United States Patent [19]

Bennett

[11] **3,870,358**

[45] **Mar. 11, 1975**

[54] **APPARATUS FOR MANUALLY RAISING AND LOWERING BULKY PACKAGES**

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[22] Filed: **Dec. 26, 1973**

[21] Appl. No.: **428,188**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **294/77,** 150/1

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B66c 1/12**

[58] **Field of Search** 294/77; 150/1; 182/70, 182/71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 47

[56] **References Cited**

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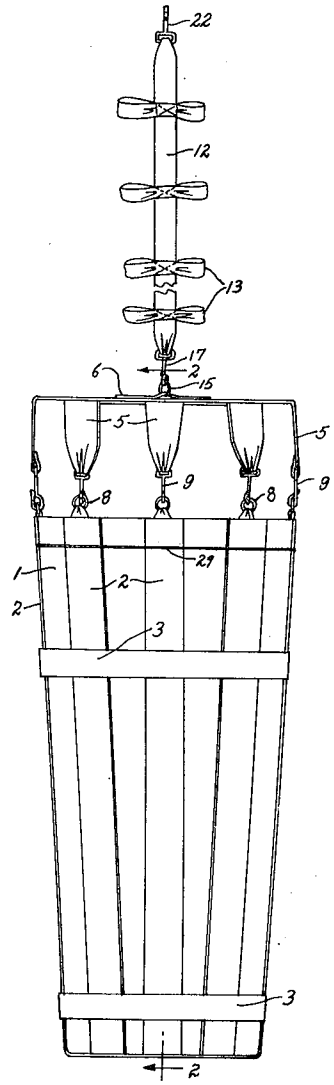
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Primary Examiner—M. Henson Wood, Jr.
Assistant Examiner—Robert Saifer
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Arthur F. Robert

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A package raising and lowering apparatus comprising: a canvas bag of suitable capacity large enough to receive a bulky package such as a plastic garbage container; a lid removably secured over the mouth of the canvas bag; and a cable removably secured at one end to the lid and having handgrips along its length to facilitate the raising and lowering of the bag in an apartment between ground and lst or 2nd floors. This apparatus facilitates the transportation of heavy things of a bulky nature back and forth between the ground floor of an apartment and the 2nd and 3rd floors thereof. Thus, it facilitates the lowering of a heavy or bulky bag of garbage by an apartment dweller from the 2nd or 3rd floor on which he lives to the ground floor where the bag can be more readily carried to a disposal area. An attachment to the mouth of the bag is provided to take the place of the lid and to enable the lid and cable to be enclosed in the bag so that the assembly can be safely washed in a washer without damaging the washer during the process.

2 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures



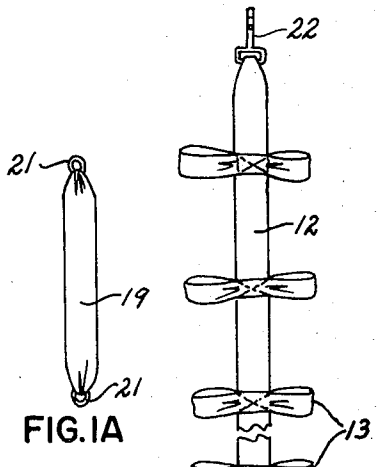


FIG. 1A

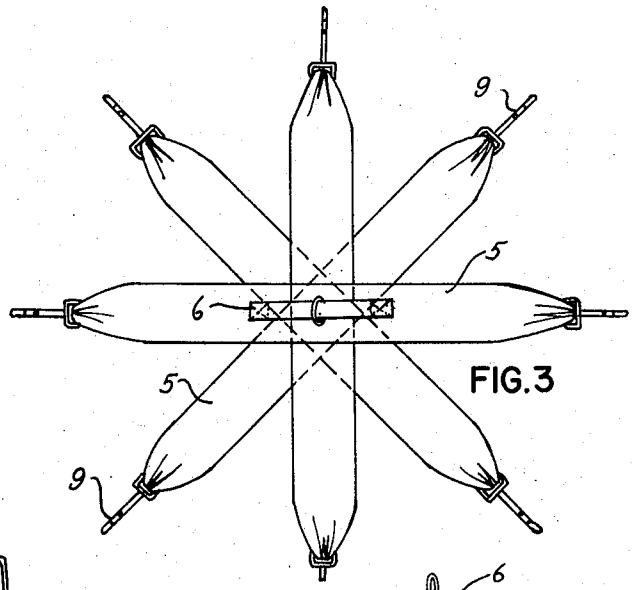


FIG. 3

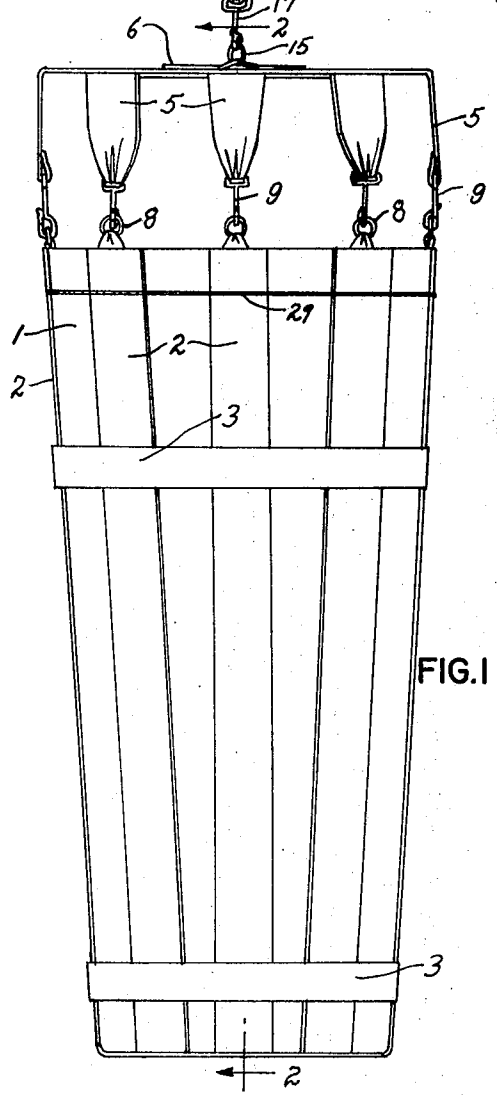


FIG. 1

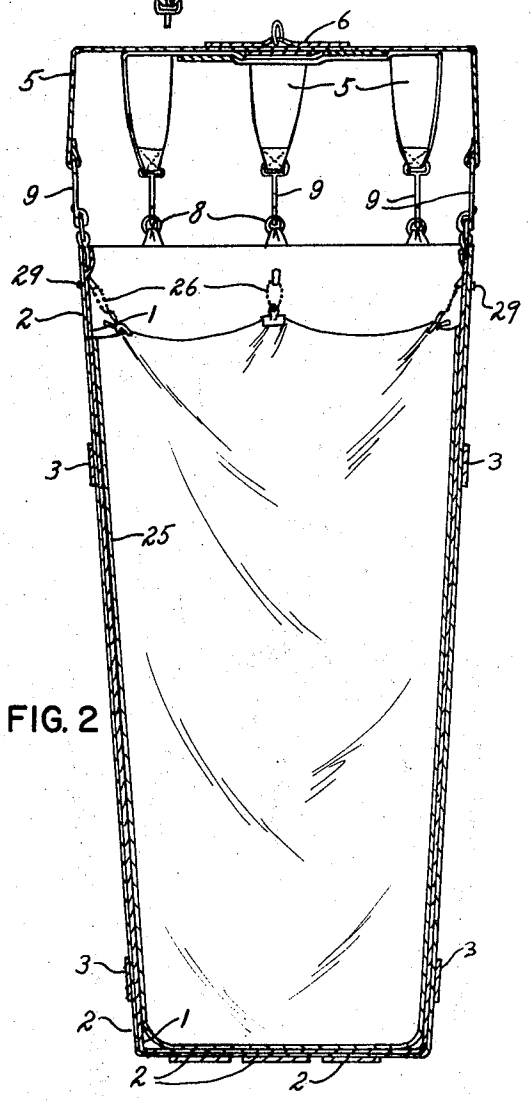


FIG. 2

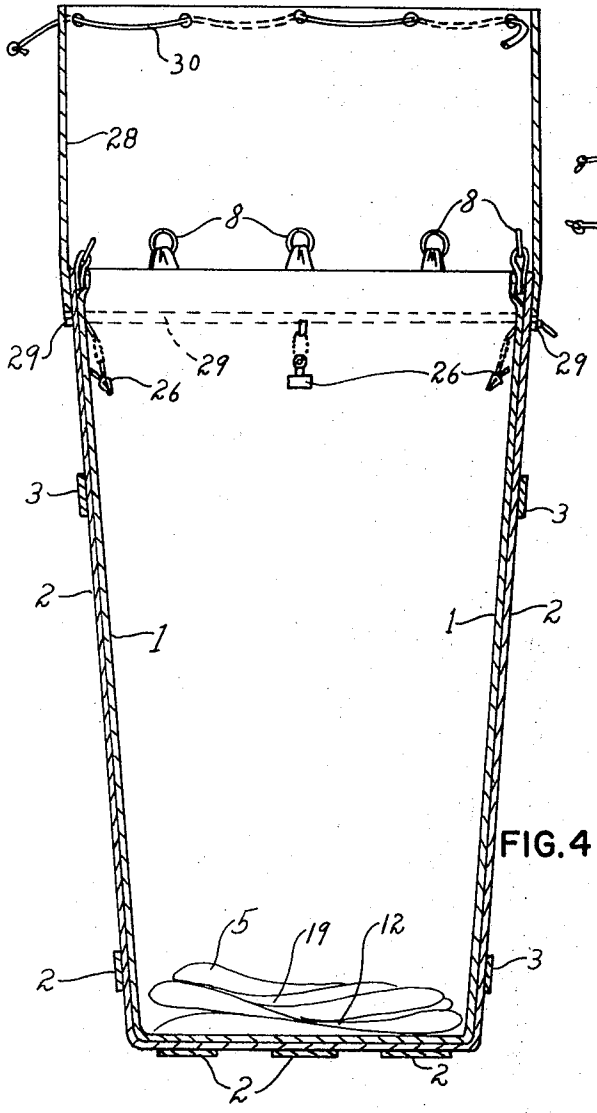


FIG. 4

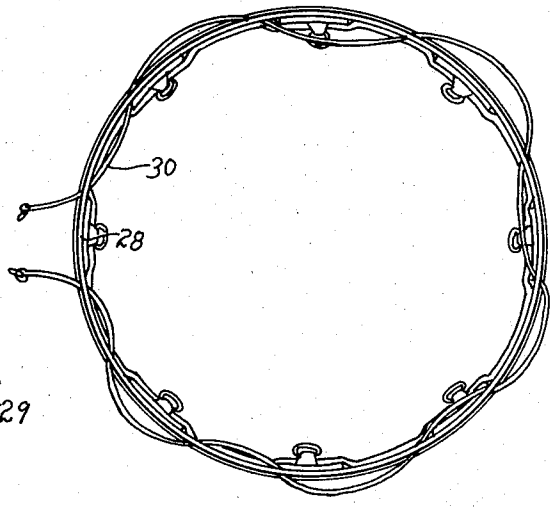


FIG. 5

APPARATUS FOR MANUALLY RAISING AND LOWERING BULKY PACKAGES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field Of The Invention

This invention relates to the art of transporting heavy and/or bulky packages to and from the ground floor of a multi-level walk-up apartment house.

2. Description Of The Prior Art

Many apartment houses, having 2nd and 3rd floors, are walk-up affairs, which do not have motorized apparatus for lifting and lowering heavy or bulky or otherwise burdensome packages back and forth between the ground floor and the 2nd and 3rd floors. So far as I know, in such walk-up apartment houses, it is necessary for the 2nd and 3rd floor occupants individually to perform the difficult and often frustrating task of carrying these burdensome packages from one floor to another. This is very objectionable particularly to older people.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Objects Of The Invention

The principal object of this invention is to provide a manually operated apparatus which facilitates the raising and lowering of burdensome packages between the ground floor and the 2nd and 3rd floors of apartment houses.

Another object is to provide a simply and inexpensively constructed apparatus which is easy to operate and which substantially facilitates the raising and lowering of heavy bulky packages between the floors of walk-up apartments.

Statement Of The Invention

The objects of my invention are achieved by providing a main bag large enough to hold a plastic garbage container, for example; a lid for covering said main bag when the garbage container must be moved to the ground floor; means for detachably securing said lid to said main bag; and cables securable to said lid and provided with handgrips along its length to facilitate the lowering or raising of the main bag.

With this arrangement, the loaded main bag and its lid can be thrust either through a window or over a bannister and lowered in step-by-step fashion to the ground floor where it is a simple matter to open the bag, remove the contents of the main bag and manually transport the same to the disposal area and then raise the bag back up to the floor from which it came. This eliminates the work of carrying a heavy bulky package down one or more flights of stairs, which can be very burdensome to older people.

When it becomes desirable to launder the apparatus, the lid and cable with their respective metal connections can be placed in the bag, the mouth end of the bag provided with an open-ended cloth cylinder, the lower end of which is secured to the bag exterior by a plastic zipper connection located slightly below the mouth, and the upper end of the cloth cylinder closed by a draw string or otherwise. Now the entire assembly can be laundered in a washing machine without subjecting the interior of that machine to damage from contact with the metal parts enclosed in the bag.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The preferred embodiment is illustrated in the drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 shows the assembled parts in elevation with the lid being shown, solely for the sake of clarity, as a flat-topped construction; FIG. 1A is a plan view of a strap for anchoring the FIG. 1 assembly to a bannister;

FIG. 1A is a plan view of a strap for anchoring the FIG. 1 assembly to a bannister;

FIG. 2 is a vertical section corresponding to one taken along line 2–2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a top plan view of the lid as it appears when flattened out;

FIG. 4 shows the bag with a special closure for use in laundering the bag and lid with all metal parts contained within the bag; and

FIG. 5 is a top plan view of the special closure.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The preferred embodiment shown in the drawings comprises: a bag; a lid; lid-securing means; a lowering-raising cable; and a special closure.

The bag **1**, which can be of any suitable shape and size, is preferably composed of cloth. A cloth mesh is satisfactory particularly where the bag **1** is not to be used as a container for parts having metal attachments, such as metal fasteners, which container is to be laundered in a machine, such as an automatic washer. Where it is to be or may be so used, canvas or some other strong sturdy cloth is preferred.

To facilitate concrete discussion, the bag **1** will be referred to as a canvas bag. While it should normally have sufficient strength without reinforcement, it is shown as reinforced by horizontally-spaced vertical bands **2** of canvas, which cross under the bottom of the bag, and vertically-spaced horizontal or annular bands **3**. All bands may be sewn or riveted to the bag.

The lid may likewise be constructed of any suitable material preferably a sturdy cloth. Thus the lid shown comprises nothing more than a series of four equally-spaced diametric straps **5** crossing each other at the center of the lid. The lid straps **5** are sewn or riveted to each other. A strap handle **6** is secured to the lid **5** at its center.

Any suitable means may be used for detachably securing the lid to the bag. The means shown comprises: a closed metal ring **8** at each end of each vertical reinforcing band **2** of the bag **1**; and a metal snap fastener **9** permanently secured to the free end of each lid strap **5** and detachably securable to a ring **8**, the snap fastener **9** shown being conventionally constructed to include a short metal rod terminating in an open rigid loop at its free end and a rod-mounted spring-actuated latch normally closing the open loop.

The lowering-raising (LR) cable may be composed of any suitable material, including rope. The LR cable shown comprises an elongate canvas strap **12** provided, at spaced intervals along its length, with securely mounted loops of canvas forming handgrips **13** by which the LR cable **12** may be manually hauled in or paid out in step-by-step fashion. The lower end of the cable **12** is secured to lid handle **6** by a closed metal ring **15** secured to the lid handle, and a metal snap fastener **17** permanently secured to the lower end of the

LR cable **12** and detachably securable to ring **15**, the fastener **17** shown being identical to fastener **9**.

The upper end of the LR cable may be anchored to a bannister, for example, by looping a short strap **19** around the bannister and connecting the upper end of the LR cable **12** to the bannister strap **19** by suitable fastening means comprising: a pair of rings **21**, one at each end of the bannister strap **19**; and a fastener **22**, identical to fastener **17**, permanently secured to the upper end of the LR cable **12** and detachably securable to bannister rings **21**.

In use, the bag **1** may be hung upon a 2nd or 3rd floor kitchen wall, for example, and provided with an inner preferably disposable bag **25**, such as a plastic garbage bag, which is detachably secured to the inner wall of bag **1** by an annular series of spaced preferably detachable fasteners **26** hung on the inner wall of bag **1** near its mouth. When the disposable garbage bag **25** is suitably filled, the lid **5**, LR cable **12** and bannister strap **19** are detachably secured and anchored. Now the closed bag **1** can be lowered to the ground floor where the garbage bag **25** is removed and (it or its contents) disposed of in the normal way. Finally, the bag **1** is hauled up to the appropriate floor and returned to the kitchen to accumulate the next load. Bulky packages can be lowered or raised in a similar manner. In each case, manual cartage of a burdensome load either up or down one or two floors is eliminated.

With use over one time period or another, the assembly may require laundering. To facilitate laundering of all parts in an automatic washer, the lid, LR cable and bannister straps, with their respective metal parts, may be placed within the bag **1** and the latter provided with the special closure shown in FIGS. **4** and **5**. This special closure comprises: an open-ended cylinder **28** preferably composed of cloth; a zipper **29** (preferably plastic) having one part mounted on the outer side of the bag **1**, below its metal rings **8**, and its other part mounted on the lower end of cylinder **28** so that cylinder **28** may be secured to the bag **1** by connecting the parts together through zipper **29**; and means, such as draw string **30**, for closing the upper end of the special closure cylinder **28**. Now the bag can be placed within an automatic washer and laundered without any serious danger of the metal parts (of the bag, the cap, the lid, the cable or the bannister strap) striking the interior walls of the washer sufficiently to damage them.

A draw string may be used at the location of the zipper **29** to eliminate the zipper and special cylinder **28**. In this event, the bag's mouth end portion above zipper part **29** on bag **1** is turned into the interior of the bag before or during the act of closing the bag. The draw strings in each case provide a means for closing the bag with washables, including the lid, within the bag for laundering purposes.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. An apparatus for manually raising and lowering bulky or otherwise burdensome packages between the floors of an apartment, dwelling or like building, comprising:

A. a bag having a mouth at its upper end and a capacity large enough to receive a manually-handable package;

B. a lid removably securable over the mouth of the bag,

1. said lid having a central section and a series of straps secured to said section and arranged to extend from the periphery of said section for bag supporting purposes and terminating in free ends, which are detachably securable to the mouth end portion of said bag,

a. said central section being relatively stiff in comparison to said straps;

C. an elongate cable having a lid end;

D. means for securing said cable to said lid with the lid end of the cable located over said central section of the lid; and

E. handgrips mounted on the cable along its length to facilitate the raising and lowering of the bag in step-by-step fashion when the bag, lid and cable are secured together.

2. The apparatus of claim **1** including:

A. means, other than said lid, for closing the bag after washables, are placed within the bag for laundering purposes.

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