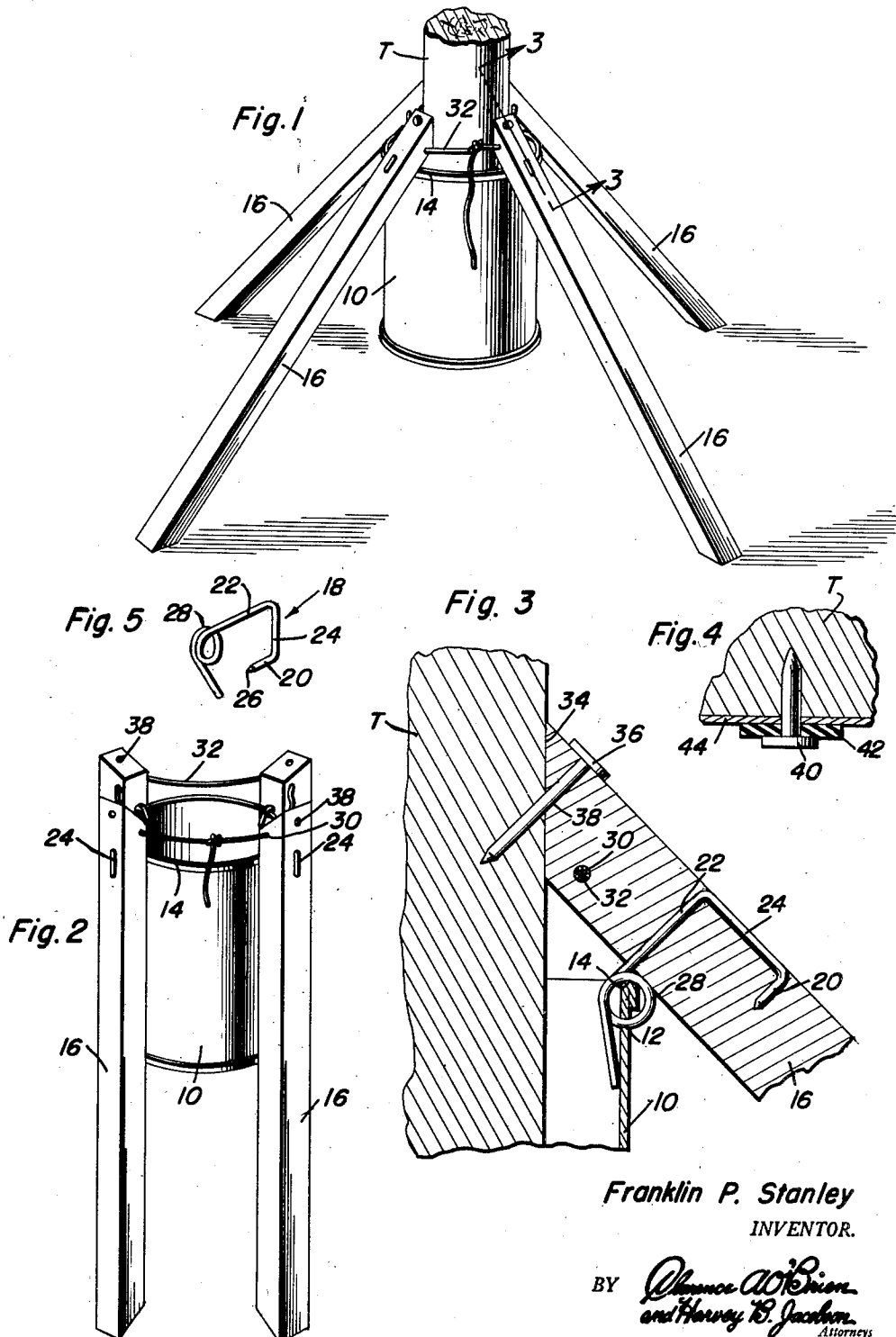


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CHRISTMAS TREE STAND

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1 Claim. (Cl. 248—44)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in Christmas tree holders and the primary object of the present invention is to provide a Christmas tree holder including supporting legs and novel and improved means for reinforcing and strengthening the legs and for pivotally securing the legs to a container.

Another important object of the present invention is to provide a Christmas tree holder of the aforementioned character wherein the upper ends of the legs are connected together by a flexible element that is manually pulled to move the upper ends of the legs together so that the same may be anchored to a tree.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a Christmas tree holder involving wire loops or coils that are anchored to legs and which coils are trained through apertures in a container and over the upper edge of the container adjacent which the apertures are located.

A still further aim of the present invention is to provide a tree holder that is simple and practical in construction, strong and reliable in use, neat and attractive in appearance, inexpensive to manufacture, and otherwise well adapted for the purposes for which the same is intended.

Other objects and advantages reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the present invention in use;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the present invention showing the legs folded against the container;

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the plane of section line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is an enlarged detail vertical sectional view showing the manner in which the lower end of the tree is anchored to the bottom wall of the container; and,

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the leg attaching member used in the invention.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, wherein for the purpose of illustration, there is disclosed a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the numeral 10 represents a cylindrical container that is formed with a plurality of circumferentially spaced apertures 12 adjacent its upper edge 14.

A plurality of supporting legs 16 is provided for supporting the container 10 in an elevated position and for retaining a tree T in the container 10. The legs 16 are pivotally secured to the container 10 through the medium of wire members 18, and the wire members 18 also reinforce and strengthen the legs 16.

Each of the wire members 18 includes a U-shaped portion having first and second leg portions 20 and 22, and a web portion 24 joining the leg portions 20 and 22. The leg portions 20 are provided with pointed ends 26 and the leg portions 22 are provided with elongated extensions

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that are bent intermediate their ends into coils 28.

The leg portions 20 extend into the legs 16 adjacent the upper extremities of the legs and the leg portions 22 extend completely through the legs 16 prior to the formation of coils 28. The coils 28 are trained through the apertures 12 and over the edge 14.

Transverse horizontal openings 30 are provided in the upper portions of the legs 16 and these openings slidably receive a cord 32 whose ends are knotted together. As the cord 32 is pulled radially outward, the flat ends 34 of the legs 16 will engage the tree T so that fasteners 36 may be driven through apertures 38 in the upper ends of the legs 16 and into the tree T.

The shank of a headed fastener 40 extends upwardly through a resilient washer 42 and the bottom wall 44 of the container and into the tree T. The washer 42 prevents water placed in the container from passing through the opening in the bottom wall accommodating the fastener 40.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings it is believed that a clear understanding of the construction, operation and advantages of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

It is to be understood, however, that even though there is herein shown and described a preferred embodiment of the invention the same is susceptible to certain changes fully comprehended by the spirit of the invention as herein described and the scope of the appended claim.

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

In a container having an upper edge and a plurality of circumferentially spaced apertures adjacent its upper edge, means for supporting the container in an elevated position and for retaining a Christmas tree in the container, said means comprising a plurality of supporting legs having upper ends, a U-shaped wire member associated with the upper end of each leg, said members each including first and second leg portions and a web portion joining said leg portions, said first leg portions extending into the upper ends of said legs and the second leg portions of said members being elongated and extending through said legs and terminating in coils trained through the apertures and over said upper edge, said wire members reinforcing and strengthening said legs.

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