Nov. 12, 1957 D. E. HOLLOWAY 2,812,950

COMBINATION WALKING STICK AND WHEELED CARRIER

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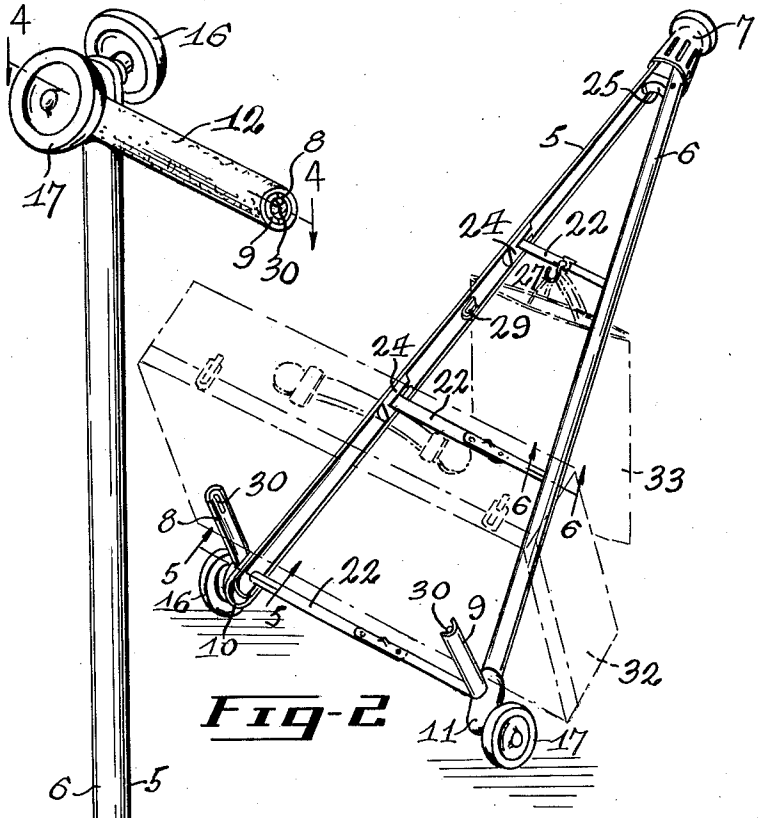


Fig-2

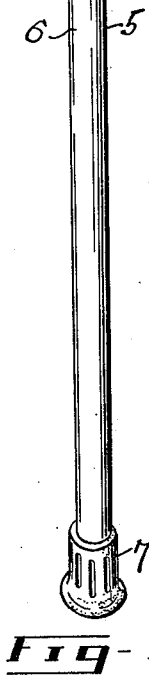


Fig-1

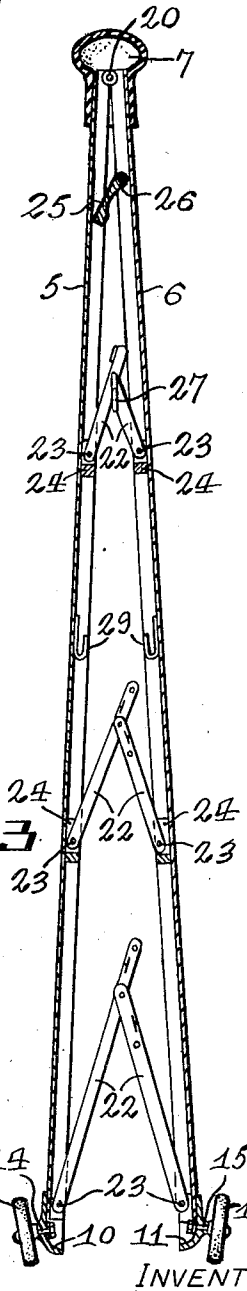


Fig-3

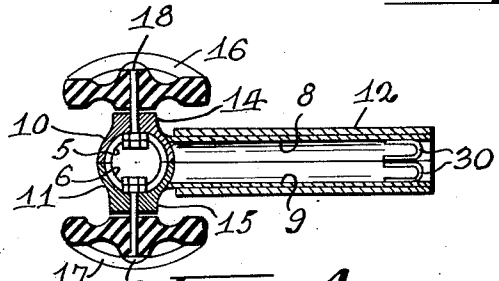


Fig-4

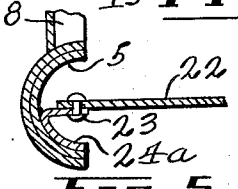


Fig-5

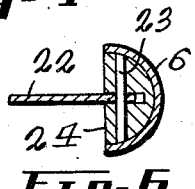


Fig-6

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COMBINATION WALKING STICK AND WHEELED CARRIER

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9 Claims. (Cl. 280—42)

This invention relates to a combination walking stick and baggage carrier, and more particularly to a walking stick which is adapted to be convertible to a wheeled carrier for supporting baggage to be transported.

In accordance with this invention I have provided a walking stick comprising a split tubular member forming two half-sections hinged at one end and provided at the other end with wheel members and a pair of split handle members, the latter extending laterally from the free ends of the half sections of the tubular member to provide baggage supports when the split tubular member is divergently spread apart at the hinge connection.

Accordingly it is an object of this invention to provide a collapsible wheeled carrier which may be compactly folded up and employed as a walking stick.

Another object is to provide a walking stick comprising a split tubular member, the sections of which are hinged at one end to be divergently spread apart, the free ends of said sections being provided with wheels and laterally extending baggage supports.

The above and other objects, advantages and characteristic features of this invention will be understood more readily from the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my invention when adapted to serve as a walking stick.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view illustrating the said invention when adapted to serve as a baggage carrier.

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view showing the component elements in a semi-collapsed condition.

Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 2.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 5 and 6 designate two half-sections of a tube forming a walking stick shaft. A ferrule 7 is fitted over one end of the stick shaft and a pair of tubular half-sections 8 and 9 are secured by split cap sections 10 and 11 to the opposite ends of the shaft half-sections 5 and 6 respectively. Tubular half-sections 8 and 9 project laterally therefrom to conjointly form a handle member when the half-sections 5 and 6 are closed to form the stick shaft, as shown in Fig. 1. A sleeve 12 may be fitted over the handle-forming half sections 8 and 9 to retain them in their closed condition. The split cap sections 10 and 11 have thickened portions 14 and 15 respectively, the outer surfaces of which are inclined so that a pair of wheels 16 and 17 may be mounted thereon at a predetermined angle. Wheels 16 and 17 rotate about axis pins 18 and 19 and may be removably mounted for detachment if desired when the device is being utilized as a walking stick.

As will be seen more clearly in Figs. 2 to 6, the half-sections 5 and 6 are pivoted at the ferrule end, as indicated at 20 to permit divergent separation of the shaft

half-sections 5 and 6 for conversion of the device to a carrier. This is accomplished by first removing the sleeve 12, and then reversing the ends of the stick so that the ferrule covered end is uppermost. The ferrule is of a flexible material which permits spreading of the tube half-sections 5 and 6 without the necessity of removing said ferrule.

A plurality of centrally hinged braces 22 of different lengths are spaced along the length of said half-sections 5 and 6 and are pivoted at their opposite ends by pins 23 in blocks 24 fastened to the inner surface of the half-sections 5 and 6. Alternatively brackets 24*a* may be substituted for blocks 24. Braces 22 serve to secure the half-sections 5 and 6 in a predetermined divergent position so that the wheels 16 and 17 are disposed with their axes 18 and 19 in a horizontal plane. In this condition the handle forming tubular half-sections 8 and 9 are directed forwardly to support the under side of a piece of baggage, indicated at 32 when the half-sections 5 and 6 are held in a forwardly and downwardly inclined position. A finger guard 25 is pivoted at one end, as indicated at 26, to one of said half-sections 5 and 6 in the vicinity of the hinged end. Guard 25 is swingable across the gap between the half-sections 5 and 6 to prevent wedging of an operator's finger therebetween if the operator desires to insert a finger to control the action of the carriage.

One or more of the braces 22 may be provided with hooks 27 pivoted to said braces for the suspension of a shopping bag 33 or other article.

Opposing hooks 29 may also be mounted inside of the half-sections for the suspension of a sling. In this connection it is contemplated providing a suitable sling or seat for a small child, the sling to be suspended from hooks 29 so that the child may be transported by the carrier.

Hooks 30 are also provided in the half-sections 8 and 9 forming the baggage supports for the attachment of slings which may be passed around the forward portion of the baggage to secure it to the carrier. The slings may, for example, have one end attached to hooks 30 and the other attached to hooks 29.

It will be seen that the component elements such as the braces 22, guard 25 and hooks 27, 29 and 30 are all arranged so that they are completely concealed within the tubular sections when the device is collapsed to provide a walking stick.

As previously stated this device may be readily converted from a walking stick to a wheeled carrier. And this is accomplished without the need of dismantling or replacing of any of the component parts. The exception to this is only when the sleeve 12 is used. Other parts, however, need not be removed. In its condition as a wheeled carrier it is readily adaptable for transporting suitcases, travelling bags, valises, etc. along station platforms, thus eliminating the need of a porter. This is particularly beneficial in places where porters are scarce and in some instances are not available. In the majority of cases, the type of luggage to be transported by travellers can be mounted on the carrier without other aids or attachments, such as securing straps and the like, so that a traveller can convert the stick to a carrier in two movements, namely, reversing the stick and spreading the half-sections to their full divergent positions. The carrier is ready to receive the luggage for immediate transportation to any destination. It will also be apparent that the carrier can also be used for many purposes around the home as well as on shopping tours.

What I claim is:

1. A combination walking stick and wheeled carrier, comprising a pair of shaft forming members pivoted at one end to swing about a common axis to selectively per-

mit said members to be swung to an abutting, side-by-side position throughout their length to conjointly form a shaft portion of said stick and to be swung to divergent positions from their pivotal connection, a handle forming section extending laterally from the free end of each of said shaft forming members at one side thereof to be positioned in side-by-side relation when said shaft forming members are in abutting relation, a wheel rotatably mounted adjacent the juncture of each shaft forming member and handle forming section, and expansible means connected to each of said shaft forming members at a point along the length of each member remote from their pivotal connection to secure said shaft forming members at a predetermined divergent position.

2. A combination walking stick and wheeled carrier, comprising two longitudinal half-sections of a tube, means hingedly connecting said tube half-sections at one end thereof for rotation about a common axis to selectively permit said tube half-sections to be swung to a position with their complementary longitudinal edges in abutting engagement throughout their length to conjointly form a shaft portion of a walking stick and to be swung to divergent positions from their hinged connection, a pair of tubular handle-forming half-sections, each extending laterally from one side of said shaft-forming half-sections with their complementary longitudinal edges engageable in opposed relation to conjointly form a tubular handle when said shaft-forming half-sections are in abutting engagement, a wheel rotatably mounted adjacent the juncture of each shaft-forming half-section and handle-forming half-section, and expansible means connected to each of said shaft-forming half-sections remotely from said hinged connection to secure said shaft-forming half-sections at a predetermined divergent position.

3. A combination walking stick and wheeled carrier as set forth in claim 2, including a ferrule fitted over the hinged end of said shaft-forming sections said ferrule having expansible side walls.

4. A combination walking stick and wheeled carrier as set forth in claim 2, including a sleeve member removably slidable over said handle-forming sections when the latter are in abutting engagement.

5. A combination walking stick and wheeled carrier as set forth in claim 2, in which each of said wheels is rotatably mounted with its axis disposed at a predetermined angle to the longitudinal axis of the corresponding shaft-forming section, characterized in that, when said shaft-forming sections are swung to their predetermined divergent positions, the axes of said wheels are substantially aligned.

6. A combination walking stick and wheeled carrier as set forth in claim 2, in which said expansible means comprises at least one pair of brace members pivotally

connected to each other, one of said brace members being pivotally connected at one end to a point along the length of one shaft-forming section remote from its hinged connection and the other brace member being pivotally connected at one end to an equidistant point along the length of the other shaft-forming section remote from its hinged connection.

7. A combination walking stick and wheeled carrier as set forth in claim 2, in which said expansible means comprises a plurality of pairs of brace members spaced along the length of said shaft-forming sections, each pair of brace members being pivotally connected to each other and having the free end of one of said pair pivotally connected to one shaft-forming section and the free end of the other of said pair pivotally connected to the remaining shaft-forming section at a point opposite to the pivotal connection of said first brace to said first mentioned shaft-forming section.

8. A combination as set forth in claim 7 including a guard member pivotally mounted in one of said shaft-forming sections adjacent its hinged end said guard member being swingable across the space between said two shaft-forming sections when they are opened to a predetermined divergent position.

9. A wheeled carrier comprising two longitudinal half-sections of a tube, means hingedly connecting said tube half-sections at one end thereof for rotation about a common axis to selectively permit said tube half-sections to be swung to a position with their complementary longitudinal edges in abutting engagement and to be swung to predetermined divergent positions from their hinged connection, a pair of support forming half-sections, each extending laterally from one side of said tube half-sections with their opposing longitudinal edges engageable when said tube half-sections are swung to closed position, a wheel rotatably mounted adjacent the juncture of each tube half-section and support-forming half-section, and expansible means connected to each of said tube half-sections to secure the latter in their predetermined divergent positions.

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