Sept. 13, 1955 W. H. BRACKEN 2,717,391

TURN-ABOUT FISHING GARMENT

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Fig. 1.

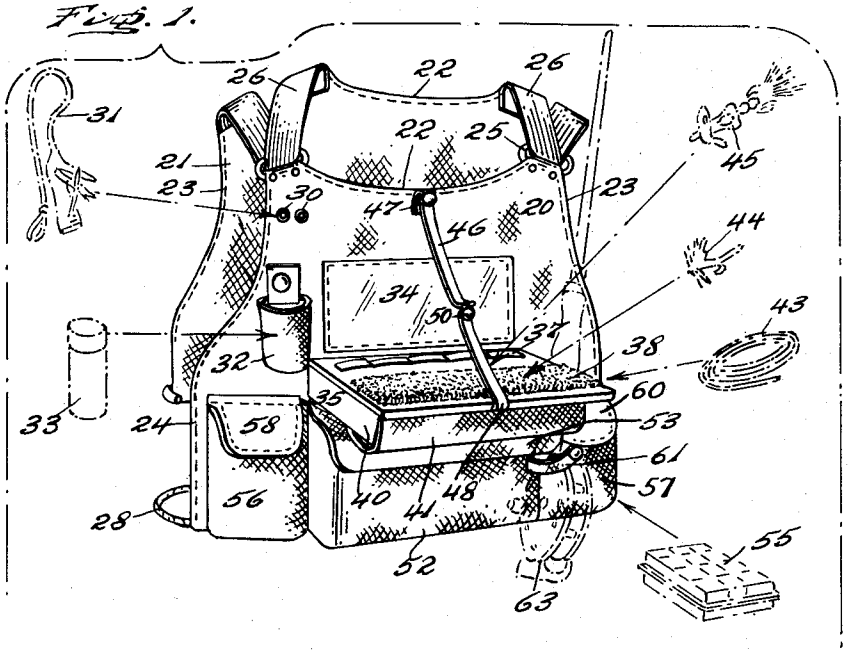
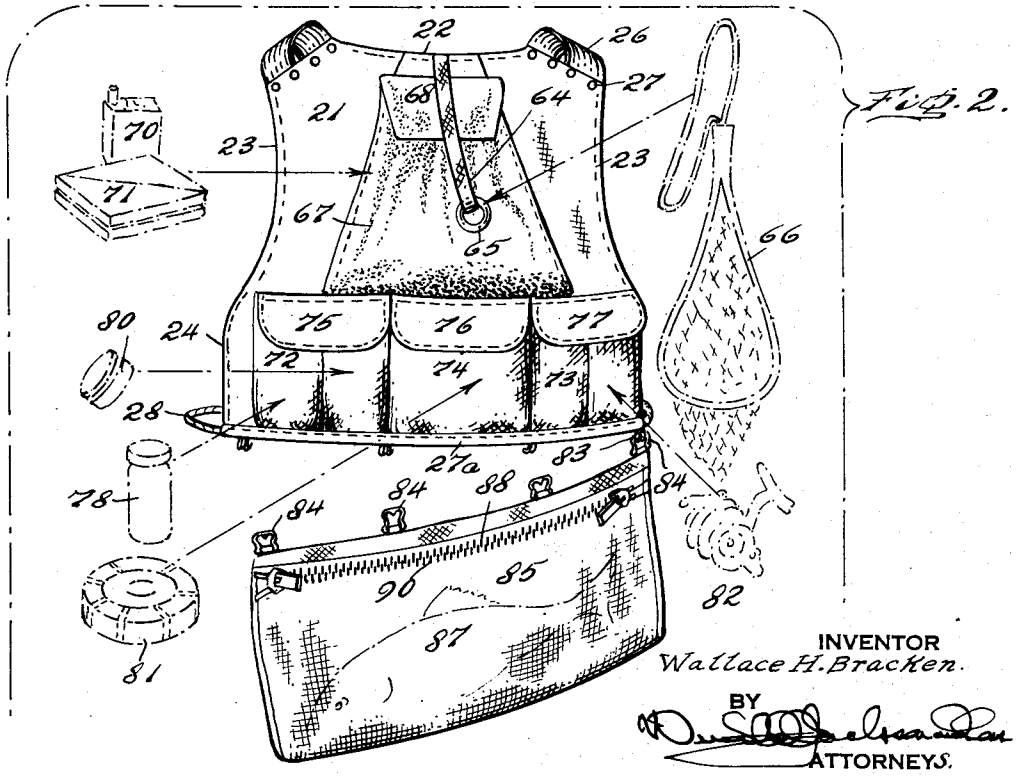



Fig. 2.




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Fig. 3.

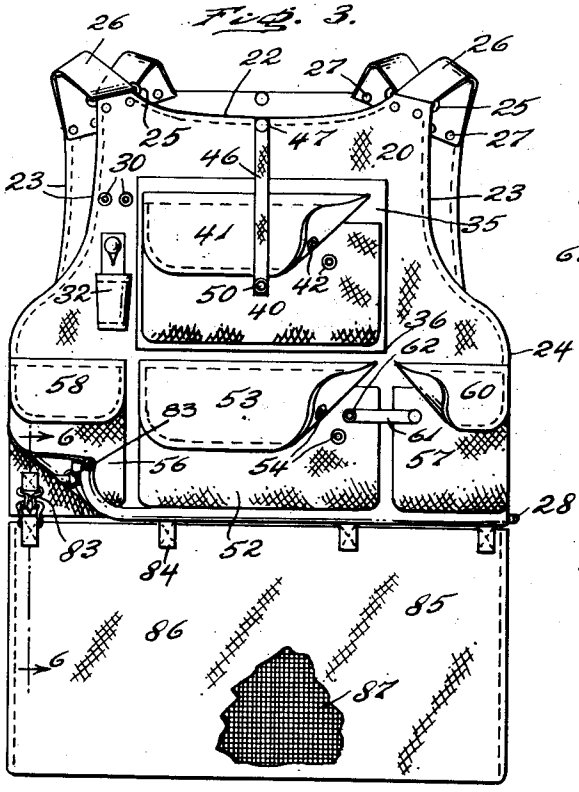



Fig. 4.

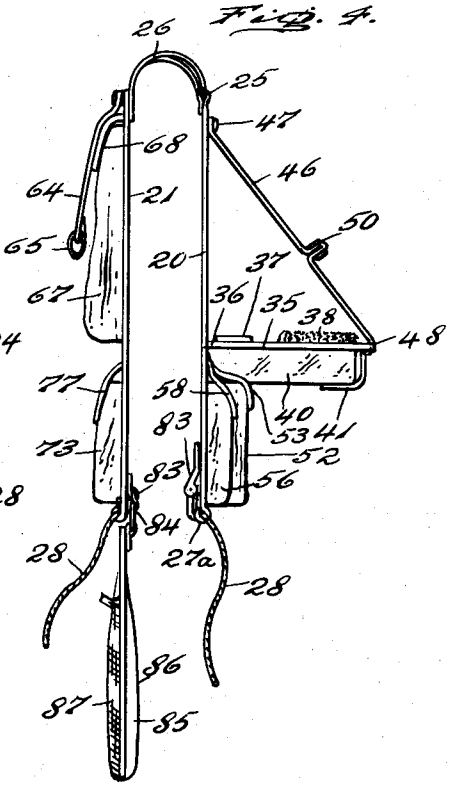



Fig. 5.

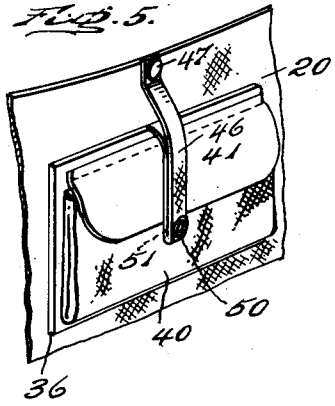
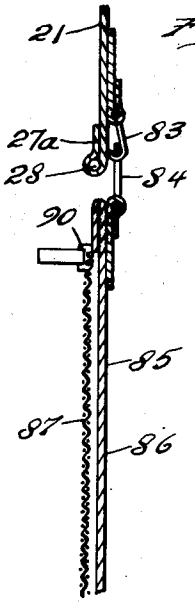



Fig. 6.




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# TURN-ABOUT FISHING GARMENT

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Application February 26, 1952, Serial No. 273,469

4 Claims. (Cl. 2—94)

The present invention relates to fishing garments, especially of the character suitable for fishing under diversified conditions.

A purpose of the invention is to provide front and back panels free from attachment along the sides, with connecting shoulder straps so that either panel can be brought to the front and the other to the back without taking the garment off over the head.

A further purpose is to interconnect the front and back panels at the shoulders by loops passing through rings, so that as the body shifts and the center of gravity on the load on the panels changes, the loops will readjust automatically through the rings and allow the garment to remain comfortable to the user.

A further purpose is to interconnect the panels to the waist of the user by tie cords which may permissibly interrelate the panels around the waist.

A further purpose is to mount a shelf on one of the panels by a hinge, to raise the shelf to a position against the body, and to lower the shelf to an outwardly extending position while limiting the shelf against further downward movement.

A further purpose is to interconnect the panel above the shelf to the shelf by a limiter strap and preferably to place the fastener element at an intermediate point on the limiter strap for engagement with a fastener element on the shelf to hold the shelf in raised position, thus making the strap perform a double function as a limiter and a fastener.

A further purpose is to support the load of the outwardly extending shelf on a bulging pocket beneath the shelf.

A further purpose is to mount a pocket on the outer (lower) side of the shelf.

A further purpose is to provide hook fasteners around the lower edges of both panels and cooperating hook fasteners on a fish creel so that the creel can be mounted horizontally on either panel or both panels or can trail from either panel.

Further purposes appear in the specification and in the claims.

In the drawings I have chosen to illustrate one only of the numerous embodiments in which my invention may appear, selecting the forms shown from the standpoints of convenience in illustration, satisfactory operation and clear demonstration of the principles involved.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the turn-about of the present invention positioned with the panel used in fly fishing placed forward, with phantom showing of the prospective contents of various pockets. The shelf is in lowered position.

Figure 2 is a view corresponding to Figure 1 but with the turn-about reversed to show the side used in bait fishing and with the fish creel trailing.

Figure 3 is a front elevation, partly broken, showing the panel used in fly fishing at the front, with the shelf folded up, the creel attached in horizontal position and



the lower corner of one panel turned back to show one of the hook fasteners.

Figure 4 is an end elevation of the turn-about of the invention with the creel in horizontal position attached to the panel used in bait fishing.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective of the shelf in closed position.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary section on the line 6—6 of Figure 3.

Describing in illustration but not in limitation and referring to the drawings:

The invention is concerned particularly with the provision of a garment suitable for use by sporting fishermen, to carry in separate complete kits the equipment required for two different types of fishing and to permit convenient change of the equipment in active use without undue trouble to the user. For example, one kit may be stocked for fly fishing and another for bait fishing, or one equipment may be stocked for fishing from a boat and another for wading. Similarly equipment for trolling may be kept in one kit and equipment for bottom fishing may be kept in another kit.

In accordance with the invention, a garment is provided similar to a sleeveless jacket except that it has no sides, and is therefore very cool and comfortable, and also quickly reversible without taking it off over the head or shifting arms through arm holes. For convenience in naming, panel **20** is here designated the front panel and panel **21** is designated the rear panel, although the wearer will freely reverse when desired and either panel may be worn as the front and the other as the back. Each of the panels has a neck recess **22** in the middle of the top and each panel has arm recesses **23** corresponding to the shoulder positions, and widens out at **24** adjoining the thighs.

At the shoulders one of the panels, suitably the front panel, has rings **25** secured thereto and the rings receive loops **26** suitably of fabric webbing, the ends of the loops being secured at transversely spaced points **27** to the other panel. Thus the loops extend over the shoulders and are independent of each other and when the user moves around or bends over, the relations of the two panels can change by the webbings independently moving in and out through the rings **25**.

At the bottom of each panel and suitably running through a hem **27***a* is a tie cord **28** long enough to extend beyond the panel to pass around the waist and tie or to intertie with the tie cord on the other panel.

The front panel is provided with suitable pockets to hold the desired gear. Eyelets **30** are provided at one corner, to which a spoon or the like **31** is secured. A deep socket pocket is provided at **32** to receive a bottle **33** to hold swivels and other small components. A hook cushion **34** is secured over the center of the panel to permit engagement of separate hooks. A shelf **35** is hingedly connected at **36** to the panel, and folds between a closed position as shown in Figures 3 and 5 and a lowered horizontal position as shown in Figures 1 and 4. The shelf on its inner face has loops **37** to receive lures or the like and a cushion **38** to engage hooks. On the outside (lower side) of the shelf **35** a pocket **40** is positioned, closed by a flap **41** held in place by snap fastener elements **42**. The pocket **40** may hold leaders **43**, while flies **44** may be positioned on the cushion **38** and lures **45** be located in the loops **37**.

The shelf is restricted to a right angle downward movement by limiter strap **46** secured at the upper end at **47** to the panel **20** near the top center of the panel and secured at the lower end at **48** to the shelf.

Intermediate the ends of the limiter strap is a snap fastener element **50** which closes on a cooperating snap fastener element **51** on the front of the pocket when the

shelf is raised to hold the shelf in upper position as shown in Figure 5. Below the shelf and suitably in position to be contacted by the shelf is a pocket **52** closed by a flap **53** and extending clear across the width of the shelf. Snap fastener elements **54** hold the flap down on the pocket. The pocket is intended to hold a box **55** or other bulging object so that the bulge pocket will extend out in supporting engagement beneath the shelf and avoid excessive pull on the limiter as best seen in Figure 1.

On opposite sides of pocket **52** are pockets **56** and **57** closed by flaps **58** and **60** respectively. Between the pockets **52** and **57** is loop **61** suitably detachable by provision of snap fastener engagement at **62** at one end, and holding the fishing pole **63**.

The panel **21** may suitably be equipped for bait fishing. A loop **64** extends down from the neck of the panel and carries a ring **65**, which may suitably be employed to hold a landing net **66**. A water proof pocket **67** is placed in the center of the panel, closed by flap **68**, and adapted to contain articles which should be kept dry such as cigarettes **70** and lunch **71**.

Double pockets **72** are placed below on one side, double pockets **73** on the other side and a large central pocket **74** is located between the double pockets. These pockets are closed by flaps **75**, **76** and **77** and may suitably contain a bottle **78** for small tackle items, a jar **80** for similar equipment, a tackle box **81** and bait **82**.

Each of the panels has running along its lower edge, at the inside, a series of male hook elements **83**. These cooperate in spacing with a series of female hook elements **84** on the upper edge of a fish creel **85**. The creel **85** is a bag having a waterproof side **86** adapted to be against the body of the user and an opposing netting side **87** which will allow the water to get in when the fisherman is wading. An access opening **88** suitably runs along the netting side and double slide fasteners **90** open from either end, suitably closing this opening.

The creel may be positioned horizontally by mounting all of the creel hook connections on the hook connections of either panel as indicated in Figures 3 and 4, or it may be mounted on the side of the body with one or more hook connections attached to each of the panels, or it may trail, keeping the fish below water as the fisherman wades as suggested in Figure 2, where only one set of hook connections are engaged.

It will be evident that the device of the invention may be utilized for any of a wide variety of fishing applications, and that the user can change from one application to another by simply reversing the turn-about. Where the side having the shelf is used, the shelf can be brought down into horizontal position to select, change, or attach flies or other tackle, and raised out of the way very quickly when desired. The bulge pocket beneath the shelf supports the shelf when it is lowered and prevents excessive pull on the top of the panel and on the limiter.

The limiter performs a double function, since it also holds the shelf and the shelf pocket in raised position.

The user can readily shift the creel from one panel to another or from horizontal to trailing position or he can remove the creel entirely by simply changing the connections of the hook fasteners.

In view of my invention and disclosure variations and modifications to meet individual whim or particular need will doubtless become evident to others skilled in the art, to obtain all or part of the benefits of my invention without copying the structure shown, and I, therefore, claim all such insofar as they fall within the reasonable spirit and scope of my claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a fishing garment, a panel, a shelf hingedly connected to the panel, a bulging pocket beneath the shelf and supporting the same in open position, a strap connected at one end to the shelf and to the other end to the panel above the shelf to serve as a limiter, a fastener at an intermediate position on the strap and a cooperating fastener on the shelf which engages the fastener on the strap and holds the shelf in raised position.

2. In a fishing garment, front and back panels, flexible connections between said panels at the sides of their upper edges, a fishing creel, and fastener elements located at spaced points along the lower edge of each panel, and cooperative fastener elements located at spaced points along the upper edge of the creel whereby the creel can be selectively mounted on either panel in a horizontal position, or in a horizontal position extending across from one panel to the other, or hanging from either panel in trailing position.

3. In a turn-about fishing garment, a front panel, a back panel free from fixed connection with the front panel along the sides, and a pair of flexible independent connecting means respectively located at the two sides of the tops of the panels, each connecting means comprising a ring connected to one panel and an associated flexible loop slidably extending through the ring and having its ends attached to the upper edge of the said other panel at transversely spaced points adjacent the said respective side thereof, whereby as the user's body shifts and the center of gravity of the load on the panels changes the loops will adjust automatically through the rings and allow the garment to remain comfortable to the user.

4. In a turn-about fishing garment, a front panel, a back panel free from fixed connection with the front panel along the sides, a pair of flexible independent connecting means respectively located at the two sides of the tops of the panels, each connecting means comprising a ring connected to one panel and an associated flexible loop slidably extending through the ring and having its ends attached to the upper edge of the said other panel at spaced points adjacent the said respective side thereof, whereby as the user's body shifts and the center of gravity of the load on the panels changes the loops will adjust automatically through the rings and allow the garment to remain comfortable to the user, and tie cords, each tie cord being positioned on an individual panel adjacent the lower edge thereof, said tie cords having ends projecting at the sides of each panel for interconnection and thereby holding the panels together at the waist of the wearer.

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