Dec. 7, 1965 B. A. RUPRIGHT 3,221,756

AWNING ASSEMBLY

Filed Feb. 7, 1962 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

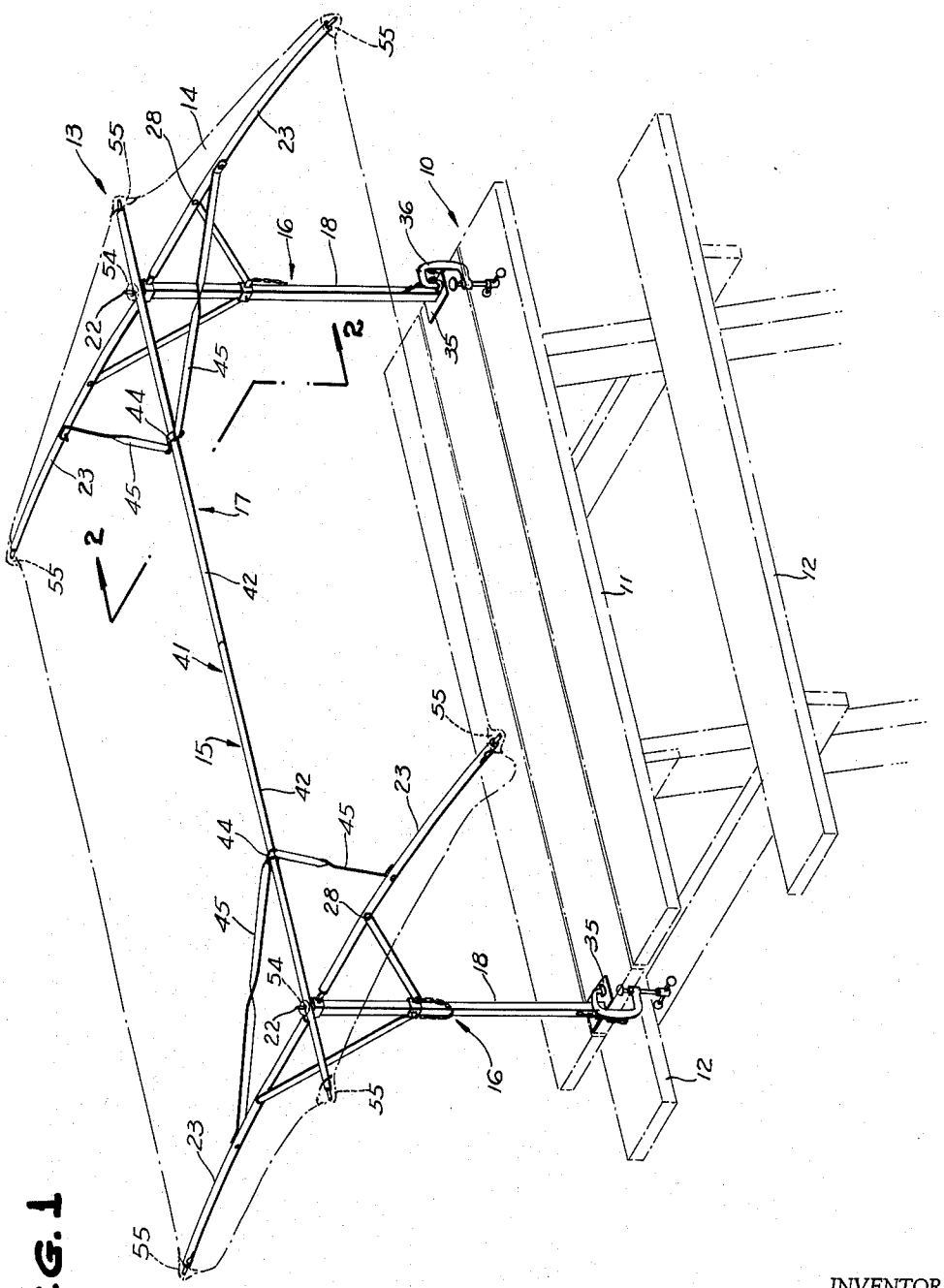


FIG. 1

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FIG. 2

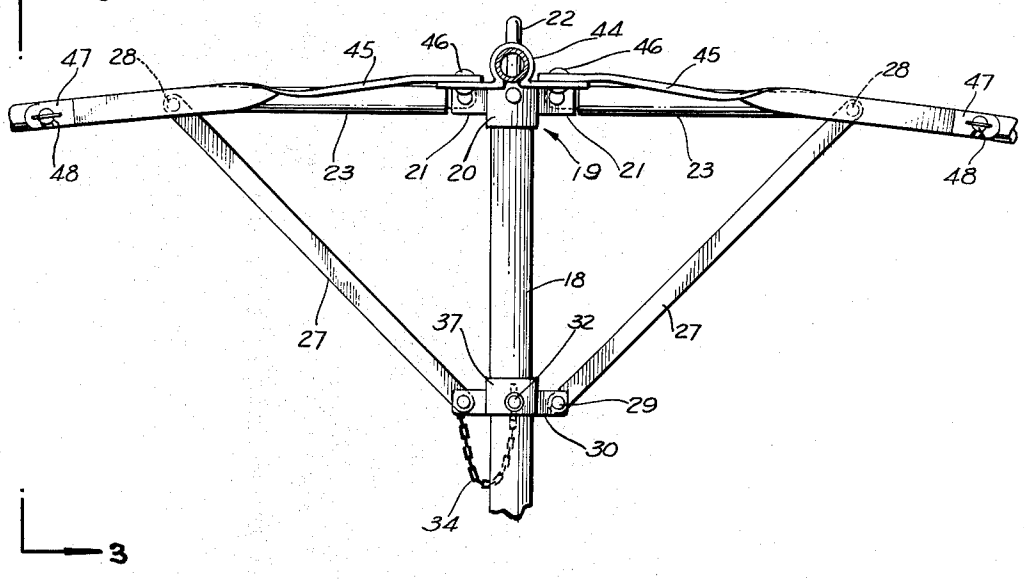


FIG. 3

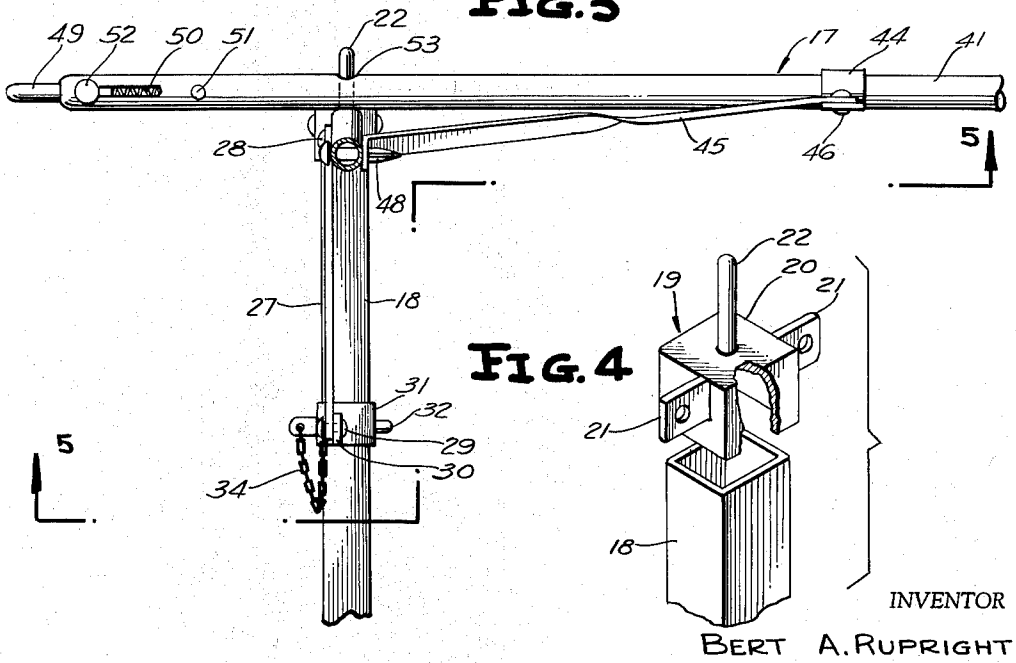


FIG. 4

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FIG. 5

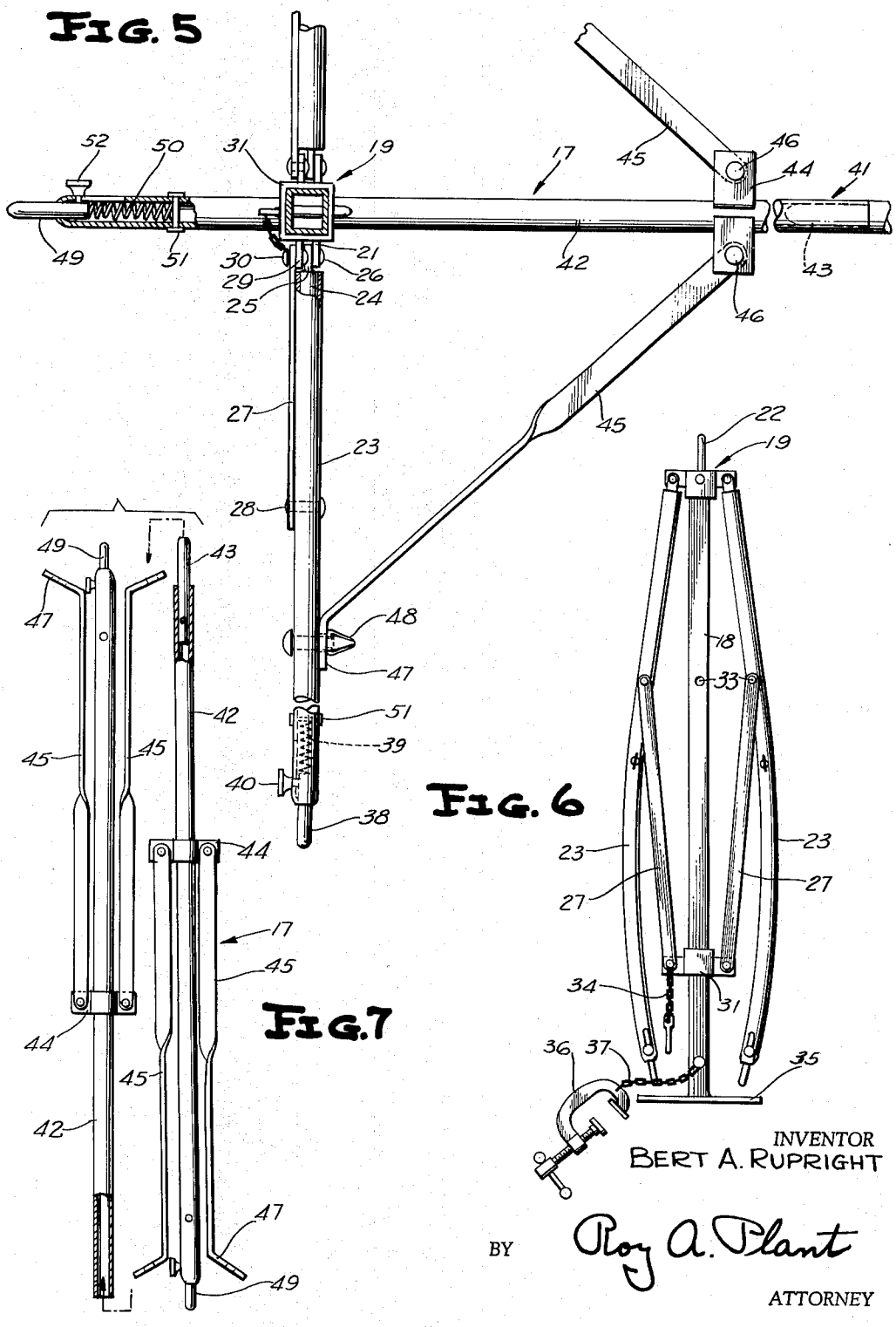


FIG. 6

FIG. 7

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3,221,756

AWNING ASSEMBLY

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9 Claims. (Cl. 135—5)

This invention relates in general to new and useful improvements in outdoor furniture, and more particularly to a novel awning particularly adapted for use in combination with a picnic table.

Picnic tables are commercially made and marketed as tables with a pair of seats which may be separate or unit joined to the table. These picnic tables, however, lack any detachable means for protecting the users from either the sun or rain, and likewise lack anything from which netting can be suspended to protect the food and picnickers from flies, mosquitos, et cetera. It was a recognition of these problems, and the lack of any commercially on the market solution for same, which led to the conception and development of the present invention.

Accordingly among the objects of the present invention is the provision of a novel awning which is particularly adapted for use with a picnic table and which may be readily mounted on existing picnic tables.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel picnic table awning which is of a very simple construction and which may be readily mounted on existing picnic tables by merely seating standards of the awning at opposite ends of the picnic table and clamping the standards to the table top.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel awning for picnic tables, the awning being in the form of a frame having a removable cover, and the frame being readily detached and collapsed to permit the storage thereof.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel awning for use in conjunction with picnic tables and the like, the awning including a frame and a cover, the frame having projecting end portions which are spring loaded and which are received in sockets in the cover so as to firmly interlock the cover with the frame and to retain the cover in a relatively taut condition when positioned on the frame.

Another object of this invention is to provide a novel awning frame which includes a pair of standards which are provided with fittings at the tops thereof, the fittings having hingedly connected thereto rafters, and the rafters being braced by means of pivotally mounted braces which are releasably secured to the standards, the frame further including a ridge pole which is removably secured to the tops of the standards and which has braces pivotally connected thereto and releasably connected to the rafters of the standards whereby the entire frame may be readily disassembled and collapsed.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a novel frame and cover construction for an awning wherein the frame includes standards having rafters projecting therefrom and a ridge pole connecting together the standards, the ridge pole projecting beyond the standards and being releasably secured to the standards by a pin passing through the ridge pole and projecting thereabove on each standard, the cover being provided with suitable sockets receiving the ends of the rafters and the ridge pole and grommets for the upstanding pins of the standards.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a novel frame for use in supporting a cover as part of an awning for a picnic table, the frame preferably being of tubular construction so as to provide an extremely light

weight construction, said frame also being readily collapsible for carrying and storage whereby the picnic table awning is feasible from a standpoint of practicality.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide an awning suitable for mounting on a picnic table for protecting both the table top and benches thereof, the awning being of relatively simple construction and formed of relatively inexpensive materials which may be readily assembled whereby the awning is economically feasible.

Still further objects and advantages of the invention will appear as the description progresses.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, the invention, then, consists of the awning means hereinafter fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims, the annexed drawings and the following description setting forth in detail certain means for carrying out the invention, such disclosed means illustrating, however, but one of various ways in which the principle of the invention may be used.

In the annexed drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a conventional picnic table provided with the picnic table awning, which is the subject of this invention, and shows the general details of the awning, both the picnic table and the cover of the awning being shown in phantom lines.

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged fragmentary transverse vertical sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1, looking in the direction of the arrows, and shows the specific details of a portion of the frame of the awning.

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2, looking in the direction of the arrows, and shows further details of the frame of the awning.

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged fragmentary exploded perspective view of the upper end of one of the standards of the awning frame and shows the specific details of a preferred form of the fitting carried thereby.

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of FIGURE 3, looking in the direction of the arrows, and specifically shows some of the details of the awning frame at one of the standards.

FIGURE 6 is an elevational view of a standard assembly of the awning frame in its collapsed state.

FIGURE 7 is a view of the ridge pole of the awning frame in two-piece form, with same being in the collapsed state thereof.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, it will be seen that there is illustrated in FIGURE 1 a conventional picnic table, generally referred to by the numeral **10**. The picnic table **10** includes a table top **11**, and a pair of benches **12** disposed along opposite sides of the same.

In accordance with the present invention, the picnic table **10** is provided with an awning, generally referred to by the numeral **13**. The awning **13** is supported from the table top **11** and includes a cover **14** and a frame, generally referred to by the numeral **15**.

The frame **15** includes a pair of standard assemblies **16** which are mounted at opposite ends of the table top **11**. The standard assemblies **16** are preferably identical and are connected together by a ridge pole assembly **17**.

Each of the standard assemblies **16** includes a standard **18** which is preferably of a tubular construction so as to be light in weight and at the same time have a high strength-to-weight ratio. The upper end of each of the standards **18** is provided with a fitting, generally referred to by the numeral **19**. Each fitting **19** includes a cap member **20**, FIGURE 4, which is telescoped over the upper end of the associated standard **18**. A pair of ears **21** extend from opposite sides of the cap member **20**. In addition, a pin **22** extends vertically from the top part

of the cap member **20** for a purpose to be hereinafter set forth.

Each of the standard assemblies **16**, FIGURE 1, includes a pair of rafters **23** extending in opposite directions from the fitting **19** thereof. Each rafter **23** is also preferably of a tubular construction and the inner end thereof is provided with a plug **24**, FIGURE 5, having a flange **25** projecting therefrom. Each flange **25** is pivotally connected to an associated one of the ears **21** by means of a pivot pin **26** which is preferably in the form of a rivet. As is best shown in FIGURES 2 and 6, the rafters **23** are preferably of a bowed construction.

Each of the rafters **23**, FIGURE 2, has at least one brace **27** pivotally connected thereto, as at **28**. The opposite end of each of the braces **27** is pivotally connected by means of a pivot pin **29** to an ear **30** of a sleeve **31** which is vertically slidable on the standard **18**.

As is best shown in FIGURE 6, when the sleeve **31** is disposed in a lowered position on the standard **18**, the rafters **23** are disposed alongside the standard **18** and the standard assembly **16** is collapsed for ready handling and storage. On the other hand, when the sleeve **31** is slid up along the standard **18** to the position illustrated in FIGURES 2 and 3, the braces **27** force the rafters **23** upwardly and outwardly to the positions shown in FIGURES 2 and 3. The sleeve **31** is held in an elevated position on the standard **18** by means of a pin **32** which pass through an opening **33**, FIGURE 6, in the standard **18**. The pin **32** is preferably anchored against loss by means of a chain **34** which is carried by one of the pivot pins **29**.

In order to facilitate the mounting of each standard assembly **16** on the table top **11**, the bottom of each standard **18**, in preferred construction, is provided with a foot **35**. The foot **35** is intended to be rested on the table top **11**, as is shown in FIGURE 1, and has associated therewith a clamp **36**. The clamp **36**, FIGURE 6, is shown as being separate from the foot **35** and is anchored against loss by means of a chain **37** connected to the standard **18**. However, one jaw of the clamp **36** may be permanently secured to the foot **35** if it is so desired, and it is intended that the drawing be considered as diagrammatically including same.

Referring now to FIGURE 5 in particular, it will be seen that the outer end of each of the rafters **23** has a pin **38** projecting therefrom. The pin **38** is urged outwardly by means of a spring **39** disposed within the end of the associated rafter **23**. A knob **40** is connected to the pin **38** to facilitate the temporary manual retraction thereof against the outward urging of the spring **39** for a reason to be described in detail hereinafter.

The ridge pole assembly **17**, FIGURE 1, includes an elongated ridge pole **41** which extends between the fittings **19** of the standards **18**. The ridge pole **41** is preferably formed in two sections **42** connected together by a pin **43**, FIGURE 7, telescoped within the ends of the ridge pole sections **42**.

Each of the ridge pole sections **42**, FIGURE 5, carries a yoke-like strap **44** to which there is pivotally connected a pair of twisted braces **45**. Each brace **45** is connected to the associated strap **44** by means of a pivot pin **46**. Each of the braces **45** has an offset end portion **47** which is releasably secured to an associated one of the rafters **23** by means of a locking pin **48**. The locking pin **48** is of the type which is associated with a member preferably having a slot-type opening therein so that by loosening the locking pin **48**, the offset end portion **47** may be released from its associated rafter **23** while the locking pin **48** remains a part of the rafter **23**.

As is best shown in FIGURE 5, the terminal end of each of the ridge pole sections **42** is provided with a projecting pin **49**. The pin **49** is urged outwardly from its telescoped position within the end of the ridge pole section **42** by means of a spring **50** telescoped within the ridge pole section. The inner end of each spring **50** is anchored against further inward movement by means of a pin **51**. Such a pin is also used to prevent the inward movement of the springs **39** of rafters **23**. Each of the pins **49** has a knob **52** to facilitate the retraction thereof for installation and removal of awning cover **14**.

It is to be noted that each of the ridge pole sections **42** is provided with a bore for receiving an associated one of the pins **49**. When the frame **15**, FIGURE 1, is to be erected, the standard assemblies **16** are opened and clamped to the opposite ends of the table top **11**. The two ridge pole sections **42** are connected by means of pin **43**, and the entire ridge pole assembly **17** is secured to the standard assemblies **16** by slipping the outer end portion of the ridge pole sections **42** down over the upstanding pins **22**. The braces **45** are then connected to the rafters **23**. The frame **15** is now completed and is ready to receive the cover **14**.

Referring now to FIGURE 1 once again, it will be seen that the cover **14** is provided with a pair of grommets **54** which receive those portions of the pins **22** projecting up through the ridge pole **41**. It will also be noted that the underside of the cover **14** is provided with sleeves or sockets **55** built thereinto for the reception of the ends of the rafters **23** and the ridge pole **41**.

After the cover **14** is initially engaged with the pins **22**, the pins **49** at the opposite ends of the ridge pole **41** are retracted and seated in their associated sockets **55**. This stretches the cover **14** longitudinally of the frame **15**. Then, at the corner of each end of the cover **14**, the pins **38** are retracted and inserted in the sockets **55** thereof with the result that the cover **14** is not only longitudinally tensioned, but also transversely tensioned, and the cover **14** is retained on the frame **15** in a taut state.

It will be understood that the size of the awning **13** may vary as is desired. However, it is desirable that the width of the cover **14** be such so as not only to substantially protect any articles which may be placed on the table top **11**, but also the occupants (not shown) of the benches **12**. It is also to be understood that the cover **14**, as well as the various components of the frame **15**, are formed of light weight materials so that the entire awning **13** may be readily handled. In addition, as is clearly shown in FIGURES 6 and 7, the frame **15** of the awning **13** may be readily collapsed into compact form for storage purposes.

Although the awning **13** is primarily intended for use in conjunction with a picnic table, such as the picnic table **10**, it is to be understood that the principles of construction of the awning may be utilized in the forming of awnings for purposes other than use in conjunction with picnic tables.

Although a preferred form of awning has been illustrated and described, it is to be understood that minor changes may be made in the awning construction within the spirit and scope of the invention as herein defined and illustrated in the drawings.

Other modes of applying the principle of my invention may be employed instead of the one explained, change being made as regards the awning and combinations herein disclosed, provided the means stated by any of the following claims or the equivalent of such stated means be employed:

I therefore particularly point out and distinctly claim as my invention:

1. An awning comprising a frame and a cover, said frame including an pair of upright standards having a pin extending from the upper end of same, a ridge pole connecting the upper portions of said standards and having openings to receive said pin on the upper end of each of said standards to releasably fasten said ridge pole on said standards, a pair of rafters pivotally connected to and extending with free outer ends from the upper portion of each of said standards generally at right angles to said ridge pole, fixed location pivot means on said ridge pole spaced inward from the ends of same, braces pivotally

connected to and extending from said rafters to intermediate portions of said standards, rafter adjusting means vertically adjustably mounted on said standards and pivotally connected to said braces, braces extending from said fixed location pivot means of said ridge pole to said rafters, means releasably fastening the ends of said last named braces to said rafters, and said cover overlying said frame and having sockets receiving said free outer end portions of said rafters.

2. An awning frame comprising a pair of upright standards, a fitting carried at the upper end of each of said standards, said fitting having a pin extending upward from the upper end of same, a pair of oppositely extending rafters hingedly connected to each fitting, braces pivotally connected to each pair of rafters, a bracket vertically slidably mounted on each of said standards and pivotally connected to the other end of said braces, means releasably anchoring said brackets to said standards to facilitate the folding of each standard and pair of rafters as a unit, a ridge pole extending between said standards and having openings to receive said pins for releasably connecting same to said fittings, fixed location pivot means on said ridge pole spaced inward from the ends of same, said ridge pole carrying a pair of braces pivotally connected to said fixed location pivot means, and means for releasably connecting the other end of said braces to said rafters.

3. An awning frame comprising a pair of upright standards, a fitting carried at the upper end of each of said standards, said fitting having a pin extending upward from the upper end of same, a pair of oppositely extending rafters hingedly connected to each fitting, braces pivotally connected to each pair of rafters, a bracket vertically slidably mounted on each of said standards and pivotally connected to the other end of said braces, means releasably anchoring said brackets to said standards to facilitate the folding of each standard and pair of rafters as a unit, a ridge pole extending between said standards and having openings to receive said pins for releasably connecting same to said fittings, fixed location pivot means on said ridge pole spaced inward from the ends of same, said ridge pole carrying at each end of same a pair of braces pivotally connected to said fixed location pivot means, and means for releasably connecting the other end of said braces to said rafters, a cover overlying said frame, and means releasably securing said cover to said frame.

4. The awning frame of claim 3 wherein said ridge pole has ends projecting beyond said standard fittings, and said cover having sockets receiving end portions of both said ridge pole and said rafters.

5. The awning frame of claim 3 wherein said ridge pole has ends projecting beyond said standard fittings, said cover having sockets receiving the end portions of both said ridge pole and said rafters, and grommets in said cover receiving said upwardly projecting pins of said fittings on the top of said upright standards.

6. The awning frame of claim 5 wherein the extending end portions of said ridge pole and said rafters all have tubular end members, and said end members have outwardly urged spring loaded pins telescopically fitting said tubular end members and fitting said sockets for assuring the tightening of said cover.

7. The awning frame of claim 3 wherein said ridge pole has ends projecting beyond said standard fittings, said cover having sockets receiving end portions of said ridge pole and said rafters, and said ridge pole and said rafter end portions include outwardly urged spring loaded pins for assuring the tightening of said cover.

8. The awning frame of claim 3 wherein said ridge pole has ends projecting beyond said standard fittings, said cover having sockets receiving end portions of said ridge pole and said rafters, said awning being particularly adapted for use with a table, and said standard having table top clamping lower end portions.

9. The awning frame of claim 3 wherein said ridge pole has ends projecting beyond said standard fittings, said cover having sockets receiving end portions of said ridge pole and said rafters, said awning being particularly adapted for use with a picnic table, said standards having feet on the lower ends thereof, and a table clamp associated with each foot.

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