Sept. 6, 1949. S. PAWLANSKY 2,481,443

LAUNDRY DRYING RACK

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Fig. 1

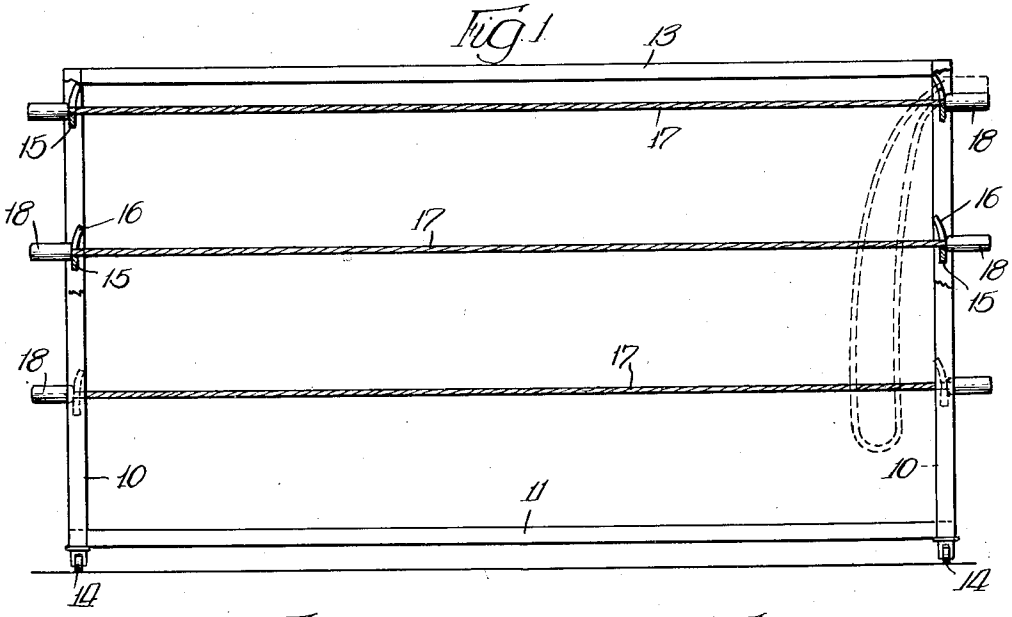


Fig. 2

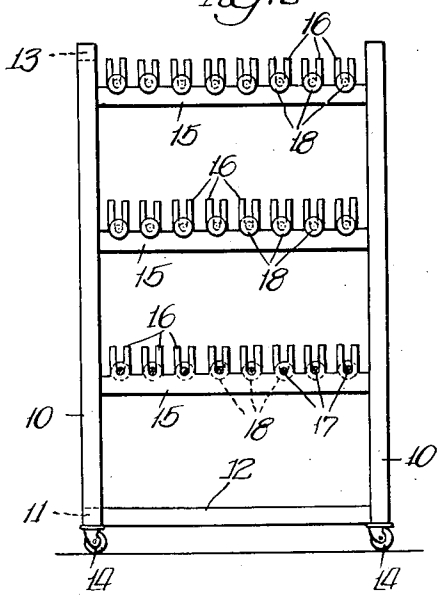
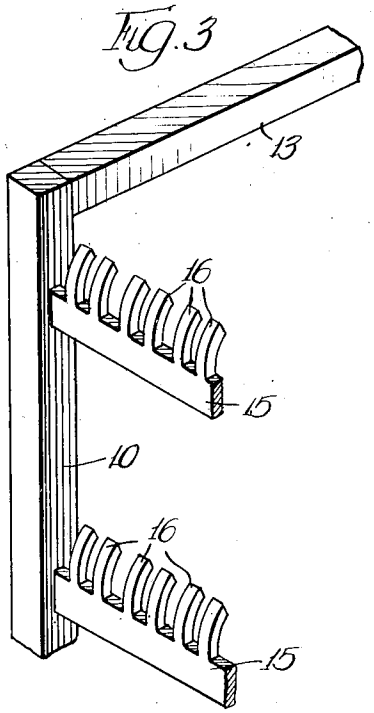


Fig. 3



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Fig. 4.

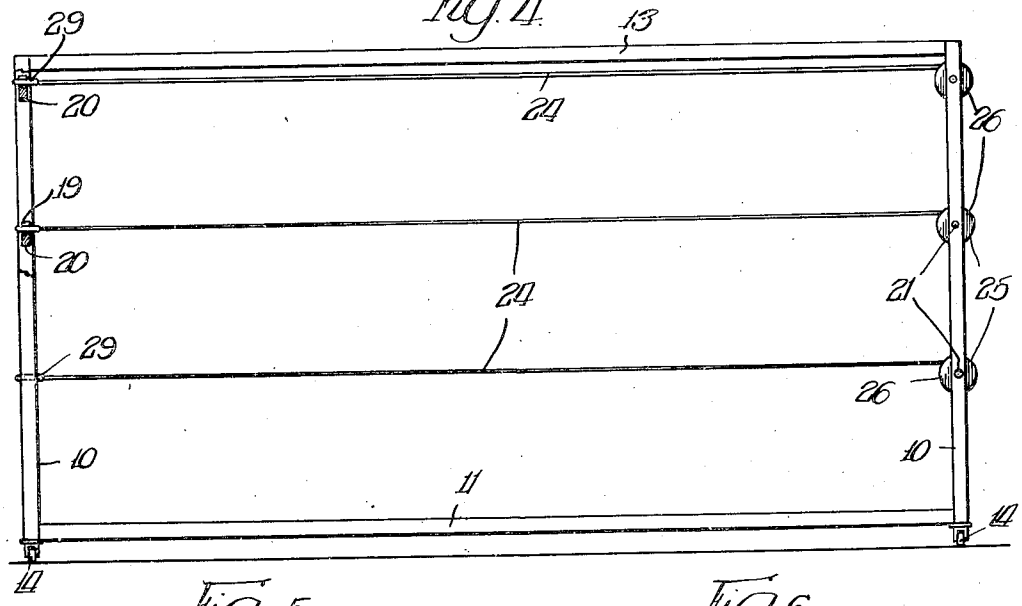


Fig. 5

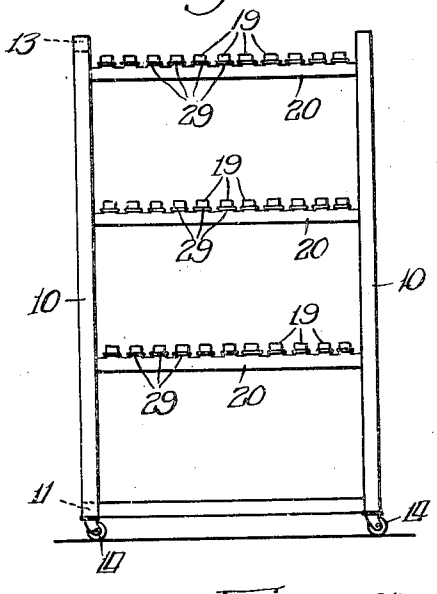


Fig. 6

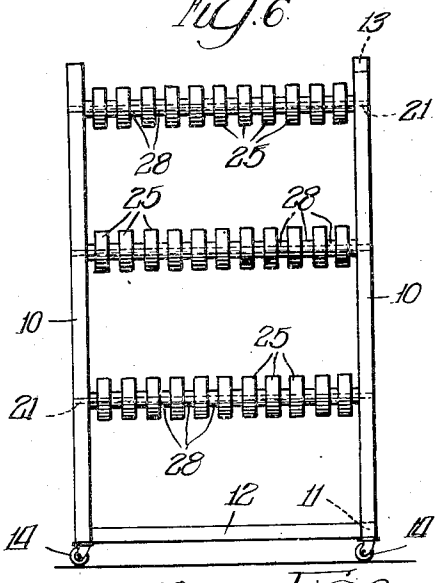


Fig. 7

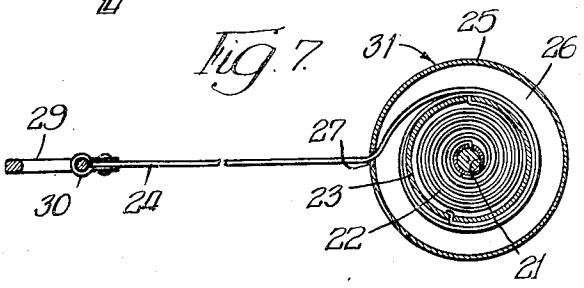
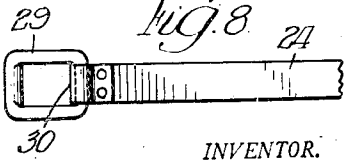


Fig. 8



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2,481,443

LAUNDRY DRYING RACK

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The present invention relates to laundry racks to hang laundry for drying.

The principal object of the present invention is the provision of a laundry rack of a compact nature consistent with the required degree of exposure to the air of the laundry surfaces for rapid evaporation.

Another object of the invention is the provision in a laundry rack of a plurality of individual hanging members which may be easily extended into an operative position in the rack or readily detached therefrom when not in use.

A still further object of the present invention is the provision of means for maintaining the laundry hanging members in a taut condition when in an operative position in the rack in order to prevent their sagging when under the load of laundry.

With the above general objects in view and others that will appear as the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings forming a part of this application;

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of the rack, partly in section;

Fig. 2 is an end elevational view thereof;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged, fragmentary, perspective view of one corner of the rack;

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of the rack provided with hanging members of a modified form;

Fig. 5 is an end elevational view thereof;

Fig. 6 is a similar view of the opposite end of the rack;

Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view of a tape mounting and tape actuating member; and

Fig. 8 is a top plan view of the free end of the laundry supporting tape.

Referring to the present drawings in detail there is shown therein a rack which includes four corner posts 10, one side pair of which is rigidly connected at their lower ends by side brace 11, and the end pairs of which are connected at their lower ends by end braces 12. A pair of opposed side posts 10 is connected at the upper end thereof by means of the upper side brace 13. Each post 10 carries at its lower end caster 14, whereby the rack may be rolled upon the floor without necessity of lifting the same.

Cooperating with the rack hereinabove described is means for supporting a plurality of cords upon which laundry to be dried may be suspended. Said means includes a plurality of bars 15, in a spaced mutual relation, positioned within and rigidly affixed to each of the end posts 10. Bars 15 within one pair of end posts 10 are on the same horizontal plane as corresponding bars 15 within the opposite pair of end posts 10. Since said bars 15 rigidly connect each pair of end posts 10, additional braces such as end braces 12 may be eliminated.

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Integrally formed with each of said bars 15, and upwardly projecting therefrom, is a plurality of lugs 16. Said lugs 16 are not on the vertical plane of each bar 15, but curve toward the transverse center of the rack, for the purpose of rendering the outer faces thereof arcuate.

Cooperating with said bars 15 and lugs 16, is a plurality of cords 17, each attached by its end to handle 18. Each end of cord 17 is receivable between a pair of adjacent lugs 16, with handle 18 remaining outwardly of said lugs 16. Application of manual pressure upon the unengaged handle 18 will cause the latter to ride upon the arcuate outer faces of a pair of adjacent lugs 16, thereby stretching cord 17 and maintaining the same in a taut condition.

As many cords 17 may be employed as there are pairs of opposed lugs 16 in a pair of opposed bars 15.

As many pairs of opposed bars 15 may be provided in the rack as may be desired, depending upon the height of posts 10 and the desired degree of compactness of the rack.

From the hereinabove description it will be apparent that each cord 17 is readily attachable to the rack as well as removable therefrom, thereby eliminating handling and stretching of a lengthy cord.

When cords 17 are not in use, one handle 18 thereof may be removed from one pair of lugs 16 and replaced at the pair thereof where the other handle 18 is engaged, thereby doubling cord 17 and suspending the same vertically from one bar 15, as is indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1. Such handling of cord 17 which is not in use does not necessitate its complete removal from the rack, thereby eliminating its loss.

It should be understood that cord 17 may be substituted by a tape made of cloth, glass fiber, plastic or metal such as the tape used in another form of the rack, shown in Figs. 4 to 8, and presently described.

The modified form of the laundry suspending means, includes a plurality of lugs 19, integrally

formed and upwardly extending from bars 20 at one end of the rack. At the opposite end of the frame there is a plurality of shafts 21, each substantially on the same level as the corresponding bar 20.

Affixed by their inner ends to each shaft 21 is a plurality of hanging members, one of which is generally indicated by 31 in Fig. 7, each of which includes coil springs 22, arranged in a mutually spaced relation, with the other ends thereof affixed to the reel casing 23. Wound around each reel casing 23 is a metallic, comparatively narrow tape 24, which by its inner end is affixed to reel casing 23. Windings of tape 24 and reel casing 23 are enclosed within a housing, which includes peripheral wall 25 and a pair of circular side walls 26. Said side walls 26 are set upon shaft 21 through central openings made therewithin, through which shaft 21 extends. Peripheral wall 25 has slit 27 made therein, through which tape 24 extends outwardly from the said housing. Set upon shaft 21 and interposed between each housing 25—26, as well as between the outermost housings and the adjacent posts 10, are spacers 28.

It is observed that when the full length of tape 24 is wound upon reel casing 23, coil spring 22 becomes unwound. While tape 24 is pulled out of housing 25—26, coil spring 22 is wound. When however manual hold, or any engagement at the extended end of tape 24 is released, coil spring 22 tends to unwind, thereby causing rotation of reel casing 23 for winding tape 24 therearound. If desired, side walls 26 of the housing may be soldered or otherwise rigidly affixed to shaft 21. Spacers 28 may optionally be either affixed to shaft 21 or positioned loosely thereon.

It is further observed that rings 29 are wider than their tapes 24, and wider than housings 25—26, by virtue of which arrangement said rings 29 do not pass through slits 27, but remain outwardly of peripheral walls 25 when said tapes 24 are fully wound around reel casings 23.

Pulling upon ring 29 will extend tape 24, and when the latter has been extended as far as the opposed bar 20, ring 29 is then engaged at one of the lugs 19, as seen in Fig. 5. This will condition tape 24 to receive thereon laundry, as is seen in Fig. 4. Ring 29 is swivelled within loop 30 made in the free end of tape 24.

As is seen in Figs. 2 and 5, one pair of side posts 10 is devoid of braces 11 and 13, thereby affording an unobstructed access to the rack from that side for the purpose of handling cords 17, operating tape 24, or hanging or removing laundry.

While there is described herein a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it is nevertheless to be understood that minor changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

What I claim as new is:

1. A portable laundry drying rack comprising an upright support at each end thereof, means for rigidly interconnecting said upright supports, supporting members carried by each of said upright supports, hanging members mounted upon a supporting member at an end of the rack, each of said hanging members including a separate and independently and individually operable spring actuated reel and a cooperating flexible tape spirally wound around said reel, said tape being actuated by spring tension to maintain the same in a taut extended condition, lugs carried by a supporting member at the opposite end of the rack, and means for engaging said flexible tapes with said lugs when said tapes are in an extended position.

2. A portable laundry drying rack comprising an upright support at each end thereof, means for rigidly interconnecting said upright supports, supporting members carried by each upright support, hanging members mounted upon a supporting member at one end of the rack, each of said hanging members including a separate and independently and individually operable spring actuated reel and a cooperating flexible tape spirally wound around said reel, said tape being actuated by spring tension to maintain the same in a taut extended condition, lugs carried by a supporting member at the opposite end of the rack, and means for engaging said flexible tapes with said lugs when said tapes are in an extended position, said means including rings at the free ends of said flexible tapes insertable over said lugs.

3. A portable laundry drying rack comprising an upright support at each end thereof, means for rigidly interconnecting said upright supports, supporting members carried by said upright supports, hanging members mounted upon a supporting member at an end of the rack, each of said hanging members including a separate and independently and individually operable reel and a cooperating flexible extensible tape spirally wound around said reel, lugs carried by a supporting member at the opposite end of the rack, each of said lugs cooperating with one of said hanging members, rings at the free ends of said tapes for engaging said lugs when said tapes remain in an extended position, and means for maintaining said tapes in taut condition when the latter remain in an extended position.

4. A portable laundry drying rack comprising an upright support at each end thereof, means for rigidly interconnecting said upright supports, a shaft rigidly supported by an upright support, a plurality of separate and independently and individually operable hanging members mounted upon said shaft, each of said hanging members including a reel, a spiral spring wound around said shaft, the inner end of said spring being affixed to said shaft, the outer end of said spring being connected with said reel, and a cooperating flexible tape spirally wound around said reel and by its inner end affixed to said reel, spacers mounted upon said shaft, one positioned between a pair of adjacent hanging members, a bar rigidly supported by an upright support, said shaft and said bar being on the same horizontal plane, a plurality of lugs carried by said bar, and a ring carried by the outer end of said tape, said ring engaging one of said lugs when said tape is extended from said reel, said spring remaining in a wound condition for maintaining said tape in a taut condition.

5. A portable laundry drying rack comprising an upright support at each end thereof, a shaft rigidly supported by an upright support, a plurality of separate and independently and individually operable reels mounted in an encompassing spaced relation with said shaft, a spiral spring wound around said shaft in each of said reels, the inner end of said spring being affixed to said shaft, the outer end of said spring being connected with each of said reels, a flexible tape spirally wound around each reel, the inner end of each tape being affixed to each reel, when a pull at the free end of said tape is imparted said tape being adapted to be extended from said reel, and means within the opposite support for engaging the free end of said tape for maintaining the

same in an extended position, by virtue of the extension of said tape said reel rotating and winding said spring and thereby increasing its tension, the wound spring exerting tension upon said tape for maintaining the latter in a taut condition while the same is extended.

6. A portable laundry drying rack comprising an upright support at each end thereof, a shaft rigidly supported by one of said upright supports, a plurality of separate and independently and individually operable reels mounted in an encompassing spaced relation with said shaft, a spiral spring wound around said shaft, the inner end of said spring being affixed to said shaft, the outer end of said spring being connected with said reel, a flexible tape spirally wound around said reel, the inner end of said tape being affixed to said reel, when a pull at the free end of said tape is imparted said tape being adapted to be extended from said reel, a bar supported by the opposite support, a lug carried by said bar, a ring carried by the free end of said tape for engaging said lug when said tape is in an extended position, during the process of extension of said tape said reel rotating for winding said spring for increasing its tension, the tension of said spring acting upon said tape for maintaining the latter in a taut condition when the same remains in an extended position.

7. In a portable laundry drying rack, a frame including a support at each end thereof, a shaft rigidly mounted upon one of said supports, a reel mounted in an encompassing spaced relation with said shaft, a spiral spring wound around said shaft and within said reel, the inner end of said spring being affixed to said shaft, the outer end of said spring being connected with said reel, a flexible tape spirally wound around said reel, the inner end of said tape being affixed to said reel, when a pull at the free end of said tape is imparted said tape being adapted to be extended from said reel, and means at the opposite of said supports for engaging the free end of said tape for maintaining the same in an extended position, the extension of said tape imparting a rotary movement to said reel for winding said spring and increasing the tension thereof, the tension of said spring acting upon said tape for maintaining the latter in a taut condition when the same remains in an extended position.

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