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COMBINATION CHAIR-WALKER

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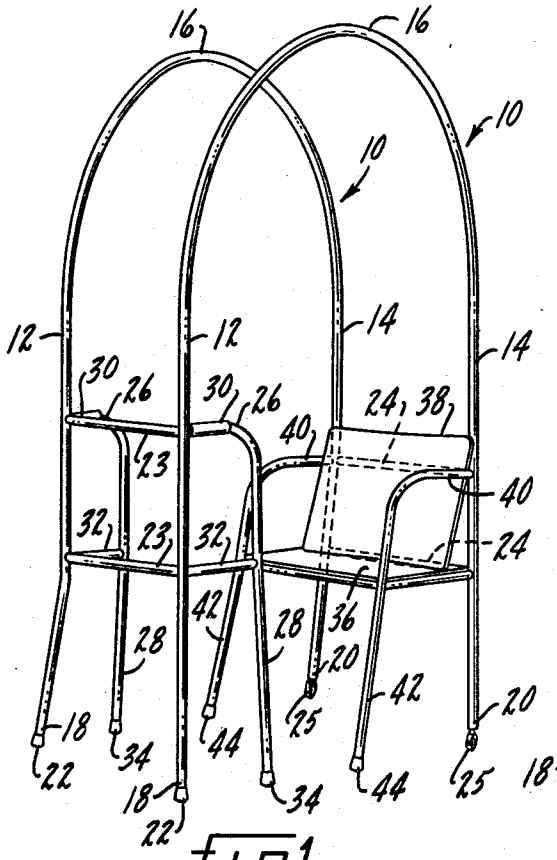


fig. 1.

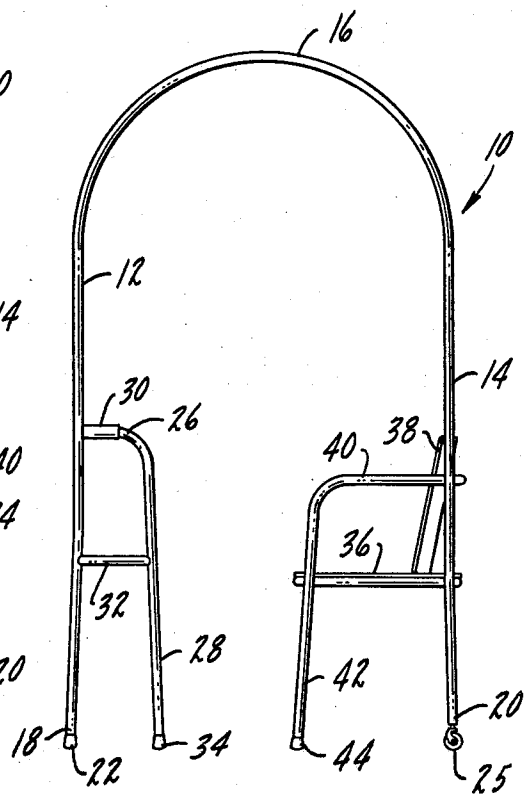


fig. 2.

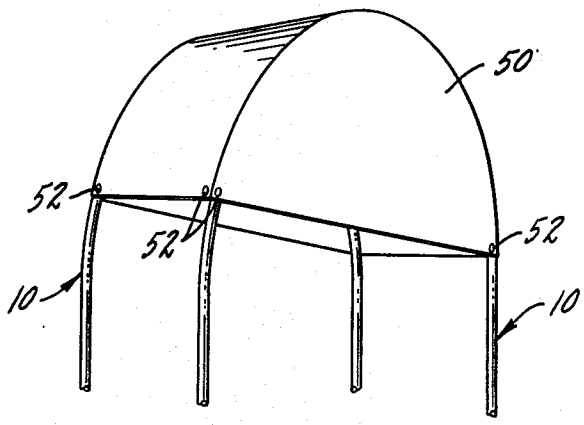


fig. 3.

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COMBINATION CHAIR-WALKER

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a combination chair-walker for invalids comprising a pair of aligned frame members, each having generally vertical front and rear portions and an upper arch-shaped portion, and having wheels at the ends of the rear vertical portions. Hand grips extend rearwardly from the front portions of the frame members, and a seat is mounted between the rear portions. In the preferred embodiment, grip support members are provided between the hand grips and the ground, and a chair back, arm rests, and arm rest support members are also provided. The arm rest support members also provide support for the seat.

The present invention relates to an improved combination chair-walker, and more particularly to a combination chair-walker which affords ease of entry and exit.

While combination chair-walkers for invalids are not new, most of the devices heretofore available have been cumbersome, and have been difficult to get into and out of, especially for persons who find it difficult to move about.

Generally, the present invention relates to an improved combination chair-walker which affords particular ease of entry and exit. In its basic form, the invention comprises a pair of aligned frame members, each having a generally vertical front portion, a generally vertical gear portion, and an upper arch-shaped portion connecting the vertical portions. The front and rear portions of the frame members each terminate in a front end and a rear end, respectively. Connecting means are connected between the frame members to maintain the frame members in aligned, spaced, side-by-side relationship. A hand grip projects rearwardly from the front portion of each of the frame members, and a seat is suspended between the rear portions of the frame members, projecting generally forwardly therefrom. At the rear end of each frame member, a wheel is mounted to permit the chair-walker to be easily moved in either a forward or rearward direction.

The invention, together with its organization and method of operation, will be best appreciated by reference to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a combination chair-walker constructed in accordance with the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is an elevation view of the combination chair-walker shown in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of an upper portion of the combination chair-walker, showing a canopy mounted thereon.

FIGURES 1 and 2 illustrate a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The apparatus includes a pair of aligned, parallel frame members, each designated generally by reference numeral **10**. Each frame member **10** has a generally vertical front portion **12**, a generally vertical rear portion **14**, and an upper arch-shaped portion **16** connecting the vertical portions **12, 14**. The vertical front portions **12** each terminate in a front end **18**, and the rear portions each terminate in a rear end **20**. In the preferred embodiment, the front ends **18** are each covered with a cap

22 of resilient material such as rubber, nylon, or the like. As shown in FIGURE 1, the frame members **10** are rigidly maintained side-by-side in aligned, parallel, spaced relationship by suitable connecting means, in the preferred embodiment comprising a pair of front connecting members **23** and a pair of rear connecting members **24** connected between the front and rear portions **12, 14**, respectively, of the frame members **10**. As shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, the rear end **20** of each rear vertical portion **12** of the frame members **10** has a wheel or caster **25** to permit the device to be easily moved about as hereinafter described.

Projecting rearwardly from the vertical front portion **12** of each frame member **10** is a hand grip **26**. For maximum strength combined with minimum weight, the apparatus also preferably includes a generally vertical hand grip support member **28** extending downwardly from each hand grip **26**. This vertical support member **28** extends downwardly a distance sufficient to contact a flat surface, such as a floor, when the wheels **25** and the front ends **18** are also in contact with the surface. In the embodiment shown, the hand grips **26** and support members **28** are each made from a single piece of material, bent to extend rearwardly from the front portion **12** of each frame member **10** and then downwardly to contact the ground. Each hand grip **26** preferably has a covering **30** of resilient material such as rubber, nylon, or the like. As also shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, in the preferred embodiment the apparatus includes a brace member **32** projecting generally rearwardly from the front portion **12** of each frame member **10**, and connected between the front portion **12** and the support member **28**. Each hand grip support member **28** also preferably has a cap **34** at the end, of suitable resilient material.

A seat **36** is suspended between the rear portions **14** of the frame members **10**, projecting generally forwardly therefrom. In the preferred embodiment, a chair back **38** is also connected between the rear portions **14**, and properly slanted to permit seating comfort. In the embodiment shown, the chair back **38** is connected to one of the connecting members **24** between the frame members **10**. The chair back **38** and/or the seat **36** may also perform the function of the rear connecting means, properly maintaining the rear portions **14** of the frame member **12** in aligned, spaced relationship. In such case, the separate rear connecting members **24** may be eliminated.

In the preferred embodiment, a generally horizontal arm-rest **40** projects forwardly from the rear portion **14** of each frame member **10**. These arm-rests **40** are located above level of the seat **36**. A generally vertical arm-rest support member **42** extends downwardly from each arm-rest **40** to contact a flat surface such as a floor when the wheels **25** and the front ends **18** are also in contact with the surface. The arm-rest support members **42** also support a front portion of the seat **36**. This arrangement provides rigidity to maintain the arm-rest **40** and support members **42** in properly aligned relationship. Each of these arm-rest support members **42** preferably has a cap **44** of resilient material on the end.

Referring to FIGURE 3, the design of the apparatus of the present invention conveniently permits the use of a canopy **50** fitted over the arch-shaped portions **16** of the frame members **10**. Such a canopy **50** provides shade and protection from the elements. The canopy **50** may be attached by suitable attaching means such as snaps on the frame members **10** and mating snaps **52** properly positioned on the canopy **50**. The canopy **50** is suitably made of any durable, lightweight material.

Of course, light weight is especially important, since the device is intended for use by invalids. Accordingly, the overall apparatus is preferably constructed of light-

weight materials such as aluminum tubing, rigid plastics, and the like.

To use the apparatus of the present invention, the user simply stands between the frame members **10** facing in a forward direction. To walk forwardly, he grips the hand grips **28**, lifts the forward portion of the apparatus, and moves it forwardly. It will move easily in a forward direction as a result of the turning of the wheels **25**. To take a step, the user lowers the forward portion of the apparatus to the ground, and supports himself while he takes a step. This portion of the operation is similar to that for any walker conventionally for invalids, as is well known in the art. Should the user desire to rest, he may simply seat himself on the seat **36**.

Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention as hereinbefore set forth will occur to those skilled in the art, and it is intended to cover the appended claims all such modifications and variations as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A combination chair-walker comprising: a pair of aligned frame members, each having a generally vertical front portion, a generally vertical rear portion, and an upper arch-shaped portion connecting said vertical portions, said front and rear portions each terminating in a front and a rear end, respectively; connecting means connected between said frame members to maintain said frame members in aligned, spaced side-by-side relationship; a hand grip projecting rearwardly from said front portion of each of said frame members; a seat suspended between said rear portions of said frame members and projecting generally forwardly therefrom; a wheel at said rear end of each frame member; and a pair of generally vertical hand grip support members extending downwardly from said hand grips to contact a flat surface when said wheels and said front ends of said frame members are in contact with said surface.

2. The combination chair-walker as defined in claim **1** further including a generally horizontal arm-rest projecting forwardly from said rear portion of each frame member.

3. The combination chair-walker as defined in claim **2** further including a chair back portion connected between said rear portions of said frame members.

4. The combination chair-walker as defined in claim **1** further including a canpoy adapted for attachment to an upper portion of said frame members.

5. A combination chair-walker comprising: a pair of aligned frame members, each having a generally vertical front portion, a generally vertical rear portion, and an uper arch-shaped portion connecting said vertical portions, said front and rear portions each terminating in a front end and a rear end, respectively; connecting means

between said frame members to maintain said members in aligned, space side-by-side relationship; a wheel at the rear end of each frame member; a hand grip projecting rearwardly from said front portion of each of said frame members; a seat suspended between said rear portions of said frame members and projecting generally forwardly therefrom; a chair back portion connected between said rear portions of said frame members; a generally horizontal arm-rest projecting forwardly from said rear portion of each frame member; and a generally vertical arm-rest support member extending downwardly from each arm rest to contact a flat surface when said wheels and said front ends of said frame members are in contact with said surface, said arm-rest support members also being connected to a forward portion of said seat to provide support therefor.

6. A combination chair-walker comprising: a pair of aligned frame members, each having a generally vertical front portion, a generally vertical rear portion, and an upper arch-shaped portion connecting said vertical portions, said front and rear portions each terminating in a front end and a rear end, respectively; connecting means between said frame members to maintain said members in aligned, spaced side-by-side relationship; a wheel at the rear end of each frame member; a hand grip projecting rearwardly from said front portion of each of said frame members; a generally vertical hand grip support member extending downwardly from each of said hand grips to contact a flat surface when said wheels and said front ends of said frame members are in contact with said surface; a seat suspended between said rear portions of said frame members and projecting generally forwardly therefrom; a generally horizontal arm-rest projecting forwardly from said rear portion of each frame member; and a generally vertical arm-rest support member extending downwardly from each arm-rest to contact a flat surface when said wheels and said front ends of said frame members are in contact with said surface, said arm-rest support members also being connected to a forward portion of said seat to provide support therefor.

7. The combination chair-walker as defined in claim **6** further including a canopy adapted for attachment to an upper portion of said frame member.

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