Aug. 10, 1954 C. F. RAYMOND 2,686,029

BRACKET FOR ATTACHING FLAGPOLES TO PARKING METERS

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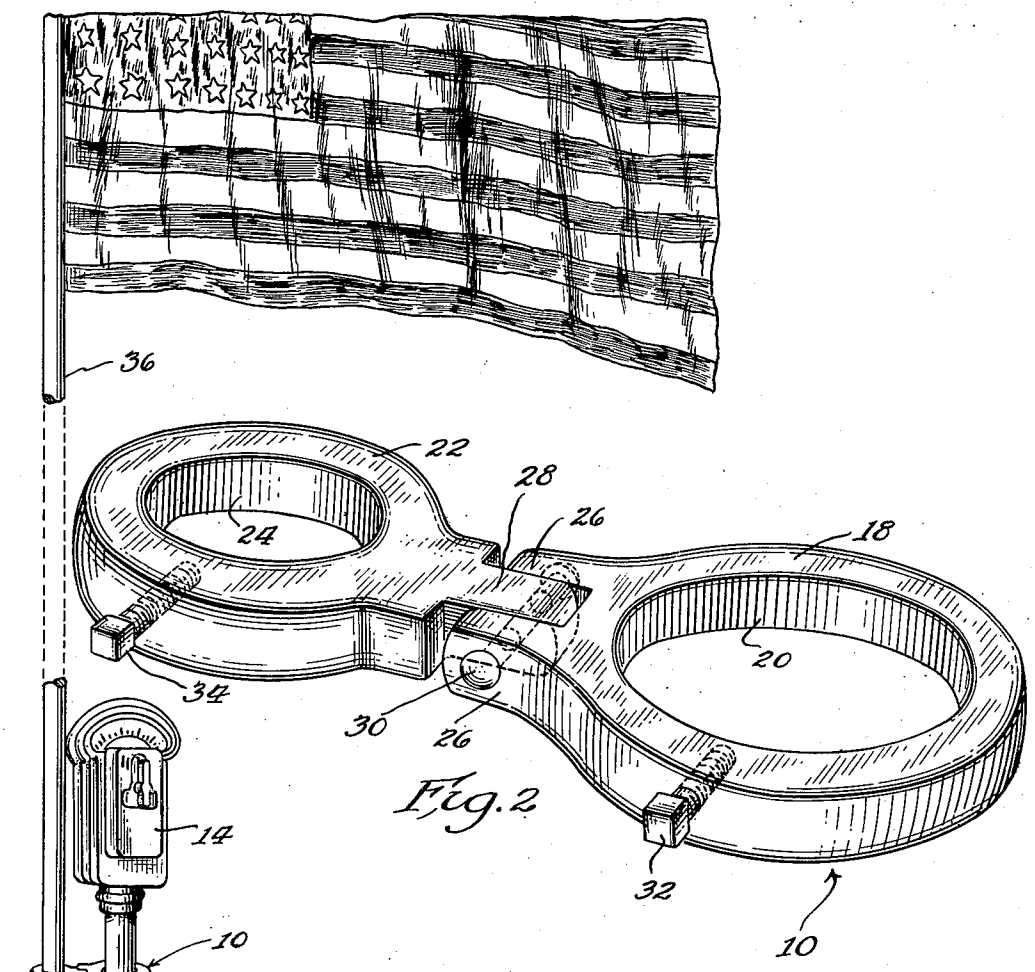


Fig. 2

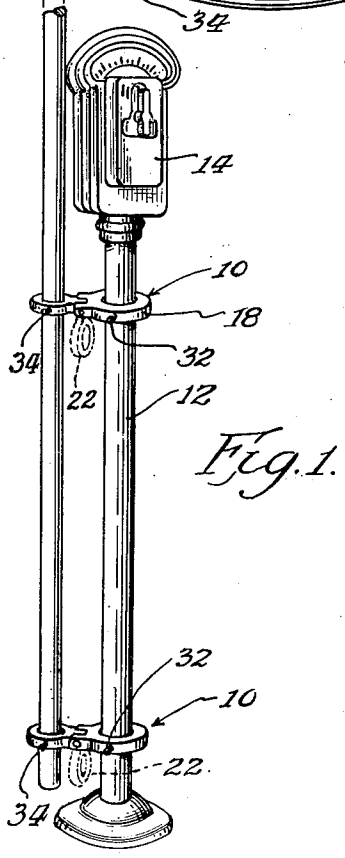


Fig. 1.

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BRACKET FOR ATTACHING FLAGPOLES TO PARKING METERS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 248—41)

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My invention relates to brackets for attaching flagpoles to parking meters, and while such brackets are more particularly adapted for displaying the national flag on patriotic occasions, they are equally adaptable for displaying other flags and banners on festive occasions.

An object of my invention is to provide a new and improved flagpole bracket which is simple, inexpensive, and durable.

Another object of my invention is to provide flagpole brackets which may be permanently installed and into which flagpoles or other similar poles may be quickly and easily inserted and removed.

Another object of my invention is to provide a new and improved bracket in which the pole-engaging portion automatically shifts to an out-of-the-way position when the flagpole is removed.

These and other objects and advantages will become more readily apparent as the description proceeds and is read in conjunction with the drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevational view showing a pair of my brackets supporting a flag and flagpole upon a parking meter; and

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of my novel bracket, and shows in detail the structural features.

It is the custom of the various retail stores and other businesses in our cities to display the American flag before their places of business on certain holidays. In the past the flag has been displayed by providing a socket or cylindrical hole in the sidewalk in front of the places of business into which the flagpole is inserted. Also portable flagpole bases have been used.

There are many disadvantages attendant upon displaying our flag in the manner set forth above. For instance, the use of the cylindrical openings in the sidewalk are particularly disadvantageous because these openings become filled with dirt or other debris that must be periodically cleaned out. Also it frequently happens that a flagpole will be broken off in the socket, since the only support is at the extreme end of the pole.

Portable stands are not satisfactory as supports for flags and banners as these stands are dangerous to pedestrians, may be easily stolen, and often become lost due to the fact that they are used infrequently. Furthermore, only extremely heavy stands can provide an ample support. Also like the socket support, the stands support the flagpole solely at its lower end, and therefore the flagpole may be readily broken off.

Today in many cities parking meters are installed at the curb in front of most retail stores

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and other business houses. My invention broadly contemplates using the parking meters to provide a support for the flagpole, thereby eliminating the necessity of providing sockets in the sidewalk or the use of portable stands. As will be hereinafter pointed out, I have devised a bracket which may be permanently secured to the parking meter so as to provide a simple means of supporting a flagpole.

Referring to Fig. 1, a pair of my novel brackets, generally designated 10, are secured to a supporting tube 12, of parking meter 14. A base 16 is secured to supporting tube 12, and is usually embedded in the sidewalk adjacent the curb of a street.

My novel bracket consists of a first ring portion 18, having a cylindrical opening 20, and a second similar ring portion 22 having a cylindrical opening 24. A pair of spaced ears 26 are formed integrally with ring portion 18, and an ear 28 is formed integrally with ring portion 22. Ear 28 has a width slightly less than the distance between ears 26. Ears 26 and 28 are provided with bores therethrough, and a clevis pin 30 is disposed through these bores to pivotally connect ring portions 18 and 22.

Cylindrical opening 20 of ring portion 18 has a diameter slightly larger than the diameter of the supporting tube 12 of the parking meter, so that ring portion 18 may be mounted over tube 12. A lock screw 32 is threaded through ring portion 18 to secure ring portion 18 in any given position on supporting tube 12.

Likewise a lock screw 34 is provided in ring portion 22. A flagpole 36 (Fig. 1) may be inserted through cylindrical opening 24 of ring portion 22 and locked therein by lock screw 34. The lock screws 34 are not essential because the hinged rings 22 will bind the flagpole and hold it firmly within the rings without slippage.

In Fig. 1 a pair of brackets has been used to attach flagpole 36 to supporting tube 12 of the parking meter. One of the brackets is positioned near the base 16 of the parking meter, and the other bracket is positioned near the upper end of the supporting tube 12. Since ring portion 22 is free to pivot relative to ring portion 18, ring portion 22 will assume the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, when a flagpole is not disposed within cylindrical opening 24. In order to mount flagpole 26 on the parking meter, it is only necessary to pivot ring portion 22 of the upper bracket to a horizontal position, lower the flagpole through the opening therein, pivot ring portion 22 of the lower bracket to a horizontal posi-

tion, lower pole **36** through the cylindrical opening therein, and tighten lock screws **34**.

By utilizing two of my novel brackets to support a flagpole, the pole is afforded support at two separate points which may be spaced apart a substantial distance. This greatly reduces the stresses imposed on the pole and prevents mechanical failure of the pole.

In Fig. 1 the lower end of the flagpole is spaced from the ground or sidewalk, but, of course, this is not necessary and the lower end of the pole could rest on the ground or sidewalk. Furthermore, it should be appreciated that only one of my brackets is necessary to attach a flagpole to a parking meter. For example, only the upper bracket of Fig. 1 could be used. When only one bracket is used the lower end of flagpole **36** rests against the ground or sidewalk.

It should be appreciated that since ring portion **22** will pivot to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, due to the forces of gravity, the bracket will be disposed close to supporting tube **12**. This reduces the possibility of a pedestrian bumping against the bracket.

The ring portions **18** and **22** may be formed of any sufficiently strong material. I have found it expedient to form these parts of cast iron.

Having now described my invention in detail it should be understood that I have provided a novel bracket for attaching flagpoles to parking meters, which, as a simple attachment, converts a parking meter into a ready support for flagpoles or any other type of pole. The bracket does not interfere with the use of one parking meter while offering a positive support for the banner pole.

I claim:

1. In combination with the cylindrical supporting tube of a parking meter or the like, a pair

of brackets attached to said tube in vertically spaced relation and in vertical alignment for supporting a flag pole or similar object from said support tube, said brackets each comprising ring sections joined togethed by a hinged joint having a horizontal pin, one ring section being telescoped over said supporting tube and the other ring section being adapted to be telescoped over the flag pole or other object which is to be supported in vertical position alongside said supporting tube, and means for anchoring the first-mentioned ring section to said supporting tube, said hinged joint permitting the other ring section to be swung from a horizontal position to a substantially vertical position alongside the supporting tube when the bracket is not being used for supporting said flag pole or similar object.

2. The combination as set forth in claim 1 in which the ring section which surrounds the supporting tube is continuous and integral, whereby removal of the bracket from said supporting tube by unauthorized persons is impeded.

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