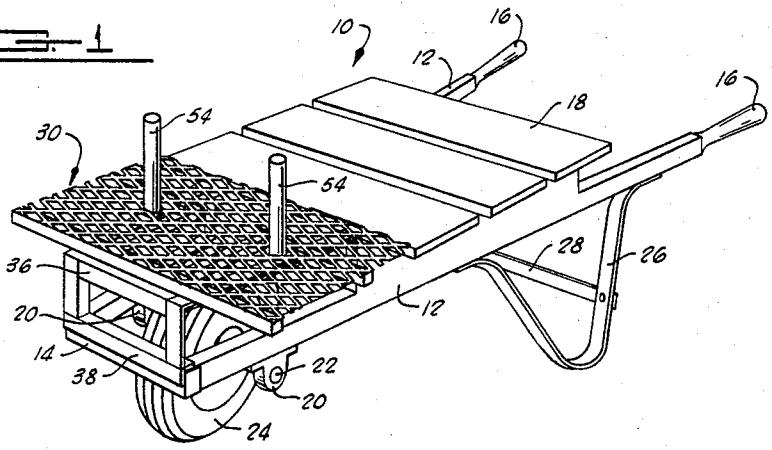
Oct. 18, 1966 C. R. ASHWORTH 3,279,810

MASON'S WHEELBARROW

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Fig. 1



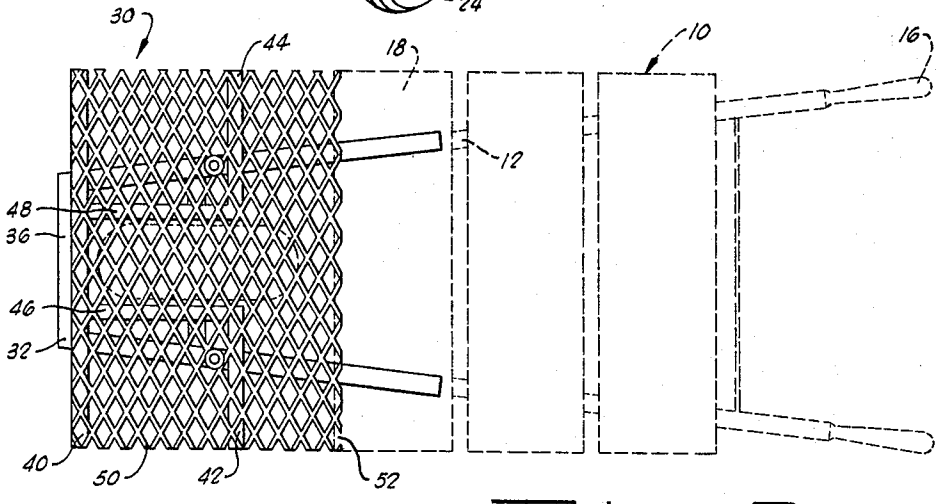


Fig. 2

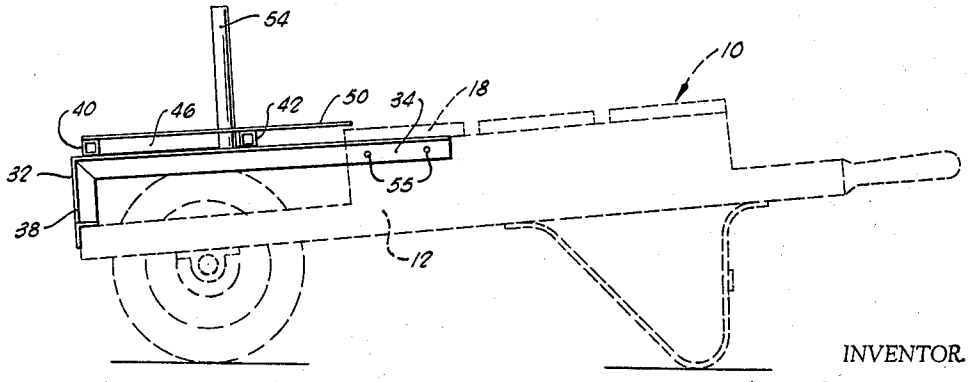


Fig. 3

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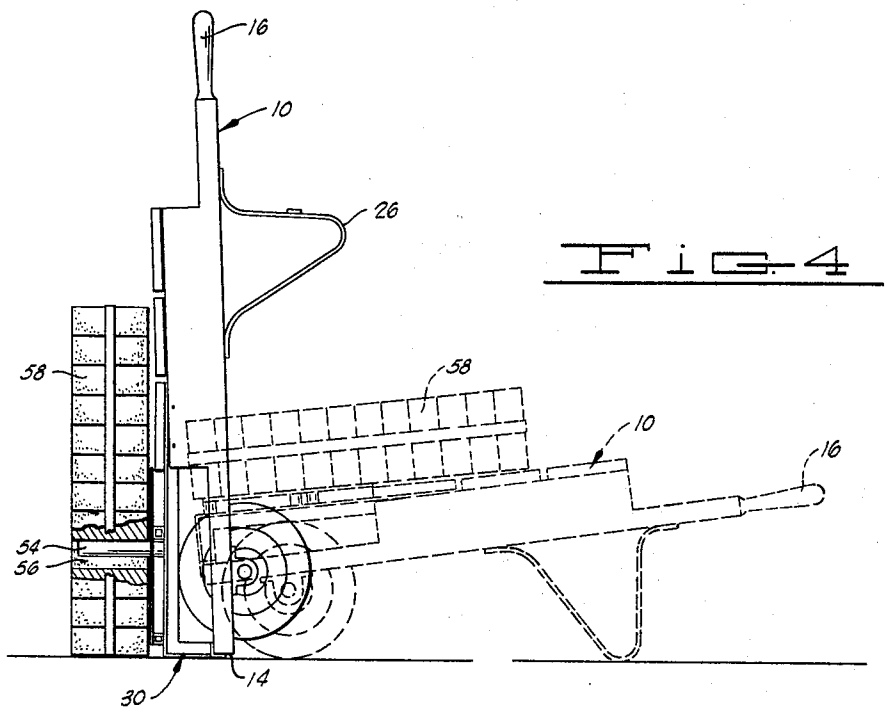


Fig. 4

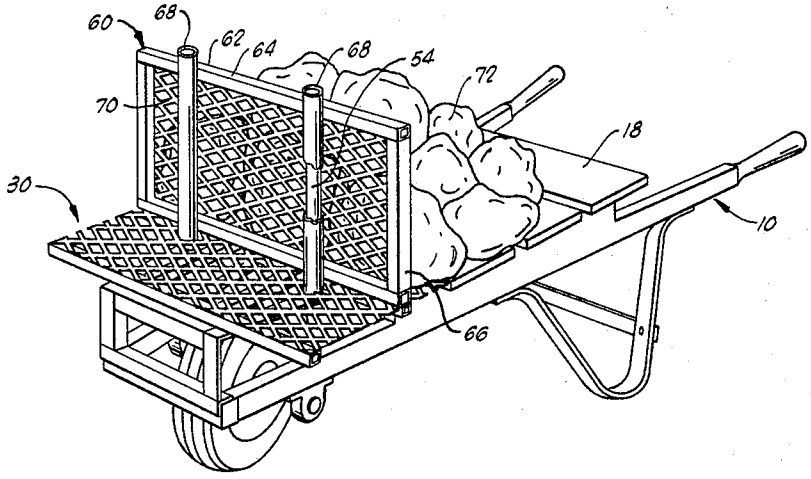


Fig. 5

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3,279,810

MASON'S WHEELBARROW

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5 Claims. (Cl. 280—47.3)

This invention relates generally to improvements in wheelbarrows used for carrying bricks, rocks, concrete blocks, and similar materials during construction operations. More particularly, but not by way of limitation, this invention relates to a dual purpose attachment for use in conjunction with masons' wheelbarrows.

The most popular form of a mason's wheelbarrow constructed in the past includes a wood frame carrying a single wheel at or near one end of the frame, and a generally planar platform, also constructed of wood, mounted on the upper surface of the frame. Some wheelbarrows also include a vertically extending member or plate mounted near the front end of the platform to prevent loose materials from slipping off the wheelbarrow. Wheelbarrows constructed in this manner have generally proved to be adequate for transporting most materials used in construction.

In recent years, however, brick manufacturers have begun to bind bricks in bundles of one hundred bricks. In order to facilitate handling the heavy bundles, openings are provided by leaving out one or more bricks in each of the bundles. Construction personnel receiving the bundles either have to break them into individual bricks for handling or attempt to load the heavy bundles onto wheelbarrows. Due to the size and shape of the bundles, the weight of the bundle is distributed in an undesirable fashion if the vertical member is left on the wheelbarrow and the bundle positioned by abutting it against such vertical member. If the vertical member is removed, the bundles have a tendency to slip off the wheelbarrow.

Several different forms of wheelbarrows have been developed to facilitate handling the bricks. Each is provided with at least two wheels and each includes some form of spaced projections extending from the load platform for insertion into openings in the bundles of brick. These wheelbarrows are generally unsatisfactory even though they do provide a better means of carrying the brick bundles. The two-wheel construction is completely unsatisfactory where the wheelbarrow is to be used over rough ground, such as is the usual case around construction projects. For example, if one wheel strikes an obstruction, the heavily loaded wheelbarrow will pivot violently endangering the operator and those about. Furthermore, such wheelbarrows cannot be conveniently used in general purpose work or for handling loose bricks after the bundles are broken. Neither are they satisfactory for handling loose rock or blocks.

Wheelbarrows last for many years and construction companies have many on hand. It is not economically sound to purchase wheelbarrows that can be used for only one purpose. Even if the wheelbarrows can be utilized for general purpose work, the companies are faced with the problem of replacing the vast number of wheelbarrows on hand in order to gain the ability to more conveniently handle bundles of brick.

This invention generally contemplates an improved mason's wheelbarrow that includes a single wheel journaled on the wheelbarrow frame, a load-carrying platform mounted on the frame, a frame attached to the wheelbarrow frame carrying a pair of spaced members that extend upwardly therefrom for insertion into the openings in a brick bundle, and a removable, vertically extending wall portion supported by such spaced members, for use when the wheelbarrow is to carry loose rocks, etc.

In another aspect of this invention, it is generally contemplated to provide a dual purpose attachment for existing masons' wheelbarrows that includes an attachment frame for mounting the dual purpose attachment on the wheelbarrow frame, a pair of spaced members on the attachment frame projecting therefrom for engagement with brick bundles, and a removable, vertically extending wall portion supported by the spaced members, for carrying loose rocks, etc.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved mason's wheelbarrow that can be safely and conveniently used for carrying either bundles of bricks or loose rocks, etc.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved mason's wheelbarrow that can be easily and economically manufactured.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved mason's wheebarrow that can be easily and quickly converted from an arrangement for carrying brick bundles to an arrangement for carrying loose rocks, etc., and vice versa.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an attachment for converting a common mason's wheelbarrow into one adapted for handling either bundles of bricks or loose rocks, etc.

A still further object of the invention is to provide an attachment for a common mason's wheelbarrow that can be quickly and easily installed.

One other object of the invention is to provide an attachment for a common mason's wheelbarrow that can be economically manufactured and that requires little or no maintenance during use.

The foregoing and additional objects and advantages of the invention will become more apparent as the following description is read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein like reference characters denote like parts in all views, and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a pictorial view of a common mason's wheelbarrow having the brick bundle-carrying attachment installed thereon;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged top plan view of the attachment of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged side view of the attachment of FIGS. 1 and 2;

FIG. 4 is a side elevation view of the wheelbarrow of FIG. 1, illustrating its use in conjunction with a bound bundle of bricks; and,

FIG. 5 is a pictorial view of the wheelbarrow of FIG. 1, showing the installation of the removable attachment for carrying loose rocks and bricks thereon.

Referring to the drawings, and to FIGS. 1, 2 and 3 in particular, shown therein and generally designated by the reference character **10**, is a wheelbarrow constructed in accordance with the invention. The wheelbarrow **10** includes a pair of diverging longitudinal frame members **12** which are joined at the front or near end by a cross-member **14**. The opposite ends of the longitudinal frame members **12** are shaped to form a pair of gripping handles **16**. A load-carrying platform **18** is mounted on the upper surface of the longitudinal frame members **12**. Pillow block bearings **20** are mounted on the lower surface of the longitudinal frame members **12** just behind the cross-member **14**. A shaft **22** extends through the bearings **20** and axially through a wheel **24** to rotatably support the wheel. A generally U-shaped leg member **26** is mounted on the lower surface of each of the longitudinally extending frame members **12**, relatively near the handles **16**. While only one of the leg members **26** can be seen in the drawing, an identical leg member is pro-

vided on the opposite frame member and is interconnected with the visible leg member **26** by means of a cross-member **28**. The arrangement of the leg members **26** and the wheel **24** is such that when the wheelbarrow **10** is permitted to rest on the ground, a three-point suspension is provided thereby.

A brick-carrying attachment **30** is illustrated as being installed on the wheelbarrow **10** in FIG. 1. FIGS. 2 and 3 illustrate the brick-carrying attachment in more detail. As shown therein, the brick-carrying attachment **30** includes a frame **32** having a pair of longitudinally extending divergent members **34** which are arranged to extend in a generally parallel relationship with the divergent frame members **12**. The near or close ends of the frame members **34** are connected by a cross-member **36**. A U-shaped frame portion **38** extends downwardly from the frame members **34** and is adapted to engage the cross-member **14** of the frame **12** to support the longitudinally extending frame members **34** in a position wherein the upper surface thereof will be generally coplanar with the upper surface of the frame members **12**. A cross-member **40**, which is illustrated as being constructed from a rectangular tube, is mounted on the upper surface of the frame members **34** and extends thereacross generally above the cross-member **36**. A pair of cross-members **42** and **44** are also mounted on the upper surface of the frame members **34** and are disposed between the cross-member **40** and the load platform **18**. The innermost ends of the cross-members **42** and **44** are connected with the cross-member **40** by means of longitudinally extending membmers **46** and **48**. A load-carrying plate **50** extends over the cross-members **40**, **42** and **44**, and has its rear end portion **52** resting on a portion of the load platform **18**. The plate **50** is preferably formed from expanded metal because of its light weight and durability, but obviously it can be formed from a solid plate or from wooden planks if desired. A pair of parallel, spaced members **54** extend upwardly from the frame members **34** through the plate **50**. The purpose of the parallel, spaced members **54** will be explained more fully hereinafter.

The brick-carrying attachment **30** can be quickly and easily installed on the wheelbarrow **10** by fastening the divergent frame members **34** to the frame members **12** by fasteners **55** as shown in FIG. 3. The frame members **34** are fastened in such a position that the lower portion of the U-shaped member **38** carried by the attachment frame will rest on the cross-member **14** extending between the wheelbarrow frame member **12**. The lower portion of the U-shaped member **38** may be attached to the cross-member **14** by screws or bolts, or other suitable fastening means if desired.

As previously mentioned, bricks are now generally supplied by the brick manufacturers in bundles of one hundred bricks. The method of utilizing the wheelbarrow **10** with brick-carrying attachment **30** mounted thereon is clearly illustrated in FIG. 4. As shown therein, the wheelbarrow **10** is raised to a vertical position, i.e., with the front end thereof resting on the ground, and the parallel, spaced members **54** are inserted in openings **56** provided in a bundle of bricks **58**. The operator of the wheelbarrow **10** then grasps the handles **16** and pivots the wheelbarrow **10** about the cross-member **14** to a generally horizontal or carrying position as illustrated by the dash lines in FIG. 4. To move the load of bricks from one location to the other, the handles **16** are lifted by the operator to raise the legs **26** from the ground and then the wheelbarrow moved in the usual manner from one position to the other. It should be pointed out that the provision of an attachment mounted on a wheelbarrow having one wheel provides the advantage of greater maneuverability and eliminates the dangerous pivoting when moving over rough ground, as previously pointed out. With the parallel, spaced members **54** extending into the openings **56** in the brick bundle **58**, it can be appreciated that the bundle **58** will be securely retained on the wheelbarrow **10** and there will be no danger of the bricks sliding from the load platform.

FIG. 5 illustrates a loose rock- or brick-carrying attachment **60** which is removably positioned on the brick-carrying attachment **30**. As shown therein, the attachment **60** includes a generally rectangular frame **62** which includes a pair of horizontally extending members **64** and a pair of vertically extending members **66** which are connected with the members **64**. A pair of parallel, spaced members **68** are attached to the frame **62** and are arranged to cooperate with the parallel, spaced members **54** on the attachment **30** to support the attachment **60** thereon in a plane generally perpendicular to the surface of the load platform **18**. As illustrated, the members **68** are of tubular construction and are adapted to telescope over the members **54** of the attachment **30**. A plate **70**, which is illustrated as being constructed from expanded metal, is attached to the frame **62**.

When it is desired to carry loose rocks or bricks, etc., on the wheelbarrow **10**, the attachment **60** is slipped over the members **54** on the attachment **30** so that the attachment **60** is rigidly supported thereon. Loose rocks, such as the rocks **72** illustrated in FIG. 5, are loaded on the load platform **18** against the plate **70** of the attachment **60**. When the rear end of the wheelbarrow **10** is elevated to move the wheelbarrow from one location to the other, it will be apparent that the loose rocks on the load platform **18** will be supported by engagement with the plate **70** and prevented from sliding off the wheelbarrow **10**.

From the foregoing, it can be appreciated that the attachment **30** provides a simple means of converting a common mason's wheelbarrow into a device useful for handling the brick bundles **58**. By use of the attachment **60**, the wheelbarrow can be easily and quickly converted from a device for handling the bundles of brick into a wheelbarrow that is capable of handling loose rocks, etc., or that may be used for general purpose work. The provision of the attachments **30** and **60** provides a means by which contractors can economically convert the many masons' wheelbarrows which they have on hand into devices useful for the above-mentioned purposes.

It should be understood that the embodiment described herein is by way of example only and that many changes and modifications can be made thereto without departing from the spirit of the invention or from the scope of the annexed claims.

What I claim is:

1. A mason's wheelbarrow comprising:

a wheelbarrow frame including

a pair of elongated frame members, one end portion of each of said frame members being disposed in relatively close proximity and being divergent therefrom toward the other ends, and

a cross member extending between the proximate end portions of said elongated frame members;

a wheel journaled in said frame and disposed relatively between said proximate end portions;

a supporting means depending from said frame;

a platform on said frame disposed generally between said wheel and supporting means; and,

a brick-carrying attachment including

an attachment frame mounted on said wheelbarrow frame, said attachment frame including a pair of attachment frame members arranged in juxtaposition with said elongated frame members and attached thereto, and a cross member depending from and extending between said attachment frame members and supported by the cross member in said wheelbarrow frame,

a plate mounted on said attachment frame and having a portion thereof supported by said platform, and

a pair of parallel, spaced members extending upwardly from said attachment adapted to engage a bound quantity of bricks.

2. The wheelbarrow of claim 1 and also including a rock- and block-supporting attachment comprising:
a supporting frame;
a plate disposed on said supporting frame; and,
a pair of parallel, spaced members attached to said frame, said members being sized to engage the parallel, spaced members on said attachment frame whereby said rock-supporting attachment is disposed generally perpendicularly with respect to said platform for supporting a quantity of rocks or blocks placed on said platform.

3. A mason's wheelbarrow comprising:
a wheelbarrow frame including:
a pair of divergent, elongated frame members, and
a cross-member extending between the convergent ends of said elongated frame members;
a wheel journaled in the convergent ends of said elongated frame members;
a pair of supporting legs depending from said wheelbarrow frame;
a platform mounted on said elongated frame members generally between said wheel and supporting legs;
a brick-carrying attachment mounted on said wheelbarrow including:
an attachment frame having a pair of frame members arranged in juxtaposition with said elongated frame members and attached thereto, and a cross-member depending from and extending between the convergent ends of said frame members and supported by the cross-member in said wheelbarrow frame,
a pair of parallel, spaced tubular members extending upwardly from said attachment frame members, and
an expanded metal plate mounted on said attachment frame and having a portion thereof supported by said platform; and,
a rock- and block-supporting attachment including:
a supporting frame having a pair of parallel, spaced members, and a pair of parallel, spaced cross-members extending between the respective ends of said parallel, spaced members,
an expanded metal plate mounted on said supporting frame, and
a pair of tubular members mounted on said supporting frame and arranged to be removably engaged with the tubular members on said attachment frame whereby said rock-supporting attachment is disposed generally perpendicularly with respect to said platform.

4. A brick-carrying attachment for a mason's wheelbarrow having one wheel, a frame, and a platform on the frame, the attachment comprising:
an attachment frame having:
a pair of divergent frame members adapted for attachment to the wheelbarrow frame, and
a cross-member depending from and extending between the convergent ends of said divergent frame members adapted for support by the wheelbarrow frame;
a plate mounted on said attachment frame and adapted to be partially supported by the platform when the brick-carrying attachment is installed on the mason's wheelbarrow; and,
a pair of parallel, spaced members extending upwardly from said attachment frame.

5. A dual purpose attachment for a mason's wheelbarrow having one wheel, a frame, and a platform, the attachment comprising:
a brick-carrying attachment including:
an attachment frame having:
a pair of divergent frame members adapted for attachment to the wheelbarrow frame, and
a cross-member depending from and extending between the convergent ends of said divergent frame members adapted for support by the wheelbarrow frame,
an expanded metal plate mounted on said attachment frame and adapted to be partially supported by the platform when the brick-carrying attachment is installed on the mason's wheelbarrow, and
a pair of parallel, spaced tubular members extending upwardly from said attachment frame; and
a rock- and block-supporting attachment including:
a supporting frame having:
a pair of parallel, spaced members, and
a pair of parallel, spaced cross-members extending between respective ends of said spaced members,
an expanded metal plate mounted on said supporting frame, and
a pair of spaced tubular members mounted on said frame and sized to releasably engage said tubular, upwardly extending members on said brick-carrying attachment whereby said rock-supporting attachment is disposed generally perpendicularly to the plate on said brick-carrying attachment.

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