June 12, 1923. 1,458,654

W. L. HOTOPP

CLOTHESLINE POST

Filed April 7, 1921

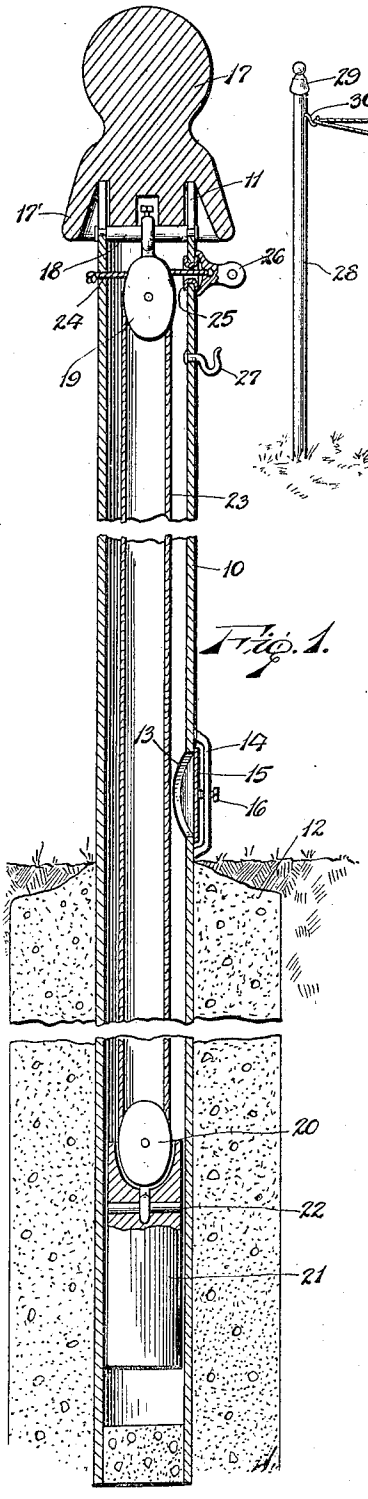


Fig. 1.

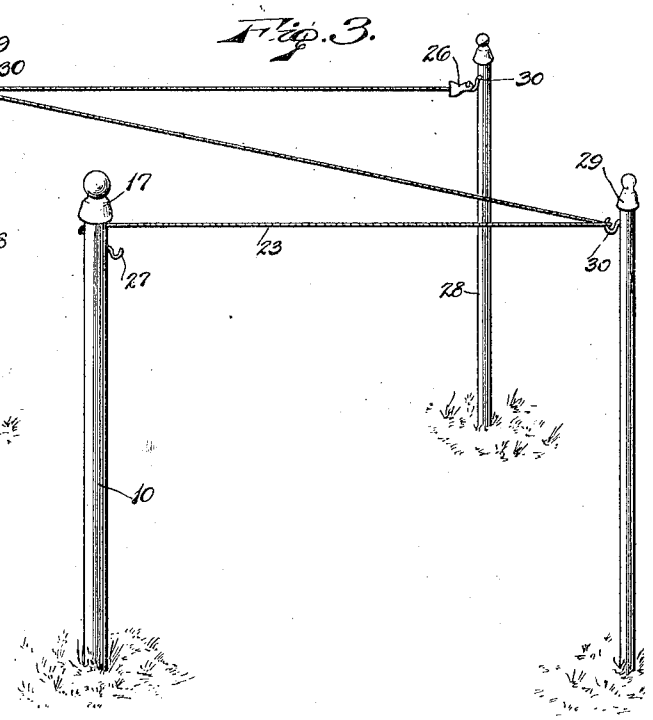


Fig. 3.

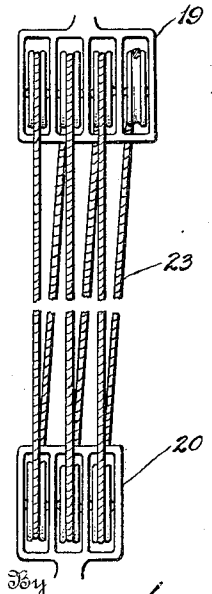


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER LEO HOTOPP, OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY.

CLOTHESLINE POST.

Application filed April 7, 1921. Serial No. 459,389.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER L. HOTOPP, a citizen of the United States, residing at Jersey City, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothesline Posts, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved clothes line post and has as one of its principal objects to provide a device of this character wherein the clothes line may normally be housed within the post to be thus protected from the weather while accumulation of dust and dirt upon the line will be prevented.

The invention has as a further object to provide a device wherein the clothes line may be readily withdrawn from the post and wherein means will be provided for again retracting the line within the post when desired.

The invention has as a still further object to provide a device wherein the line and associated parts may, if desired, be bodily removed from the post so as to readily permit repairs should this become necessary.

And the invention has as a still further object to provide a device which will be characterized by structural simplicity and which will prove thoroughly efficient in practical use.

Other and incidental objects will appear hereinafter.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view taken medially through my improved post,

Figure 2 is a fragmentary detail elevation of the pulley blocks of the device showing the clothes line thereon, and

Figure 3 is a perspective view showing the post in use.

In carrying the invention into effect, I employ a tubular shell 10 preferably closed at its lower end by a plug of cement or the like and provided at its upper end with oppositely disposed slots 11. The shell is preferably of metal and may be of any approved length, the lower end portion of the shell being sunk into the ground and preferably encased within a suitable base 12 of cement or other appropriate material. Near the level of the ground the shell is formed at one side thereof with a door opening 13 across which extends a spanner 14 suitably secured to the shell. Closing said opening is a door 15 and adjustable upon the spanner to coact with the door is a cap bolt 16 clamping the door closed. Removably fitting in the upper end portion of the shell is a closure cap 17 having an outwardly flared annular skirt 17′ overhanging the shell and extending diametrically of the shell at the lower end of said cap is a cross rod 18 provided at its ends with reduced headed terminals freely received in said slots. The headed terminals of the rod will, of course, coact with the shell for limiting the rod against longitudinal movement. Suspended by said cross rod is a pulley block 19 held in adjusted position longitudinally of the rod by a set bolt threaded through the eye of the pulley to coact with the rod and cooperating with said block is a similar block 20. The block 20 carries a weight 21 freely movable vertically within the shell, being connected to the weight by a pin 22 extending transversely through the weight and through the eye of the block. Trained over the pulleys of said blocks to extend back and forth therebetween is a clothes line 23, one end of which is inserted through a suitable opening 24 near the upper end of the shell and provided with a knot securing the adjacent end of the line to the shell. Opposite the opening 24 the shell is provided with a somewhat larger opening in which is fixed an eyelet 25 and, as will be observed, the free end of the line is arranged to extend through said eyelet and is equipped with a terminal knob 26. At its outer end this knob is apertured to provide an eye while at its inner end the knob is cupped to fit over the eyelet 25 closing the opening in the adjacent side of the shell. Below this opening, the shell carries a hook 27. As will be observed, the skirt 17′ overhangs the knob as well as the hook to provide a water-shed therefor.

In conjunction with the post as just described, which post may well be termed the master post, I employ a plurality of supplemental posts 28. In the present instance, I have shown the use of three of the posts 28 although a greater or less number of these posts may, of course, be employed. Each of the posts 28 comprises a preferably metal shell suitably secured in the ground and provided at its upper end with a cap 29 similar to the cap 17 of the master post. Projecting from the posts 28 are hooks 30 similar to the hook 27 of the master post

and, as will now be observed, the supplemental posts are arranged near the master post so that the clothes line 23 may be withdrawn from the master post and, as suggested, engaged with the hooks of the supplemental posts to extend between the several posts, the eye of the knob 26 providing a convenient means whereby the end of the line may be connected with any one of the hooks. To so withdraw the line from the master post it is, of course, only necessary to pull upon the free end of the line, the weight 21 being elevated as the line is drawn out, and by employing pulley blocks each having a number of pulley wheels, provision is made whereby a line of considerable length may be employed. In any instance where it is not desired to use the full length of the line, a portion of the line may be drawn out and first engaged with the hook 27 of the master post, when the free end of the line may then be connected to the hook of one of the other posts, the hook 27 providing a means whereby the line may be secured at a point intermediate of its ends to the master post. After the line has been used, it is simply necessary to free the line when, upon release thereof, the weight 21 will act to immediately retract the line within the master post. I accordingly provide a device wherein the clothes line may be easily put in place for hanging clothes thereon while, under normal circumstances, the line will be housed within the master post to be protected thereby. The door 13 is provided so that access may be easily had to the lower end portion of the post so that the pulley block 20 and weight 21 may be reached without removing the cap 17.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A clothes drying device including a shell provided at its upper end with slots opening through the upper end edge of the shell, a removable cap closing the post at its upper end overlying said slots, a cross pin removably received in said slots, and a weight-retracted clothes line suspended from said cross pin.

2. A clothes line post including a shell provided at its upper end with slots and having an opening for a clothes line therethrough, a cap closing the post at its upper end, a cross pin removably received in said slots and provided with means locking the pin against endwise movement, and a pulley carried by said cross pin.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WALTER LEO HOTOPP [L. S.]