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W. H. PAYNE

2,490,467

MELON TONGS OR CARRIER.

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Fig. 1.

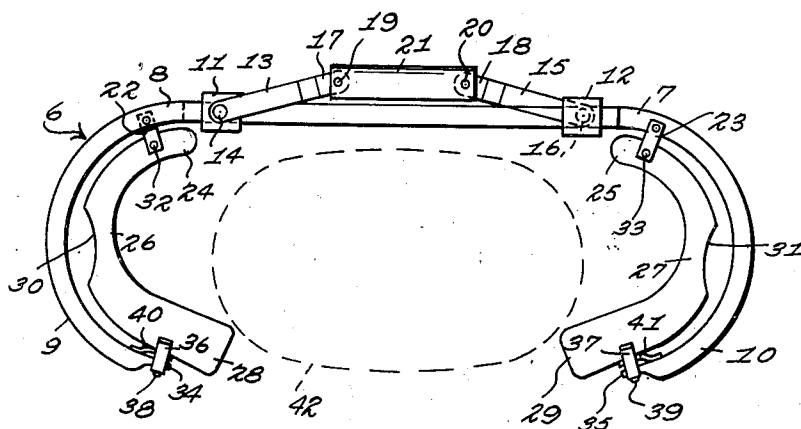


Fig. 2.

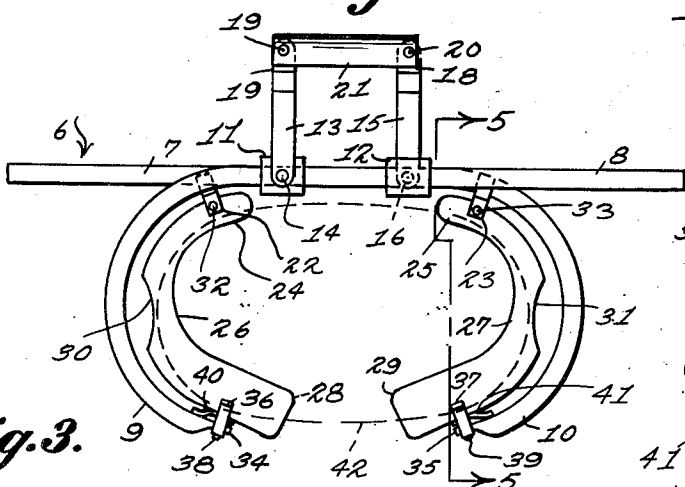


Fig. 5.

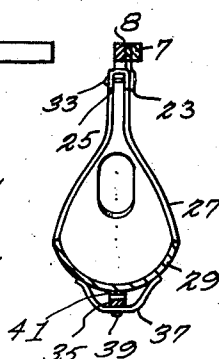


Fig. 3.

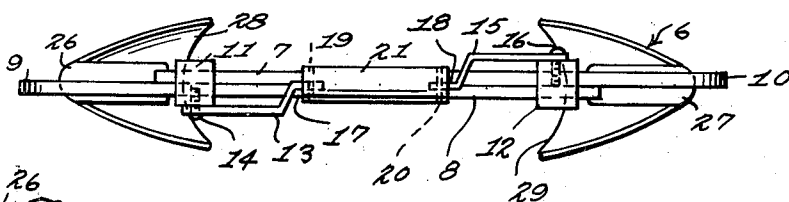
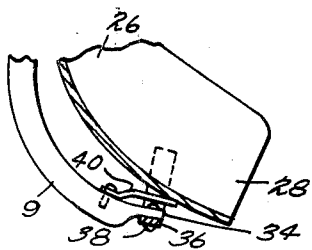


Fig. 4.



INVENTOR.

William H. Payne
BY

BY

McMorrow, Burman & Davidson
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MELON TONGS OR CARRIER

William H. Payne, Lytle, Tex.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 294-16)

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This invention relates to means for carrying bulky objects, such as watermelons, and particularly to melon tongs or a carrier therefor.

The main object of my invention is to provide a special type of tongs adapted to clasp and support a watermelon or other large melon or vegetable to facilitate handling thereof.

Another object is to provide tongs of the indicated character which are automatically self adjusting to any size of melon or the like for carrying the same.

A further object is to provide such tongs with a handle by which to conveniently carry the melon held by the tongs.

It is also an object to have tongs of the mentioned type provided with special melon-clasping jaws which are of such form and sufficiently capacious to ensure that no sharp edges or corners are presented to the melon, but only smooth engaging portions thereof.

An important object is to produce melon-carrying tongs which are simple and light in construction, effective in use and not likely to get out of order.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear in further detail as the specification proceeds.

In order to facilitate ready comprehension of this invention for a proper appreciation of the salient features thereof, the invention is illustrated on the accompanying drawing forming part hereof, and in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a melon tongs or carrier made according to the invention and embodying the same in a practical form; the tongs being shown in expanded condition;

Figure 2 is another view of the same tongs in contracted condition when the tongs serve to carry a melon;

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the melon tongs of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary enlarged section of detail;

Figure 5 is a section taken on line 5-5 in Figure 2.

In the views the same reference numerals indicate the same or like parts.

It is well known to all who have attempted to carry or handle a watermelon that such melons are very difficult and tiresome to carry under the arm or in any other manner, and that to do so is quite a feat. In fact, on farms where the melons are grown, a certain loss occurs because the melons are so bulky and difficult to carry and handle, and there is, therefore, a real need for

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something to change this arm-fatiguing and back-breaking chore into a convenient maneuver, although apparently no constructive attention has heretofore been paid to this field.

It has, therefore, occurred to me that some type of tongs should be available to seize a melon as large and bulky as a watermelon in a positive though harmless manner, no matter what the size of the melon or how smooth and round its surface. After duly considering this problem, I have succeeded in producing a special type of melon-clasping tongs which fulfill the foregoing objects to an outstanding degree, as will now be particularly described.

Hence, in the practice of my invention, and referring again to the drawing, a melon clamp, generally indicated at 6, primarily includes a pair of longitudinally-slidable bars 7 and 8, each of which is provided with an integral arcuate arm 9 and 10, respectively, and extending downwardly therefrom. Upon the bars 7 and 8 are mounted a pair of collars 11 and 12 through each of which both bars 7 and 8 extend. To the mentioned collars 11 and 12 are pivotally connected a pair of links in such fashion that one link 13 is pivoted at 14 to the forward part of collar 11 and the second link 15 to the rear of collar 12 at 16. The arrangement is such that the pin or screw 14 serving as the pivotal connection between the arm 13 and collar 11 is sufficiently long to extend also into the longitudinal bar 8 so that collar 11 will follow this member in movement, while merely slidably engaging about longitudinal member 7. In the same manner, the pin or screw 16 forming the pivotal connection between arm 15 and collar 12 is sufficiently long to extend not only through the first portion of the collar engaged thereby, but also into the rear longitudinal bar 7 so that collar 12 will follow the latter in movement, while sliding upon bar 8. The upper end 17 of link 13 is offset rearwardly in order to be disposed substantially in the same vertical plane as the mutual contact plane of the two bars 7 and 8, while in similar fashion the upper end 18 of the other link 15 is forwardly offset to the same plane, the two upper ends 17 and 18 being connected by pivot pins 19 and 20 to a handle 21 into which the upper ends 17 and 18 of links 13 and 15 extend. The arrangement is such that the longitudinal bars 7 and 8 may be slid apart while in mutual sliding engagement into the extended position shown in Figure 1 wherein the downwardly-arched arms 9 and 10 thereof are spread widely apart, while the handle 21 is lowered almost in contact with the bars and links

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13 and 15 brought down nearly into horizontal position. Upon pulling handle 21 upwardly, the links 13 and 15 will draw collars 11 and 12 together and thereby slide bars 7 and 8 longitudinally past each other to a sufficient degree to bring the arms 9 and 10 thereof closer together, as shown in Figure 2, with the links 13 and 15 substantially in erect position.

In order to utilize the movement just described, a pair of short links 22 and 23 are attached at the upper portions of the arcuate arms 9 and 10 and to these links 22 and 23 are pivotally connected the upper inwardly-directed ends 24, 25 of a pair of jaws or scoops 26, 27 which at their lower ends 28, 29 are directed inwardly toward each other, while at the outer sides openings 30, 31 are cut to lighten the structure. Pivot pins 32, 33 serve to connect the links 22 and 23 just mentioned with the upper ends of the scoop-shaped jaws 26, 27 so that the jaws are virtually pendently held with the arms 9 and 10. The lower ends 34, 35 of arms 9 and 10 have a pair of U-shaped brackets 36, 37 secured thereto by pins 38, 39 for resiliently receiving the lower ends 28, 29 of scoop jaws 26 and 27 and guiding these jaws in such fashion as to retain them virtually in the same vertical planes as the arms 9 and 10 within which they are mounted. In addition, upon the inner sides of the lower ends 34 and 35 of arms 9 and 10 are fixed a pair of leaf springs 40, 41 bearing resiliently against the under side of jaws 26, 27 at 28, 29 in order to support the same and prevent direct and abrupt contact of the lower ends 28 and 29 with the arms and also to facilitate automatic adjustment of the jaws according to the size and shape of the melon to be clasped by said jaws.

When the device is to be used to lift a water-melon 42, it is expanded by bringing down handle 21 near longitudinal members 7 and 8, as shown in Figure 1, when the scoop jaws 26, 27 will be sufficiently extended apart to allow them to be passed down about the melon, after which mere seizure of the handle 21 and upward pulling upon the same will cause the two bars 7 and 8 to slide by each other sufficiently to bring the scoop jaws 26, 27 into contact with the melon, as best shown in Figure 2, when the handle 21 may be used to carry the melon without any danger of the latter falling out of the jaws 26, 27 or being injured by any portion thereof. The section of either one of the jaws, as shown in Figure 5, there discloses that the jaws are arcuate and of sufficient radius upon the inside to envelop the ends of the melon and thereby hold the latter between them. It is self-evident from the nature of the construction that any size of melon will be readily clasped and carried by means of the device, as the length of the melon is accommodated between the scoop jaws within wide limits merely by the sliding of longitudinal members 7 and 8 past each other, and due to the tendency of the links 13 and 15 to pull upon the bars by means of collars 11 and 12, the heavier the melon, the more certainly will the jaws 26, 27 supported by outer arcuate arms 9 and 10 be drawn together in a gripping relation with respect to the ends of the melon involved.

From the foregoing, it is evident that what is ordinarily a difficult and troublesome chore,

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namely, that of carrying melons under the arm or in both hands, becomes a simple matter of carrying any melon of any size by means of handle 21, reducing the whole matter to a question of weight on handle 21.

Manifestly, variations may be resorted to and parts and features may be modified or used without others.

Having now fully described my invention, I claim:

1. A melon tongs or carrier, including a pair of elongated bars disposed in parallel slidable contact, a downwardly-extending convexly-arcuate arm integral upon one end of one bar and a second downwardly-extending convexly-arcuate arm integral upon the other end of the other bar, a pair of collars spaced apart upon both bars, one collar being fixed upon one bar adjacent to the junction of the straight or elongated portion thereof with the arcuate arm thereon and slidably surrounding the other bar, and the other collar being similarly fixed on said other bar adjacent to the junction thereof with the arcuate arm thereon, and slidably surrounding the first-mentioned bar, a pair of links individually pivoted at one end of each to the collars, a handle pivoted at the ends thereof to the other end of each link, a pair of opposed arcuate scoop members forming jaws individually located within the arcuate arms of said bars, and means connecting the scoop members individually to the respectively-adjacent arcuate arms.

2. A melon tongs or carrier, including a pair of elongated bars disposed in parallel slidable contact, a downwardly-extending convexly-arcuate arm integral upon one end of one bar and a second downwardly-extending convexly-arcuate arm integral upon the other end of the other bar, a pair of collars spaced apart upon both bars, one collar being fixed upon one bar adjacent to the junction of the straight or elongated portion thereof with the arcuate arm thereon and slidably surrounding the other bar, and the other collar being similarly fixed on said other bar adjacent to the junction thereof with the arcuate arm thereon, and slidably surrounding the first-mentioned bar, a pair of links individually pivoted at one end of each to the collars, a handle pivoted at the ends thereof to the other end of each link, a pair of opposed arcuate scoop members forming jaws individually located within the arcuate arms of said bars, a pair of short links individually pivoted at one end of each to the upper portions of the arcuate arms and at the lower ends to the upper end portions of the scoop members, a pair of locating U-shaped guide members individually transversely fixed at the intermediate portions thereof upon the inner sides of the lower ends of said arcuate arms with the limbs of each U-shaped guide member centrally guiding and supporting the lower end of the respectively-adjacent scoop member, and an upwardly-biased spring upon each of said lower ends of said arcuate arms within the U-shaped guide member thereon bearing upwardly against the under side of the lower end of the respectively-adjacent scoop member.

WILLIAM H. PAYNE.

No references cited.