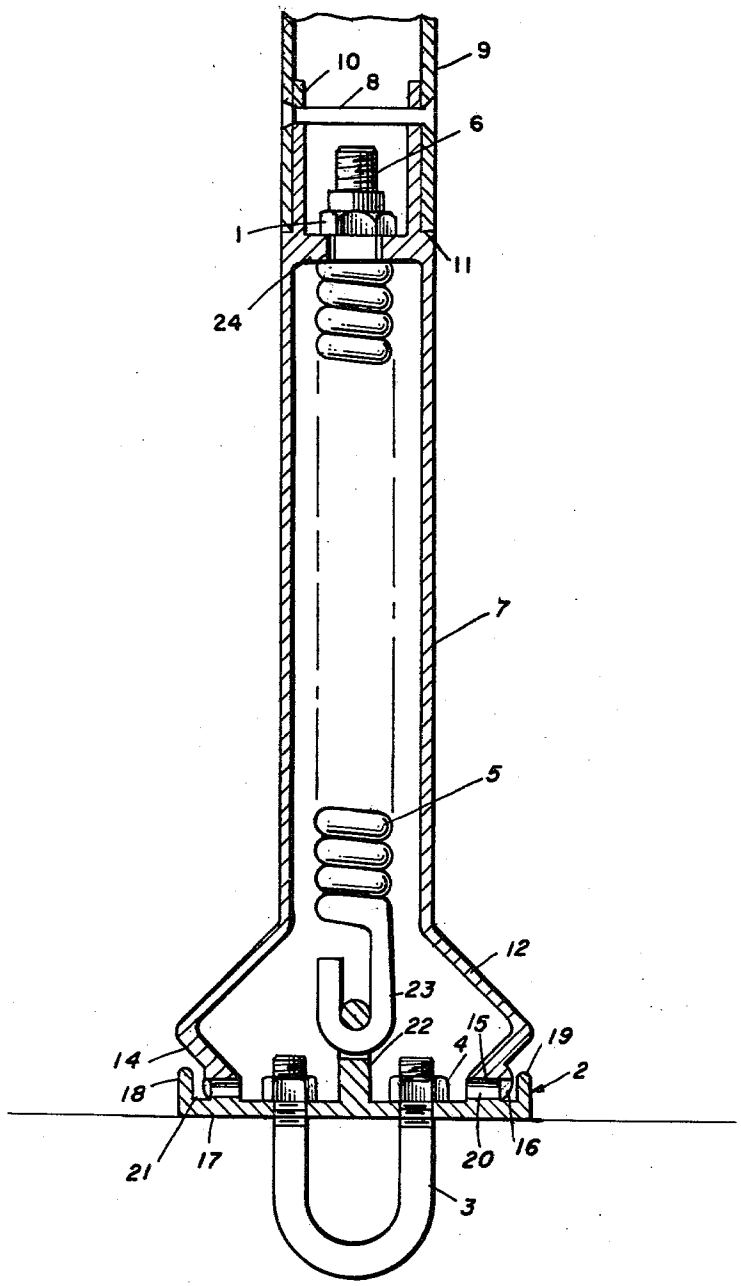
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PARKING METER SUPPORT

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PARKING METER SUPPORT

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This invention relates to supports and, more particularly, to parking meter supports, traffic signs, pole markers, and the like.

This application is a continuation in part of patent application, Serial No. 795,054, filed February 24, 1959, now abandoned.

Parking meters of the type commonly used in business districts of cities and towns have the disadvantage of being damaged when struck by automobiles, trucks, or other vehicles. The necessary location of these meters along curbs and the relatively small size of the ordinary support post tend to make collisions with the post a common occurrence with damage resulting therefrom.

The present invention is suitable for supporting signs, mail boxes, railings, fences, and other types of devices to be supported; however, it has especial utility for supporting parking meters. The adaptation of the present invention with present parking meters and traffic posts will make the parking meter supports immune to damage by engagement by vehicles.

More specifically, it is an object of this invention to provide a parking meter support which is simple in construction, economical to manufacture, and simple and efficient in use.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved parking meter support.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a parking meter support having an improved resilient attaching means.

A further object of this invention is to provide a support for parking meters of durable construction which may be struck by a motor vehicle without injury to either the post or the vehicle.

With the above and other objects in view, the present invention consists of the combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes may be made in the form, size, proportions, and minor details of construction without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

The figure of the drawing is a cross sectional view of a parking meter support according to the invention with a parking meter post mounted thereon.

Now with more particular reference to the drawing, the combination parking meter and support is shown therein. An upper tubular member **9** has a parking meter of the type familiar to those skilled in the art attached to its upper end. A tube support **7** terminates at its upper end in a reduced size end **10** which fits snugly into an upper tube **9** and is secured thereto by a rivet **8**. The lower end of the tube **9** rests on an upwardly directed shoulder **11** of the tube support **7**.

The lower end of the tube support **7** is flared outwardly; that is, it has a frusto-conical portion **12** which has its apex end intergral with the lower end of the tube support **7** and its base end **13** integral with the base of a frusto-conical portion **14**. The frusto-conical portion **12** has sides which extend outwardly and downwardly at an angle of approximately forty-five degrees. The frusto-conical portion **14** has sides which extend downwardly and inwardly at an angle of approximately forty-five degrees.

The lower apex end of the frusto-conical portion has downwardly directed teeth **15** arranged generally in a circular pattern and the outer ends of the teeth are rounded to form a toroidal edge **16**.

A base **2** is generally round in plan view. It has a flat bottom **17** suitable to be supported on the top surface of a cement sidewalk or other suitable support. An annular flange **18** extends upwardly from the base **2** slightly higher than teeth **20** and it has a rounded upper edge **19**. Spaced notches are formed in the flange **18** which extend down flush with a surface **21**. These notches provide a path for water and foreign materials to escape. The upwardly directed teeth **20** are integral with the base **2** and are disposed around in the form of a ring thereon. These teeth **20** mate with the downwardly directed teeth **15** on the tube support **7**.

There is a space shown between the outer ends of the teeth **20** and the inner edge of the flange **18** which allows the tube support **7** to rock laterally and the rounded edges **16** of the teeth will roll on the flat upper surface **21** between the teeth and the flange.

The base **2** has spaced holes therein which receive a U-bolt **3** which has nuts **4** thereon. The U-bolt **3** may be embedded in the concrete of a sidewalk or some other suitable anchoring device.

Being entirely above ground, the assembly is self-cleansing of condensation and other liquids. The teeth on the base insure that the unit always remains facing the same way, regardless of the direction of tilt.

An eyed member **22** is integrally fixed to the center of the base **2** and the eye of the member **22** receives a hook **23** of a tension spring **5**. The upper end of the tension spring **5** has a stud **6** which receives a nut **1**. This stud extends through a central hole in an inwardly directed flange **24** which is integral with the tube support **7**. The spring **5** is of such tension that it requires a horizontal force of between fifty and one hundred pounds applied to the meter at the top of the support to tilt it. This force is for safety purposes; for example, for preventing small boys from bouncing the meter against car fenders.

The base **2** may be fixed to a concrete sidewalk by means of a suitable epoxy resin or any other suitable adhesive which will supplement the force of the U-bolt **3**.

The foregoing specification sets forth the invention in its preferred practical forms but the structure shown is capable of modification within a range of equivalents without departing from the invention which is to be understood is broadly novel as is commensurate with the appended claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. In combination, a parking meter and a support therefor,
   - said support comprising a vertically extending tube support terminating at its upper end in a reduced size end,
   - an upper tube attached to said parking meter and receiving said reduced size end,
   - means fixedly connecting said tube support and said tube together,
   - the lower portion of said tube support being of a greater diameter than the parts of said tube thereabove,
   - downwardly extending teeth on the lower end of said tube support,
   - a base,
   - said base having a relatively flat lower surface adapted to rest on a cement surface,
   - said base having upwardly extending teeth thereon,
   - said downwardly extending teeth intermeshing with said upwardly extending teeth,
   - and a tension spring in said tube support,
   - the upper portion of said spring being fixed to said tube support,

the lower end of said spring being fixed to said base whereby said tube support and said tube are urged to vertical position when a lateral force is exerted on said tube support.

2. The combination recited in claim 1 wherein

said lower portion of said tube support is flared outwardly and downwardly defining a frustum of a first cone having sides sloping outwardly and downwardly at an angle of approximately forty-five degrees,

said lower portion sloping downwardly and inwardly from the base of said frustum of a cone defining the frustum of a second cone having its base coincident with the frustum of said first cone and terminating at its lower open end in said downwardly extending teeth.

said base having an upwardly extending, generally circular flange thereon generally concentric to said frustums of said cones and disposed beneath the outer edges thereof,

said flange being adapted to engage the outside surface of said frustum of said second cone when said tube support and said tube are forced to incline laterally whereby the inclinaiton of said tube support and said tube is restricted.

3. The combination recited in claim 2 wherein

said downwardly extending teeth have generally vertically extending, outwardly facing lateral edges,

said vertically extending edges being approximately the same height as said flange.

4. The combination recited in claim 3 wherein

the outer lower corners of said downwardly facing teeth are rounded

and an annular, generally flat surface is disposed on said base between said upwardly extending teeth and said flange,

said outer lower corners of said downwardly extending teeth being adapted to rock on said annular surface when said support is rocked laterally.

5. The combination recited in claim 4 wherein

said base has spaced, vertically extending holes in the bottom thereof toward the center thereof from said upwardly extending teeth,

and a U-shaped bolt has its ends extending through said holes,

said U-shaped bolt being adapted to be embedded in cement.

6. The combination recited in claim 1 wherein

said flange has spaced notches therein extending downwardly to said base for water to escape therefrom.

7. In combination, parking meter and support therefor,

said support comprising a tube support,

means supporting said parking meter on said tube support,

the lower end of said tube support terminating in downwardly directed teeth disposed generally in a circle,

a base,

said base having a flat lower side adapted to be attached to the top surface of a sidewalk,

an upwardly extending annular flange disposed on said base,

spaced upwardly extending teeth attached to said base generally in a circle spaced inwardly from said flange,

said teeth on said tube support meshing with said teeth of said base,

said flange being slightly higher than said teeth on said support,

and a tension spring in said tube support,

the upper end of said tension spring being fixed to said tube support and the lower end of said spring being fixed to said base,

a portion of said tube support overlying said flange and adapted to engage said flange when said tube support is deflected laterally.

8. The combination recited in claim 7 wherein

the outer edges of said teeth on said tube support define a toroidal shape adapted to rock on said base between said teeth thereon and said flange when said tube support is deflected laterally.

No references cited.

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