United States Patent [19]

Marsack

[11] **3,871,526**

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[54] **TOWEL RACK FOR USE ON BEACHES**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.**..... **211/178,** 248/156, 248/439

[51] **Int. Cl.**..... **A47k 10/04**

[58] **Field of Search**..... 211/178 R, 105.1, 123; 248/156, 166, 188.6, 434, 439; 108/115; 126/29, 30, 59

[56] **References Cited**

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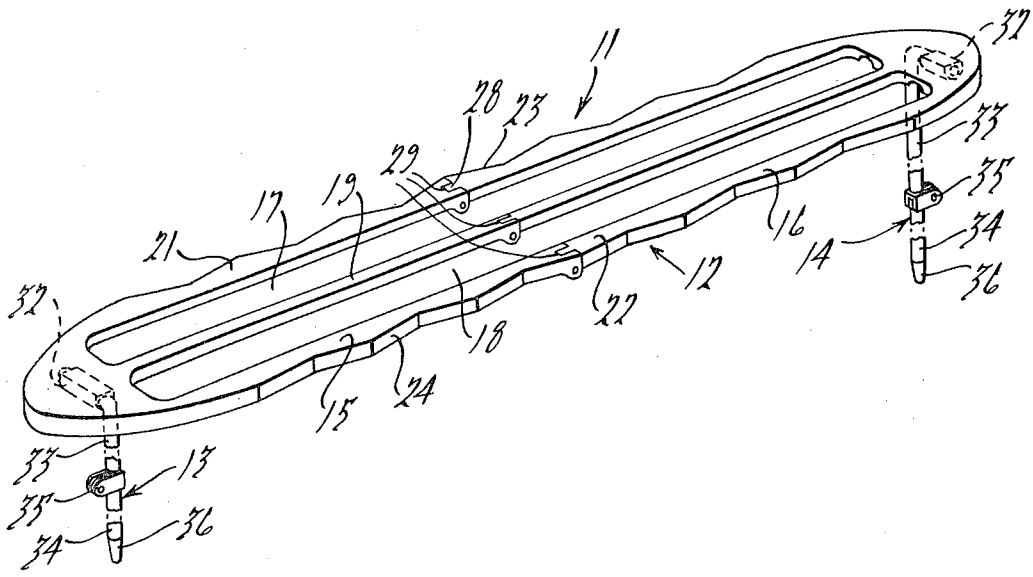
386,807	1/1933	United Kingdom	211/178

Primary Examiner—Roy D. Frazier
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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Harness, Dickey & Pierce

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A foldable portable towel rack for drying out wet towels on beaches. The rack comprises an elongated body having a pair of parallel slots to holds the towels. A pair of legs swingably mounted on the underside of the ends of the body may be embedded in the sand. The body is hinged at its center and the legs are also foldable for compact storage and handling.

6 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures



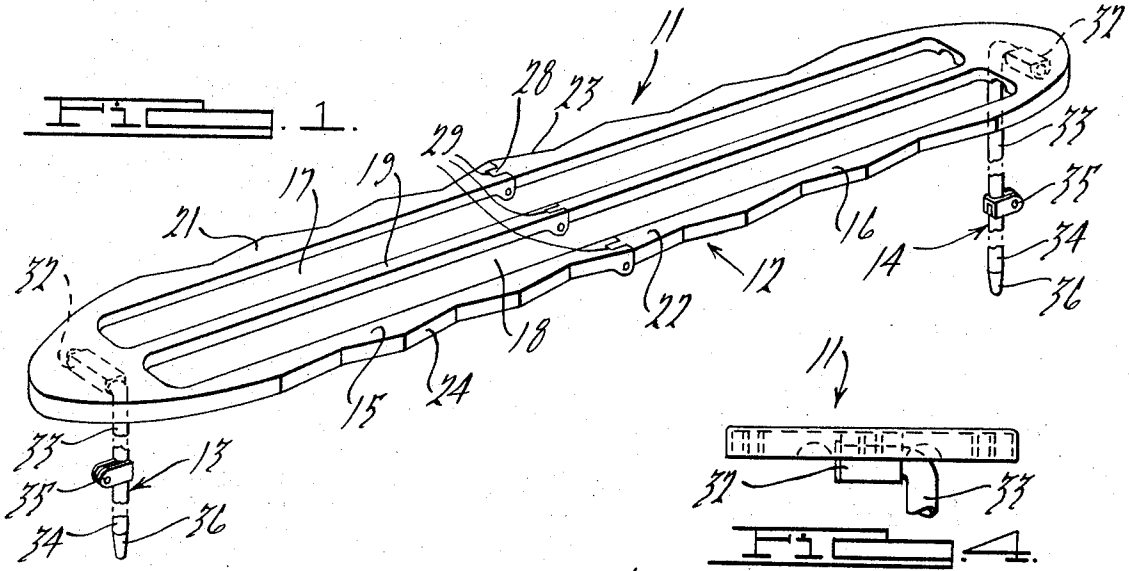


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

FIG. 4.

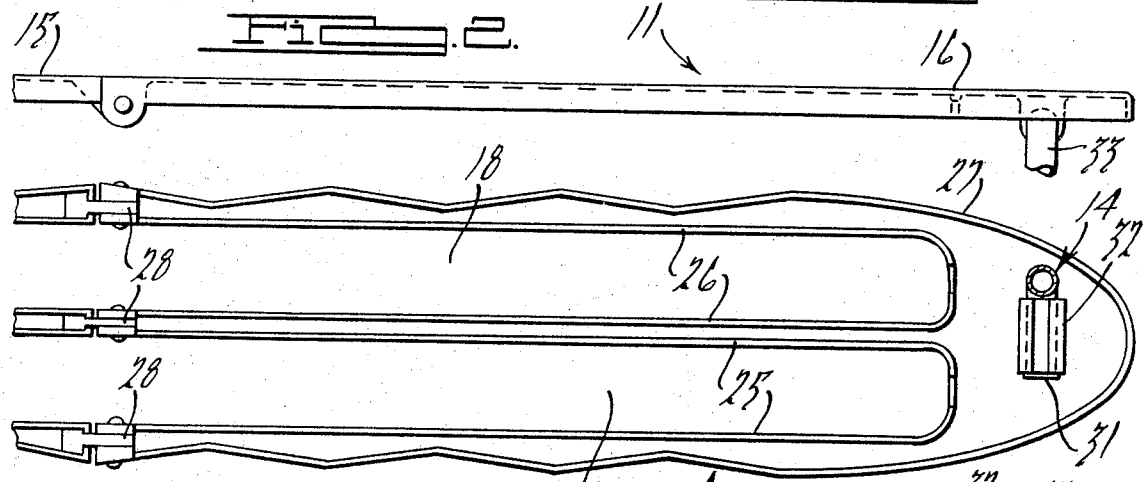


FIG. 3.

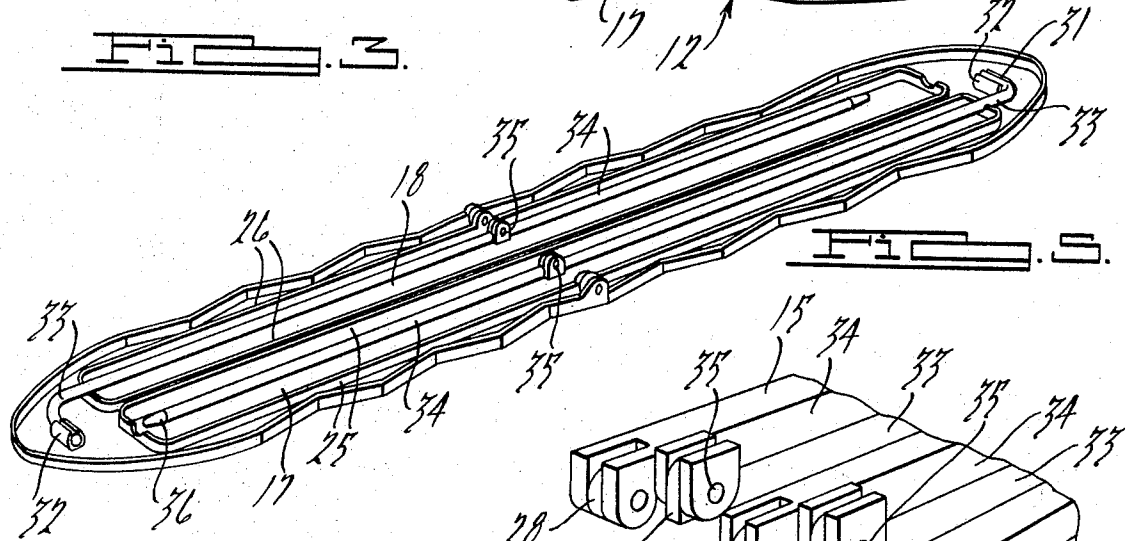


FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

TOWEL RACK FOR USE ON BEACHES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to towel racks, and more particularly for lightweight portable racks which are usable by a family at the beach. The usual procedure when going to the beach is to find a spot for the beach blanket and other paraphernalia, and after getting settled, go bathing. When the family comes out of the water, they dry themselves with the available towels. The wet towels must then be dried out to be ready for the next time.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Most people try drying out the towels by laying them on the beach blanket or spreading them out on a bush, a waste receptacle or other available supports where they will be kept away from the sand. Nevertheless, it is the experience of most people that the wet towels quickly accumulate sand and the wet sand-filled towels are quite uncomfortable or unusable for the rest of the day.

A novelty search conducted on the subject matter of this invention revealed the following patents, none of which are believed to teach the invention:

134,828	Watson
2,023,155	Turner
2,621,007	Barbin

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a novel and improved towel rack for use on beaches which solves the problem of drying towels for reuse without accumulating sand, and does so in a convenient and inexpensive manner.

Briefly, the invention comprises an elongated body for supporting a towel to be dried, and a pair of legs which may be stuck into the sand, the legs being pivotally mounted at opposite ends of the body and foldable against the body so that the assembly may be carried in collapsed condition.

In the illustrated embodiment, two towel slots are provided, and the body as well as the legs are foldable to reduce the carrying size.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the towel rack of this invention in open position, parts being broken away.

FIG. **2** is a side elevational view of a portion of the rack.

FIG. **3** is a bottom plan view of said portion of the rack.

FIG. **4** is an end elevational view of a portion of the rack.

FIG. **5** is a perspective view of the underside of the rack in a partially folded condition.

FIG. **6** is a fragmentary perspective view of the hinged portions of the body and legs.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The towel rack is generally indicated at **11** and comprises an elongated body generally indicated at **12** and

a pair of legs generally indicated at **13** and **14.** As illustrated, body **12** is made up of two sections **15** and **16,** the sections being of similar shape. Although body **12** may be fabricated with any of various materials and methods, a suitable manner of constructing the body is to mold it out of plastic material having suitable strength and appearance properties.

Body **12** has a pair of elongated slots **17** and **18** in parallel relation, these slots being long enough to accommodate towels of a size normally used on a beach. A bar **19** extends between slots **17** and **18,** and the outer edges **23** and **24** of body **12** have a shallow serrated or zig-zag configuration to increase the frictional hold which the towels will have on the body. As seen in FIG. **3,** downwardly extending stiffening flanges **25** and **26** surround slots **17** and **18** respectively, and a flange **27** surrounds the outside of body **12,** the outer ends of the body being of curved shape.

The two body sections **15** and **16** are hinged together by a construction best seen in FIGS. **3** and **6** and indicated at **28.** The hinge means is so constructed that the sections are swingable between an open position in which they are aligned, as seen in FIG. **1,** and a folded position in which the tops of the sections are against each other, as seen partially in FIG. **6.** The hinge means includes stops indicated at **29** in FIG. **1** which will prevent the sections from collapsing from their open or towel-receiving position.

Legs **13** and **14** are of L-shaped construction, with their short sections **31** (FIG. **3**) being pivotally supported by sockets **32** formed on the undersides of body sections **15** and **16.** The legs are shown as being of tubular shape with their longer sections being made up of two approximately equal parts **33** and **34** hinged at **35.** The lower ends **36** of sections **34** are pointed so as to facilitate embedding them into the sand. The legs are of sufficient length to hold body **12** above the sand so that the towels will not pick up any sand. Hinges **35** are so constructed that sections **33** and **34** may be swung between an extended position, shown in FIG. **1,** and a folded position, shown partially in FIG. **6.** Stop means **37** (FIG. **6**) are provided on hinges **35** for preventing the legs from collapsing by movement beyond their extended position.

Legs **13** and **14** may be swung to a folded position beneath the undersides of sections **15** and **16,** and sections **34** of each leg may then be folded to the positions shown partially in FIG. **6.** The entire assembly **11** will then be flat and occupy half its extended size.

In use, the towel rack will be carried in its collapsed position to the beach and may then be unfolded to its FIG. **1** position and points **36** of legs **13** and **14** stuck into the sand. As beach towels become wet, they may be slipped into slots **17** and **18** of body **12** where they will be supported above the ground and dried quickly for reuse without becoming dirty or picking up sand. When the day is over, the rack may be lifted out of the sand, legs **13** and **14** swung into parallel relation with body **12,** sections **34** of each leg folded, and then sections **15** and **16** of the body folded by swinging about hinges **28.**

I claim:

1. A towel rack for use on beaches comprising an elongated body of a proper size to accommodate a towel which may be placed thereon, whereby a midportion of the towel will rest on the body, said body being made up of at least two sections, each section having

an integral outer end portion and a plurality of parallel bars extending inwardly therefrom to define towel-receiving slots therebetween, hinge means connecting the bars of said two sections permitting pivotal movement thereof from a horizontally aligned, opened position to a folded, collapsed position, whereby said slots will be continuous along the entire extent of said body when the sections are opened, the axis of said hinge means being horizontal when the body is in its open position whereby one section may be folded under the other to collapse the body, said hinge means including stop means for preventing collapse of the body in the opposite direction beyond its open position when a towel rests thereon, a pair of legs extending from said opposite end portions of said body and of sufficient length to permit them to be stuck into the sand to support the body high enough so that a towel supported thereby will not touch the sand while being dried, means mounting the upper ends of said legs on said outer end portions of said body so as to permit the legs to be moved between extended positions perpendicular to the body and folded positions parallel to the body

section, the width of said body being substantially less than the length of said legs, whereby the body will be supported only by said pair of legs when stuck in the sand, and the assembly may be easily carried when the legs are folded.

2. The combination according to claim **1**, said body having two parallel slots.

3. The combination according to claim **1**, the outer edges of said body having a serrated shape which zigzags toward and away from said slots to enhance gripping of the towel by the body.

4. The combination according to claim **1**, each of said legs being made up of two sections hingedly connected so that the legs may be folded in half.

5. The combination according to claim **4**, said body having two parallel slots.

6. The combination according to claim **5**, the outer edges of said body having a serrated shape which zigzags toward and away from said slots to enhance gripping of the towel by the body.

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