July 5, 1966 M. E. OLSON 3,259,284

BOOT AND SKI CARRIER

Filed May 12, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

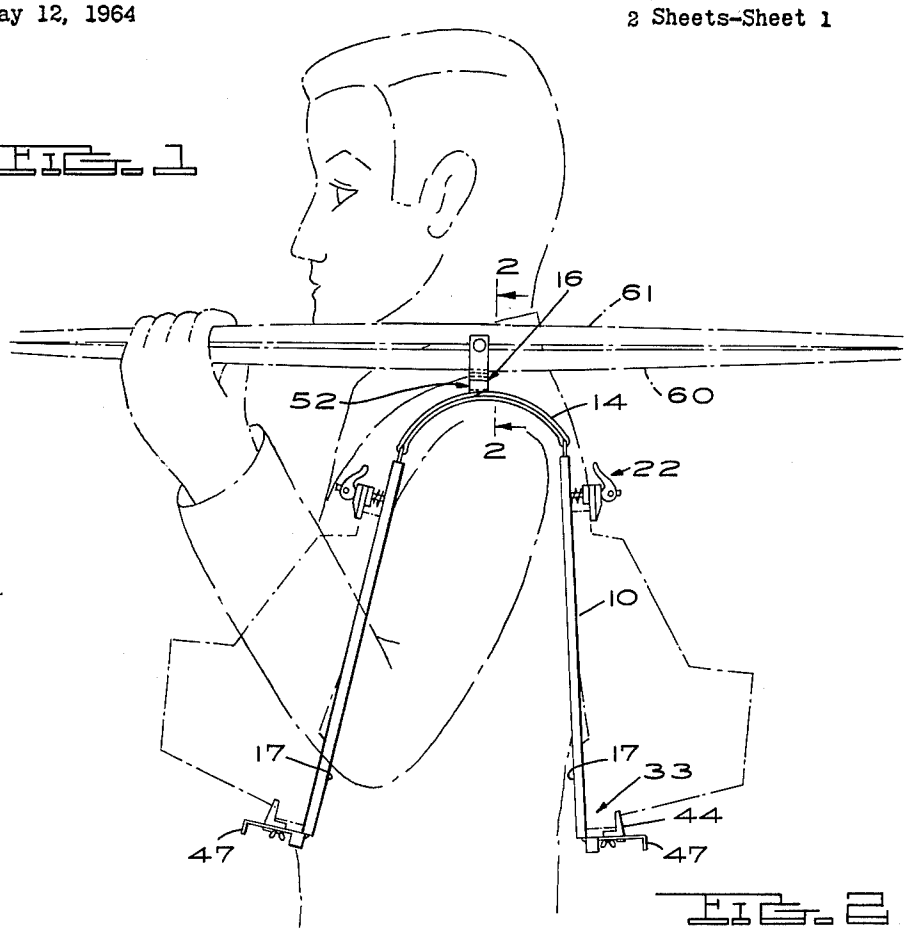


FIG. 2

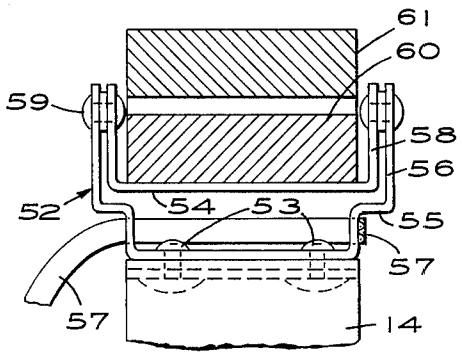
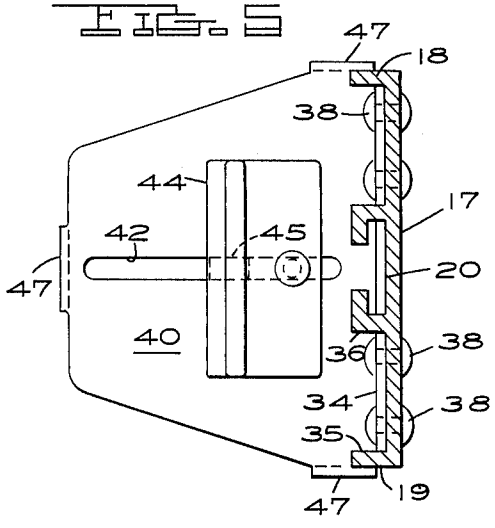


FIG. 3



INVENTOR
MARVIN E. OLSON
BY
Farley Forster & Farley
ATTORNEYS

July 5, 1966 M. E. OLSON 3,259,284

BOOT AND SKI CARRIER

Filed May 12, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 3

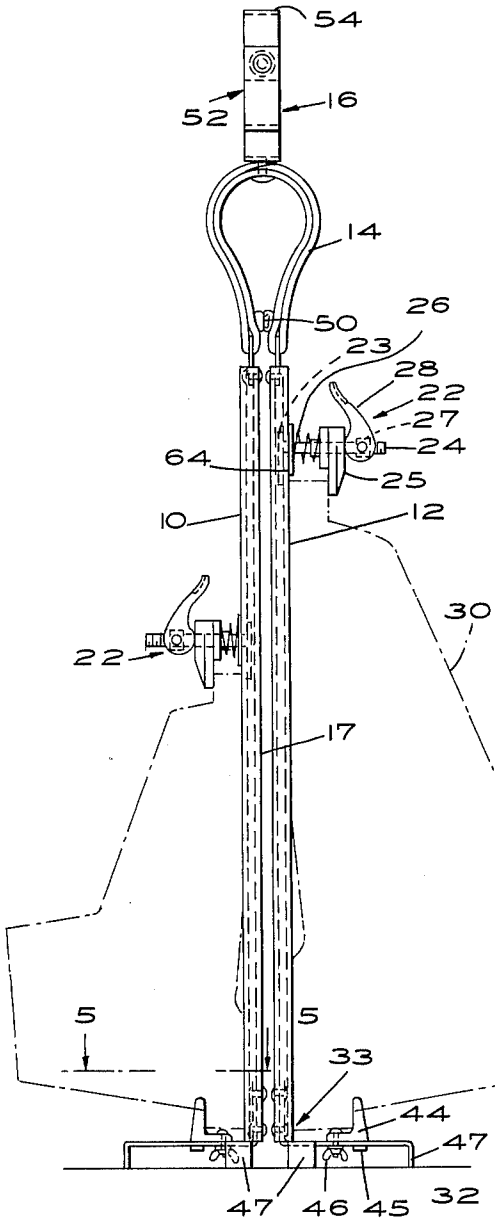
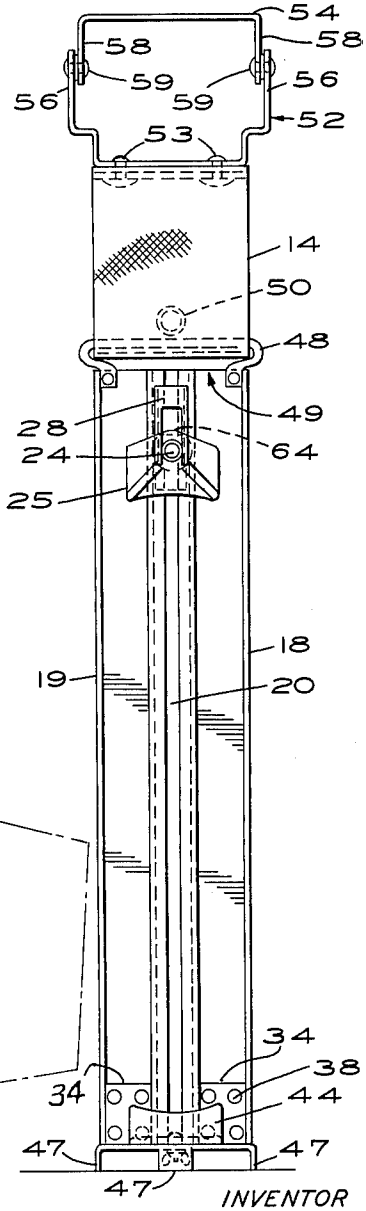


FIG. 4



INVENTOR
MARVIN E. OLSON
BY
Farley Forster & Farley
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office

3,259,284

Patented July 5, 1966

3,259,284

BOOT AND SKI CARRIER

Marvin E. Olson, 6100 Beach Road, Birmingham, Mich.

Filed May 12, 1964, Ser. No. 366,783

7 Claims. (Cl. 224—5)

The subject matter of this invention is a device which serves as a boot tree or straightener for a pair of ski boots and which also serves as a carrier for a pair of boots, a pair of skis and other skiing equipment.

While boot straightening and carrying devices have been available for some time, they all must be carried with a hand and thus increase the difficulty of handling all of one's ski equipment to and from a skiing area. The overall object of the present invention is to provide a boot straightening and carrying device which can be worn over a shoulder and which incorporates a cradle for supporting and positioning a pair of skis so that a user can easily and securely manage both skis, boots and other equipment with one hand.

A boot and ski carrier of the invention comprises a pair of sole plates with suitable means on each sole plate for detachably securing a ski boot thereon, a flexible strap-like member connecting the sole plates in back-to-back relation and adapted to be placed over the shoulder of a user so that the sole plates hang one to the front and one to the back, and a handle secured to the flexible member intermediate the ends thereof, the handle including a portion adapted to straddle and cradle a ski.

Other features and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description of the presently preferred representative embodiment thereof disclosed in the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevation illustrating the device positioned on the shoulder of a user carrying ski boots and a pair of skis;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged sectional elevation taken on the lines 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIGURE 3 is a side elevation of the device resting on a supporting surface and illustrating adaptability to boots of different size;

FIGURE 4 is a plan view of one side of the device; and

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged sectional detail taken as indicated by the line 5—5 of FIG. 3.

Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, the device consists of a pair of sole plates **10** and **12**, a flexible strap-like member **14** connecting the sole plates together in back-to-back relation, and a handle **16** secured to the strap **14** intermediate the ends thereof.

Each sole plate **10** and **12** is an extruded member as shown in FIG. 5 and is formed with a flat inner or back face **17**, an outer or front face having a pair of side flanges **18** and **19** and a T-slot **20** located centrally between the side flanges and extending the length of the sole plate. A boot toe clamp **22** is mounted in the T-slot **20** of each sole plate and consists of a base member **23** slidable in the slot **20**, an outwardly extending threaded post **24**, secured to the base member, a toe pad **25** slidable on the post **24**, a spring **26** urging the toe pad outwardly, and a nut **27** threaded on the post **24** with a cam shaped lever **28** pivotally secured thereto for positioning the toe pad **25** in clamping engagement with the toe end of a boot **30** as shown in FIG. 3.

A bracket **32** is secured to the heel end **33** of each of the sole plates **10** and **12**. Each bracket **32** includes a pair of tabs **34** which extend between facing surfaces **35** and **36** of the sole plate as shown in FIG. 5 and are rigidly secured to the sole plate by rivets **38**. The main portion **40** of each bracket **32** extends at right angles to the tabs **34** and to the outer face of the sole plate and

is provided with a central slot **42** for adjustably mounting a heel clamp **44**. The heel clamp includes a tongue **45** which projects into the slot **42** to prevent the clamp rotating around a carriage bolt and wing nut **46** employed to secure the heel clamp **44** to the bracket **32** in a desired position along the slot **42**. Tabs or feet **47** at the sides and outer end of the bracket portion **40** form a tripod base for supporting each sole plate in an upright position.

A bail **48** is secured to the toe end **49** of each of the sole plates **10** and **12** for connecting the flexible strap **14** thereto, and the strap is preferably equipped with a snap fastener **50** near the ends thereof to provide means for detachably securing the pair of sole plates together as shown in FIG. 3.

The handle **16** includes a U-shaped bracket **52** connected to the strap **14** by rivets **53** and a U-shaped handle portion **54** with the legs **56** of the U-shaped bracket **52** being pivotally secured to the legs **58** of the U-shaped handle portion by connectors **59**. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the handle portion **54** can be swung from the carrying position of FIG. 3 and 4 to a cradling position and is dimensioned so that the legs **58** will straddle one ski **60** preferably overlap the second ski **61** of a pair of skis. Preferably the bracket **52** is formed with an offset portion or shoulder **55** which provides a hook for hanging other equipment such as the loop straps **57** of ski poles indicated in FIG. 2.

In use as a boot tree or straightener, the heel clamp **44** is adjusted to proper spacing from the outer face of a sole plate by the nut and bolt **46** and is locked in position so that the heel of a boot can be slid lengthwise into engagement with the clamp **44**. The toe pad **25** is also adjusted to proper spacing from the outer face of its sole plate **10** or **12** by turning the lever **28** and nut **27** on the threaded post **24**. After the heel of a boot has been engaged with the heel clamp **44**, the toe clamp **22** is slid along the T-slot **20** to proper position and engaged with the boot toe. The spring **26** of the toe clamp preferably engages a washer **64** (FIGS. 3 and 4) and creates enough friction with the outer face of the sole plate so that the toe clamp will stay in any position to which it is moved along the slot **20**. This feature together with the snap fastener **50** for detachably connecting the sole plates **10** and **12** together, permits the device to be rested on a support in an upright position as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 for storage and to facilitate engagement of a boot by the heel and the toe clamps. The two sole plates **10** and **12** with their tripod base supports mutually stabilize each other and the toe clamps will remain in an upper position while the heel of a boot is being placed under the heel clamp **44**.

The device may be carried with a hand, using the handle in the carrying position shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, or over a shoulder as shown in FIG. 1. If skis have to be handled at the same time, the handle portion **54** is swung to the cradling position shown in FIG. 2 and a pair of skis placed in it as shown, or on edge. The pivotal connection of handle portion **54** to the handle bracket **52** permits the portion **54** to rock with a cradling action to movements of a user's arm and body when skis are being carried.

While preferred embodiments have been described above in detail, it will be understood that numerous modifications might be resorted to without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

I claim:

1. A boot and ski carrier comprising a pair of sole plates, means on each sole plate for detachably securing a ski boot thereon, a flexible member connecting the sole plates in back-to-back relation and adapted to be placed

over the shoulder of a user, and a handle secured to the flexible member intermediate the ends thereof, the handle including a portion adapted to straddle and cradle a ski.

2. A boot and ski carrier comprising a pair of separate sole plates, means on each plate for detachably securing a ski boot thereon, a flexible member connecting the sole plates in back-to-back relation and adapted to be placed over the shoulder of a user, and ski carrying means secured to the flexible member intermediate the ends thereof.

3. A boot and ski carrier as claimed in claim **2** wherein said ski carrying means includes an outwardly facing U-shaped portion dimensioned to straddle a ski.

4. A boot and ski carrier as claimed in claim **2** wherein said ski carrying means comprises an outwardly facing U-shaped bracket, a U-shaped handle portion, and means pivotally connecting the legs of said U-shaped bracket and handle portion together whereby the handle portion is movable between a carrying position and a cradling position, said handle portion being adapted to straddle a ski when in the said cradling position thereof.

5. A boot and ski carrier as claimed in claim **2** wherein said ski carrying means is provided with hook means for hanging an article thereon.

6. A ski boot carrier comprising a pair of separate sole plates, each having a front and a back face, means on the front face of each sole plate for detachably mounting a ski boot thereon with the boot sole portion in facing

relation with the front face of the plate and the boot upper portion extending outwardly thereof, a flexible member interconnecting the sole plates at one end thereof and adapted to be placed over the shoulder of a user, handle means secured to the flexible member intermediate the ends thereof, means for detachably securing the sole plates together in back-to-back relation, and support means at the other end of each sole plate extending outwardly of the front face thereof a distance less than that to which the upper portion of a ski boot extends for supporting the ski boot carrier on a surface in an upright position when the sole plates are secured together in back-to-back relation.

7. A ski boot carrier as claimed in claim **6** wherein said handle means includes a portion adapted to position a ski on the shoulder of a user.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,672,263	3/1954	Alber	224—5.17
2,883,688	4/1959	Barreca	12—120.5

FOREIGN PATENTS

882,593	6/1943	France.

GERALD M. FORLENZA, *Primary Examiner.*

HUGO. O. SCHULZ, *Examiner.*

J. E. OLDS, *Assistant Examiner.*