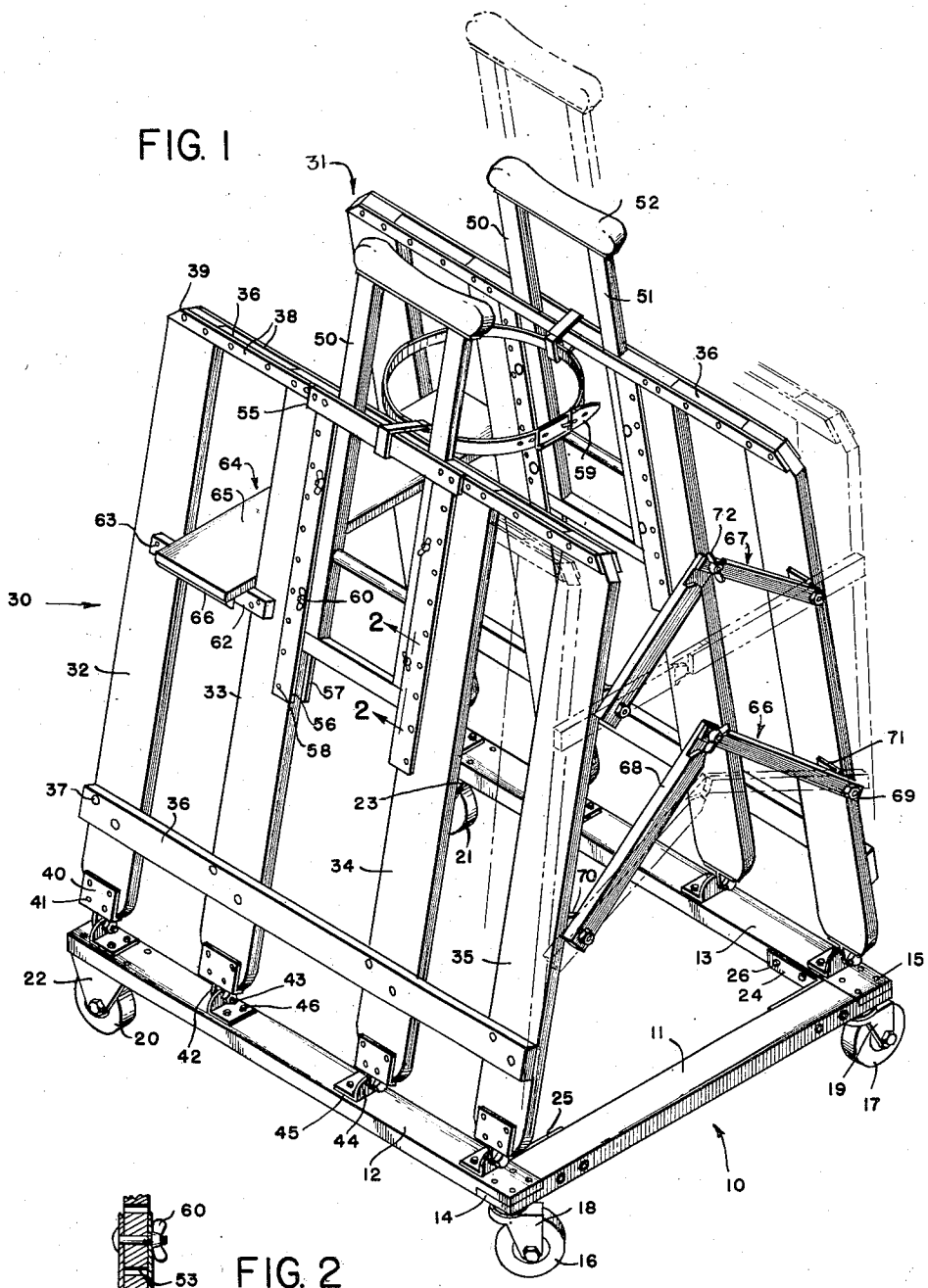
May 6, 1958 W. A. NABORS 2,833,332

WALKER

Filed March 20, 1956

FIG. 1



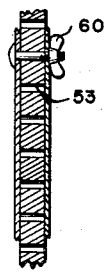


FIG. 2

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2 Claims. (Cl. 155—22)

This invention relates to supports and more particularly to a movable upright enclosure within which an invalid or person learning to walk or needing support during walking may move about or rest in either standing or sitting position.

Walkers of this general type have been in use heretofore. However, these have usually been relatively complex in structure or fabrication and have oftentimes not been as sturdy as required or conveniently adjustable and easy to use.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a walker which may be easily constructed and which is sturdy, easy to use, adjustable for persons of different sizes both in width and height, and which may be used by an individual in standing or sitting position.

These and other objects of the invention will become apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompaning drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective of a walker constructed in accordance with the present invention, fragmentary portions being shown in phantom to illustrate its adjustability; and

Fig. 2, a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Briefly stated, the invention includes a wheel-mounted three-sided base having hinged substantially upright panel or frame members mounted on the side portions of the base and connected at spaced intervals at their front ends by braces which are adjustable to vary the angularity of the frames and the resultant spacing between their upper portions. Crutch members are adjustably mounted in the frames so that persons of different height may use them and a removable seat member is provided which may be supported across the rear portions of the frames. All parts of the device are constructed and arranged so that they may be easily fabricated and assembled by persons having a minimum amount of mechanical skill.

Referring to the drawing, the walker comprises an open three-sided base **10** having a front member **11** and perpendicularly extending sides **12** and **13** at the ends thereof. The front and sides preferably have their connecting corner portions rabbeted as indicated at **14** and are held together by bolts or suitable fastening elements **15**. In order to provide for the mobility of the device swingable front wheels **16** and **17** mounted in brackets **18** and **19** are pivotally mounted in the underside of the rabbeted corner portions **14** at the front of the device and fixed wheels **20** and **21** mounted in brackets **22**, **23** are connected to the underside of the rear portion of the side members **12** and **13** by suitable fastening means. Angle bracing members **24**, **25** may be connected by fasteners **26** to the end portions of the members **11**, **12** and **13** at their corners in order to strengthen the connecting portions if desired.

Extending upwardly from the side members **12** and **13** are a pair of frames or panels **30**, **31**, each of which is comprised of a plurality of spaced uprights or slats **32**, **33**, **34**, **35** having a crosspiece **36** secured thereto by fasteners **37** adjacent to their lower ends. At their upper ends the uprights are connected on their interior and exterior sides by spaced cross members **38**, which may be a steel bar, by fastening means **39**. Blocks **36** are preferably secured between the members **38** intermediate the uprights in order to improve the strength and appearance.

At their lower ends each of the uprights **32**—**35** has a hinge plate **40** connected by fastening means **41**, the hinge plates having a laterally disposed ear **42** through which a fastening element **43** may extend for holding the ear **42** to the upright portion **44** of an angle bracket member **45** connected to the side members **12** and **13**, there being a plurality of angle brackets members **45** spaced substantially equally from front to rear of the side members **12** and **13** and secured thereto by fastening means **46**.

Crutch members consisting of side pieces **50**, **51** having a padded top crosspiece **52** are provided for each of the side frames, the side pieces each having a plurality of spaced openings **53** in order that the height of the crutches may be adjusted. The crutches are mounted centrally of the side frames and extend intermediate the bar **38** and a supporting bar **54** connected by fastening elements **55** on the sides of the upper end of the central uprights **33** and **34** opposite to the bar **38**. The crutch side pieces **50**, **51** are received between a pair of spaced rails **56**, **57** attached to the uprights **33** and **34** by fastening means **58** so that a substantial portion of the rails projects outwardly past the inner facing edges of the uprights **33** and **34**. Fastening elements **60** extend at spaced locations through the rails **56**, **57** and the openings **53** in the side pieces of the crutch, to hold the crutch in the desired position a belt **59** may be attached to the bars **38** and **54** to provide added support for individuals requiring it.

At the upper rear portion of the frame members intermediate the uprights **32** and **33** a crossbar **62** is secured by suitable fastening elements **63** in order to support a removable seat **64** comprising a supporting element **65** having abutments **66** such as a quarter round or the like extending downwardly from each end in order to prevent the seat from being slipped off of the supports.

At the forward end of the frames a pair of upper and lower bracing elements **66** and **67** are illustrated, each of these being comprised of a pair of struts **68** connected by fastening members **69** to the lateral face **70** of angle members **71** which are attached by suitable fastening means to the front uprights **35**, the struts being joined at their intersection by fastening elements **72**.

As indicated in phantom the struts of the lower brace **66** are somewhat lengthier than necessary for operativeness in order that they remain angularly disposed rather than extend in a straight line as in the case of the upper brace when the frames are separated their maximum amount. This permits a person using the device to more easily adjust the spacing of the side frames without having to manually move the brace **66** away from dead center in which the struts are aligned in order to move the frames toward each other as would otherwise be the case.

The provision of a pair of braces, rather than a single brace, spaced apart on the frames strengthens the enclosure, including making it more rigid, because of the additional points of support thereby provided.

A person desiring to use the device enters from the rear after moving the seat **64** out of his way and then replaces it. He can adjust the height of the crutch members and the spacing of the frames to suit his particular size and comfort. The fastening elements holding the braces in adjusted position may be tightened to the degree necessary to hold the frames for ordinary use, or more permanently, depending on the frequency of adjustment required for different individuals using the device.

The device is easy to steer because of the ability of the front wheels to be turned in different directions, the rear wheels providing the pivot during turning. For a person in an advanced stage of recovery, or otherwise not requiring fixed rear wheels, the rear wheels may be swingable to facilitate steering. The user may support himself substantially entirely on the crutches as he walks along or he may seat himself on the seat 64, either to rest or as he rides along propelling himself by his feet. Accordingly, it will be understood that the device is sturdy and easy to use.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit and scope thereof and therefore the invention is not limited by that which is illustrated in the drawing and described in the specification, but only as indicated in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A walker for accommodating a person in an upright position without requiring the person to lift his feet, said walker comprising a base having a pair of side members connected at one end only by a transverse member thereby forming a U-shaped base, anti-friction means on said U-shaped base to provide for movement over a supporting surface, frame panels hinged by their lower ends to said side members and adapted to have their upper ends movable toward and away from each other for accommodating persons requiring different width spacing of the upper ends thereof, said frame panels having spaced parallel slats in the portion thereof adjacent the open end of said base for receiving a seat, cross bars extending between said spaced slats for supporting a movable seat, a seat removably mounted on said cross bars for accommodating a person and removable to permit a person to walk into and out of said walker, adjustable crutch members mounted on said frame panels centrally thereof and vertically adjustable relative thereto for accommodating persons of different heights, means to adjust and maintain the angularity of the frame panels and means to adjust the height of the crutch members.

2. The invention according to claim 1 in which the anti-friction means includes rollers mounted on the free ends of said side members with their axes fixed transversely of said side members whereby said rollers will permit said base to move parallel to said side members but will prevent lateral movement of said free ends of said side members and a caster mounted adjacent the intersection of each side member with said transverse member.

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