least one wall portion thereof.

4. In a snowman system as recited in claim **1,** the larger across portion being bulbous and having fluid therein.

5. In a snowman system as recited in claim **4,** the larger across portion having a solid body therein having a contrasting characteristic with respect to the material of said appurtenance, and floating on said fluid.

6. In a snowman system as recited in claim **5,** the solid body comprising a spherical member proportioned for movement within said bulbous portion.

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