June 26, 1962 E. W. LOTT 3,041,081

WHEELED ATTACHMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD CHAIRS

Filed March 10, 1960 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

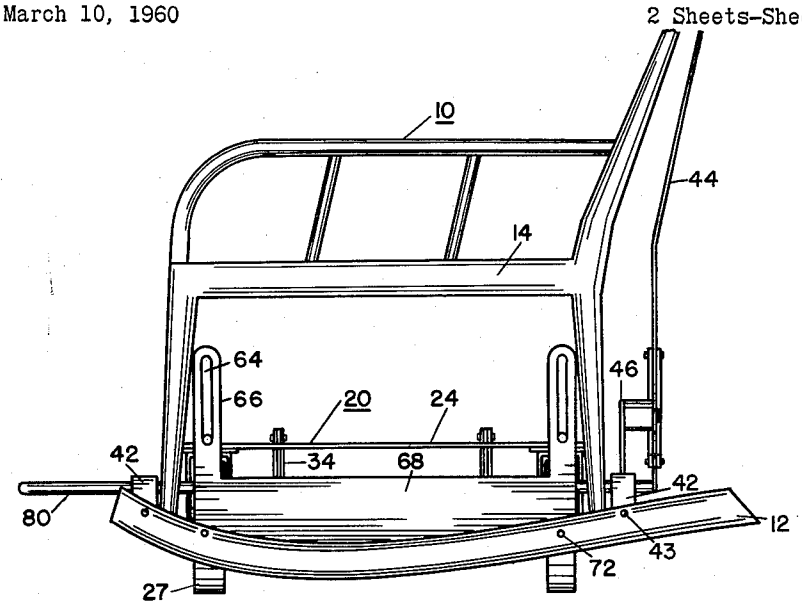


FIG 1

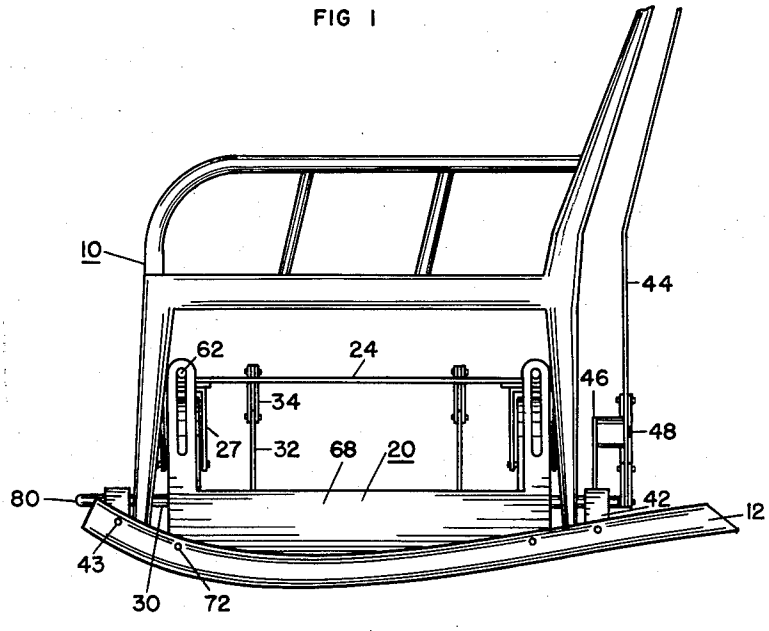


FIG 2

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WHEELED ATTACHMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD CHAIRS

Filed March 10, 1960 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

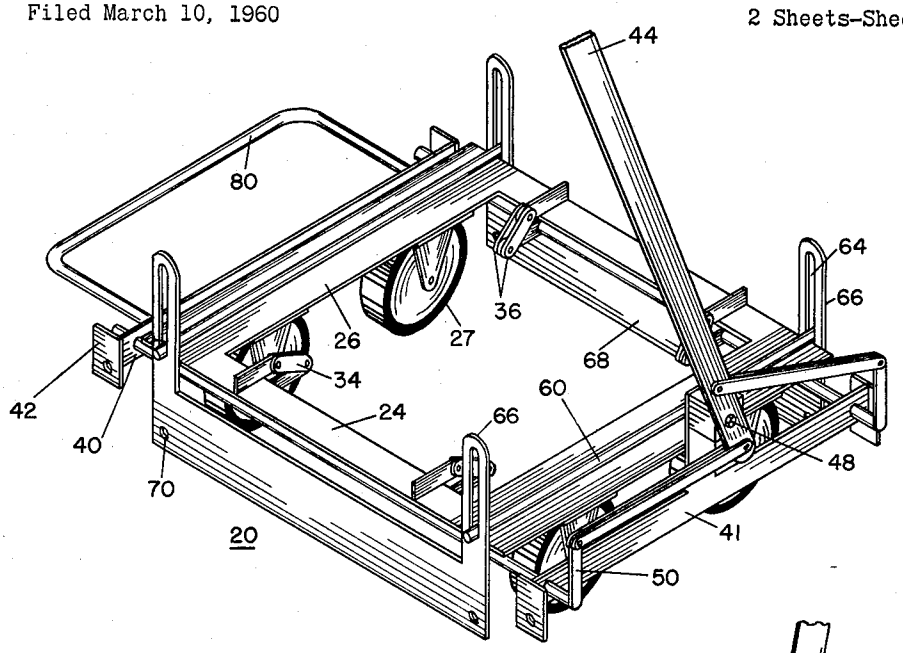


FIG 3

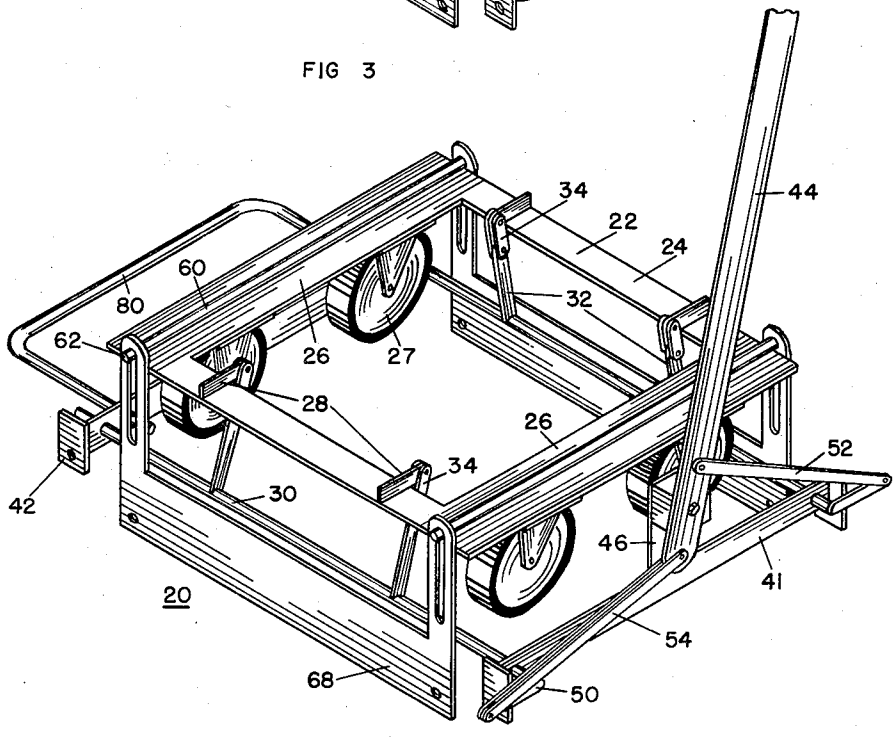


FIG 4

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WHEELED ATTACHMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD CHAIRS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 280—30)

This invention relates to attachments for chairs and more particularly to a wheeled attachment for conventional household chairs.

A general object of the invention is to provide a wheeled attachment of the type described for conventional household chairs.

A more particular object of the invention is to provide a wheeled attachment for such chairs that is readily applied to such a chair.

Another object of the invention is to provide a wheeled attachment for such chairs which is arranged in such a manner that the wheels of the attachment will be withdrawn from contact with the floor when it is desired to use the chair as conventionally used and which may be lowered onto the floor when it is desired to mobilize the chair for use by invalids.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of the type described which is inexpensive, durable, and which may be fabricated from readily available materials.

More specifically, my invention resides in the arrangement and combination of parts and in the details of construction described in the specification and particularly pointed out in the appended claims. It is understood that while I illustrate the device of my invention as being attached to rocking chairs, I do not wish to limit myself to this precise embodiment of the invention as various changes may be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention. I intend no limitations other than those imposed by the claims.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of a rocking chair having a wheeled attachment affixed thereto with the wheels of the attachment in a lowered position for contacting the floor;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of the device of FIGURE 1 showing the wheels in their elevated position;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the wheeled attachment of FIGURE 1; and

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of the wheeled attachment of FIGURE 2.

Referring to FIGURES 1 and 2, a conventional rocking chair **10** includes a pair of rockers **12** which are connected to a seat **14** in the usual manner. A wheeled assembly **20** may be attached to the chair **10** in the space below the seat **14** and between the rockers **12** by means which will be hereinafter described.

Referring to FIGURES 3 and 4, the wheeled assembly **20** includes a frame **22** having side rails **24** and end rails **26**. A plurality of castered wheels **27** may be attached to the end rails **26**.

A pair of brackets **28** may be rigidly affixed to the side rails **24** by any suitable means, such as welding, not shown. Each pair of brackets **28** may be spaced apart as shown.

A pair of rotatable shafts **30** each includes a pair of brackets **32** which have one end rigidly affixed to its respective shaft **30** in spaced relation. The space between the brackets **28** on the side rails **24** corresponds to the space between the brackets **32** on shafts **30**. Each shaft **30** is linked to a pair of brackets **28** by means of links **34**. Each link **34** has one end pivotally connected to a bracket **32**. While each link **34** may take any suitable shape, such as a bar with bifurcated ends, I employ a plate **36** on each side of the brackets **28** and **32**.

The shafts **30** support the wheeled assembly **20** between

a front bar **40** and a rear bar **41**. The ends of shafts **30** are rotatably mounted in apertures in bars **40** and **41**. A pair of brackets **42**, which may be rigidly affixed to the ends of the bars **40** and **41** or may be an integral part thereof, are employed to attach each of the bars **40** and **41** to the rockers **12** of the chair **10**. The wheeled assembly **20** is then supported between the rockers **12** by means of bolts **43** which pass through the rockers and the brackets **42**.

The wheeled assembly **20** may be elevated so that the wheels **27** will be disposed above the rockers **12** when it is desired to use the rocking chain in a conventional manner or the wheeled assembly **20** may be lowered so that the wheels **27** will contact the floor and raise the rockers **12** off the floor. While electrical, mechanical or hydraulic means may be used for these operations, I prefer to employ mechanical means for its simplicity and inexpensiveness. This mechanical means includes a lever **44** which may be located in any suitable place with respect to the chair. For example, the lever **44** may be located at the side of the chair **10** if the user of the chair is physically able to operate the lever, or it may be located at the back of the chair, as shown, if the person who pushes the chair **10** must operate it.

When the lever **44** is located at the back of the chair **10**, it may be pivotally attached to the rear bar **41**. For this purpose, the rear bar **41** carries an upstanding projection **46** having an aperture near its upper end. The lever **44** carries a similar aperture near its lower end. A bolt **48** passes through these apertures to pivotally mount the lever **44** on the projection **46**. The lever **44** is linked to the shafts **30** to rotate them in such a manner that the frame **22** may be raised and lowered by means of the links **34** coacting with brackets **28** and **32**. A crank **50** is rigidly affixed to each shaft **30** at the end which passes through rear bar **41**. A first lever-link **52** has one end pivotally connected to one crank **50** and its other end pivotally connected to the lever **44** intermediate bolt **48** and the upper end of the lever **44**. A second lever-link **54** has one end pivotally connected to the other crank **50** and its other end pivotally connected to lever **44** intermediate bolt **48** and the lower end of lever **44**.

A guide rod **60** is rigidly affixed across each end rail **26**. Each rod **60** is sufficiently longer than its respective rail **26** to extend beyond the ends of the rails **26**. The portions **62** of rods **60** which extend beyond the ends of the rails **26** engage guides **64**. The guides **64** are cut into an upstanding projection **66** which may be an integral part of a guide bar **68**. One guide bar **68** is provided subjacent each side rail **24** and includes apertures **70**. The apertures **70** are employed to attach each guide bar **68** to a rocker **12** by means of bolts **72**.

A footrest **80** may be provided as an integral part of the wheeled assembly **20**. Since the footrest **80** will prevent the occupant of the rocking chair **10** from placing his feet on the floor to rock the chair **10**, I prefer to slidably mount the footrest **80** on the front bar **40** in such a manner that the foot-rest **80** may be slid back under the chair **10**, as shown in FIGURE 2, when not in use.

It will be seen that the invention provides a new and useful wheeled attachment for conventional household chairs.

I claim:

In a convertible rocking chair construction including rockers and reciprocably mounted floor-engaging wheels, the improvement comprising, means for reciprocably mounting said wheels inside said rockers including a frame having side rails and end rails, said wheels being rigidly affixed to and depending from said end rails, brackets mounted on said side rails, a pair of rods rotatably mounted on said rockers, link means connecting said rods to said brackets in such a manner that said

frame is supported in a raised condition when said rods are rotated to a first position and is supported in a lowered condition when said rods are rotated to a second position, a crank on one end of each rod, said cranks lying in the same horizontal plane in spaced relation, a lever pivotally mounted intermediate said cranks, a first lever-link pivotally connecting one of said cranks to said lever below its pivot point, a second lever-link pivotally connecting the other of said cranks to said lever above said pivot point, whereby said frame may be raised and lowered by said lever.

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