United States Patent [19]

Breault

[11] **3,877,623**

[45] **Apr. 15, 1975**

[54] **CARRIER FOR SKI EQUIPMENT**

[76] Inventor: **Richard V. Breault,** Lake Orion, Mich.

[22] Filed: **Oct. 4, 1973**

[21] Appl. No.: **403,500**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **224/45 S**

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B65d 71/00;** B65d 63/00

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 224/45 S; 280/11.37 K

[56] **References Cited**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

3,307,759	3/1967	Fulton	224/45
3,718,242	2/1973	Larson	224/45 S

Primary Examiner—Stanley H. Tollberg

Assistant Examiner—John P. Shannon

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A carrier for skis and ski poles having an elongated member with a handle thereon, and a downwardly extending central leg. A transverse terminal foot is provided on the downwardly extending central leg to support a pair of skis thereon in a back to back relationship. A holding device on the leg is adapted to releasably secure the skis on the carrier. A pair of spaced clamps are provided on each side of the elongated member for holding the ski poles.

4 Claims, 9 Drawing Figures

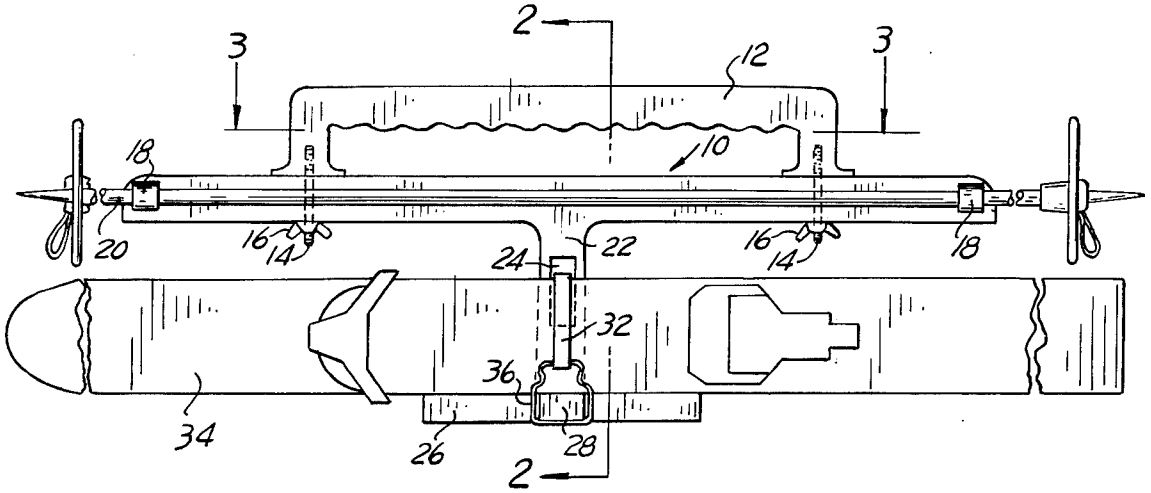
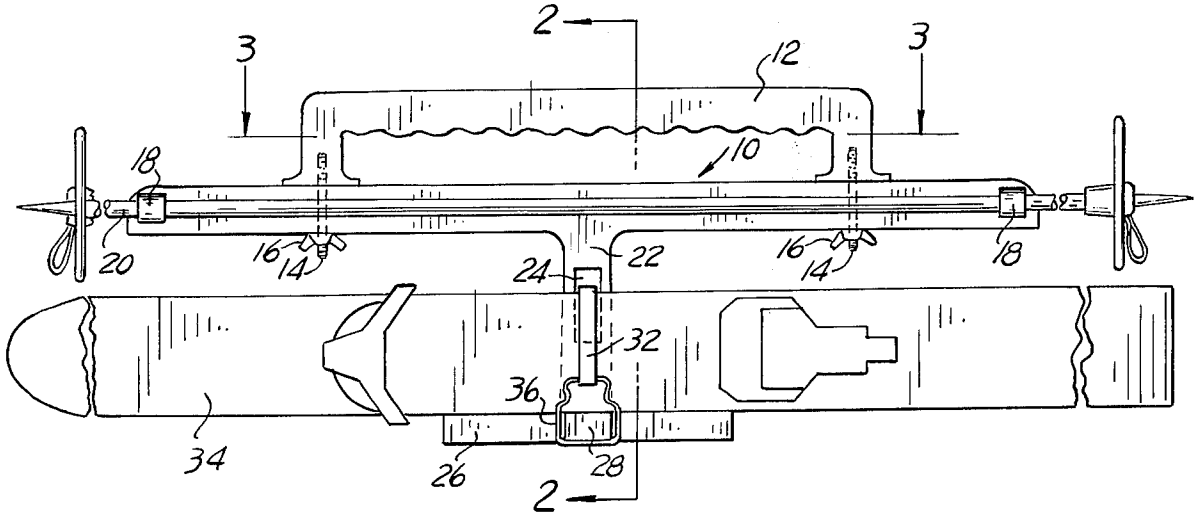


FIG. 1



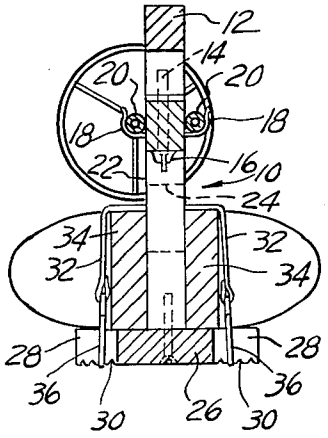


FIG. 2

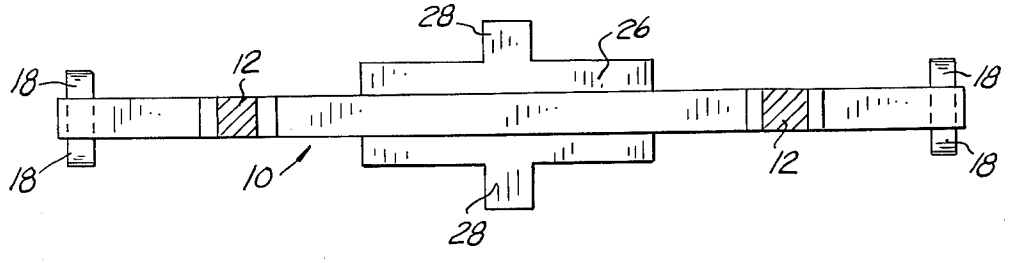
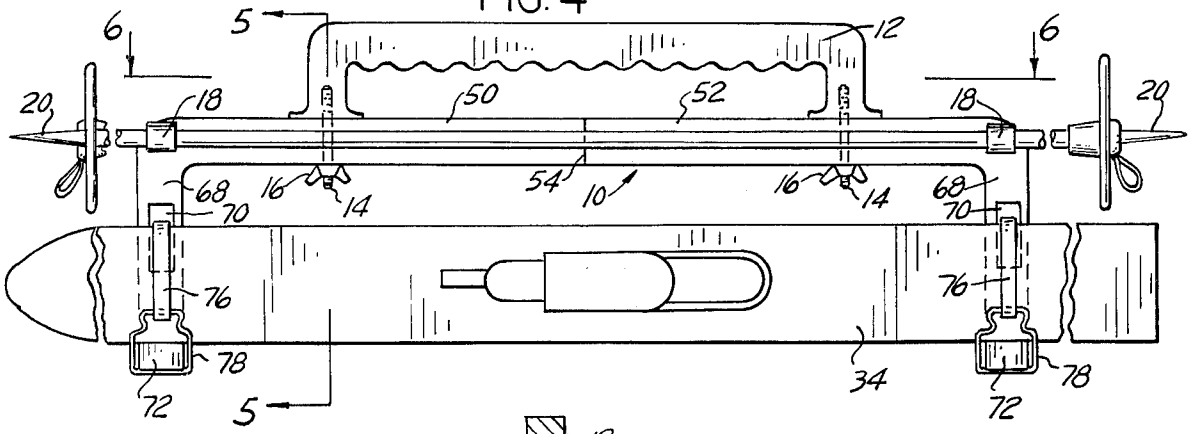


FIG. 3

FIG. 4



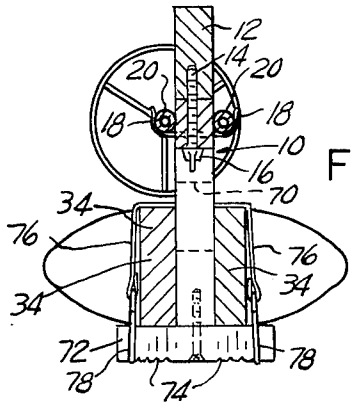


FIG.5

FIG. 6

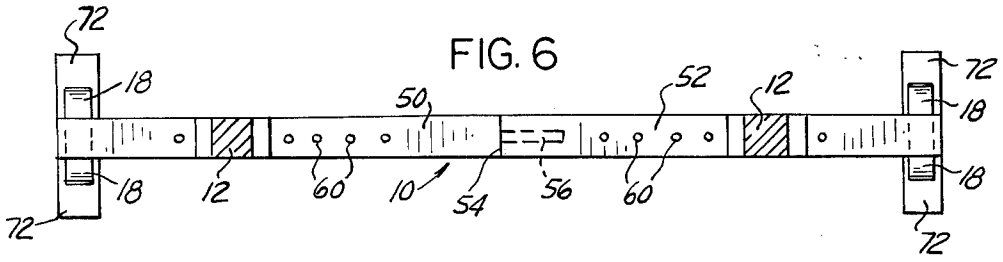
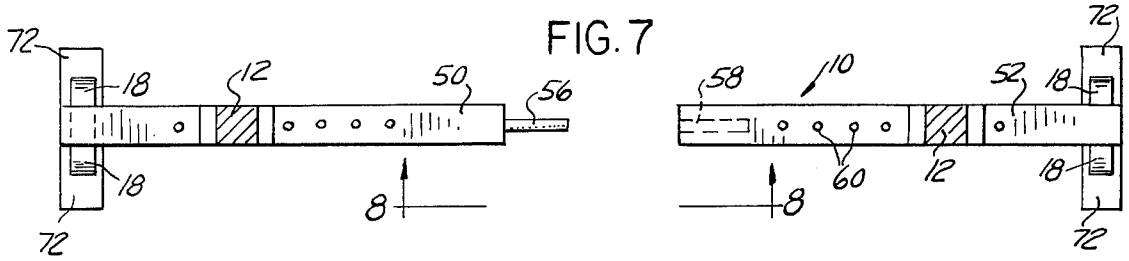


FIG. 7



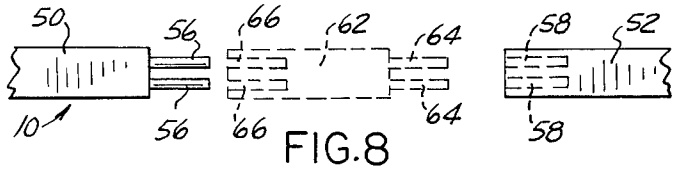
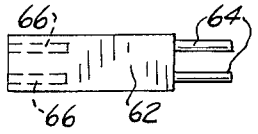


FIG.8

FIG.9



CARRIER FOR SKI EQUIPMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to devices for carrying ski equipment, and more particularly to a type of hand carrier suitable to accomodate a pair of snow skis and two ski poles. Ski equipment is inherently bulky and unwieldy, and accordingly presents a handling problem whenever it must be manually carried a substantial distance.

The prior art has not been too responsive to this problem; consequently no simple, compact and effective hand carrier has been developed which will enable a skier to conveniently transport his equipment from a vehicle to the skiing site or lodge. Fully cognizant of this fact, the applicant has devised a hand carrier for ski equipment which is relatively inexpensive to produce, very sturdy in construction, and extremely simple to manipulate and use.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention consists of an elongated member **10** with a carrying handle **12** and a downwardly extending central leg **22** having therein a vertically disposed rectangular slot **24.** Two spaced resilient clamps **18** are provided on each side of the elongated member **10.** A transverse terminal foot **26** on the central leg **22** has a pair of lateral extensions **28** each provided with a series of linear slots **30** in the lower side. A resilient strap **32** is slidably located in the rectangular slot **24** in the downwardly extending central leg **22.** A buckle **36** on each end of the resilient strap **32** is adapted to holdably engage in the linear slots **30** in the lateral extensions **28.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a side elevation view of a carrier embodying the applicant's invention, showing two ski poles **20,** and a pair of skis **34** thereto attached.

FIG. **2** is a section view, taken substantially on plane **2—2** in FIG. **1,** showing structural details of the transverse terminal foot **26** on the downwardly extending central leg **22.**

FIG. **3** is a section view, taken substantially on plane **3—3** in FIG. **1,** with the ski equipment and resilient straps **32** removed, showing the characteristic shape of the transverse terminal foot **26** on the downwardly extending central leg **22.**

FIG. **4** is a side elevation view, similar to FIG. **1,** showing a modification of the applicant's invention.

FIG. **5** is a section view, taken substantially on plane **5—5** in FIG. **4,** showing structural details of the transverse feet **72** on the downwardly extending legs **68.**

FIG. **6** is a section view, taken substantially on plane **6—6** in FIG. **4,** with the ski equipment and resilient straps **76** removed from the carrier, showing the spaced openings **60** in the elongated member **10** and the parting lines **54** between the two separable components **50** and **52** thereof.

FIG. **7** is a view similar to FIG. **6,** with the two components **50** and **52** of the elongated member **10** separated, showing respectively the connecting pins **56** and the sockets **58** therein.

FIG. **8** is a side elevation view, taken substantially on plane **8—8** in FIG. **7,** showing by broken lines, the extension unit **62** of FIG. **9** in position for insertion into the elongated member **10.**

FIG. **9** is a side elevation view, showing structural details of the extension unit **62.**

CONSTRUCTION

For a more detailed description of the invention, reference is made to the drawing in which numeral **10** designates an elongated member having a carrying handle **12** removably attached thereto by bolts **14** and wing nuts **16.** Two spaced resilient clamps **18** are provided on each side of the elongated member **10** for holdably receiving a pair of ski poles **20,** as shown in FIGS. **1** and **2.** A downwardly extending central leg **22** on the elongated member **10,** has therein a vertically disposed rectangular slot **24.**

A transverse terminal foot **26** on the downwardly extending central leg **22** has thereon a pair of lateral extensions **28,** each provided with a series of linear slots **30** in the lower side. A resilient strap **32,** slidably located in the vertically disposed rectangular slot **24** in the central leg **22,** is adapted to extend across a pair of skis **34** when they are placed on the transverse terminal foot **26** in a back to back relationship as shown in FIGS. **1** and **2.**

A buckle **36** on each end of the resilient strap **32,** is adapted to holdably engage in the linear slots **30** in the lower side of the lateral extensions **28.** In practice, it may prove desirable to invert the two spaced resilient clamps **18** on each side of the elongated member **10** which receive the ski poles **20,** thereby making it possible to use the ski poles **20** as a carrying means, so as to eliminate the need for a separate handle **12.**

In the modification of the applicant's invention disclosed in FIGS. **4** through **9,** the elongated member **10** comprises two aligned components **50** and **52** separable at a parting line **54.** A pair of spaced pins **56,** in one of the components **50,** holdably engage in two sockets **58** in the other component **52** of the elongated member **10.** A series of vertically disposed openings **60** are provided through each of the separable components **50** and **52** of the elongated member **10.**

A pair of spaced resilient clamps **18,** on each side of the elongated member **10,** are adapted to holdably receive two ski poles **20,** as shown in FIGS. **4** and **5.** A handle **12,** has on each end thereof, a bolt **14** extending through two of the vertically disposed openings **60** in the elongated member **10,** and removably secured therein by detachable wing nuts **16.** An extension unit **62,** shown in FIG. **9** is insertable between the two components **50** and **52** for lengthening the elongated member **10.**

The extension unit **62** has a pair of pins **64** in one end and two sockets **66** in the other end, spaced to match the separation between the pins **56** and the sockets **58** in the components **50** and **52** respectively of the elongated member **10.** A downwardly extending leg **68,** on each end of the elongated member **10,** has therein a vertically disposed rectangular slot **70.**

A transverse terminal foot **72,** on each of the downwardly extending legs **68,** has a plurality of linear slots **74** in the lower side.

A resilient strap **76,** slidably located in each of the vertically disposed rectangular slots **70** in the downwardly extending legs **68,** is adapted to extend across a pair of skis **34** when placed on the transverse feet **68** in a back to back relationship as shown in FIGS. **4** and **5.** A buckle **78,** on each end of the resilient straps **76,**

is adapted to holdably engage in the linear slots **74** in the lower side of the transverse feet **72.**

The preceding discussion completes a description of the structure characterizing the two embodiments of the applicant's invention herein disclosed; however, to facilitate a more thorough and comprehensive understanding of the subject matter, a discussion of the manner in which the carrier is used to fulfill its intended function is immediately hereinafter set forth.

USE AND OPERATION

As both embodiments of the applicant's invention function in substantially the same manner, the description relating to use and operation will be restricted to the modification shown in FIGS. **4** through **9,** since such modification is structurally more complex than the embodiment disclosed in FIGS. **1, 2** and **3.** In use, the loaded carrier, shown in FIGS. **4** and **5,** will frequently have a balance point which fails to coincide exactly with the center of the handle **12** on the elongated member **10.**

In such instances, the handle **12** should be shifted longitudinally to facilitate handling. This is done by removing the wing nuts **16** from the bolts **14** and lifting the handle **12** to withdraw the bolts **14** from the elongated member **10.** The bolts **14** are then inserted through two other openings **60** in the elongated member **10** so that the handle **12** will be approximately centered over the balance point on the loaded carrier.

This placement of the handle **12** will enable the carrier to assume a position substantially parallel to the ground so as to facilitate handling. On those occasions when the user is walking either up or down hill, the handle **12** may be shifted accordingly, in the manner previously described, so as to permit the loaded carrier to assume a natural attitude substantially matching the incline of the terrain being traversed.

Whenever the carrier is to be used in handling skis which are either unusually long, or have an unconventional type of binding, the elongated member **10** can be lengthened to better accomodate such equipment. This is done by detaching the handle **12,** in the manner previously described, and inserting the extension unit **62** shown in FIG. **9** into the elongated member **10.** The handle **12** is then reattached to the elongated member **10,** and the carrier is again ready for use in the customary manner.

Based upon the foregoing discussion, the applicant is of the opinion that his invention has fulfilled a long-felt need in the field of ski carriers, and that he has accordingly made a valuable contribution to the related art. The invention, however, was described with reference to the structural details of only two embodiments, but it will be appreciated by those familiar with the art that the principles involved are susceptible of numerous other practical adaptations.

I therefore claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A carrier for skis and ski poles comprising an elongated member, at least one downwardly extending leg on the elongated member, a transverse foot on the downwardly extending leg for supporting the skis, a resilient strap on the downwardly extending leg, a buckle on each end of the resilient strap for entering into a holding engagement with the transverse foot on the downwardly extending leg, clamping means on the elongated member for releasably holding the ski poles, and a carrying handle on the elongated member.

2. A carrier for skis and ski poles comprising an elongated member, an extension unit insertable into the elongated member for increasing its length so as better to accomodate a greater variety of ski equipment, a pair of spaced downwardly extending legs on the elongated member, a transverse foot on each of the downwardly extending legs for supporting the skis, holding means on the downwardly extending legs for releasably securing the skis on the transverse feet, clamping means on the elongated member for releasably holding the ski poles, and a carrying handle on the elongated member.

3. The carrier of claim **2** in which the carrying handle is movable longitudinally on the elongated member so that it can be selectively positioned relative to the balance point on the loaded carrier to facilitate handling.

4. The carrier of claim **3** in which the holding means on the downwardly extending legs comprises a resilient strap on each of the downwardly extending legs, and a buckle on each end of the resilient straps for entering into a holding engagement with the transverse feet on the downwardly extending legs.

* * * * *