Dec. 11, 1956 O. D. McKINNEY 2,773,714

WIRE GATE FASTENER

Filed Dec. 22, 1954

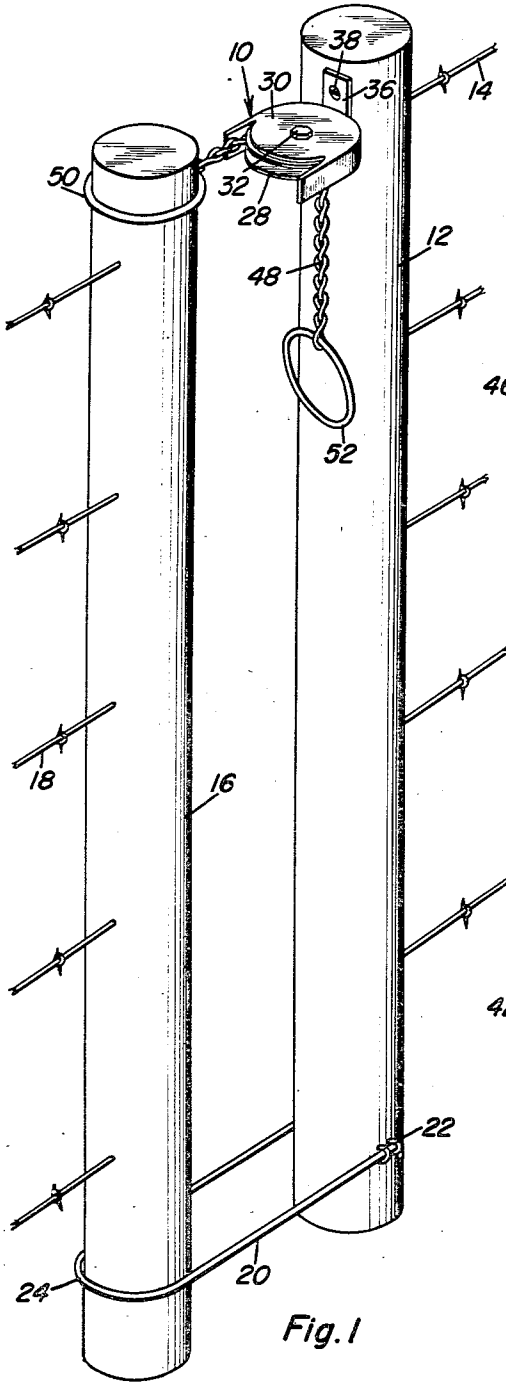


Fig. 1

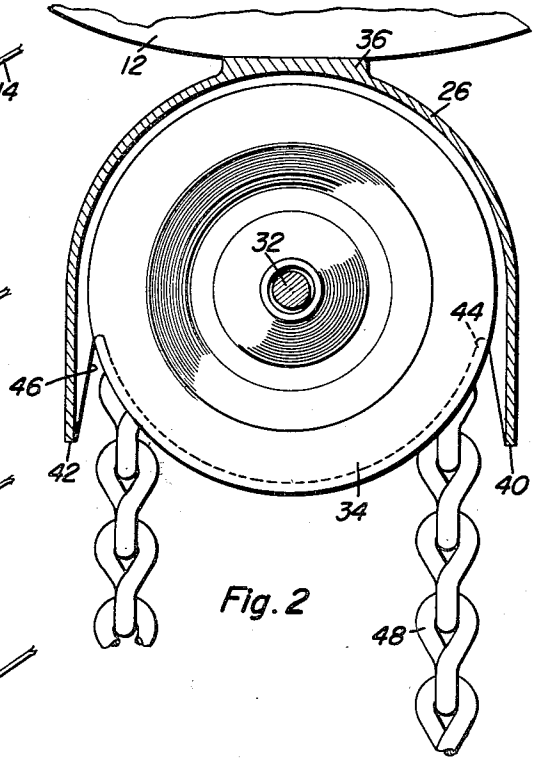


Fig. 2

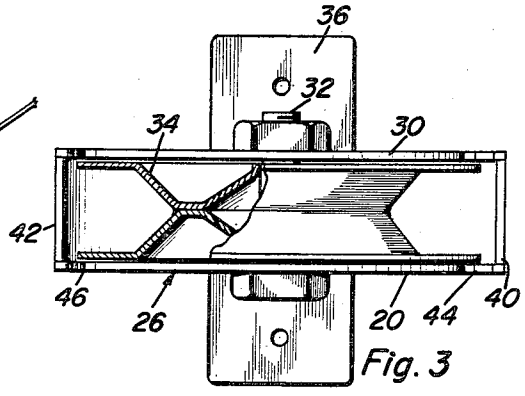


Fig. 3

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United States Patent Office 2,773,714 Patented Dec. 11, 1956

2,773,714

WIRE GATE FASTENER

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Application December 22, 1954, Serial No. 476,918

3 Claims. (Cl. 292—246)

This invention relates to a gate fastening device for retaining a gate post adjacent a fence post with the gate in closed position wherein the gate is constructed of flexible wire members which permits movement of the gate post in substantially any direction.

An object of this invention is to provide a fastening device for engaging a gate post of a wire gate for retaining the gate post adjacent the fence post for retaining the gate in closed position wherein the fastening device is easily and quickly attached to the gate post and detached therefrom for manipulation of the gate post.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a gate post fastening device for use on a wire gate that includes a flexible chain having a ring on each end thereof wherein the chain passes over a horizontally disposed pulley that is provided with a housing having notches that will engage the chain and lock the chain in adjusted position when a free end of the chain is dropped to a depending or vertical position so that the notch will engage the links of the chain.

Yet another important object of the present invention is to provide a fastening device conformable to the preceding objects wherein either of the rings may be positioned over the upper end of the gate post and the other of the rings will then form a handle for urging the gate post towards the fence post, thereby providing an efficient and effective gate post fastening device.

Other important objects of the present invention will reside in its simplicity of construction, ease of operation, versatile utility, its adaptation for its purposes and its relatively inexpensive manufacture.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the gate post fastening device of the present invention in use for holding a gate post adjacent a fence post in spaced parallel relation;

Figure 2 is a top plan sectional view taken substantially along the upper surface of the horizontally disposed pulley showing the construction of the pulley together with the structure of the housing and the notches formed by the housing which are substantially tangential to opposite side edges of the pulley; and

Figure 3 is an end elevational view of the pulley, housing and mounting bracket of the present invention with a portion of the pulley being broken away showing the construction thereof.

Referring now specifically to the drawings, it will be seen that the numeral **10** generally designates the gate post fastening device of the present invention for attachment to a fence post **12** that has wire members **14** attached thereto for securing a gate post **16** adjacent the fence post **12** wherein the gate post **16** also is provided with flexible wire fence members **18** secured thereto. The wire members **14** and **18** may be of any well known construction, although barbed wire is utilized for illustrating the present invention. Normally, a U-shaped member **20** is provided with its free ends secured to the fence post **12** adjacent the bottom thereof with fastening members **22** wherein the bight portion **24** of the U-shaped member **20** receives the lower end of the gate post **16**. The gate post fastener **10** of the present invention is secured to the upper end of the fence post **12** and engages the upper end of the gate post **16** for retaining the gate post **16** in vertical relation and adjacent the fence post **12**.

Referring now specifically to Figures 2 and 3, it will be seen that the fastening device **10** includes a generally U-shaped housing member **26** having top and bottom members **28** and **30** with a bolt **32** extending therethrough for journaling a pulley **34** thereon. A bracket **36** is integrally formed with the housing **26** for attachment to the fence post **12** with fastening members **38**. The housing **26** is provided with a pair of projections **40** and **42** on the free ends thereof which generally are tangential to the opposite edges of the pulley **34**. The projections **40** and **42** form notches **44** and **46** for engaging the links of a flexible chain **48** that is provided with ring members **50** and **52** on the free ends thereof. The ring members **50** and **52** are of a size to fit over the upper end of the gate post **16** and when the gate post **16** is being closed, the ring **50** is positioned over the upper end thereof and the ring **52** then forms a handle for pulling the chain **48** taut and moving the gate post **16** to the position illustrated in Figure 1. When the gate post **16** is moved to the desired position, the handle **52** is dropped, thereby moving the chain **48** to a vertical position wherein the notch **44** will engage the links of the chain **48**, thereby locking the chain in adjusted position for securing the gate post **16** in the desired relation. It will be seen that either of the rings **50** or **52** may be utilized and that either of the notches **44** or **46** will form a lock for the chain **48**, and since the housing **26** and the pulley **34** are horizontally disposed, the chain **48** will be automatically locked in position by the notches **44** and **46** when the ring on the free end of the chain **48** is released. It will be seen that the fastening device **10** of the present invention forms an easily and quickly operated fastening device for retaining a gate post **16** in closed position. The device of the present invention is especially useful in conjunction with wire gates wherein the gate post **16** is highly unstable and relatively hard to position in closed relation.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. The combination of a gate post adjacent a fence post with a locking device, said device comprising a pulley, a housing surrounding a major portion of the pulley, a bracket on said housing for securing the housing and pulley to the fence post in a horizontal plane, a pair of projections on said housing, said projections extending substantially tangential to said pulley thereby forming with portions of the periphery of said pulley notches adjacent opposite edges of said housing, a flexible chain on said pulley, a ring on each of the ends of said chain, one of said rings adapted to be selectively positioned over the upper end of the gate post and the other of said rings adapted to be pulled for pulling the gate post towards the fence post said other of said rings assuming a depending relation to the housing and automatically positioning the

chain in one of said notches thereby locking the chain in adjusted position.

2. For use with a gate post adjacent to a fence post, a locking device comprising a pulley, a housing extending around a portion of said pulley, means mounting said housing on one of said posts for disposition adjacent to the other of said post and in such position that said housing and said pulley are generally horizontal, a projection extending from said housing and arranged substantially tangentially to said pulley, said projection with a part of the periphery of said pulley constituting a notch, a chain having one end adapted to be secured to the post opposite to the post having said housing attached to it, said chain being entrained around said pulley and engageable in said notch with an extremity to lock said chain releasably in the locking notch by dropping downwardly in a generally vertical plane and automatically engaging the notch.

3. The device of claim 2 wherein said chain has two ends, each of the ends of said chain having a ring on it, and either of said rings being engageable with one of said posts.

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