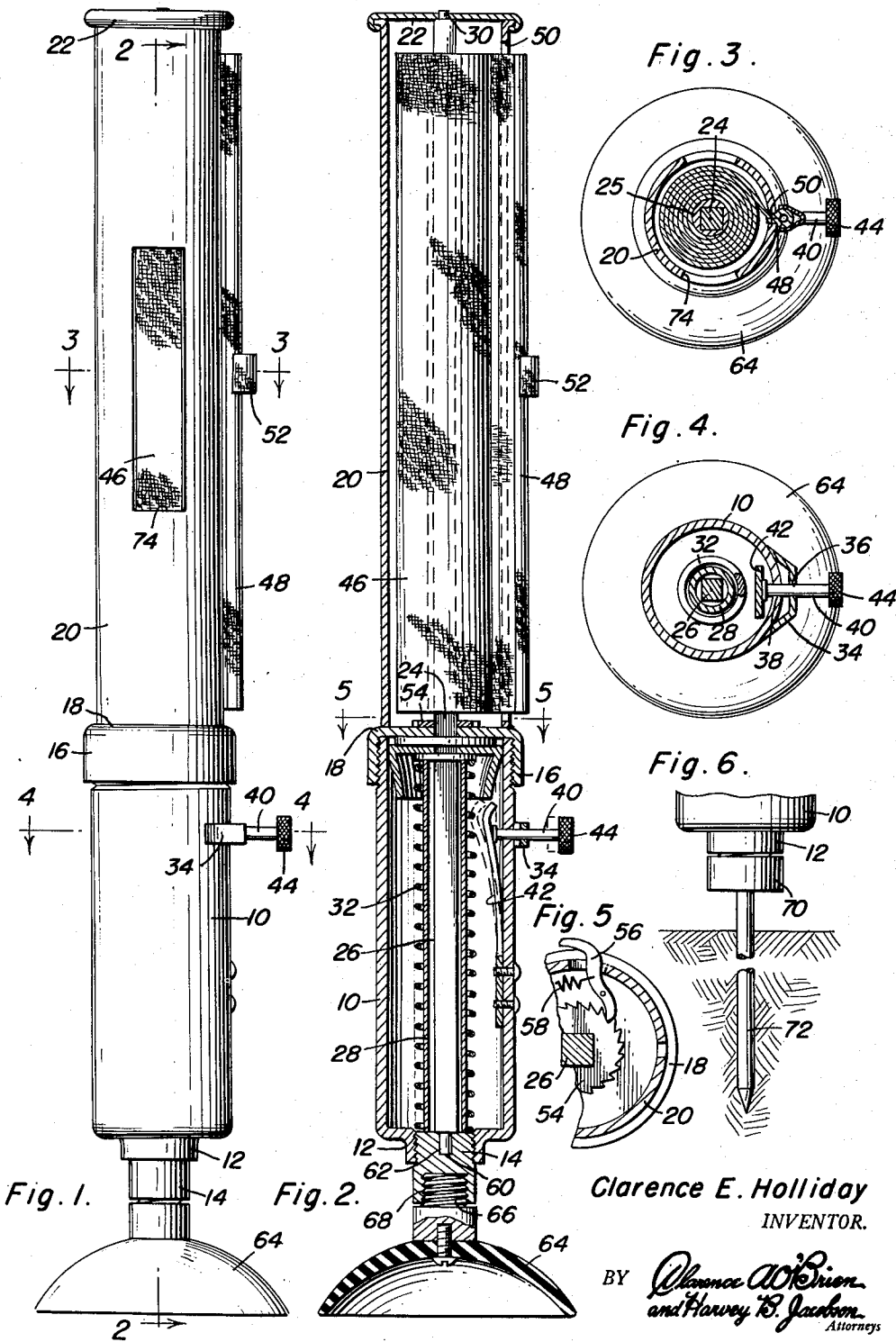


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C. E. HOLLIDAY
FLAG HOLDER

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FLAG HOLDER

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1

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in flag holders and the primary object of the present invention is to provide a flag supporting shaft and including novel and improved means for normally retaining a flag wound upon the shaft so that when the flag is released from its extended position the same will automatically wind itself about the shaft.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide a flag holder including a spring tensioned, flag supporting shaft and embodying a means for locking the shaft in a selected rotated position so that a flag mounted thereon may be conveniently extended selected amounts.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a flag holder of the aforementioned character and including a novel and improved braking mechanism for controlling the rotation of the flag holding shaft.

A still further aim of the present invention is to provide a flag holder that is simple and practical in construction, strong and reliable in use, small and compact in structure, neat and attractive in appearance, relatively inexpensive to manufacture, and otherwise well adapted for the purposes for which the same is intended.

Other objects and advantages reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken substantially on the plane of section line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a transverse horizontal sectional view taken substantially on the plane of section line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a transverse horizontal sectional view taken substantially on the plane of section line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary, transverse horizontal sectional view taken substantially on the plane of section line 5—5 of Figure 2; and

Figure 6 is a fragmentary elevational view of the present invention and showing the anchoring means for the same in slightly modified form.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, wherein for the purpose of illustration, there is disclosed a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the numeral 10 represents a lower substantially cylindrical housing the lower end of which is provided with an internally threaded

2

nipple 12 that receivably engages a plug 14 for a purpose which will later be more fully apparent.

The upper open end of the housing 10 is externally threaded to receivably engage the internally threaded flange portion 16 of a closure cap 18 to which there is fixed, by welding or the like, the lower end of a sleeve or upper housing 20 having a removable closure 22 at its upper end.

Journalled for rotation in a suitable aperture provided in the cap 18, is a shaft or flag supporting rod 24 the upper multi-sided portion of which is mounted in the housing 20 and embraced by a tube 25 that is rotated with the shaft. The lower multi-sided portion 26 of the shaft 24 is mounted in the lower housing and is embraced by a tube 28 that is rotatable with the said shaft.

The upper end of the shaft 24 is provided with a reduced projection 30 that is received in an aperture provided in the closure 22 to support the shaft centrally or axially within the housings 10 and 20.

A coil spring 32 embraces the tube 28 and is suitably fixed at one end to the tube 28 and at its remaining end to the housing 10 or to an element fixed to the housing 10, so that when the shaft 24 is rotated in one direction the spring 32 will tend to return the shaft to its normal position.

A guide 34 suitably secured to the outer periphery of the housing 10, is provided with an aperture 36 that registers with a similar aperture 38 in the housing 10. A rod 40 is slidably received in the apertures 36 and 38 and supports the free end of a spring arm or brake shoe 42 that is fixed to the inner periphery of the housing 10 that will bear against the spring 32, when forced in by pressure applied to the finger grip 44 on the outer end of the rod 40, to brake the rotation of the rod 24. The spring arm 42 is normally urged against the inner periphery of the housing 10 due to its resilient characteristics.

One transverse edge of a flexible member or flag 46 is fixed to the upper portion of the shaft 24 and the free transverse edge 48 of the flag 46 extends outwardly from a longitudinal slot 50 provided in the housing 20 and is provided with a finger tab 52, it being understood that the flag is wound about the upper portion of the shaft 24 under action of the spring 32.

Slidably mounted on the shaft 24 and bearing upon the cap 18 for rotation with the shaft 24, is an annular ratchet 54 that lockably engages a pawl 56 pivoted to the cap 18. The pawl 56 is urged to a normally locked position with the ratchet 54 by a spring member 58.

The lower reduced end 60 of the rod 24 is re-

ceived in a recess 62 provided in the plug 14.

In order to support the present invention relative to a supporting structure, there is provided a suction cup 64 having an externally threaded shank portion 66 that receivably engages an internally threaded socket 68 in the plug 14.

When the present invention is to be supported relative to the ground, the externally threaded base portion 70 of a pointed member 72 is received in the socket 68 and the suction cup is removed.

The housing 20 is provided with a suitable number of window openings 74.

In practical use of the present invention, the finger tab 52 is pulled outwardly to unwind the flag 46 and the pawl 56 will lock the flag in an extended position with the spring 32 in tension.

To return the flag to a position where the same is wound about the shaft 26, the pawl 54 is moved out of engagement with the ratchet 56 and the rod 40 is moved so that the spring arm 42 will bear against the spring 32 to control the rotation of the shaft 24.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings it is believed that a clear understanding of the construction, operation and advantages of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

It is to be understood, however, that even though there is herein shown and described a preferred embodiment of the invention the same is susceptible to certain changes fully comprehended by the spirit of the invention as herein described and the scope of the appended claims.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A flag holder comprising a lower cylindrical housing having an internally threaded nipple at its lower end, a plug threaded in said nipple, an upper cylindrical housing detachably secured to the upper end of said lower housing, a shaft journaled for rotation in said housings and having upper and lower end portions, reduced projections extending from the end portions of said shaft, said plug having a recess receiving the projection extending from the lower end portion of said shaft, a closure plate at the upper end of the upper housing, said closure plate having a central aperture receiving the projection extending from the upper end portion of said shaft, a tube embracing the lower end portion of said shaft and rotatable with the shaft, a coil spring embracing the tube and terminally secured to the tube and to the lower housing so that when the shaft is rotated in one direction the spring will be in tension, an elongated flexible element fixed at one end to the upper portion of the shaft, said upper housing having an opening for receiving the flexible element, means carried by the plug for supporting the housings in an upright position, and means for locking the shaft in a selected rotated position.

2. A flag holder comprising a lower cylindrical housing having an internally threaded nipple at its lower end, a plug threaded in said nipple, an upper cylindrical housing detachably secured

to the upper end of said lower housing, a shaft journaled for rotation in said housings and having upper and lower end portions, reduced projections extending from the end portions of said shaft, said plug having a recess receiving the projection extending from the lower end portion of said shaft, a closure plate at the upper end of the upper housing, said closure plate having a central aperture receiving the projection extending from the upper end portion of said shaft, a tube embracing the lower end portion of said shaft and rotatable with the shaft, a coil spring embracing the tube and terminally secured to the tube and to the lower housing so that when the shaft is rotated in one direction the spring will be in tension, an elongated flexible element fixed at one end to the upper portion of the shaft, said upper housing having an opening for receiving the flexible element, means carried by the plug for supporting the housings in an upright position, said upper housing including a closure cap having an internally threaded flanged portion threaded on the upper end of the lower housing, a ratchet secured to the shaft and overlying the closure cap, and a pawl pivoted on said closure cap for engaging the pawl to retain the shaft in a selected rotated position.

3. The combination of claim 2 and means for braking the rotation of the shaft, said braking means including an elongated spring member having one end fixed to the inner periphery of said lower housing, said spring member having a free end portion, and a slidable pressure member carried by said lower housing and manually operated for urging the free end portion of said spring member against said coil spring.

4. A flag holder comprising a housing including upper and lower portions, a shaft journaled for rotation in said housing and including an upper part mounted in the upper portion of said housing and a lower part mounted in the lower portion of said housing, a spring mounted in the lower part of said housing and acting on the lower portion of said shaft to normally hold the shaft against rotation, said spring being in tension during rotation of said shaft in one direction, means for rotating the shaft against action of the spring, means for breaking the rotation of said shaft, means for locking the shaft in a selected rotated position, and a partition interposed between the upper and lower portions to restrict the entrance of rain into said lower portion.

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