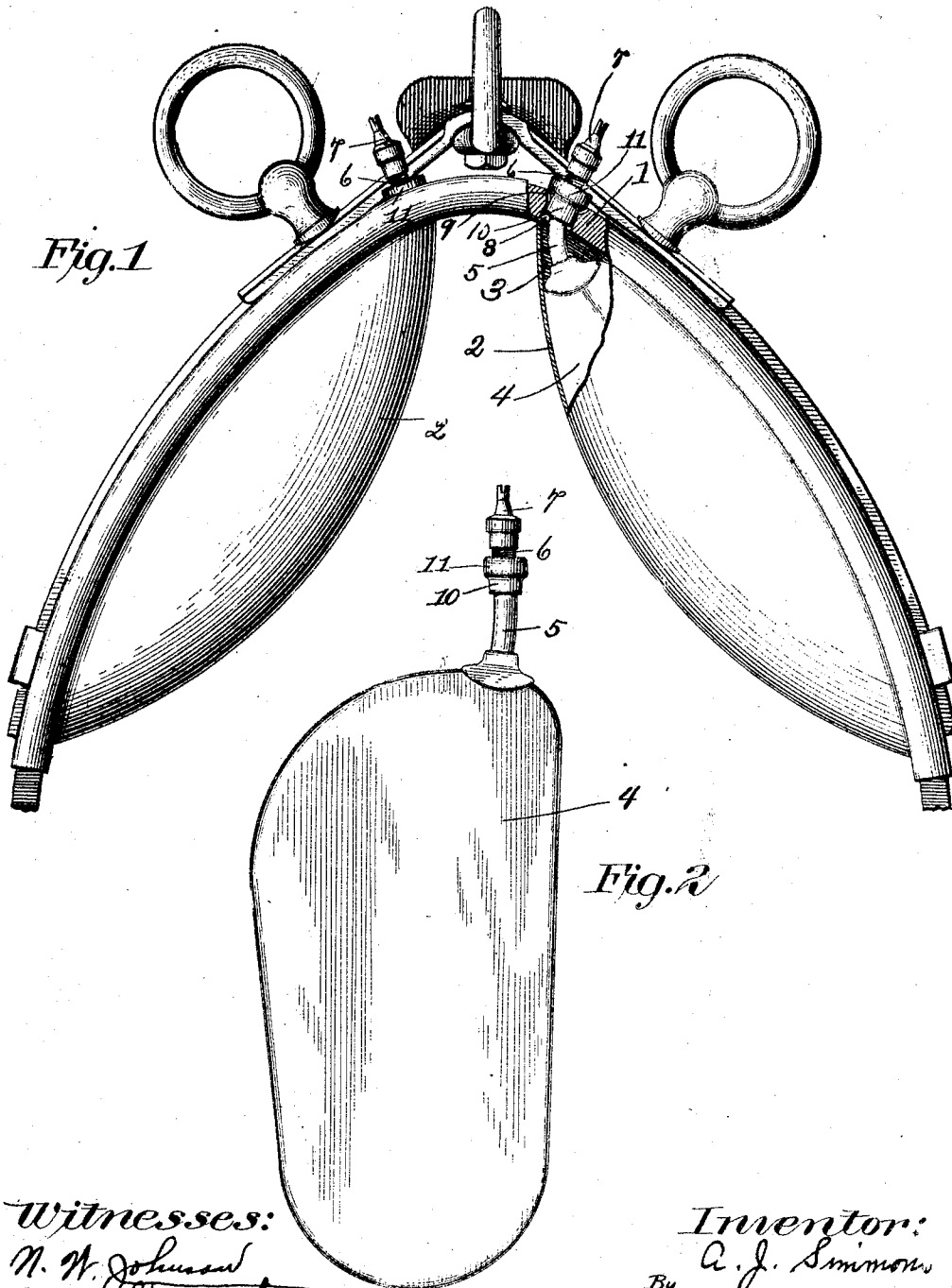


A. J. SIMMONS.
HARNESS SADDLE.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ANDREW J. SIMMONS, OF FARMINGTON, MISSOURI.

HARNESS-SADDLE.

1,005,079.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 3, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW J. SIMMONS, citizen of the United States, residing at Farmington, in the county of St. Francis and State of Missouri, have invented new and useful Improvements in Harness-Saddles, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention has to do with harness saddles; and it consists in the peculiar and advantageous construction of harness saddle embodying inflatable pads at opposite sides of the center thereof, as hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, accompanying and forming part of this specification: Figure 1 is a view partly in front elevation and partly in vertical section of so much of a harness saddle embodying inflatable pads as is necessary to illustrate my improved construction. Fig. 2 is an elevation of one of the pads as the same appears when removed from the saddle.

Similar numerals designate corresponding parts in both views of the drawings, referring to which:

1 is the thick or heavy strap, preferably of leather, that is ordinarily comprised in a harness saddle to form the body thereof.

2 2 are covers, preferably of thin and soft leather, connected to the inner side of the body strap 1 and designed in combination with the same to form pad-receiving pockets 3, of which one is shown at the right of Fig. 1, and 4 is one of the inflatable pads, of which two will be employed, one between each of the covers 2 and the body strap 1. The said inflatable pads 4 are similar in construction and are similarly connected with and supported by the body strap 1, and therefore a detailed description of the pad shown at the right of Fig. 1 and in Fig. 2 will suffice to impart a definite understanding of both pads and the connection thereof to the body strap 1. The pad 4 specifically referred to is made of rubber, and is provided at one end with an inflation tube 5, also of rubber. This inflation tube receives in its upper portion the tubular metallic body 6 of a conventional non-return valve, which body 6 is secured in the tube 5 by wire wrapped about the tube at a slight distance below the upper end of the tube, whereby an enlargement is produced at the upper end of the tube, for an important purpose hereinafter set forth. On the tubu-

lar metallic body 6 is removably arranged a removable cap 7.

The pad 4 is arranged in the pocket between its respective cover 2 and the body strap 1, and the inflation tube 3 is extended upward through an aperture in the body strap 1 so that the tubular metallic body 6 of the non-return valve and the cap 7 on said body 6 rest above the said body strap 1. The aperture referred to, which is numbered 8, is provided with an enlarged upper portion 9, and in the said aperture is arranged a sleeve 10, of rubber, which tightly embraces the inflation tube 5 and the referred to enlargement at the upper end thereof, and is, by reason of the referred to enlargement on tube 5, provided with an enlargement 11 of its own. This enlargement 11 of the rubber sleeve 10 snugly rests in the upper enlarged portion 9 of the aperture 8, and by so doing forms a strong support for the pad 4, and at the same time effectually excludes the weather from the pocket 3. It will also be manifest that the rubber sleeve 10 is calculated to effectually prevent frictional contact of the rubber inflation tube 5 with the body strap 1, with the result that the usefulness of the inflation tube 5 and inflatable pad 4 is materially prolonged.

As will be appreciated by reference to Fig. 1, the non-return valve of the two inflatable pads rests above the body strap 1 of the saddle and at opposite sides of and adjacent the center of the saddle. From this it follows that the bodies 6 and caps 7 of the non-return valve do not detract from the desirable finished appearance of the saddle, and yet ready access can be had to the said caps and valves when it is necessary to inflate or deflate the pads 4.

In the practical use of my invention, the pads 4 are inflated to the extent desired, and when so inflated they render the saddle very comfortable to a horse and this without making the saddle heavy. It will also be manifest that the extent to which each pad is inflated may be regulated to suit the condition of a horse's back and any sore or tender spots that may be present thereon.

Having described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters-Patent, is:

A harness saddle comprising a body strap having apertures located at opposite sides of and adjacent its center, which apertures are provided with comparatively large

upper portions, covers attached to the body strap and serving therewith to form pockets positioned at the inner side of the strap, inflatable pads arranged in the said pockets, inflation tubes joined to the upper ends of said pads and extending through the said apertures in the body strap and having enlargements at their upper ends, non-return valves carried by said inflation tubes and extending above the body strap and provided with removable caps, and rubber sleeves tightly surrounding the upper portions of the inflation tubes and the enlarge-

ments thereon and resting in the said apertures of the body strap and having upper enlargements snugly occupying the comparatively large upper portions of said apertures. 15

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses. 20

ANDREW J. SIMMONS.

Witnesses:

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