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1,547,416

I. L. EDWARDS

FLAGSTAFF

Filed May 17, 1923

FIG. 2.

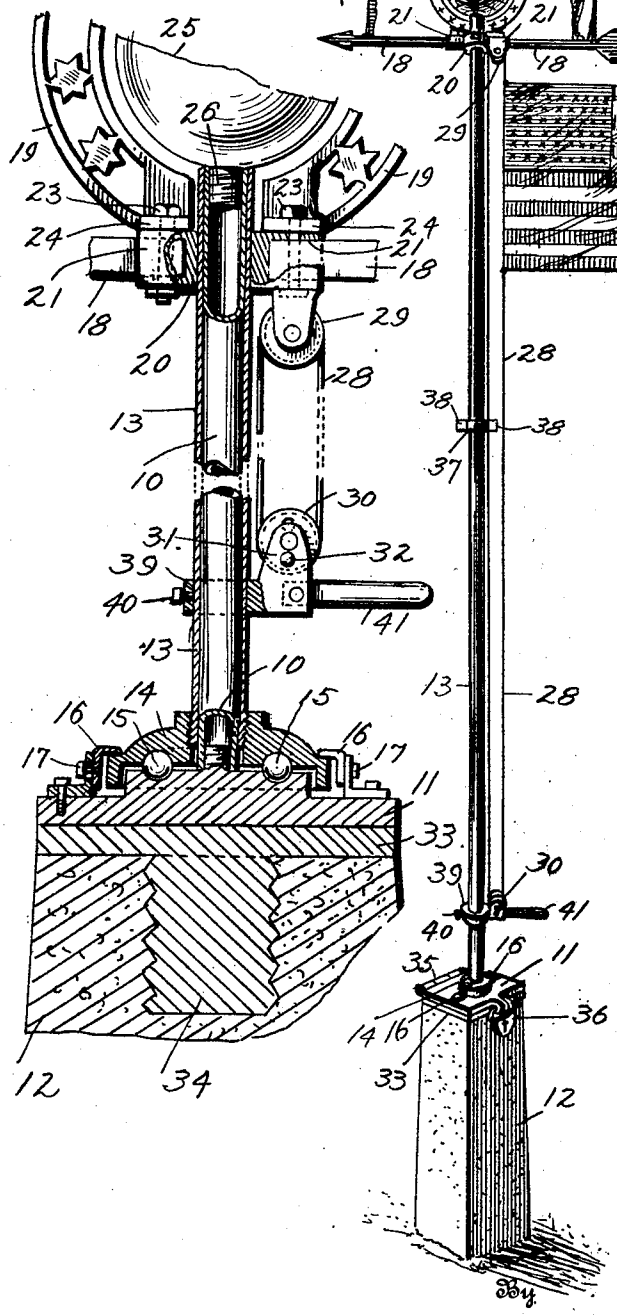


FIG. 1.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ISAAC L. EDWARDS, OF AURORA, ILLINOIS.

FLAGSTAFF.

Application filed May 17, 1923. Serial No. 639,527.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISAAC L. EDWARDS, residing at Aurora, Illinois, a citizen of the United States, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Flagstaffs, of which the following is a specification.

The main object of my invention is to provide a construction of flag staff which will make it impossible for the flag when blown by the wind to be wrapped or turned around the staff and thus avoid wear and tear of the flag and assure that when blown by the wind the whole flag will be displayed. Other objects are to facilitate the furling and unfurling of the flag and to provide a construction which will advantageously enable the display or exhibition of symbols and emblems or other objects having an educational value for the instruction of school children and others and which will inspire or evoke patriotic feelings. My invention consists in whatever is described by or is included within the scope or meaning of the appended claims.

In the annexed drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a flag staff embodying or constructed in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the upper and lower parts thereof.

Briefly described my flag staff comprises a mast or standard which conveniently may be made of metal pipe or tubing, one pipe or tube being mounted upon the other, the inner one being stationarily supported as far as rotation is concerned upon a suitable base and the outer one being free to revolve and carry the flag so that when blown in the wind the flag may revolve about with the outer pipe or tubing and thus it will be impossible for the flag to wrap or wind about the staff and it will also blow free so that in the wind the whole flag will be flung to the breeze standing out from the staff.

Referring now in detail to what is shown in the drawing the inner non-rotating tube, 10, is mounted at its lower end upon a metal base plate, 11, as by a screw connection that is mounted upon a post or standard, 12, which may be of wood, concrete or other material of suitable height and the outer rotatable tube, 13, is secured to its lower end as by a screw connection, to a circular flange, 14, between which and the top of the base plate, 11, are anti-friction balls, 15, so that the outer tube, 13, is permitted to revolve with as little friction as possible. Although the weight of the parts may be depended upon to prevent lift of the outer tube with its ball bearing flange, 14, I prefer to provide one or more hook form fingers, 16, attached to the base, 11, and reaching over the top of the flange, 14, said finger, 16, preferably being made of two parts fastened together by a bolt, 17, to permit such vertical adjustment of the finger as may be necessary. Preferably the flange, 14, has a down-turned rim which overlaps the ball race.

Near the upper end of the revolving tube, 13, are mounted oppositely extending horizontal arms, 18, the outer extremity of one being pointed after the fashion of an arrow head and the outer extremity of the other being fashioned like the tail of an arrow, and supported upon the upper side of said arms in a balanced position upon opposite sides of the mast is a flat sided ring, 19, the result being that a weather vane structure is provided. For connecting the arms, 18, with the revolving shaft, 13, a ring, 20, is secured as by set screws, 21, to the tube, 13, which has diametrically opposite sockets, 22, to receive the ends of the respective arms, 18, which are secured therein by bolts, 23, which also serve to attach the ring, 19, to the arms, the bolts, 23, passing through lugs, 24, at the bottom of the ring, the ring being slotted to straddle the mast so as to allow the latter to extend within the ring and support a ball or globe, 25, which is fixed to the upper end of the stationary inner tube, 10, the ball being concentric with the ring, 19. The ball may be attached to the inner tube, 10, by a threaded stem, 26, that projects from the bottom of the ball and enters a threaded upper portion of the inner tube, 10.

The flag, 27, is attached at top and bottom at the union end to the ends of a rope or halyards, 28, which passes over a pulley, 29, mounted on one of the arm sockets, 18, close to the mast and over a pulley, 30, journaled in bearings attached to the outer rotating tube, 13, near the lower end thereof, so that thereby the flag may be readily unfurled and furled and secured either at full mast or half mast, a suitable locking device being provided that may consist of a pin, 32, that passes through aligning holes

in bearing, 31, and in the pulley, 30, there being several holes in the pulley, 30, spaced apart in a circular or angular direction.

For the purpose of giving convenient access to the upper part of the structure for painting or repairs without the necessity of using ladders or dismantling the structure I hinge the base plate, 11, to the top of the standard which top if the standard, 12, be of concrete may be a metal plate, 33, having a shank, 34, embedded in the concrete, the hinge, 35 being at the edge of the plate, 33, and the base plate, 11, being rigidly held by suitable means in a fixed position when the structure is in its upright position which locking means may be a removable bolt or a padlock, 36, passing through eyes in the two plates, 11, and 33. Thus the flag staff may be firmly supported in an upright position or lowered when occasion to get access in the parts of the structure above reach may be necessary.

For purposes of instruction the ball, 25, may represent a terrestrial globe and the ring, 19, may have the representation of stars delineated or formed upon it and the ring being surmounted by the representation of a half moon and the figure of an eagle, and each arm, 18, may form a support as shown for some suggestive or instructive figure, one arm for example supporting the statue of an American soldier and the other a statue of an American Indian. At intervals, for example at mid-height of the staff, a ring, 37, may be secured thereto having sockets, 38, for the attachment of a support on the order of arms, 18, for supporting objects of interest upon the rotating member of the staff.

The bearing, 31, for the lower pulley, 32, may be a part of a ring, 39, secured by a set screw, 40, to the outer tube, 13, and it may have a socket to attach a radial arm or handle, 41 which will be useful in holding the outer tube during the operation of raising and lowering the flag.

What I claim is:

1. A flag staff comprising a mast, means for supporting the flag at the upper part of the mast, a hinged base at the bottom of the mast on which it may be swung to and from a vertical position, said base comprising two members one above the other with interposed anti-friction means, the lower member being the hinged one, and the mast being carried by and rotatable with the upper member, and means securing such base with the mast in a vertical position.

2. A flag staff comprising concentric vertical shafts, a base to which the inner shaft is attached at its lower end, a bearing flange at the lower end of the outer shaft supported to rotate upon said base, a pulley mounted at the top of the outer shaft, a pulley mounted at the bottom of the outer shaft, a rope passing over said pulleys, a flag attached to a run of said rope between the pulleys, and hooks attached to the base and reaching over the top of said flange.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

ISAAC L. EDWARDS.