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Hindman

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[54] **SKIRTING FOR MOBILE HOMES**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **52/169,** 52/155, 52/198, 52/241, 52/537, 52/588, 52/674, 52/DIG. 3

[51] **Int. Cl.** **E04h 1/12**

[58] **Field of Search** 52/DIG. 3, 155, 169, 222, 52/198, 199, 302, 303, 336, 448, 533–535, 537, 588, 674, 675, 529, 531, 518, 519, 74–78, 241

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Primary Examiner—Alfred C. Perham

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Vertically directed panels of the skirting for a mobile home are secured to, and depend from, an elongated supporting member which is fastened to the lower portion of that mobile home. That lower portion will be essentially horizontally directed, and it will be free of the irregularities that are frequently noted in the surface of the ground below a mobile home; and hence that elongated supporting member will be essentially horizontally directed, and will thereby enable the panels of that skirting to be essentially vertical as they depend downwardly from that elongated supporting member. The lower ends of the panels of the skirting extend into a relatively deep, elongated, retaining member which rests on the ground; and the lower ends of those panels are spaced far enough above the bottom of that relatively deep, elongated, retaining member to accommodate any and all anticipated movement of that relatively deep, elongated, retaining member relative to those lower ends of those panels as the ground shifts and "heaves" throughout the years. The elongated supporting member and the relatively deep, elongated retaining member each resiliently grips the panels of the skirting, and thereby keep those panels from fluttering and vibrating when the wind blows. Moreover, protected ventilating openings are provided in limited areas of each of the panels of the skirting to permit desirably limited "breathing" of the area below the mobile home.

8 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures

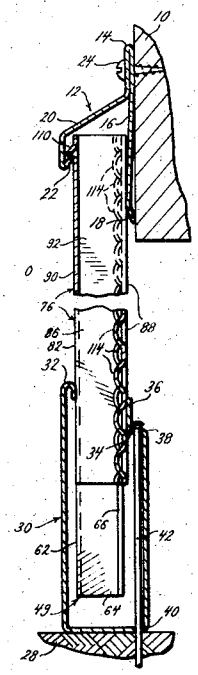


FIG. 1.

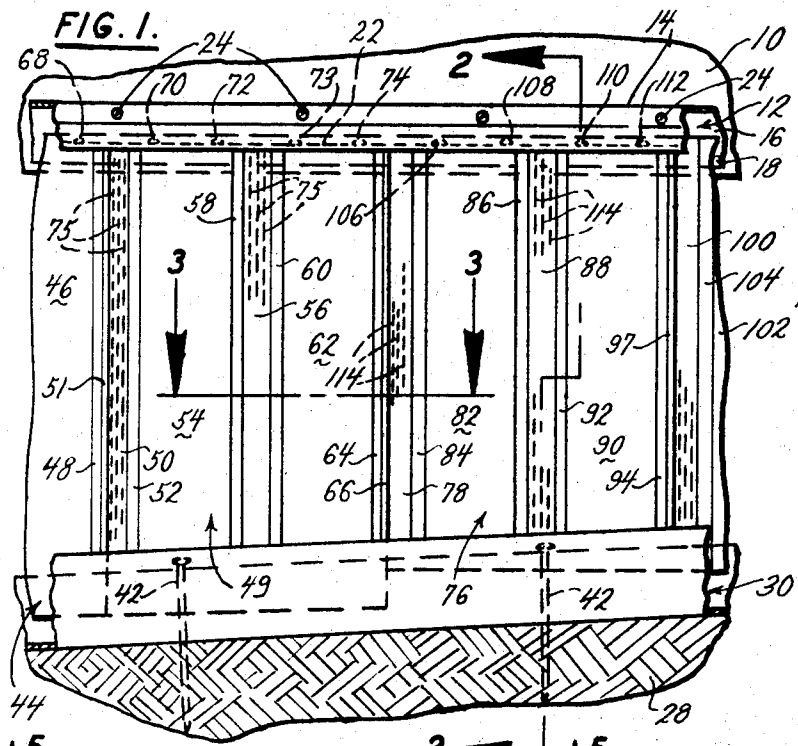
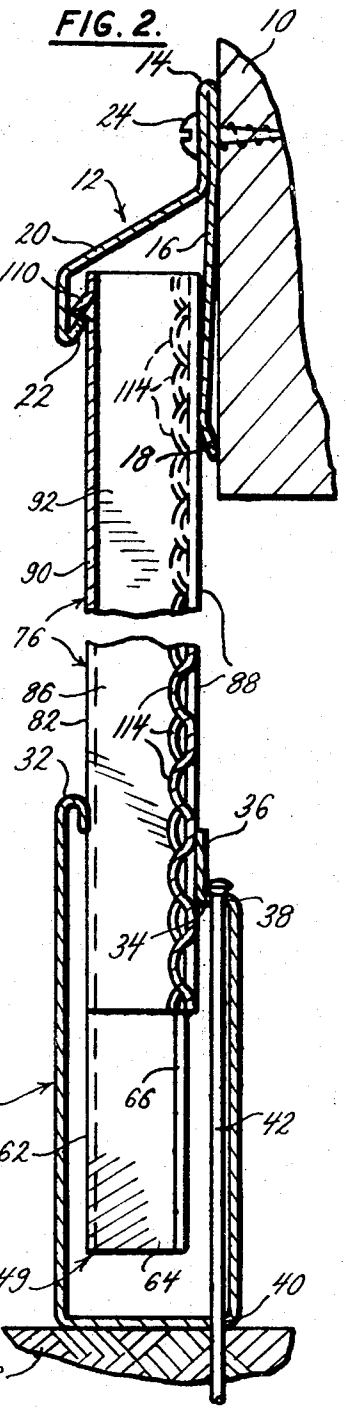


FIG. 2.



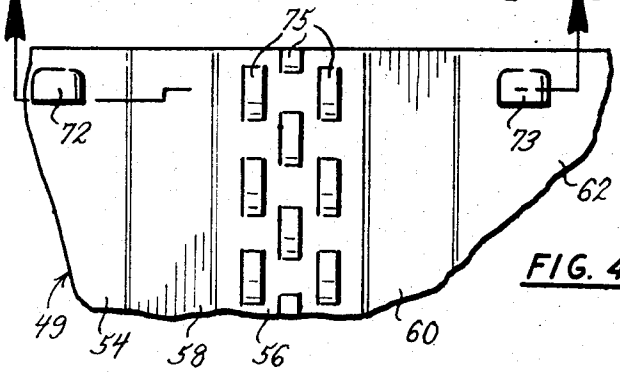


FIG. 4.

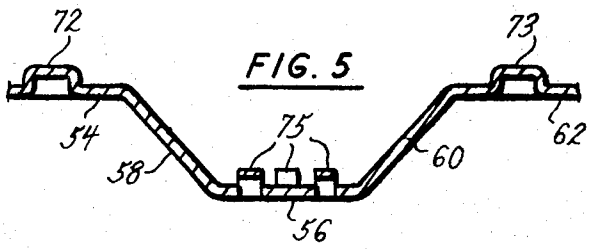
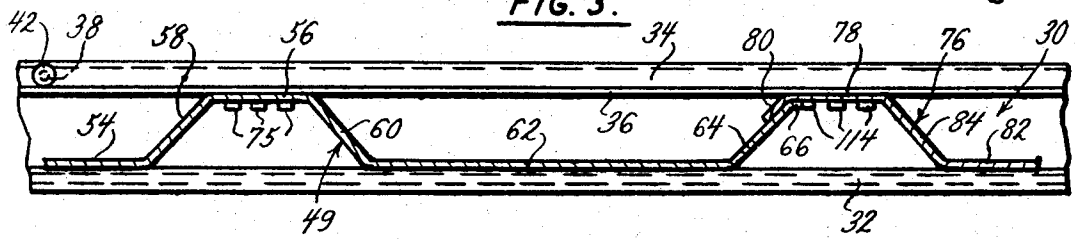


FIG. 5

FIG. 3.



SKIRTING FOR MOBILE HOMES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to skirting which spans the distance between the lower portion of a mobile home and the ground, and which effectively encloses the space beneath that mobile home.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Skirtings, which have used vertically directed panels to enclose the spaces below mobile homes, usually rest upon the ground or upon supports which, in turn, rest upon the ground; and hence, where the ground is inclined or is irregular, it is difficult to dispose those panels so they are vertically directed unless the lower ends of those panels are cut rather precisely to match the inclination or irregularity of the ground. Even where the lower ends of the panels are cut rather precisely to match the inclination or irregularity of the ground, the shifting or "heaving" which the ground experiences during the years can tend to tilt the panels or can apply undue stresses to those panels.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention includes an elongated supporting member which is fastened to the lower portion of a mobile home so it is essentially horizontally directed; and panels are supported by and depend vertically downwardly from that elongated supporting member to form a skirting for that mobile home. The lower ends of those panels extend into a relatively deep, elongated, retaining member which rests upon the ground; and the lower ends of those panels are spaced far enough above the bottom of that relatively deep, elongated, retaining member to accommodate any and all anticipated movement of that relatively deep, elongated, retaining member relative to those lower ends of those panels as the ground shifts and "heaves" throughout the years. It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide an elongated supporting member which can be fastened to the lower portion of a mobile home so it is essentially horizontally directed, to provide a relatively deep, elongated, retaining member which rests upon the ground, and to provide vertically directed panels which can be supported by and which will depend downwardly from that elongated supporting member and which can have the lower ends thereof confined within that relatively deep, elongated, retaining member.

The elongated supporting member which is secured to the lower portion of the mobile home, and the relatively deep, elongated, retaining member which receives the lower ends of the panels resiliently engage those panels. In doing so, that elongated supporting member and that relatively deep, elongated, retaining member keep those panels from fluttering and vibrating when the wind blows. As a result, the present invention makes it possible to enclose the space beneath a mobile home without permitting the wind to cause noise as it impinges upon the panels of the skirting. It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide panels for a mobile home which have the upper ends thereof resiliently held by an elongated supporting member which is fastened to the lower portion of a mobile home and which have the lower ends thereof resiliently held by a relatively deep, elongated, retaining member that rests upon the ground.

Each of the panels of the skirting provided by the present invention has small ventilating openings in small portions of the area thereof, and has the major portion of the area thereof imperforate. The ventilating openings are small, and thus limit the amount of air which can flow through them; but those openings are numerous enough to provide the desired "breathing" of the air in the space below the mobile home. By being located in small portions of the areas of the panels, and by being small, the ventilating openings do not detract from the appearance of the panels of the skirting. It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide each of the panels of the skirting for a mobile home with small ventilating openings which are located in small portions of the area thereof.

Other and further objects and advantages of the present invention should become apparent from an examination of the drawing and accompanying description.

In the drawing and accompanying a preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown and described but it is to be understood that the drawing and description are for the purpose of illustration only and do not limit the invention and that the invention will be defined by the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. **1** is a front elevational view of a part of the lower portion of a mobile home, and of part of the skirting which is provided by the present invention and which extends between that lower portion and the ground,

FIG. **2** is a broken sectional view, on a larger scale, and it is taken along the broken plane indicated by the broken line **2—2** in FIG. **1**,

FIG. **3** is a sectional view, on the scale of FIG. **2**, through the skirting shown in FIG. **1**, and it is taken along the plane indicated by the line **3—3** in FIG. **1**,

FIG. **4** is a front elevational view, on the scale of FIG. **2**, of a portion of one of the panels of the skirting shown in FIG. **1**, and

FIG. **5** is a sectional view, on the scale of FIG. **2**, and it is taken along the broken plane indicated by the broken line **5—5** in FIG. **4**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In the drawing, the numeral **10** denotes the lower portion of a mobile home of any desired design or manufacture; and that lower portion will usually be set so it is essentially horizontally directed — regardless of any inclination or irregularity of the ground on which that mobile home is supported. Thus, as shown by FIG. **1**, the lower portion **10** of the mobile home is horizontally directed although the ground **28** inclines downwardly from upper right to lower left.

The numeral **12** generally denotes an elongated supporting channel which is preferably made from a material that is capable of withstanding the weather, that is sturdy and rugged, and that is resilient in nature. One such material is aluminum; but the channel **12** could be made from any suitable metallic or non-metallic material. Where the channel **12** is made from metallic material, it will preferably have a re-entrant fold **14** at the top thereof, and also will have an inner wall **16** that ex-

tends downwardly from that inner fold to abut the outer face of the lower portion **10** of the mobile home. Where the channel **12** is made from an extrudable material, the re-entrant fold **14** will preferably be a thickened upper portion of the wall **16.** The numeral **18** denotes a downwardly and inwardly inclined flange at the lower edge of the wall **16;** and that flange will stiffen that lower edge. As indicated by FIG. **2,** that flange will bear against the outer face of the lower portion **10** of the mobile home when the channel **12** is fastened to that lower portion.

The numeral **20** denotes a rain-shedding portion of the channel **12** which inclines outwardly and downwardly from the re-entrant fold **14;** and that rain-shedding portion has a vertically directed lower edge which is equipped with an inwardly and upwardly extending flange **22.** As shown particularly by FIG. **2,** the vertically directed lower edge of the rain-shedding portion **20** is displaced an appreciable distance outwardly of the inner wall **16,** and hence that vertically directed lower edge displaces the inwardly and upwardly extending flange **22** an appreciable distance outwardly of that inner wall. In its normal unstressed condition, the rain-shedding portion **20** inclines downwardly at a sharper angle than is shown by FIG. **2,** and the inwardly and upwardly extending flange **22** thereon is closer to the wall **16** than is shown by FIG. **2.** However, the resilience of the elongated supporting channel **12** permits the rain-shedding portion **20** thereof to move to the position shown by FIG. **2** when the various panels of the skirting have the upper ends thereof telescoped up into position adjacent the under surface of the rain-shedding portion **20.** The inclined flange **18** and the inclined flange **22** will coact to automatically guide the upper edges of the various panels of the skirting into position between the wall **16** and the vertically directed lower edge of the rain-shedding portion **20.** Further, the inclined flange **22** will act as an inclined plane and will automatically cause the channel **12** to yield to assume the attitude shown by FIG. **2.** However, as the channel yields to assume that attitude, it will develop restorative forces within itself which will enable the inclined flange **22** to press firmly against the outer portions of the various panels, and thereby hold those various panels firmly against the wall **16** — thereby avoiding fluttering and vibration of the upper ends of those panels when the wind blows.

The numeral **24** denotes screws which extend through openings in the re-entrant fold **14** of the channel **12** to seat in the lower portion **10** of the mobile home. Those openings will preferably be punched in that re-entrant fold prior to the time the channel **12** is shipped from the factory. However, if desired, the openings for the screws **24** could be formed in the re-entrant fold **14** by the installer at the time the skirting is being applied to the lower portion **10** of the mobile home.

The numeral **30** generally denotes an elongated channel which can be rested upon the ground **28** below, and generally in vertical registry with, the supporting channel **12.** The outer wall of the channel **30** has an inwardly and downwardly bent upper edge **32** which is arcuate in nature, as indicated by FIG. **2.** The inner wall of that channel has a forwardly extending offset **34** from which the upper edge **36** of that inner wall extends upwardly. Openings **38** are provided in the forwardly extending offset **34,** and corresponding openings **40** are provided in the bottom of the channel **30,** as indicated by FIG. **2.** The openings **38** and **40** accommodate spikes **42** which extend downwardly into the ground **28** to fixedly secure the channel **30** to the ground. The openings **38** and **40** are spaced apart several inches; and hence the spikes **42** are able to coact with those openings to solidly hold the channel **30** in parallelism, along both the X and Y axes, with the channel **12.**

The channel **30** is preferably made from a material that is capable of withstanding the weather, that is sturdy and rugged, and that is resilient in nature. One such material is aluminum; but the channel **30** could be made from any suitable metallic or non-metallic material. That channel will preferably be anodized, painted or otherwise protected to enable it to be long-lived although it must directly contact the ground.

When the channel **30** is in its normal unstressed condition, the inwardly and downwardly bent edge **32** is closer to the edge **36** than is shown by FIG. **2.** However, the resilience of that channel permits the edge **32** to move to the position shown by FIG. **2** when the various panels of the skirting have the lower ends thereof telescoped downwardly into position within that channel. Thereafter, those panels will hold the inwardly and downwardly bent edge **32** spaced from the inner upper edge **36** of that channel by the distance indicated in FIG. **2.** However, as the inwardly and downwardly bent edge **32** is moved away from the edge **36,** restorative forces will be developed within the channel **30;** and those restorative forces will enable that inwardly and downwardly extended edge to apply resilient forces to the outer portions of the panels of the skirting, and thereby cause the inner portions of those panels to press against the inner upper edge **36.** In this way, the lower portions as well as the upper portions of the panels of the skirting are firmly held against fluttering and vibration.

The numeral **44** generally denotes the right-hand end of a skirting panel; and that right-hand end has an outwardly displaced vertically extending portion **46** of rectangular configuration, has an inwardly displaced vertically extending portion **51** of rectangular configuration, and has an inclined vertically extending portion **48** of rectangular configuration extending between and interconnecting those vertically extending portions. In the preferred dmbodiment shown by the drawing, the outwardly displaced vertically extending portion **46** 6f rectangular configuration is about three and three-quarters of an inch wide, the inwardly displaced vertically extending portion **51** 6f rectangular configuration is about ⅛ to 3/16 of an inch wide, and the inclined vertically extending portion **48** of rectangular configuration is about 7/8 of an inch wide. The outwardly displaced vertically extending portion **46** of rectangular configuration is displaced about ⅝ of an inch outwardly of the inwardly displaced vertically extending portion, not shown, of rectangular configuration.

The numeral **49** generally denotes a second skirting panel; and that panel has an inwardly displaced, vertically extending portion **50** of rectangular configuration at the left-hand end thereof. An inclined vertically extending portion, not shown, of rectangular configuration inclines forwardly and to the left from the left-hand edge of the vertically extending portion **50** to constitute the left-hand edge of th panel **49.** An inclined, vertically extending, rectangular portion **52** extends

forwardly and to the right from the right-hand edge of the inwardly displaced vertically extending portion **50** to the left-hand edge of an outwardly displaced, vertically extending rectangular portion **54** of the panel **49.** The numeral **56** denotes an inwardly displaced, vertically extending rectangular portion of the panel **49**; and the numeral **58** denotes an inclined, vertically extending rectangular portion which inclines rearwardly and to the right from the right-hand edge of the outwardly displaced, vertically extending portion **54** to the left-hand edge of the inwardly displaced vertically extending rectangular portion **56.** The numeral **60** denotes an inclined, vertically extending rectangular portion which inclines forwardly and to the right from the right-hand edge of the rearwardly displaced, vertically extending rectangular portion **56** to the left-hand edge of an outwardly displaced, vertically extending rectangular portion **62** of the panel **49.** The numeral **64** denotes an inclined, vertically extending rectangular portion which inclines inwardly and to the right from the right-hand edge of the outwardly displaced, vertically extending rectangular portion **62** to an inwardly displaced, vertically extending rectangular portion **66**; and that inwardly displaced, vertically extending rectangular portion constitutes the right-hand edge of the panel **49.** In the said preferred embodiment, each of the outwardly displaced portions **54** and **62** of the panel **49** is about three and ¾ of an inch wide, each of the inwardly displaced portions **50** and **56** of that panel is about one inch wide, each of the inclined portions **52, 58, 60** and **64** of that panel is about ⅞ of an inch wide, the inclined portion, not shown, at the left-hand end of that panel is about ⅝ of an inch wide, and the inwardly displaced portion **66** is about ⅛ to 3/16 of an inch wide.

The numeral **76** generally denotes a third skirting panel; and that panel has an inwardly displaced, vertically extending rectangular portion **78** at the left-hand end thereof. An inclined vertically extending portion **80** of rectangular configuration inclines forwardly and to the left from the left-hand edge of the inwardly displaced portion **78** to constitute the left-hand edge of the panel **76.** An inclined-vertically extending, rectangular portion **84** inclines forwardly and to the right from the right-hand edge of the inwardly displaced portion **78** to the left-hand edge of an outwardly displaced, vertically extending rectangular portion **82.** The numeral **86** denotes an inclined, vertically extending rectangular portion which inclines rearwardly and to the right from the right-hand edge of the outwardly displaced, vertically extending portion **82** to the left-hand edge of an inwardly displaced vertically extending rectangular portion **88.** The numeral **92** denotes an inclined, vertically extending rectangular portion which inclines forwardly and to the right from the right-hand edge of the inwardly displaced portion **88** to the left-hand edge of an outwardly displaced, vertically extending rectangular portion **90.** The numeral **94** denotes an inclined, vertically extending rectangular portion which inclines inwardly and to the right from the right-hand edge of the outwardly displaced, vertically extending portion **90** to the left-hand edge of an inwardly displaced vertically extending rectangular portion **97** which constitutes the right-hand edge of the panel **76.**

The numeral **96** denotes a fourth skirting panel; and that panel is identical to each of the panels **44, 49** and **76.** The portions **100, 104** and **102** of the panel **96** are identical, respectively, to the portions **50, 52** and **54** of the panel **49.**

Because the outwardly displaced portions **46, 54, 62, 82, 90** and **102** of the various panels **44, 49, 76** and **96** are so much wider than the inwardly displaced portions **50, 56, 78, 88** and **100** of the panels **49, 76** and **96** and are still wider than the inclined portions **48, 52, 58, 60, 64, 84, 86, 92, 94** and **104,** those outwardly displaced portions constitute the major portions of the outer surfaces of those panels. Consequently, those outwardly displaced portions will be the predominant area of the skirting to which the eye of the viewer will respond. Moreover, because the portions **50, 56, 78, 88** and **100** are displaced inwardly of the plane defined by the outwardly displaced portions **46, 54, 62, 82, 90** and **102,** those inwardly displaced portions will tend to be somewhat in the shadow. Similarly, the inclined portions **48, 52, 58, 60, 64, 84, 86, 92, 94** and **104** will, at least in part, also be displaced rearwardly of the plane defined by the outwardly displaced portions **46, 54, 62, 82, 90** and **102,** and will tend, to a lesser extent, to be somewhat in the shadow. The overall result is that the inwardly displaced portions **50, 56, 78, 88** and **100** and the inclined portions **48, 52, 58, 60, 64, 84, 86, 92, 94** and **104** will make less of an impression upon the eye of the viewer than will the outwardly displaced portions **46, 54, 62, 82, 90** and **102.**

The numeral **68** denotes a projection which extends forwardly from the upper part of the outwardly displaced portion **46** of panel **44.** The numerals **70** and **72** denote similar projections which extend forwardly from the upper part of the outwardly displaced portion **54** of panel **49**; and the numerals **73** and **74** denote similar projections which extend forwardly from the upper part of the outwardly displaced portion **62** of that panel. The numerals **106** and **108** denote similar projections which extend forwardly from the upper part of the outwardly displaced portion **82** of panel **76**; and the numerals **110** and **112** denote similar projections which extend forwardly from the upper part of the outwardly displaced portion **90** of that panel. The projections **68, 70, 72, 73, 74, 106, 108, 110** and **112** are preferably formed by punching them forwardly out of the outwardly displaced portions **46, 54, 62, 82** and **90**; and the sizes and configurations of those projections are indicated particularly by FIGS. **2, 4** and **5.** Each of the projections **68, 70, 72, 73, 74, 106, 108, 110** and **112** is spaced exactly the same distance from the upper edge of its panel. The outer surfaces of the projections **68, 70, 72, 73, 74, 106, 108, 110** and **112** incline downwardly and outwardly to act as inclined planes which will facilitate the insertion of the various panels **44, 49, 76** and **96** up into position immediately below the rain-shedding portion **20** of the elongated supporting channel **12.**

The numeral **75** denotes vertically aligned, horizontally spaced rows of projections which are provided in the inwardly displaced portion **50,** and also in the inwardly displaced portion **56,** of the panel **49.** Those projections preferably are formed by punching them forwardly out of the inwardly displaced portions **50** and **56**; and, as indicated by FIG. **2,** those projections are arcuate in cross-section. The projections in the alternate vertically aligned rows of projections in any given inwardly displaced section are staggered, as emphasized particularly by FIG. **4.** The openings which are

formed in the inwardly displaced portions **50** and **56**, as the projections **75** are punched forwardly out of those inwardly displaced portions, are largely overlain and protected by those projections. Yet, those openings will permit air to pass through them, and thus will permit the area which is located below the mobile home and which is confined by the skirting to "breathe."

The numeral **114** denotes rows of projections which are formed on the inwardly displaced portions **78** and **88** of the panel **76** and also on the inwardly displaced portion **100** of the panel **96**. The projections **114** are preferably identical to the projections **75** on the inwardly displaced portions **50** and **56** of the panel **49**. The projections **114** are preferably formed by punching them forwardly out of the inwardly displaced portions **78, 88** and **100**; and those projections will at least partially overlie and protect the openings which are formed in those inwardly displaced portions as those projections are formed. Yet, those openings will be able to permit air to pass through them, and thus will help the space which is beneath the mobile home and which is enclosed by the skirting to "breathe."

Each of the panels **44, 49, 76** and **96** is preferably made from a material that is capable of withstanding the weather, that is sturdy and rugged, and that is resilient in nature. One such material is aluminum; but the various panels could be made from any suitable metallic or non-metallic material. In the said preferred embodiment, the distance from the left-hand edge of the inwardly spaced portion **50** of panel **49** to the right-hand edge of the inclined portion **64** of that panel is substantially 12 inches. This is desirable; because it enables the prospective installer of skirting to add up the running fee of the perimeter of the lower portion **10** of the mobile home and then order a number of panels equally the total number of those running feet.

Where the mobile home overlies ground that has a pronounced inclination, as indicated by FIG. **1**, the adjacent panels will have different lengths. Specifically, the panel **49** will be shorter than the panel **44**, the panel **76** will be shorter than the panel **49**, and the panel **96** will be shorter than the panel **76**. If desired, as in the case of the panels **44** and **49**, the lower edges of those panels can be cut to approximate the inclination of the ground **28**. However, as shown by the panels **76** and **96**, the lower edges of the panels will usually be cut so they are parallel to the upper edges of those panels. In the said preferred embodiment, the panels are offered for sale in five precut predetermined lengths which nicely accommodate most skirting installations. For example, one pre-cut, predetermined-length panel will be 18 inches long and will be used when the distance between the screws **24** and the ground is 21 inches or less, a second pre-cut, predetermined-length panel will be 24 inches long and will be used when the distance between those screws and the ground is 22 to 27 inches, a third pre-cut, predetermined-length panel will be 30 inches long and will be used when the distance between those screws and the ground is 28 to 33 inches, a fourth pre-cut, predetermined-length panel will be 36 inches long and will be used when the distance between those screws and the ground is 34 to 39 inches, and a fifth pre-cut, predetermined-length panel will be 42 inches long and will be used when the distance between those screws and the ground is 40 to 45 inches. Where the ground below the mobile home is essentially horizontally directed and where the distances between the screws **24** and the ground are essentially 21, 27, 33, 39, or 45 inches, no field-cutting of the pre-cut, predetermined-length panels is required. Even where the ground below the mobile home is not essentially horizontally directed and even where the distances between the screws **24** and the ground are not essentially 21, 27, 33, 39 or 45 inches, the use of pre-cut, predetermined-length panels will materially reduce the amount of field cutting that is required.

To install the skirting provided by the present invention, the installer will use screws **24** to secure the channel **12**, further channels **12**, and corner channels **12** to the lower portion **10** of the mobile home; and the channels **12** and the further channels **12** will preferably be made in 10 foot lengths. The corner channels **12** will preferably be made in 30 inch lengths; and they will preferably be provided with 90° notches which extend outwardly through the inner walls **16** and the rain-shedding portions **20** toward the vertically directed outer edges of those rain-shedding portions. Those 90° notches will enable those corner channels to form neat mitered corners for the channels **12**. To install any given channel **12**, the installer will place the inner surface of the inner wall **16** of that channel in engagement with the lower portion **10** of the mobile home at a desired distance above the ground; and then screws **24** will be passed through the openings in the re-entrant fold **14** and seated within the lower portion **10** of the mobile home. At this time, the various supporting channels **12** should be parallel to the bottom edge of the lower portion **10** of the mobile home, and thus should be essentially horizontally directed.

Thereafter, the installer will place the channel **30**, further channels **30**, and corner channels **30** on the ground in vertical registry with the channel **12**, the further channels **12** and the corner channels **12**, respectively; and the channel **30** and the further channels **30** will preferably be made in 10 foot lengths. The corner channels **30** will preferably be made in 30 inch lengths; and they will preferably be provided with 90° notches which extend outwardly through the forwardly extending offsets **34** and the upper edges **36** and the bottoms toward the outer walls. Those 90° notches will enable those corner channels to form neat mitered corners for the channels **30**. Spikes **42** will be passed through the openings **38** in the offsets **34** and through the openings **40** in the bottoms of the channels **30** and then driven into the ground. The ground may be horizontal or be inclined to the horizontal, and it may be regular or irregular; but, regardless of the attitude or nature of the ground, the various sections of the channel **30** will be spiked to the ground. In those instances where the ground is irregular, the sections of the channel **30** will "bridge" the irregularities.

The installer will then measure the distance from the level of the screws **24** to the ground at several points around the lower portion **10** of the mobile home. If the installer has a supply of pre-cut, predetermined-length panels available, and if he was able to mount the channel **12**, the further channels **12** and the corner channels **12** so the distances between the screws **24** and the ground were essentially 21, 27, 33, 39 or 45 inches, he need only select and insert panels of the appropriate lengths. However, if the installer does not have a supply of pre-cut, predetermined-length panels available, or if he was not able to mount the channel **12**, the further

channels **12**, and the corner channels **12** so the distances between the screws **24** and the ground were essentially 21, 27, 33, 39 or 45 inches, he will cut the panels to the desired length. Further, if the inclination of the ground is sharp, the installer may want to cut the lower edges of the panels so they approximate the inclination of the ground. In the preferred embodiment, the lower edges of the panel can be cut with "tin snips" or a power saw. In any event, each panel should be dimensioned so its lower end will be spaced about 1¾ of an inch above the inner surface of the bottom of the channel **30** therefor when that panel is set in position within the channels **12** and **30.**

Once a panel of the desired length is obtained, the outer face of the lower edge of that panel will be placed against the rear surface of the inwardly and downwardly bent edge **32** of the channel **30**; and then the installer will apply a force to that panel which will force the outwardly displaced, vertically extending portions thereof to move the outer wall of the channel **30** far enough forwardly to enable the inwardly displaced, vertically extending portions of that panel to fit downwardly into the space between the flange **32** and the edge **36.** Thereafter, the lower edge of the panel will be moved downwardly toward the bottom of the channel **30** until the upper edge of that panel is wholly below the level of the flange **22** on the channel **12.** The inwardly displaced, vertically extending portions of that panel will then be pressed against the outer surface of the inner wall **16** of the channel **12**; and, thereupon, that panel will be slid upwardly until the upper edges of the outwardly displaced, vertically extending portions of that panel engage the under surface of the flange **22.** As indicated previously herein, that flange inclines upwardly and inwardly; and hence it can act as an inclined plane to guide the movement of the upper edge of the panel into position immediately adjacent the under surface of the rain-shedding portion **20** of the channel **12.** The outer surfaces of the projections, such as the projections **70, 72, 73** and **74** on the panel **49,** also will act as inclined planes, and thus will coact with the inclined flange **22** to force that flange even further away from the inner wall **16** of the channel **12.** However, after the projections at the top of the panel have been moved upwardly above the upper edge of the flange **22** of the channel **12,** the restorative forces within that channel will force the flange **22** into position below the lower edges of the projections with a "snap lock" action. At this time, the flange **22** on the channel **12** will act as a supporting ledge for the panel; and it will hold all of the projections at the top of that panel at the same level. Because all of those projections are spaced the same distance from the top of the panel, and because the channel **12** is essentially horizontally directed, the flange **22** will coact with those projections to hold the top edge of the panel essentially horizontal. This means that the panel will be vertically directed, and will depend downwardly from the channel **12.** This is very desirable, because it provides a regularity and neatness for the skirting which will add a great deal to the "eye appeal" of that skirting and to the combination of the mobile home and its skirting.

The lower edge of the panel will be disposed below the level of the inwardly and downwardly bent edge **32,** and also will be disposed below the upper edge **36,** of the channel **30**; but that lower edge will be disposed an appreciable distance above the bottom of that channel. In this way, the panel will wholly span the distance between the channels **12** and **30,** and yet will not be bent or distorted by any shifting or "heaving" of the ground **28** during the years.

As previously indicated herein, the restorative forces within the channel **12** will enable the flange **22** to press firmly against the outer faces of the outwardly displaced, vertically extending portions of the panel, and thus will cause the inner faces of the inwardly displaced, vertically extending portions of that panel to press firmly against the inner wall **16.** Further, as pointed out hereinbefore, the restorative forces within the channel **30** will enable the inwardly and downwardly bent edge **32** to press firmly against the outer faces of the outwardly displaced, vertically extending portions of the panel, and thus will cause the inner faces of the inwardly displaced, vertically extending portions of that panel to press firmly against the edge **36.** In this way, the panel will be resiliently held in position and thus will be kept from fluttering or vibrating.

After the first panel has been installed, additional panels will be installed in the same manner. As indicated by FIGS. **1** and **3,** additional panels will be installed with the right-hand ends thereof overlapping the left-hand ends of the panels to their right. At such time, the right-hand edge of the inwardly displaced portion **51** of the panel **44** will engage the projections **75** of the left-handmost row of vertically aligned, horizontally-spaced rows of projections in the inwardly displaced portion **50**; and that edge will coact with those projections to help maintain the panels **44** and **49** vertically directed and in parallel relation. Similarly, at such time, the right-hand edge of the inwardly displaced portion **66** of the panel **49** will engage the projections **114** of the left-handmost row of vertically aligned, horizontally spaced rows of projections in the inwardly displaced portion **78**; and that edge will coact with those projections to help maintain the panels **49** and **76** vertically directed and in parallel relation. Moreover, at such time, the right-hand edge of the inwardly displaced portion **97** of the panel **76** will engage the projections **114** of the left-handmost row of vertically aligned, horizontally spaced rows of projections in the inwardly displaced portion **100**; and that edge will coact with those projections to help maintain the panels **76** and **96** vertically directed and in parallel relation. The left-handmost row of vertically aligned horizontally spaced rows of projections in each of the inwardly displaced portions **50, 78** and **100** is close to the left-hand edge of the panels **49, 76** and **96,** respectively. This is desirable; because it limits to a small predetermined value the extent to which the right-hand edge of any panel overlaps the left-hand edge of the panel to the right thereof.

The joints between the panels which extend along the sides of the mobile home and the panels which extend along the ends of that mobile home will be overlain by corner members which are L-shaped in plan; and those corner members will have projections adjacent the upper ends thereof which are comparable to the projections **68, 70, 72, 73, 74, 106, 108, 110** and **112.** As a result, those corner members also will have the upper ends thereof telescoped upwardly within, and supported by, the channels **12**; and will have the lower ends thereof telescoped downwardly into the channels **30.**

Because the panels are supported by the channels **12** rather than by the channels **30,** the lower edges of those panels do not have to be cut to precisely match the inclination of the ground. In fact, as indicated by the panels **76** and **96,** the bottoms of the panels can sometimes be parallel to the tops of those panels. Yet, irrespective of the attitudes of the lower edges of the various panels of the skirting; all of those panels will hang vertically. As a result, the installation of the skirting provided by the present invention is simply and quickly accomplished; and that skirting is neat and regular in appearance.

In the preferred embodiment, the panels are stamped to have embossed surfaces — preferably embossed surfaces which simulate wood grain finishes. Such embossed surfaces are very desirable because they will not "show" dents which may be developed therein during or after the installation of the skirting. Also, in the preferred embodiment, the panels and the channels **12** and **30** are offered in different colors. Further, in the preferred embodiment, the notches in the corner channels **12** and **30** enable those corner channels to be bent to simulate mitered corners — thereby facilitating the easy and neat application of those channels to the corners of the lower portion **10** of the mobile home. Additionally, in the preferred embodiment, access doors are provided which can be suitably used in place of some of the panels — to provide ready access to the space below the mobile home. In those instances where the mobile home is to be supported on a concrete slab, the channels **30** can be cemented, rather than spiked, in position.

Whereas the drawing and accompanying description have shown and described a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made in the form of the invention without affecting the scope thereof.

What I claim is:

1. Skirting, for the space between the ground and the lower portion of a mobile home, which comprises an elongated member that is securable to said lower portion of said mobile home so it is essentially horizontally directed, a second elongated member that is securable to the ground below the level of and essentially in vertical registry with the first said elongated member, and a plurality of panels which can extend vertically between said first said and said second elongated members, said panels and said first said elongated member having interacting surfaces thereon which engage each other and which hold the upper ends of said panels in assembled relation with said first said elongated member while permitting said panels to be suspended from said first said elongated member and also permitting the lower ends of said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member to engage a portion of said second elongated member which is spaced above the level of the bottom of said second elongated member, said interacting surfaces on said panels being spaced fixed distances below the upper ends of said panels and coacting with said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to hold said upper ends of said panels fixed distances above the points of engagement between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member, each of said panels having a length, between the interacting surface thereon and the bottom thereof, which is shorter than the disstance between said bottom of said second elongated member and the point of engagement between said interacting surface on said panel and said interacting surface on said first said elongated member, whereby said panels depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and have said bottoms thereof spaced above the level of said bottom of said second elongated member, each of said panels being short enough to permit said panel to continue to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and to have said bottom thereof spaced above said bottom of said second elongated member despite limited "heaving" of the ground to which said second elongated member is secured, the short lengths of said panels coacting with the engagements between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to permit said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member essentially at right angles to said first said elongated member and hence in essentially vertical positions, said panels having the portions thereof which are immediately adjacent said portion of said second elongated member free of abutments which could interfere with unobstructed relative movement between said portions of said panels and said portion of said second elongated member.

2. Skirting as claimed in claim **1** wherein said panels terminate short of, and are displaced vertically above, the bottom of said second elongated member, whereby said lower ends of said panels can be cut so they are parallel to or inclined relative to the upper ends of said panels.

3. Skirting as claimed in claim **1** wherein said second elongated member is a channel which has the open portion thereof opening upwardly to confront said first said elongated member, wherein said lower ends of said panels extend downwardly into said open portion of said second elongated member, wherein the unstressed width of said open portion of said second elongated member is less than the thicknesses of said panels, wherein said interacting surfaces include projections on said panels and an elongated ledge on said first said elongated member, and wherein said first said elongated member is resilient and will enable said elongated ledge thereon to apply compressive forces to said panels, whereby said elongated ledge on said first said elongated member can coact with said projections on said panels to provide a "snap lock" engagement therebetween.

4. Skirting, for the space between the ground and the lower portion of a mobile home, which comprises an elongated member that is securable to said lower portion of said mobile home so it is essentially horizontally directed, a second elongated member that is securable to the ground below the level of and essentially in vertical registry with the first said elongated member, and a plurality of panels which can extend vertically between said first said and said second elongated members, said panels and said first said elongated member having interacting surfaces thereon which engage each other and which hold the upper ends of said panels in assembled relation with said first said elongated member while permitting said panels to be suspended from said first said elongated member and also permitting the lower ends of said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member to engage a portion of said second elongated member which is spaced

above the level of the bottom of said second elongated member, said interacting surfaces on said panels being spaced fixed distances below the upper ends of said panels and coacting with said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to hold said upper ends of said panels fixed distances above the points of engagement between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member, each of said panels having a length, between the interacting surface thereon and the bottom thereof, which is shorter than the distance between said bottom of said second elongated member and the point of engagement between said interacting surface on said panel and said interacting surface on said first said elongated member, whereby said panels depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and have said bottoms thereof spaced above the level of said bottom of said second elongated member, each of said panels being short enough to permit said panel to continue to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and to have said bottom thereof spaced above said bottom of said second elongated member despite limited "heaving" of the ground to which said second elongated member is secured, the short lengths of said panels coacting with the engagements between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to permit said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member essentially at right angles to said first said elongated member and hence in essentially vertical positions, said panels having the portions thereof which are immediately adjacent said portion of said second elongated member free of abutments which could interfere with unobstructed relative movement between said portions of said panels and said portion of said second elongated member, said second elongated member being a channel which has the open portion thereof opening upwardly to confront said first said elongated member, said lower ends of said panels extending downwardly into said open portion of said second elongated member, said second elongated member having the major portion of the front thereof displaced forwardly of said lower ends of said panels to keep said second elongated member from binding against said panels as said second elongated member moves when said ground "heaves," said second elongated member having the major portion of the rear thereof displaced rearwardly of said lower ends of said panels to keep said second elongated member from binding against said panels as said second elongated member moves when said ground "heaves," the unstressed width of said open portion of said second elongated member being less than the thicknesses of said panels, and said second elongated member being resilient and applying compressive forces to said panels that will keep said lower ends of said panels from vibrating.

5. Skirting, for the space between the ground and the lower portion of a mobile home, which comprises an elongated member that is securable to said lower portion of said mobile home so it is essentially horizontally directed, a second elongated member that is securable to the ground below the level of and essentially in vertical registry with the first said elongated member, and a plurality of panels which can extend vertically between said first said and said second elongated members, said panels and said first said elongated member having interacting surfaces thereon which engage each other and which hold the upper ends of said panels in assembled relation with said first said elongated member while permitting said panels to be suspended from said first said elongated member and also permitting the lower ends of said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member to engage a portion of said second elongated member which is spaced above the level of the bottom of said second elongated member, said interacting surfaces on said panels being spaced fixed distances below the upper ends of said panels and coacting with said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to hold said upper ends of said panels fixed distances above the points of engagement between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member, each of said panels having a length, between the interacting surface thereon and the bottom thereof, which is shorter than the distance between said bottom of said second elongated member and the point of engagement between said interacting surface on said panel and said interacting surface on said first said elongated member, whereby said panels depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and have said bottoms thereof spaced above the level of said bottom of said second elongated member, each of said panels being short enough to permit said panel to continue to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and to have said bottom thereof spaced above said bottom of said second elongated member despite limited "heaving" of the ground to which said second elongated member is secured, the short lengths of said panels coacting with the engagements between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to permit said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member essentially at right angles to said first said elongated member and hence in essentially vertical positions, said panels having the portions thereof which are immediately adjacent said portion of said second elongated member free of abutments which could interfere with unobstructed relative movement between said portions of said panels and said portion of said second elongated member, said first said elongated member being a channel which has the open portion thereof opening downwardly to confront said second elongated member, said upper ends of said panels extending upwardly into said open portion of said first said elongated member, said first said elongated member having the rear portion thereof extending downwardly below the level of the front portion thereof to facilitate the insertion of said upper ends of said panels into said open portion of said first said elongated member, the unstressed width of said open portion of said first said elongated member being less than the thicknesses of said panels, and said first said elongated member being resilient and applying compressive forces to said panels that will keep said upper ends of said panels from vibrating.

6. Skirting, for the space between the ground and the lower portion of a mobile home, which comprises an elongated member that is securable to said lower portion of said mobile home so it is essentially horizontally directed, a second elongated member that is securable to the ground below the level of and essentially in vertical registry with the first said elongated member, and a plurality of panels which can extend vertically be-

tween said first said and said second elongated members, said panels and said first said elongated member having interacting surfaces thereon which engage each other and which hold the upper ends of said panels in assembled relation with said first said elongated member while permitting said panels to be suspended from said first said elongated member and also permitting the lower ends of said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member to engage a portion of said second elongated member which is spaced above the level of the bottom of said second elongated member, said interacting surfaces on said panels being spaced fixed distances below the upper ends of said panels and coacting with said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to hold said upper ends of said panels fixed distances above the points of engagement between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member, each of said panels having a length, between the interacting surface thereon and the bottom thereof, which is shorter than the distance between said bottom of said second elongated member and the point of engagement between said interacting surface on said panel and said interacting surface on said first said elongated member, whereby said panels depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and have said bottoms thereof spaced above the level of said bottom of said second elongated member, each of said panels being short enough to permit said panel to continue to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and to have said bottom thereof spaced above said bottom of said second elongated member despite limited "heaving" of the ground to which said second elongated member is secured, the short lengths of said panels coacting with the engagements between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to permit said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member essentially at right angles to said first said elongated member and hence in essentially vertical positions, said panels having the portions thereof which are immediately adjacent said portion of said second elongated member free of abutments which could interfere with unobstructed relative movement between said portions of said panels and said portion of said second elongated member, said first said elongated member being a channel which has the open portion thereof opening downwardly to confront said second elongated member, said upper ends of said panels extending upwardly into said open portion of said first said elongated member, said first said elongated member having the rear portion thereof extending downwardly below the level of the front portion thereof to facilitate the insertion of said upper ends of said panels into said open portion of said first said elongated member, the unstressed width of said open portion of said first said elongated member being less than the thicknesses of said panels, said first said elongated member being resilient and applying compressive forces to said panels that will keep said upper ends of said panels from vibrating, said second elongated member being a channel which has the open portion thereof opening upwardly to confront said first said elongated member, said lower ends of said panels extending downwardly into said open portion of said second elongated member, said second elongated member having the major portion of the front thereof displaced forwardly of said lower ends of said panels to keep said second elongated member from binding against said panels as said second elongated member moves when said ground "heaves," said second elongated member having the major portion of the rear thereof displaced rearwardly of said lower ends of said panels to keep said second elongated member from binding against said panels as said second elongated member moves when said ground "heaves," the unstressed width of said open portion of said second elongated member being less than the thicknesses of said panels, and said second elongated member being resilient and applying compressive forces to said panels that will keep said lower ends of said panels from vibrating.

7. Skirting, for the space between the ground and the lower portion of a mobile home, which comprises an elongated member that is securable to said lower portion of said mobile home so it is essentially horizontally directed, a second elongated member that is securable to the ground below the level of and essentially in vertical registry with the first said elongated member, and a plurality of panels which can extend vertically between said first said and said second elongated members, said panels and said first said elongated member having interacting surfaces thereon which engage each other and which hold the upper ends of said panels in assembled relation with said first said elongated member while permitting said panels to be suspended from said first said elongated member and also permitting the lower ends of said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member to engage a portion of said second elongated member which is spaced above the level of the bottom of said second elongated member, said interacting surfaces on said panels being spaced fixed distances below the upper ends of said panels and coacting with said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to hold said upper ends of said panels fixed distances above the points of engagement between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member, each of said panels having a length, between the interacting surface thereon and the bottom thereof, which is shorter than the distance between said bottom of said second elongated member and the point of engagement between said interacting surface on said panel and said interacting surface on said first said elongated member, whereby said panels depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and have said bottoms thereof spaced above the level of said bottom of said second elongated member, each of said panels being short enough to permit said panel to continue to depend downardly from said first said elongated member and to have said bottom thereof spaced above said bottom of said second elongated member despite limited "heaving" of the ground to which said second elongated member is secured, the short lengths of said panels coacting with the engagements between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to permit said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member essentially at right angles to said first said elongated member and hence in essentially vertical positions, said panels having the portions thereof which are immediately adjacent said portion of said second elongated member free of abutments which could interfere with unobstructed relative movement between said portions of said panels and said portion of

said second elongated member, the edge of one of said panels overlapping the edge of an adjacent panel and abutting a projection on said adjacent panel to help hold the vertical edges of said one and said adjacent panels in parallel relation, and said projection being close to and at least partially overlying a ventilating opening in said adjacent panel.

8. Skirting, for the space between the ground and the lower portion of a mobile home, which comprises an elongated member that is securable to said lower portion of said mobile home so it is essentially horizontally directed, a second elongated member that is securable to the ground below the level of and essentially in vertical registry with the first said elongated member, and a plurality of panels which can extend vertically between said first said and said second elongated members, said panels and said first said elongated member having interacting surfaces thereon which engage each other and which hold the upper ends of said panels in assembled relation with said first said elongated member while permitting said panels to be suspended from said first said elongated member and also permitting the lower ends of said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member to engage a portion of said second elongated member which is spaced above the level of the bottom of said second elongated member, said interacting surfaces on said panels being spaced fixed distances below the upper ends of said panels and coacting with said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to hold said upper ends of said panels fixed distances above the points of engagement between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member, each of said panels having a length, between the interacting surface thereon and the bottom thereof, which is shorter than the distance between said bottom of said second elongated member and the point of engagement between said interacting surface on said panel and said interacting surface on said first said elongated member, whereby said panels depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and have said bottoms thereof spaced above the level of said bottom of said second elongated member, each of said panels being short enough to permit said panel to continue to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member and to have said bottom thereof spaced above said bottom of said second elongated member despite limited "heaving" of the ground to which said second elongated member is secured, the short lengths of said panels coacting with the engagements between said interacting surfaces on said panels and said interacting surfaces on said first said elongated member to permit said panels to depend downwardly from said first said elongated member essentially at right angles to said first said elongated member and hence in essentially vertical positions, said panels having the portions thereof which are immediately adjacent said portion of said second elongated member free of abutments which could interfere with unobstructed relative movement between said portions of said panels and said portion of said second elongated member, the edge of one of said panels overlapping the edge of an adjacent panel and abutting a projection on said adjacent panel to help hold the vertical edges of said one and said adjacent panels in parallel relation, said projection being close to and at least partially overlying a ventilating opening in said adjacent panel, and said projection being close to said edge of said adjacent panel to limit to a small predetermined value the extent to which said edge of said one panel overlaps said edge of said adjacent panel.

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