Aug. 2, 1949. J. F. HAVERY 2,477,981

SAFETY CHRISTMAS TREE STAND

Filed April 4, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

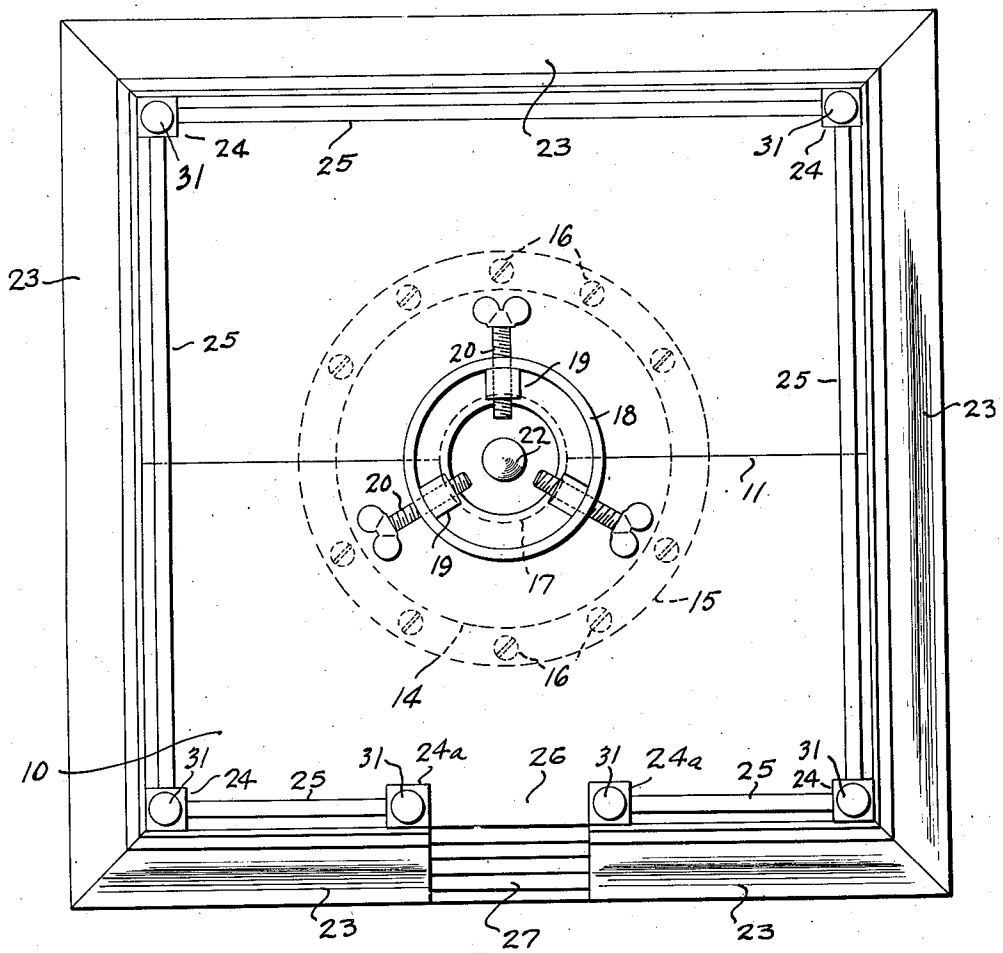


Fig. 1.

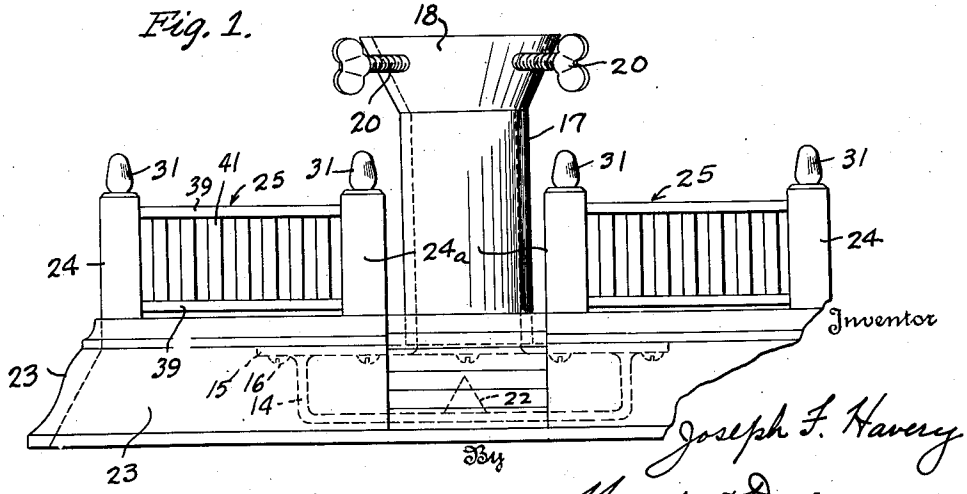


Fig. 2.

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SAFETY CHRISTMAS TREE STAND

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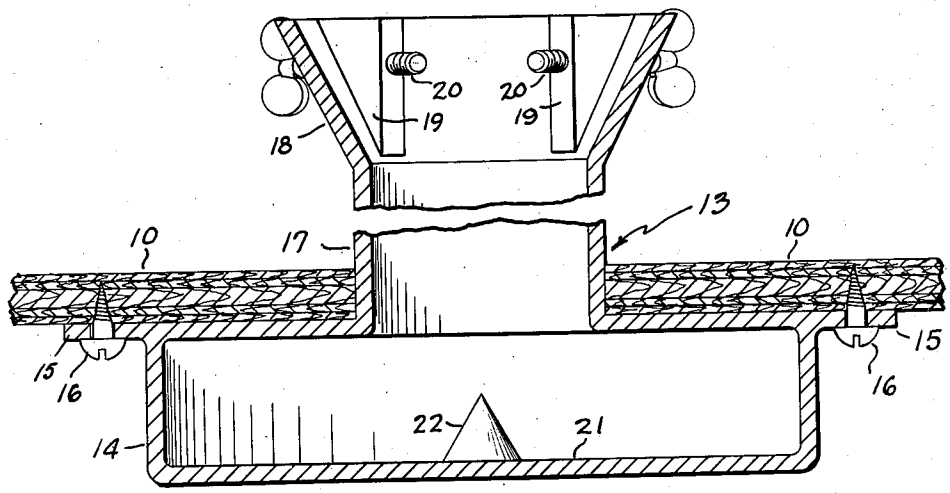


Fig. 3.

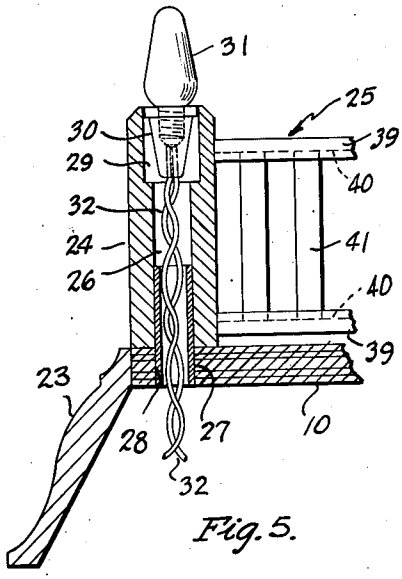


Fig. 5.

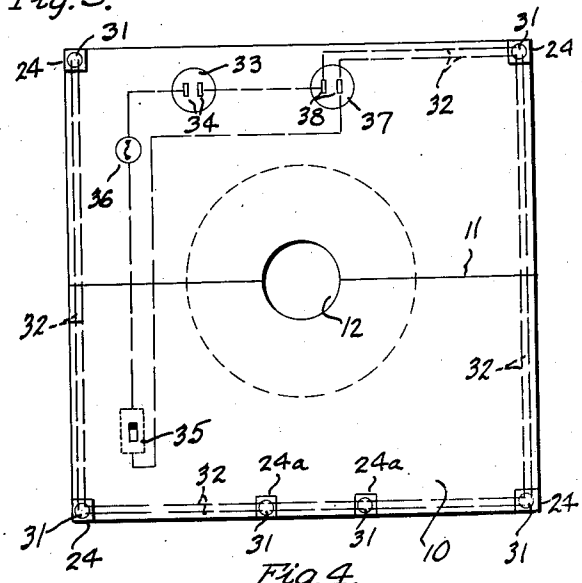


Fig. 4.

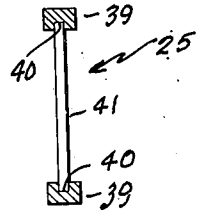


Fig. 6.

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SAFETY CHRISTMAS TREE STAND

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Application April 4, 1947, Serial No. 739,399

5 Claims. (Cl. 248—44)

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This invention relates to a Christmas tree stand, and has for an object to provide a stand for this purpose which is much safer than ordinary stands, particularly much less dangerous from fire.

Another object is to provide an improved lighting system in such a device, which in case of a short circuit will not carry this back into the house lighting system, with the resultant additional safety feature.

The device has means including a container for water in which the stem for the tree is inserted so that the tree is kept fresh with water throughout its leaves and branches, preventing it from drying out, and greatly reducing the fire hazard, and also, as there is water in the device, with an electric wiring system this increases the danger of short circuits in the device itself, and therefore it includes a safety fuse to reduce and practically eliminate the danger from fire from this cause.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, I have devised the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification. It is, however, to be understood the invention is not limited to the specific details of construction and arrangement shown, but may embody various changes and modifications within the scope of the invention.

In these drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the device;

Fig. 2 is a front view;

Fig. 3 is a detail section of the tree holding means;

Fig. 4 is a somewhat diagrammatical plan view of the platform showing the wiring system;

Fig. 5 is a detail section through one of the posts, and

Fig. 6 is a section through a side rail.

The device comprises a platform 10, preferably of plywood construction, as indicated in Fig. 3, as this has greater strength and is less apt to warp out of shape, and it is preferably made in two sections with the inner edges of the sections abutting, as indicated at 11. This platform is provided with a central opening 12 in which is mounted the holder and tank 13 for the tree (not shown). This holder preferably comprises a one-piece cast construction, including the container 14 with a flange 15 about its upper edge by means of which it may be fastened on the under side of the platform 10 by any suitable means, such as the screws 16. From its upper wall extends a tubular extension 17 with a funnel or outwardly tapered portion 18 at its upper end, and it is preferred to cast or otherwise provide blocks 19 on the inner walls of this tapered portion to provide increased supporting stock for a plurality of clamping screws 20, which are preferably thumb or wing screws, as shown, and threaded

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into transversely extending openings through the side walls and the block. This tubular extension 17 is adapted to receive the stem of a tree (not shown) and hold it in an upright position. The lower end of the stem rests on the bottom wall 21 of the tank or container, and this is preferably provided with a pointed lug or cone 22 to be inserted in the lower end of the stem and hold it central against lateral movement, and the stem is securely held by the clamping screws 20 at the upper end of the device. The tapered upper portion 18 facilitates the insertion of the stem and the pouring of water into the container. Because of this taper it permits ready pouring of water into the container when the tree is in position and it also permits the operator to see when the device is nearly filled, so that there is very little danger of pouring in too much water, to cause it to run over, to injure the device by wetting or to cause electrical short circuits in the wiring, and still it may be kept substantially filled with water to keep the tree fresh and materially reduce the fire hazard, because the water is being constantly absorbed by the tree, keeping the leaves and branches filled with water, so it is not easily ignited.

About the outer edge of the platform is a suitable molding 23 which supports the platform above the floor and gives it a finished attractive appearance. It also encloses the tank 14 so that it is out of sight, and above this molding about the outer rim of the platform is a fence comprising the end posts 24 and the intermediate railing sections 25. At one side, that is, the front side, for example, there may be left an opening or gateway 26 with steps 27 leading to it, and an extra pair of posts 24a at the opposite sides thereof, of the same form and construction as the corner posts 24. These posts are substantially rectangular and square in shape with an interior longitudinal passage 26 and a length of tubing 27 at its lower end portion seating in an opening 28 in the platform 10. This makes a very satisfactory mounting for the post, holding it in proper position, but permitting it to be lifted off the platform for disassembly if desired.

In the upper end of each post is a recess 29 for a lamp socket 30 to receive a light bulb 31, the lead wires 32 from this socket passing down through the sleeve 27 to the under side of the platform, where they may be connected to suitable control means and a wiring connection adapted to be connected to the house wiring system. As shown in Fig. 4, each of these lamp sockets is connected to a receptacle 33 of any suitable type, preferably mounted in the platform 10, with lead wires running from the blade contacts 34 to the various lamp sockets in the post. It is preferable for safety reasons to use a connection having blade contacts adapted to be

inserted into slots in a female attachment plug cap connected by leads to a standard attachment plug cap to be plugged into any wall or similar outlet in the house wiring system. In one of the leads from this plug **33** is any suitable type of control switch **35** such, for example, as a toggle switch, and in one of the leads between this switch and the plug **33** is a safety fuse **36** of less current capacity than the fuses in the house wiring system, so that in the case of a short circuit in the wiring system in the stand, this fuse will blow or fail, so that the short will not be carried back into the house wiring system and will not blow the house fuses. It is also preferred to mount in the platform **10** an outlet receptacle **37** with enclosed contacts and slots **32** leading to them for insertion of standard plug-in attachment plug caps for the strings of lights placed on the tree, this receptacle being controlled by the switch **35** and protected by the fuse **36**, the same as the rest of the wiring for the stand.

The fence railings **25** between the posts may be of any suitable construction, but preferably of a simple construction comprising top and bottom rails **39** having longitudinal grooves **40** to receive the ends of the upright flat palings **41** and in which they may be secured by gluing, for example, the ends of these fence sections being secured to the posts **24** by any suitable means, such for example, as gluing.

It will be seen the device is of very simple construction and attractive appearance, that the tree can be very easily and quickly mounted, and when in position is very rigidly held by the pointed member **22** and the clamping screws **20**, and that the lower end of the stem is always in water so that the tree is always kept fresh and filled with water, greatly reducing the fire hazard, which is particularly dangerous when the tree is allowed to dry out. As there is water in the device there is, of course, always the chance and danger of short circuiting in the electrical connections, but any danger of fire from this is eliminated by the use of the auxiliary fuse **36** in the wiring of the device itself, which will blow so that there is no danger of such a short circuit causing a fire. Also, if there is a short circuit anywhere in this stand, the fuse **36** will blow and the effect of the short will not be carried back into the house system or blow any fuses of this system, if the proper size fuse is used in this device. As the floor **10** of the platform is made in two sections it may be readily assembled on opposite sides of the center support and container **13** and then rigidly secured together by the screws **16**, which also mounts this container and support on the under side of the floor or platform.

Having thus set forth the nature of my invention, what I claim is:

1. A tree stand of the character described comprising a platform floor in at least two sections with abutting edges and provided with an opening at the abutting edges of the sections, a container for water mounted on the platform floor and provided with a lateral flange, means for securing the flange to the sections on opposite sides of the abutting edges to mount the container and secure the sections together, an upright sleeve extending upwardly from the container through said opening and provided with an outwardly tapered funnel at its upper end above the platform, and means in said tube for clamping a tree stem with the lower end of the stem in the container.

2. A tree stand of the character described comprising a platform floor, means for supporting the platform floor above a house floor, a container for water mounted on the said floor and provided with an upright tube extending above the floor adapted to receive the stem of a tree, a series of electric lamp sockets mounted above the floor adjacent its outer edge, wiring connecting said sockets, means for connecting said wiring with an outlet connection in a house wiring system, and a fuse mounted in the stand in said wiring between the sockets and the connection to the house system to protect the system in case of a short circuit in the wiring incident to the use of water in the stand.

3. A tree stand of the character described comprising a platform floor, means for supporting the platform floor above a house floor, a container for water mounted on the under side of said platform floor and provided with an upright tube extending above this floor adapted to receive the stem of a tree, the upper end of the tube above the platform being flared outwardly to provide a funnel for pouring water into the tank, a series of electric lamp sockets mounted on the platform floor, wiring connecting the sockets below this floor, means for connecting said wiring with an outlet connection in a house wiring system, a control switch for said sockets mounted in the stand, and a fuse mounted in the stand in said wiring between the sockets and the means for connecting the wiring to the house system to protect said system in case of a short circuit in the stand wiring incident to the use of water in the stand.

4. A tree stand of the character described comprising a platform floor, a molding about the edge of the platform floor to support it above a house floor, a water container mounted on the platform floor and provided with an upright tube projecting above said floor to receive the stem of a tree, a series of posts projecting upwardly from said platform floor and each provided with a longitudinal passage, a sleeve in the lower portion of the passage and seated in an opening in the platform floor to mount the post, a lamp socket in the top of the post, electric wiring from the socket through the sleeve to the under side of the platform floor to connect the sockets, and means for connecting said wiring to an outlet connection in a house wiring system.

5. A tree stand of the character described comprising a platform floor, a series of upright posts on said floor each provided with a longitudinal passage, a tube in the lower end of the passage seated in an opening in the floor to mount the post thereon, an electric lamp socket in the upper end of the post, wiring from the socket extending through the tube to the under side of the platform floor, and means for connecting the wiring from the posts to an outlet connection of a house wiring system.

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