D. W. HOUSE.

TENT SUPPORT.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 7, 1914.

1,113,898.

Patented Oct. 13, 1914.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

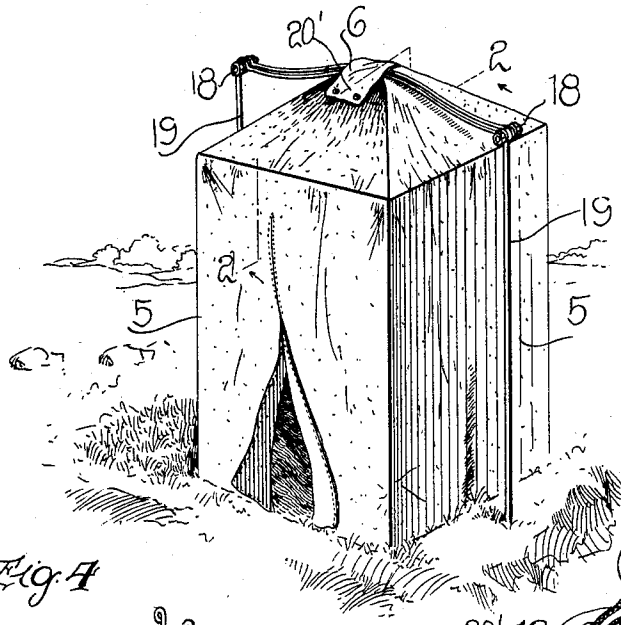


Fig. 7

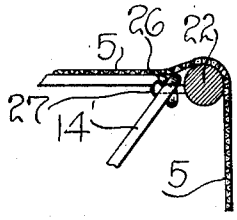


Fig. 2

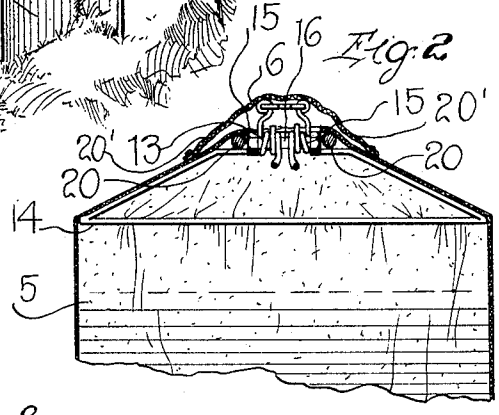


Fig. 4

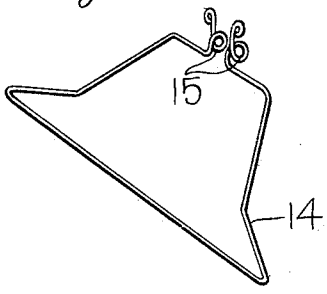
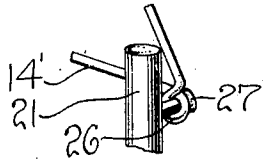


Fig. 8



Witnesses.
Robert M. Sutphen
A. L. Hind.

Inventor
DAN. W. HOUSE

By Watson E. Coleman
Attorney

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

D. W. HOUSE.

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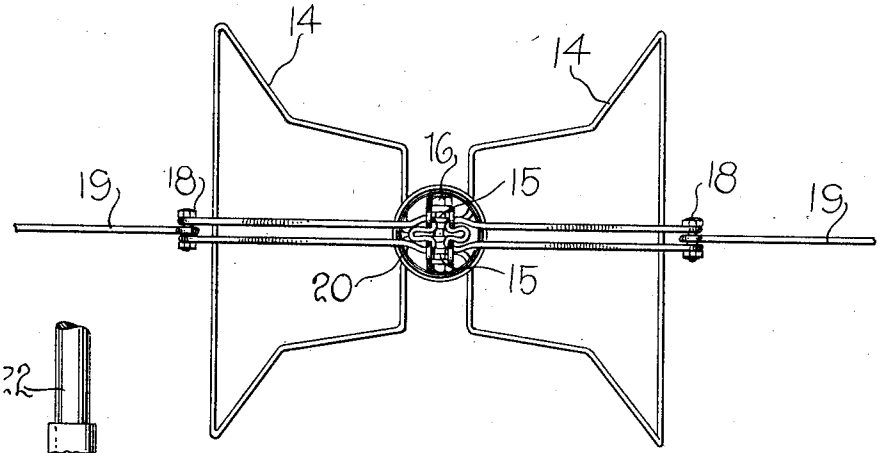
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3



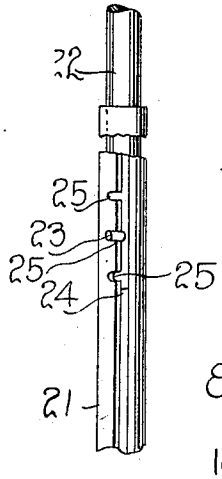


Fig. 5

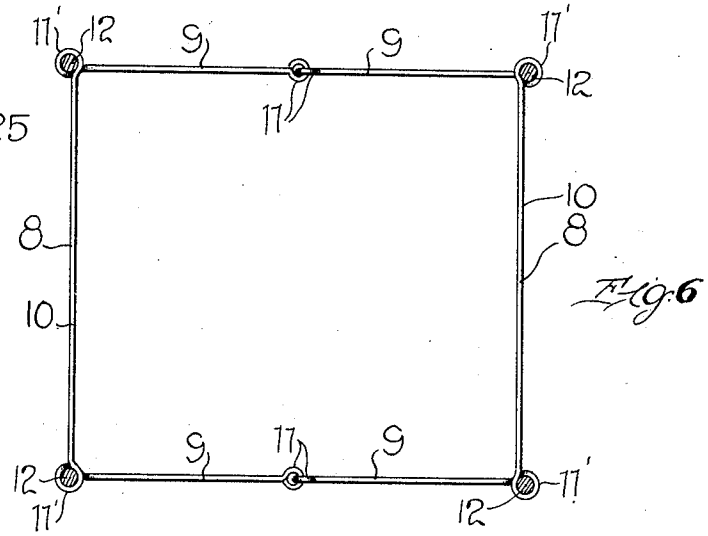


Fig. 6

Witnesses
Robert M. Sutphen
A. L. Hurd.

Inventor
DAN. W. HOUSE

By Watson E. Coleman
Attorney

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL W. HOUSE, OF MOBRIDGE, SOUTH DAKOTA.

TENT-SUPPORT.

1,113,898. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 13, 1914.

Application filed February 7, 1914. Serial No. 817,319.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL W. HOUSE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mobridge, in the county of Walworth and State of South Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tent-Supports, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to an improved tent supporting and stretching device and has for its primary object to provide a very simple, reliable and efficient device whereby the walls of the tent may be tightly stretched and the tent braced and supported against liability of being blown from its anchorage by heavy wind gusts.

The invention has for another and more specific object to provide a tent supporting and stretching device including pivotally connected stretching members adapted for engagement upon the inner sides of the opposed tent walls, said members having terminal portions extending from the opening in the apex of the tent, and means connected to said members and arranged exteriorly of the tent for supporting the same and exerting a pressure against the tent walls.

The invention has for another object to provide a foldable base frame to which the lower edges of the tent walls are attached, the members of said frame being provided with loops or eyes through which anchoring sticks may be driven into the ground.

The invention has for a still further object to generally improve and simplify the construction of devices of the above character, to increase their practical utility and serviceability in use, and to produce a tent supporting device which may be produced at small manufacturing cost.

With the above and other objects in view as will become apparent as the description proceeds, the invention consists in certain constructions, combinations and arrangements of the parts that I shall hereinafter fully describe and claim.

For a full understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my improved tent stretching device applied to a tent. Fig. 2 is a section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged top plan view of the stretching device. Fig. 4 is a detail fragmentary perspective view of one of the stretching members. Fig. 5 is an enlarged elevation of one of the corner posts of the tent. Fig. 6 is a top plan view of the base frame. Fig. 7 is a detail horizontal section through one corner of the tent illustrating a slightly modified construction for use in large sized tents whereby the stretching members are connected to the corner posts. Fig. 8 is a detail fragmentary perspective view of one of the stretching members as employed in the modified form of the invention.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 5 designates the canvas walls of the tent, which as illustrated is of the type known as a square tent. One wall of the tent is provided with the usual top opening to be closed by a suitable flap indicated at 6.

In setting up the tent I employ a base frame which is constructed of two foldable sections 8, each of which is formed from a single length of steel wire having a long arm 10 and a shorter arm 9 extending at right angles to said long arm. The short arm terminates in a loop or eye 11, the eyes upon said frame sections being pivotally connected to each other. At the juncture of the short and long arm of each frame member, a loop or eye 11′ is formed therein. The lower edges of the canvas walls of the tent are suitably secured to these wire frame members, the eyes 11′ extending exteriorly of the tent wall. Pegs or other suitable anchoring members indicated at 12 are adapted to be driven through said loops into the ground, floor or other suitable base upon which the tent is arranged.

At the apex of the tent the same is provided with an opening 13 through which the terminals of the wire stretching members 14 are adapted to be disposed. Each of these members is constructed from a single length of wire, and adjacent the ends thereof are provided with eyes 15. The members 14 are pivotally connected by means of a bolt 16 inserted through said eyes. To the extremities of the wire stretching members 14 the intermediate portion of a wire 17 is secured. The ends of this wire extend in parallel relation and are provided with eyes to receive a bolt 18 upon which the

upper end of a rod 19 is loosely engaged. A metal ring 20 is engaged over the pivotally connected ends of the stretching members 14 and engages upon the canvas top of the tent around the opening 13 thereof to hold the edges of said opening in a closely confined position. A suitable flap shown at 20′ is adapted to be applied by suitable fasteners to the top of the tent over said opening to exclude the rain or sun light.

As thus far described the operation of the device will be readily understood. In setting up the tent after securing the parts of the frame together, the ends of the wire stretching members 14 are inserted through the opening 13 in the top of the tent and pivotally connected together, the pivot bolt being disposed interiorly of the tent top. The wires 17 extend upon the exterior of the top of the tent. By moving the rods 19 outwardly and upwardly, the stretching members 14 are moved in opposite directions against the inner sides of the top wall of the tent to tightly stretch the same, the ends of said supporting rods 18 being engaged in the ground.

In conjunction with my improved stretching device above described, I employ an improved construction of corner pole for supporting and bracing the tent walls. This pole consists of two telescopically engaged sections 21 and 22 respectively. The lower section 21 has its lower end embedded in the ground or secured to the floor or base while the upper end of the other section 22 engages the tent canvas at the juncture of the side and top walls at the corner of the tent. A pin or stud 23 is fixed to the lower end of the upper pole section 22 and is movable in the longitudinal slot 24 provided in the section 21 of the pole. In one edge of this slot spaced notches 25 are formed to receive said stud or pin when the pole is turned, thereby locking the pole sections together against relative sliding movement. By the provision of these adjustable pole sections, the same may be utilized in connection with tents of various heights.

In Figs. 7 and 8 of the drawings I have illustrated a slightly modified construction which is particularly designed for use in connection with large sized tents. In this form, the triangular shaped wire stretching members 14′ are provided at their opposite corners with loops 26. The corner poles of the tent have additional headed studs 27 secured to the upper sections 21 thereof which are designed for engagement through the loops 26 of the stretching members, said loops being engaged over the studs after the poles have been set up in position. In this manner it will be seen that a bracing connection is effected between the corner poles and the stretching members whereby the top and side walls of the tent are effectively braced and liability of the tent being blown down by heavy wind storms materially decreased.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it is believed that the construction, manner of operation and several advantages of my invention will be fully and clearly understood.

Owing to the fact that the stretching device is entirely constructed of wire, it will be apparent that the same can be produced at small manufacturing cost, while at the same time said device is extremely durable as well as highly efficient and serviceable in practical use.

The several parts of the device may be easily and quickly assembled or disassembled and compactly arranged in a small space for transportation or shipment.

While I have illustrated in the drawings a modified form of the stretching members, it will of course be understood that said members may be of various other forms as may be deemed advisable in accordance with the type of tent in connection with which the device is to be used.

What is claimed is:

1. The combination with a tent body provided with an opening at its apex, of wire stretching members adapted for engagement upon the inner side of the top wall of the tent and extending through said opening, means pivotally connecting said members, rods connected to said members and extending exteriorly of the tent, and supporting rods connected to said latter rods and adapted to be embedded in the ground to retain said stretching members in spaced relation against the top wall of the tent upon the opposite sides of said opening.

2. The combination with a tent body provided with an opening in its apex, of a pair of stretching members each constructed from a length of wire having eyes formed therein adjacent its ends, the extremities of said wire being adapted to be disposed through the opening in the top wall of the tent, a bolt disposed through said eyes and pivotally connecting the stretching members, oppositely extending wires connected to the extremities of the stretching members and disposed exteriorly over the top of the tent, and supporting rods pivotally connected to said latter wires and adapted to be embedded in the ground whereby the stretching members may be retained in spaced relation and in stretching engagement against the inner side of the top wall of the tent on opposite sides of the opening therein.

3. The combination with a tent body, of corner posts therefor each provided with a headed stud, a pair of connected relatively movable stretching members adapted for engagement with the top wall of the tent,

means for moving said members and engaging the same with said tent wall, each of said members being provided with loops to detachably receive the headed studs upon a pair of the corner posts whereby said stretching members and the posts mutually brace each other.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

DAN. W. HOUSE.

Witnesses:
MALUF C. ALWORTH,
CLAY CARPENTER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."