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PLAYGROUND CLIMBER
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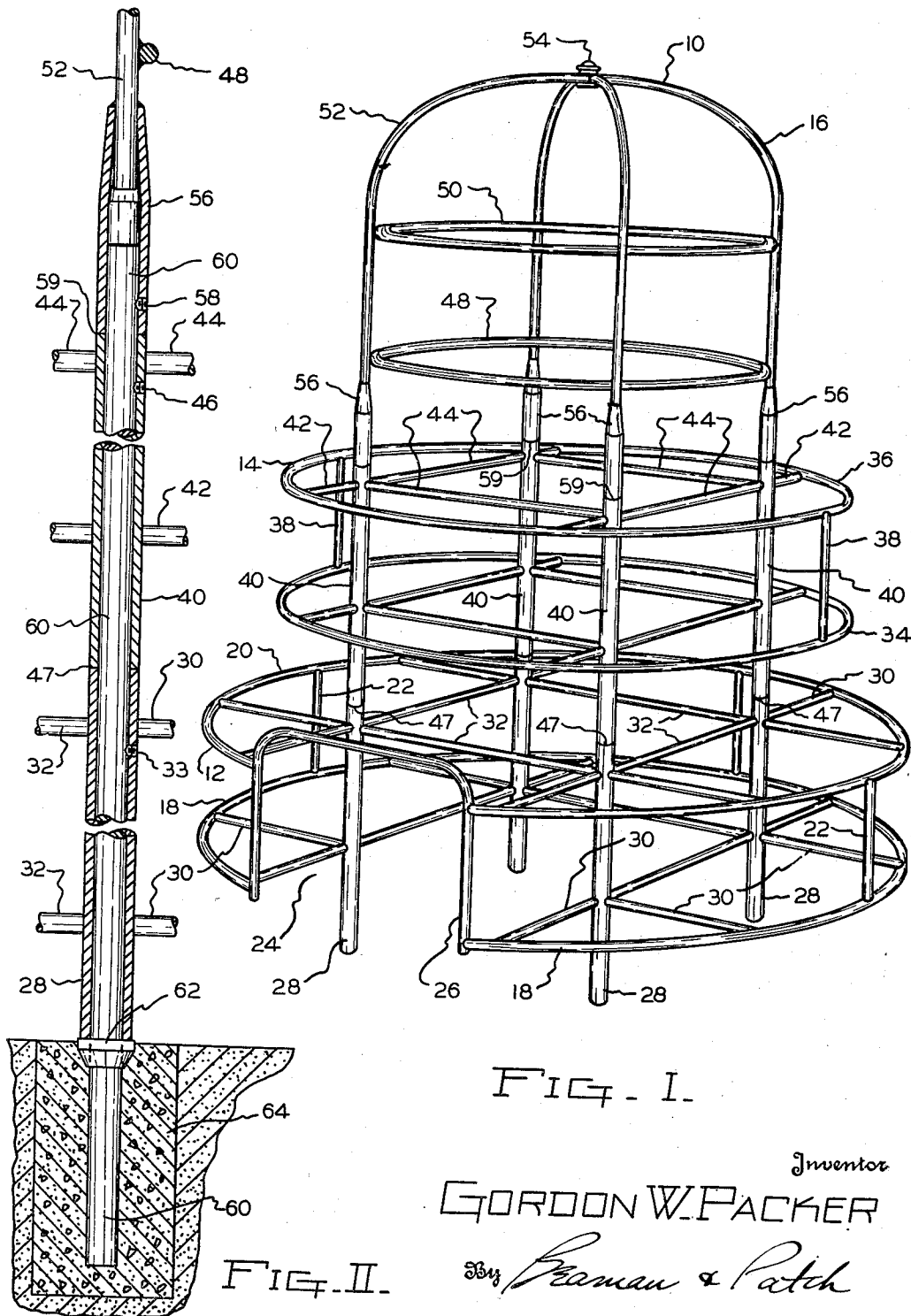


FIG. I.

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FIG. II.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PLAYGROUND CLIMBER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 272-60)

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This invention relates to playground apparatus, and more particularly to structures known as climbing apparatus or castles, which are provided in children's playgrounds so that children may satisfy their desire to climb around on various structures.

There are a large number of various kinds of climbers available, of various sizes and shapes, for installation on children's playgrounds. These available climbers include devices which are triangular, rectangular and circular in plan view and cubic and pyramidal in elevation. The known devices are subject to certain objections, such as having to be assembled at the site on the playground, from a completely unassembled condition, which is time-consuming and inefficient. Likewise, various of these other climbers require the provision of 8 or 12 sections of concrete in which various of their legs are set in order to guarantee the stability of the climber. Another objectionable feature of various of the prior art devices is the sharp corners and protuberances with which they are constructed, which tend to increase the danger of injury to the children using the devices. There is also the further objection that most of these climbers are not readily disassembled and stored during the winter months when, at least in the northern climates, the climbers are not safe for the children due to the temperature of the devices, and the possibility of their being covered with ice and thereby becoming very hazardous.

It is, therefore, an object of this invention to provide a playground apparatus or climber which may be fabricated at the place of manufacture, the said fabrication having been carried on to a degree which requires only a small amount of assembly work at the site on the playground.

A further object is to provide a climber which is fabricated in sections for ease of shipping and final assembly.

Another object is to provide a climber which has no sharp corners or protuberances which might hurt the children using the climber.

Another object is to provide a climber upon which the children may climb while leaning forward on the outside thereof or standing vertically on the inside thereof.

Another object is to provide a climber which can be mounted rigidly on a very small number of ground embedded posts, thereby simplifying the installation and the leveling of the apparatus.

A further object is to provide a climber which is mounted on the minimum number of posts embedded in cement thereby eliminating many

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of the hazards which develop when the dirt washes away from around the usual concrete sections, upon which construction children may sprain or break their ankles.

A further object is to provide a climber having an igloo type entrance which encourages the children to enter the center of the climber structure and makes the center climbing bars more available to them.

A further object is to provide a reinforcement of the vertical support pipe, at the ground level, which will prevent the usual surface rust and deterioration from weakening the said support pipe.

A further object is to provide a climber so constructed in the upper part thereof as to discourage hanging by the hands or the knees from points near the top of the structure, from which a greater injury could be sustained in case the child should fall.

Further objects of my invention will be apparent from a consideration of the following specification in connection with the appended claim and the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure I is a view in perspective of the climber in its assembled condition, and,

Figure II is a sectional view of one of the supporting posts and its associated structure.

In the drawings, it will be seen that the climber 10 is composed, as illustrated, of various separate sections, these being the lower ring 12, the middle ring 14, and the dome 16.

The lower ring 12 is formed with a lower circular rail 18 and an upper circular rail 20, which are spaced apart by the vertical up-rights 22, for most of their circumference. The igloo entrance 24 is formed by the arch 26 which connects the rails 18 and 20 and projects above the top thereof.

The four tubular up-rights 28 support the rails 18 and 20 through the bridging members 30 while the braces 32 maintain the up-rights 28 in position relative to each other. The concealed-head set-screws 33 are provided in threaded apertures in the up-rights 28, for a purpose as will appear later.

The middle ring 14 is composed of a lower circular rail 34 and an upper circular rail 36 which are vertically spaced by the vertical up-rights 38. The rails 34 and 36 are supported from the center tubular up-rights 40 by the bridging members 42, while the braces 44 space the up-rights 40 from each other. The concealed-head set-screws 46 are provided in the up-rights 40 for a purpose as will appear later.

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The uprights 40 about the upper ends of the up-rights 28 at the joints 47.

The dome 16 is formed with a lower circular rail 48 and an upper circular rail 50, which are preferably welded to the supporting members 52, which join at a common point and are connected to a fitting 54 for rigidity. The lower ends of the supporting members 52 are provided with short sleeves 56 of greater diameter than the members 52, being welded thereto adjacent the lower ends of the members 52. The sleeves 56 are fitted with concealed-head set-screws 58 for a purpose as will appear later, and about the uprights 40 at the joints 59.

Particular reference to Figure II will show the supporting structure and assembly of this climbing apparatus. The apparatus is supported by a plurality of support posts 60 which are fitted with an encircling collar 62, preferably welded to the posts 60 at a suitable distance from their lower ends. The posts 60 are preferably embedded in concrete 64 to a depth such that the collar 62 is exactly at ground level. It will be appreciated that with four posts 60, these posts must be installed fairly accurately as to their horizontal centers, and should be positioned vertically so that the four collars 62 are all on a level, or as close thereto as economically possible.

Having embedded the support posts 60 in the concrete 64, the assembly of the apparatus is accomplished by placing the bottom ring 12 in position by slipping the tubular up-rights 28 over the tops of the posts 60 and allowing the lower ends of the up-rights 28 to slide down to the ground level and engage the collars 62. The lower ring 12 should then be levelled and held in position by tightening the set-screws 33 so that they engage the sides of the support posts 60.

Next the middle ring 14 is placed in position in a similar manner, with the tubular up-rights 40 being slipped over the support posts 60 and the set-screws 46 likewise tightened to hold the structure in the desired position. The dome 16 is then placed in position, by slipping the sleeves 56 over the top ends of the support posts 60. The dome 16 is held in position by tightening the set-screws 58 into the sides of the support posts 60.

It will be appreciated that, if the assembly is properly done, the tubular up-rights 28 will directly abut the collars 62, and the lower ends of the up-rights 40 will directly abut the upper ends

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of the up-rights 28 at the joints 47, and the sleeves 56 will directly abut the upper ends of the up-rights 40, at the joints 59.

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

A sectional playground climber comprising a plurality of vertically stacked sections, each section having integrally fabricated horizontal, vertical and peripheral encompassing members, each of said sections including a vertically spaced pair of said peripheral encompassing members, said vertical members of each section being at least three in number and located inside of said pair of encompassing members and intersecting the planes of said encompassing members and being widely spaced from each other to give stable vertical support to said sections, said horizontal members of each section being substantially disposed in the planes of said encompassing members extending between said encompassing members and each of said vertical members and the remaining horizontal members extending between adjacent said vertical members of each section, said vertical members being tubular, vertical post members having end portions to be received in the ground, abutment structure on said post members at the upper end of said ground receiving portion, said vertical members of said sections telescoping with said posts with the lowermost of said sections resting upon said abutments and the next upper of said sections abutting the upper end of said vertical members of said lowermost section and supported thereby, a dome section having vertical portions telescoping with the upper end of said post and abutting with the upper end of the vertical members of the uppermost of said sections, a minor portion of the encompassing members of said lowermost section defining an arch for ingress into the interior of the structure defined by said members.

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