F. G. BARRINGTON.

FIRE ESCAPE.

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1,351,734.

Patented Sept. 7, 1920.

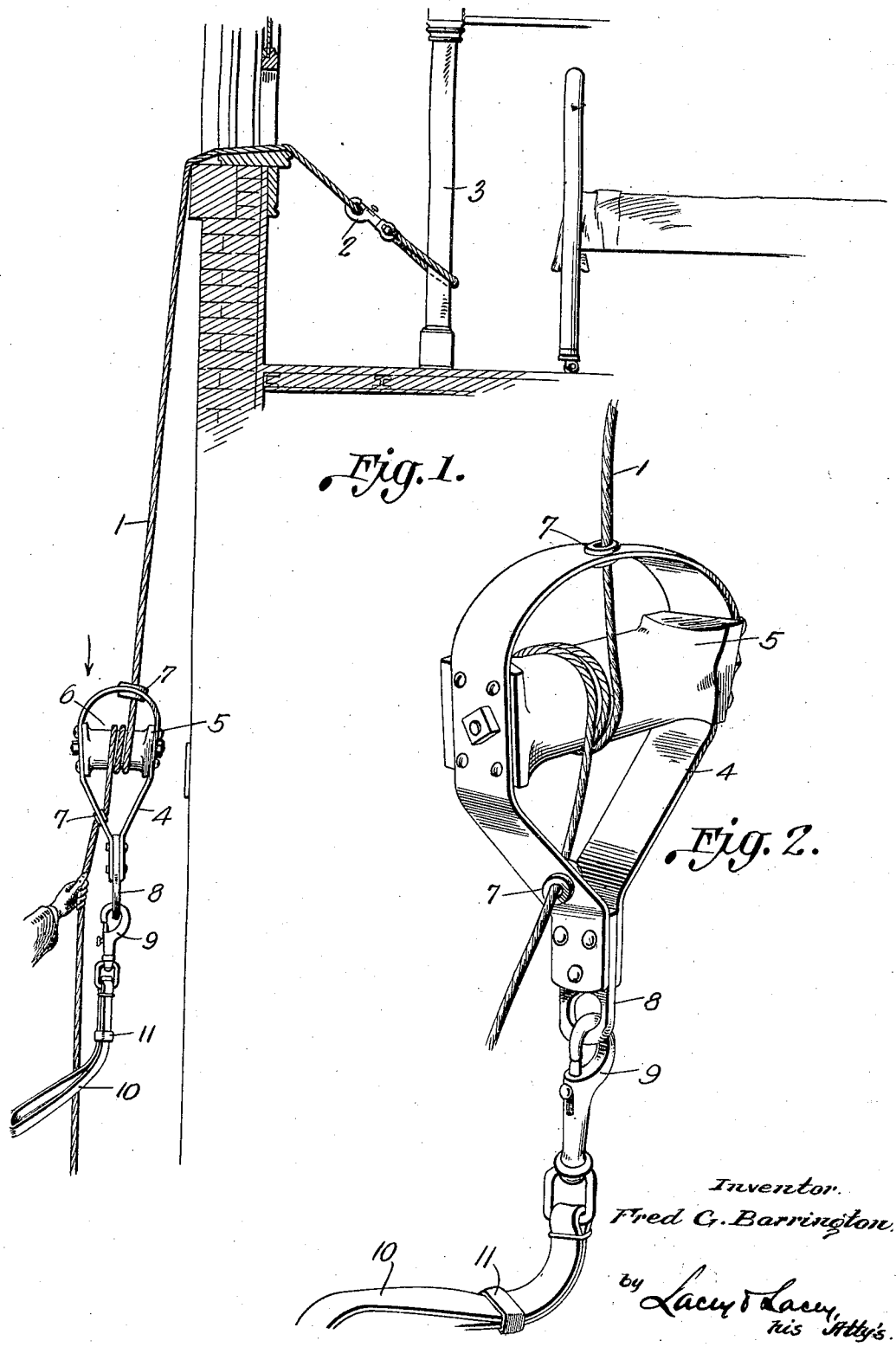



Fig. 1.




Fig. 2.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED G. BARRINGTON, OF VENICE, CALIFORNIA.

## FIRE-ESCAPE.

1,351,734. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 7, 1920.

Application filed March 5, 1920. Serial No. 363,408.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRED G. BARRINGTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Venice, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is a portable fire escape and seeks to provide a device of improved and efficient construction by the use of which a person may readily escape from a burning building when access to the usual exits has been cut off.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a sectional elevation showing the manner of using my improved device.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the body carrier.

In carrying out my invention, I employ a cable 1 which will be of ample length to reach from an upper story of a building to the ground and is equipped at one end with a snap hook or similar device 2 so that if the use of the device becomes necessary the end of the cable may be wrapped around some fixed support as a column 3, or around any other heavy not easily movable object and the snap hook 2 engaged over the main length of the cable, as shown in Fig. 1, whereby the upper end of the cable will be anchored. I also employ a carrier consisting of an open frame or strap 4 within which is rigidly secured a block or bar 5 having a circular cross section between its ends. The ends of this brake block or bar 5 are secured rigidly to the sides of the frame or strap 4 and the cable 1 is given several turns around the said circular intermediate portion of the block or bar, as clearly shown at 6 in Fig. 1. It will be readily noted that the cable, both above and below the coiled portion 6, is passed through an opening in the strap 4 and each of said openings is reinforced by a ferrule or collar 7 so that there will be no cutting edges presented to the cable to unduly wear away the same. The ends of the strap 4 are brought together and have rigidly secured therebetween an eye 8 in which is engaged a hook 9 which is carried by the end of a belt 10. A loop 11 is slidably mounted upon the belt 10 so that it may be slipped longitudinally thereof to draw the belt tightly about the body of the person using the device.

When the use of the device becomes necessary, the upper end of the cable is anchored, as previously stated, and the belt 10 is placed about the body of the user, being drawn tightly around the same by the adjustment of the loop 11 as will be readily understood. The user of the device then tosses the free end of the cable through a window of the room to the ground, after which he passes through the window, feet foremost, retaining a firm grip upon the cable. By loosening his grip upon the cable at intervals of more or less frequency his weight exerted upon the belt 10 will draw downwardly upon the frame 4 so that the same will slip along the cable and thereby lower the user to the ground in safety. The rapidity of descent will be governed by the hold upon the cable inasmuch as the wrapping of the cable around the block or bar 5 causes said block or bar to act as a brake and tend to retard the descent.

My device is exceedingly simple and may be readily used by any person who may be trapped in a burning building.

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

A fire escape comprising an open frame consisting of a strap doubled on itself and having its ends brought together to form an arched top portion, relatively short vertical end portions and converging bottom portions, said converging bottom portions having flat parallel terminals, and provided in its top and in one of said converging bottom portions near its flat terminal with guide openings, a bar extending between the sides of said frame and having its central portion circular in cross section, the ends of said bar being flat faced and abutting and secured rigidly to the short vertical end portions of the frame, an eye secured between the said flat parallel terminals, a belt suspended from said eye, and a cable having its intermediate portion wrapped around the central circular portion of the bar and its end portions passing through the guide openings in the top and the bottom portion of the frame, the upper end of the cable being provided with anchoring means.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

FRED G. BARRINGTON. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
FRANK MACHADA,
A. S. MCKENNEY.