Jan. 13, 1970 L. A. GUCKENBERGER 3,489,451

AWNING LOWERING DEVICE

Filed April 1, 1968

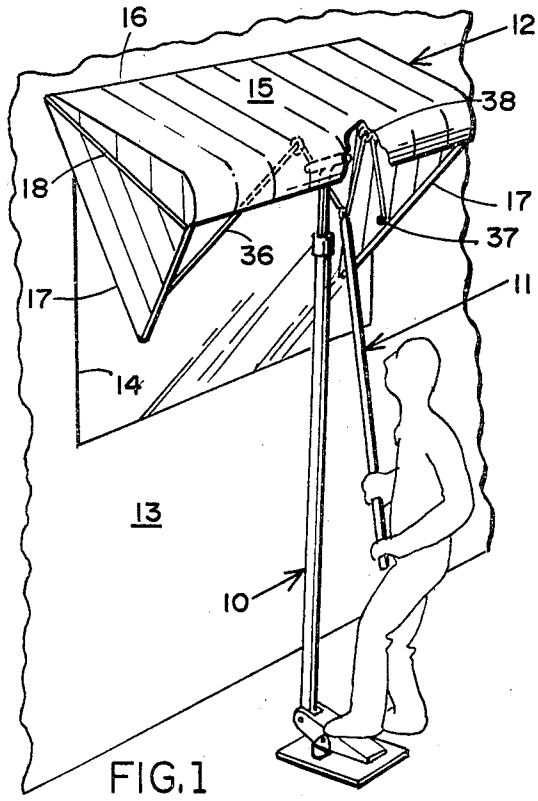


FIG. 1

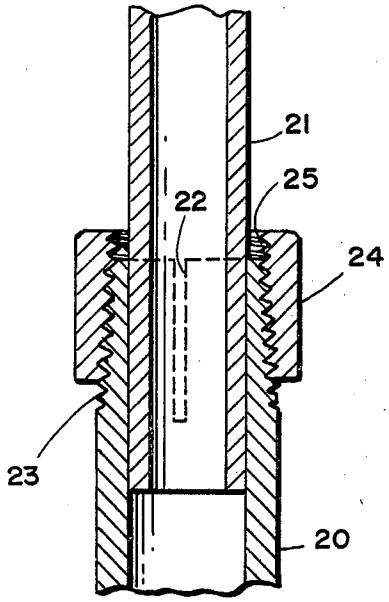


FIG. 3

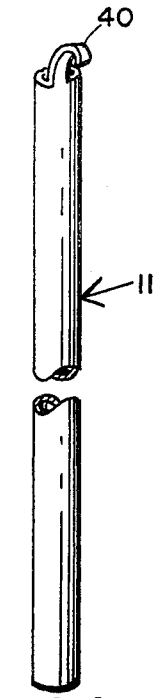


FIG. 4

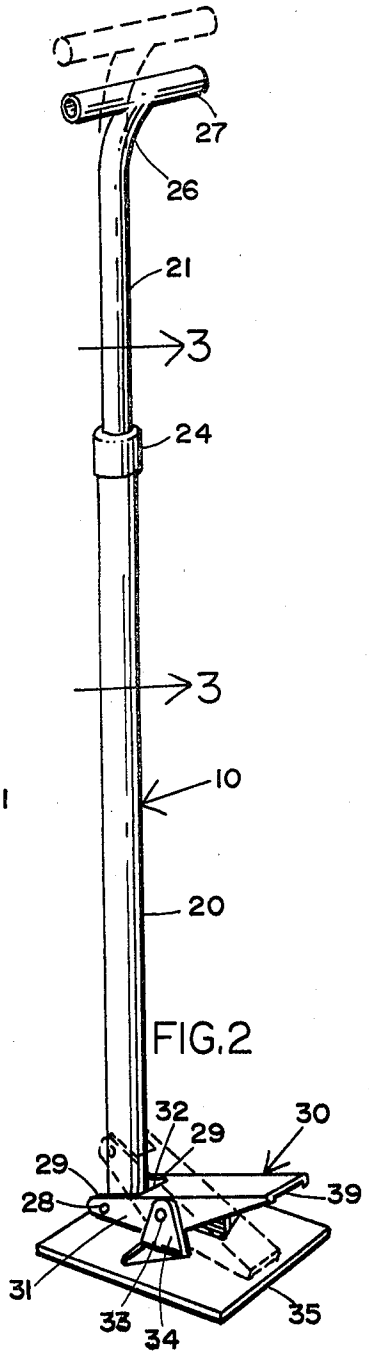


FIG. 2

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United States Patent Office 3,489,451 Patented Jan. 13, 1970

3,489,451

AWNING LOWERING DEVICE

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Filed Apr. 1, 1968, Ser. No. 717,734
Int. Cl. A47f 13/06; B66f 3/00
U.S. Cl. 294—19 3 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An awning lowering device having a pair of adjustable posts telescopically mounted together, a foot lever pivotally mounted at one end to the lower end of one of the posts, with a base plate pivotally supporting the foot lever at its mid-position whereby upon placing the posts against a lower surface of the awning and stepping on the foot lever, the awning is pivoted upwardly to release the awning and permit its being lowered to its closed position.

This invention relates to awning equipment and is more particularly directed to an apparatus for lowering an awning.

At the present time the lowering of a conventional arwning requires the services of two persons, one of whom must use a ladder to reach the awning which is normally about ten feet above the ground. This manner of lowering an awning is slow and cumbersome, requiring a good bit of strength and is most ineffective at a time when a storm or hurricane is imminent.

The present invention contemplates avoiding the requirement of more than one person to lower an awning and the person being able to reach the awning from the ground to lower the awning quickly and with ease and little effort.

Therefore, a principal object of the present invention is to provide an awning lowering device which can be handled by one person to quickly and easily lower an awning.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an awning lowering device which is simple in construction, easy to operate by a single person standing on the ground below the awning.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide an awning lowering device utilizing the weight of the operator to pivot the heavy, conventional awning upwardly away from the building to commence its swing downwardly to its closed position.

With these and other objects in view, the invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, with the understanding, however, that the invention is not confined to any strict conformity with the showing of the drawing but may be changed or modified so long as such changes or modifications mark no material departure from the salient features of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of an awning in the process of being lowered by a person using my lowering device.

FIGURE 2 is an elevational view of my awning lowering device.

FIGURE 3 is a longitudinal cross sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of a line engaging pole.

Referring to the drawings wherein like numerals are used to designate similar parts throughout the several views, the numeral **10** refers to an awning lowering device

and the numeral **11** referring to a line engaging pole which comprise my apparatus for lowering an awning.

Shown by FIGURE 1 is a conventional awning **12** mounted on a wall **13** and protecting a window **14**. The conventional awning **12** consists of a main portion **15** and is hinged to the wall **13** along its upper edge portion **16**. There is provided a pair of side flaps **17** which are hinged as at **18** to the main portion **15** of the awning **12**, the hinged flaps **17** bearing against the wall **13** alongside the window **14** to maintain the awning **12** in its open position. The flaps **17** may be fastened by releasable hooks (not shown) to the wall **13** if desired, but not found to be necessary since the downward force exerted by the heavy main portion **15** of the awning **12** maintains the flaps **17** securely positioned against the wall **13** and the awning **12** in its open position.

However, in order to close the awning **12**, that is, to return the main portion **15** to its vertical position against the wall **13** and thereby protect the window **14** against the fury of a storm or hurricane, the heavy weight of the awning **12** must be lifted in order to pivot the main portion **15** upwardly and swing the side flaps **17** away from engagement with the wall **13**. This feat normally requires the services of a person strong enough to bear the weight of awning **12** and who must be perched on a ladder while swinging the main portion **12** upwardly while a second person swings the side flaps **17** inwardly to permit the downward pivotal movement of the awning **12** on the hinged portion **16** to its closed position.

On the other hand, my awning lowering device **10** which is used to lower the awning **12** by a single person consists of a main tubular member **20** having a post **21** telescopically mounted therein. The top end of the tubular member **20** is slotted as at **22** and provided with threads **23** on its outer surface. A lock collar **24** is threadedly mounted on the threads **23** being provided with mating threads **25** and are formed on the inner tapering surface of the lock collar **24**. The diameter of the bore at the upper surface of the lock collar **24** is slightly less than that at the lower surface thereof so that as the collar **24** is tightened on the tubular member **20**, the post **21** becomes secured against sliding movement in the tubular member **20**.

The top end portion of the post **21** is curved slightly as at **26** to compel the cross member **27** which is secured to the top end of the post **21** to bear against the inner surface of the main portion **15** without slipping. The lower end of the tubular member **20** is pivoted by a pivot pin **28** to the free ends of the tab portions **31** formed on a foot lever **30**. The foot lever **30** is slotted as at **32** to receive the lower end of the tubular member **20** and permit the free pivotal movement of the tubular member **20**. The mid-portion of the foot lever **30** is pivoted by a pin **33** extending through a pair of tabs **34** that have been struck from a plate **35** which forms the support for the lowering device **10**.

In order that not more than one person be required to lower the conventional awning **12**, a line or string is secured at each end to fastening members **37** secured to the inner surface of the flaps **17** adjacent the lower edge thereof. The string **36** extends through a pair of eyelets **38** secured to the inner surface of the main portion **15** of the awning **12**.

The operator is provided with a sufficiently long pole **11** which has a hooked end portion **40** at its upper end for engaging the string **36** at the position between the eyelets **38**. He then places the lowering device **10** beneath the awning **12** with the cross piece **27** engaging the lower surface of the main portion **15** of the awning **12**. If necessary the post **21** can be adjusted with relation to the tubular member **20** by means of the lock collar **24**

so that the cross member **27** will engage the awning **15** with the end portion **29** of the foot lever **30** in its lowered position as shown by the solid line showing thereof in FIGURE 2. The operator then steps on the free end **39** of the foot pedal **30**, using his weight as the force to pivot the other end portion **29** to swing upwardly carrying with it the tubular members **20** and **21**. The awning **15** is pivoted upwardly about its hinged portion **16** releasing the side flaps **17** from engagement with the wall **13**. The operator then pulls on the string **36** to pivot the flaps **17** inwardly about their hinged portion **18**. The downward force on the foot lever **30** is now released and the tubular members **20, 21** are permitted to swing toward the building **13** on the pivot pin **28** as the awning **12** is swung downwardly toward the wall until the awning **12** comes to rest against the wall **13**. The lowering device **10** is then removed from the awning **12** along with the line engaging pole **11** and the awning secured to the normal manner in its closed position against the wall.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. An awning lowering device comprising a tubular member having a slotted portion at its upper end, a second member telescopically mounted in said tubular member at said slotted end portion, means adjustably securing said tubular and second members together, means mounted at the free end of said second member for engaging the main portion of an awning, a support member,

a foot lever pivotally mounted at substantially its midportion to said support member and pivot means securing one end of said foot lever to the free end of said tubular member whereby upon the pivotal movement of said foot lever, said tubular member, said second member and said awning engaging means are swung upwardly to lift and free said awning from the wall on which it is mounted and permit said awning to be lowered to its closed position.

2. The structure as recited by claim **1** wherein said adjustable securing means comprises a lock nut threadedly mounted on said tubular member.

3. The structure as recited by claim **2** wherein said means mounted at the free end of said second member comprising a cross member joined to a curved portion of said free end of said second member.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

254—131