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1,687,722

POLELESS TENT

Filed Aug. 27, 1927

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

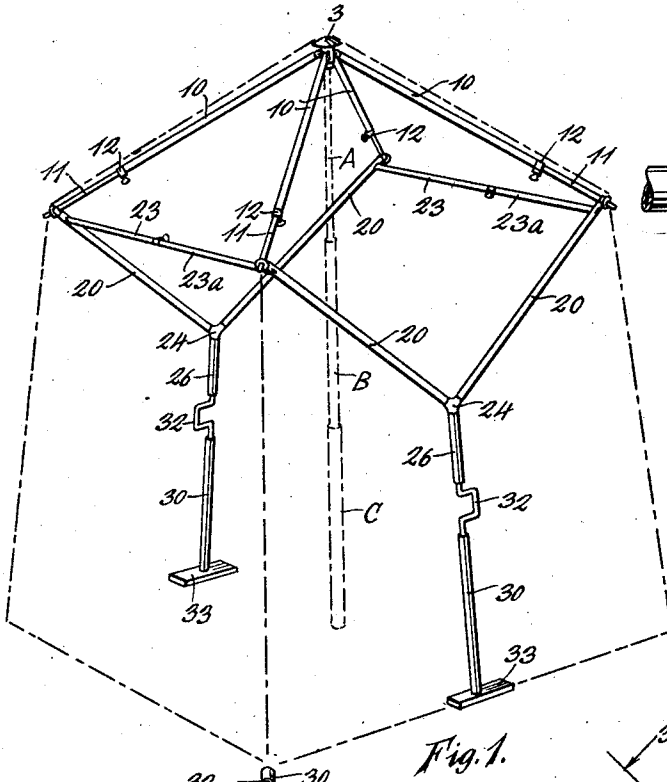


Fig. 1.

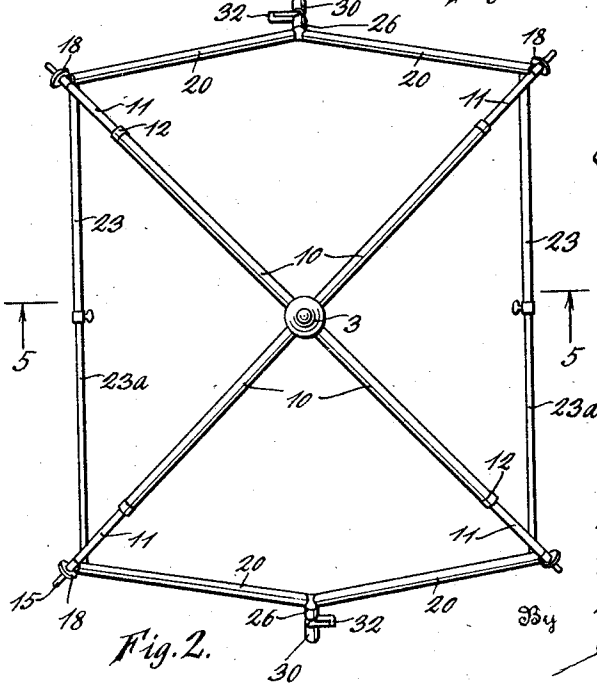


Fig. 2.

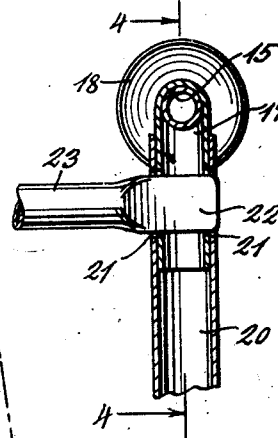


Fig. 3.

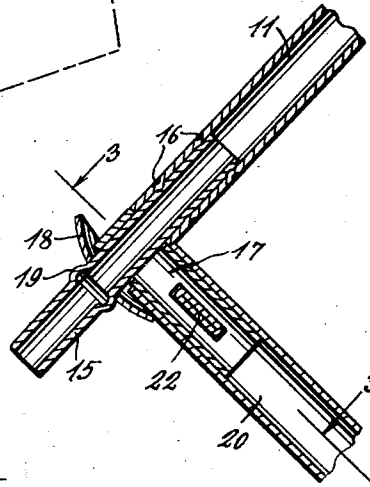


Fig. 4.

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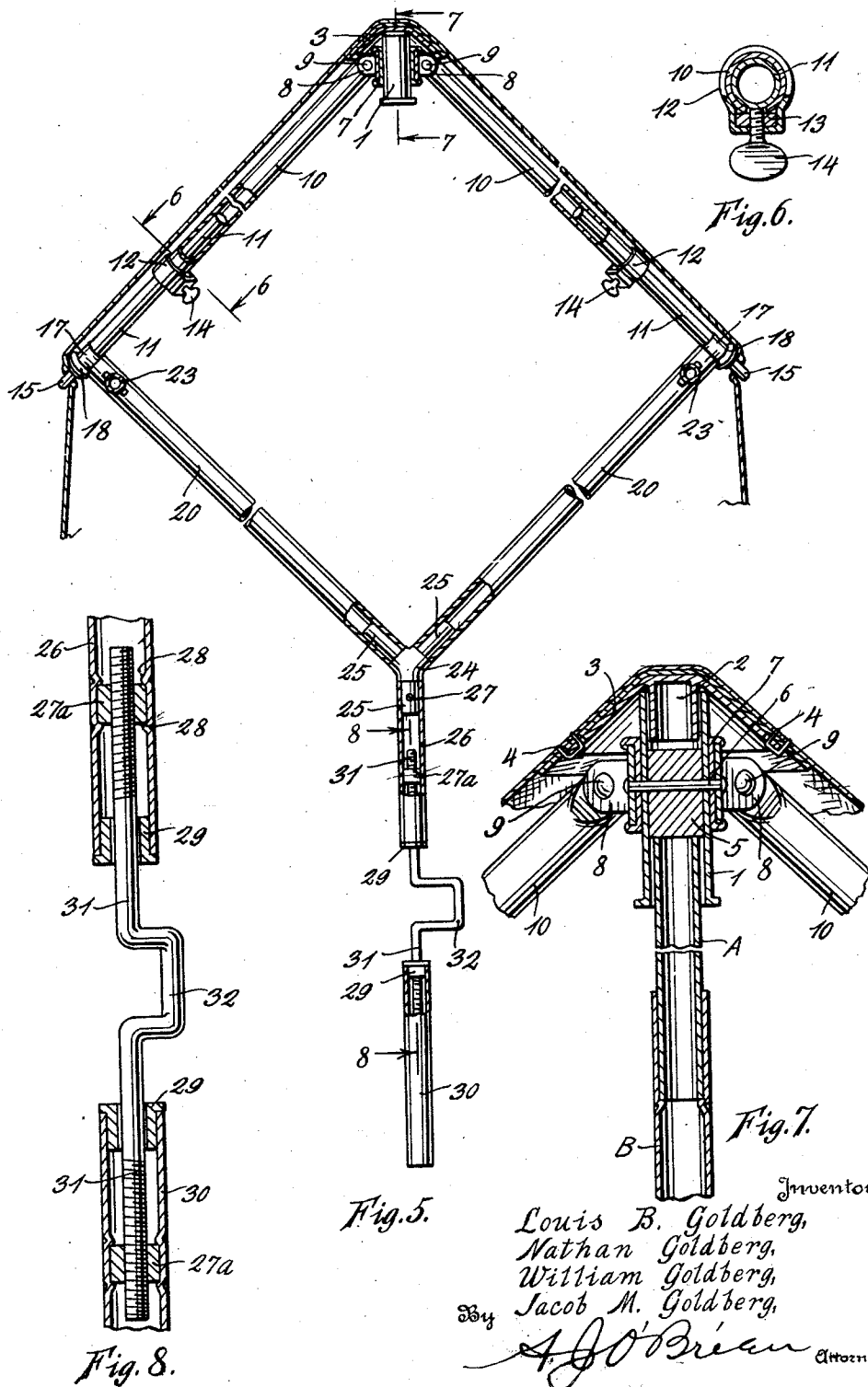
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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POLELESS TENT.

Application filed August 27, 1927. Serial No. 215,922.

This invention relates to improvements in the construction of supports for poleless tents.

A large majority of the people who tour the country in automobiles as well as sportsmen and others are in the habit of carrying a tent which can be used for protection at night and whenever they are camping. Several different types of tents are in use; among the most popular of the tents now commonly employed are those that are referred to as umbrella tents. These tents are usually provided with a roof formed of four triangular sides to the lower edges of which the side walls are connected. Such tents are often supported by means of a central post which carries a slidable member that can be adjusted along the post and to which four ribs or bars are hingedly connected. The apex of the tent roof is supported by the pole and the ribs extend to the corners in a manner resembling the construction of an ordinary umbrella.

It has been found that the center post is objectionable as it interferes to a great extent with the arrangement of the furniture in the tent and therefore various attempts have been made to support a tent of this general type by some means that does not employ a center post.

The present invention relates to the construction of the supporting means of the class above referred to, which shall be so made that when not in use the parts can be readily packed into a very small bundle and which can be readily assembled for use whenever the tent is to be erected.

Our invention, briefly described, consists of a short tubular member to whose outer surface have been secured four pairs of spaced ears or lugs, to which are pivotally connected four rods. These rods are made of two parts that telescope one within the other and are provided with clamps that hold the parts in adjusted position. The support also comprises two Y-shaped members to the upper ends of which the ends of the arms above referred to are connected. The stems of the Y-shaped supports rest on the ground and when the tent is erected, the entire supporting structure lies against the inner surface of the tent so that the entire area of the tent is unobstructed.

Having thus briefly described the invention, we will now proceed to describe the same in detail and reference for this purpose will

be had to the accompanying drawings, in which the preferred embodiment thereof has been illustrated, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of our improved tent support, the outlines of the canvas having been shown by dot and dash lines and the temporary center pole having been indicated in the same manner;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the supporting frame shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a section taken on line 3—3, Fig. 4, and shows one of the details of the construction;

Fig. 4 is a section taken on line 4—4, Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a section taken on line 5—5, Fig. 2, portions being shown in section so as to better disclose the construction, a portion of the canvas also being shown in place in this figure;

Fig. 6 is a section taken on line 6—6, Fig. 5 and shows the manner of holding the two parts of the roof supporting arms in adjusted position;

Fig. 7 is a section taken on line 7—7, Fig. 5; and

Fig. 8 is a section taken on line 8—8, Fig. 5.

In the drawing, numeral 1 represents a short tubular member which is provided at the top with an opening for the reception of the plug 2 which projects downwardly from the conical cap member 3 that is secured to the apex of the tent roof by means of stitching 4. A plug 5 is secured to the interior of member 1 by means of a rivet 6. Secured to the outside of member 1 is a cylindrical member 7 to the outer surface of which are secured four pairs of lugs or ears 8. These lugs or ears are perforated for the reception of pivot pins 9 that pass through openings in the upper ends of the tubular arms 10. Slidably connected with the free ends of arms 10 are pipes 11 which are held in adjusted position by means of a clamp like that shown in Fig. 6 and which consists of a strap 12 that surrounds the arm 10 and encloses the nut 13 with which the clamping screw 14 cooperates. The outer ends of the pipes 11 have a short pipe 15 inserted into them in the manner shown in Fig. 4. These short pipes are held in place by means of indentations 16. A plug 17 is provided with an opening through which the pipes 15 project in the manner in Figs. 3 and 4. A small dish-shaped washer 18 is secured to the pipe 15 by means of the outwardly ex-

tending ridge 19, Fig. 4. Plugs 17 are of the proper size to fit the insides of the pipes 20 which form part of the supports that will now be described. Plugs 17 and the pipes 20 are provided with openings 21 which are in register when the parts are assembled and which are adapted to receive the flat ends 22 of the brace rods 23. The assembly comprising the arms 10 and the parts associated therewith is held in elevated position by means of two Y-shaped supports, each of which consists of a connector 24 having three lugs 25 that lie in the same plane but which extend at angles of one hundred twenty degrees from each other. The pipes 20 are removably secured to two of these lugs in the manner shown in Fig. 5, while a short section of pipe 26 is secured to the other lug and held in place by means of a rivet 27. Pipe 26 has a nut 27 held in position within the pipe by means of a plurality of indentations 28, in the manner shown in Fig. 8. A plug 29 is secured to the lower end of pipe 26. The stem of the Y-shaped member also comprises a short section of pipe 30 that carries a nut 27^a, that is held in place in the same manner as the corresponding nut is secured to pipe 26, a plug 29 is secured to the upper end of pipe 30. Nuts 27 and 27^a are reversely threaded, one being provided with a righthand thread, and the other with a lefthand thread. The two pipe sections 26 and 30 are connected by means of a member that is provided with two axially aligned end portions 31, which are connected by means of an offset portion having a straight part 32 that serves as a crank by means of which the member can be rotated. As this connecting member is provided with right and left hand threads, it is apparent that when it is rotated in one direction, the pipes 26 and 30 will be moved farther apart, while if it is moved in the other direction, they are moved closer together. The construction shown in Fig. 8 forms what may be termed a jack which can be used for stretching the tent in a manner which will be hereinafter more fully described. The lower ends of pipes 30 are preferably placed upon a board 33 so that they can be rotated without cutting into the surface of the ground, Fig. 1. The brace rods 23 are preferably made of two pipes which are telescopically connected, the smaller pipe 23^a, telescoping within the larger pipe 23. These two sections of pipe can be clamped in adjusted position by means of a clamp like that shown in Fig. 6.

When our support is employed the tent is erected in the following manner: The tent is placed upon the ground with the floor portion thereof spread out so as to determine its exact size, the lower edges of the tent walls are then secured to the ground by means of the tent stakes in the usual manner. The assembly comprising a tubular member 1 and hinged arms 10 is now put in place within

the tent and so adjusted that the arms will extend in the direction of the ridges of the tent roof. A temporary center pole like that shown dotted in Fig. 1 and which consists of three sections: A, B and C is now employed for raising the parts and for holding them in raised position until the Y-shaped supports can be put in place. After the temporary center pole has been extended, one of the Y-shaped supports is put into place along one side of the tent and the plugs 17 inserted in the ends of the pipes 20. The stretching jack shown in Figure 8 is now operated so as to extend the Y-shaped support in order to put the parts under tension. The other Y-shaped support is now put into place in the same manner after which the brace rods 23 are put into place with their ends 22 inserted through the pipes 23 and through the plugs 17 in the manner shown in Fig. 3. The lengths of the brace rods can be adjusted as may be required. The projecting pipes 15 are inserted into holes in the canvas in the manner shown in Fig. 5. When the parts are assembled in the manner described and shown, the cranks 32 can be operated so as to put the parts under sufficient tension to make the tent rigid and to hold the roof properly stretched.

It is apparent that a tent supported by the means described will have no obstructing center pole for the reason that the temporary center pole is used merely during the erection of the tent and is removed as soon as the other supports are put into place, and therefore the entire floor area is available for use.

The framework above described can be packed into a small bundle for the reason that the pipes 20 and the brace rods 23, can be detached and laid parallel to each other and the stem of the Y-shaped members also forms a unitary device which is adapted to be packed alongside of bars 20 and 23. The assembly comprising the arms 10, can be folded so that the arms lie practically parallel one with the other, and therefore the entire supporting frame, including the temporary center pole will form a small and compact bundle that can be easily transported.

Having described the invention what is claimed as new is:

1. A support for a poleless tent comprising, in combination, two Y-shaped supports arranged opposite from each other and spaced apart and supporting bars extending from the upper ends of said Y-shaped supports to a central point.

2. A support for a poleless tent comprising, in combination, two Y-shaped supports arranged opposite from each other and spaced apart and supporting bars extending from the upper ends of said Y-shaped supports to a central point and rods extending from the upper ends of each support to the corresponding end of the other.

3. A support for a poleless tent comprising a short tubular section, four arms each having one end hinged to the tubular section, said arms extending radially, two Y-shaped supports and means for making connection between the outer ends of the arms and the upper ends of the supports. 20
4. A device in accordance with claim 3 in which the arms are each formed from two telescopically connected members provided with clamping means. 25
5. A device in accordance with claim 3 in which the stems of the Y-shaped supports are provided with means for varying their length.
6. A device in accordance with claim 3 in which the stems of the Y-shaped supports are formed from two sections of pipe, one of which carries a right hand thread and the other of which carries a left hand thread and an intermediate section having aligned end portions and an intermediate offset portion forming a crank, the end portions having right and left hand threads adapted to cooperate with the nuts in the pipe sections. 25
- In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

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