April 21, 1959 R. F. ZARATE 2,883,133

FLAG STAND

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Fig. 1

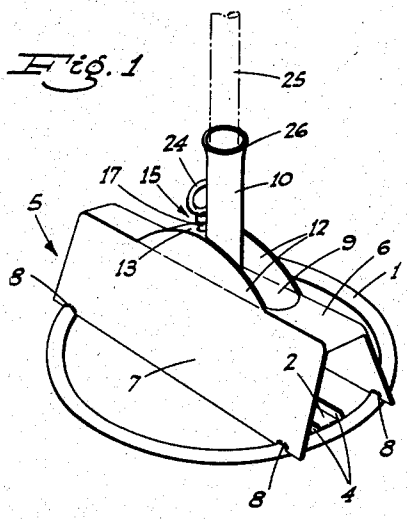


Fig. 2

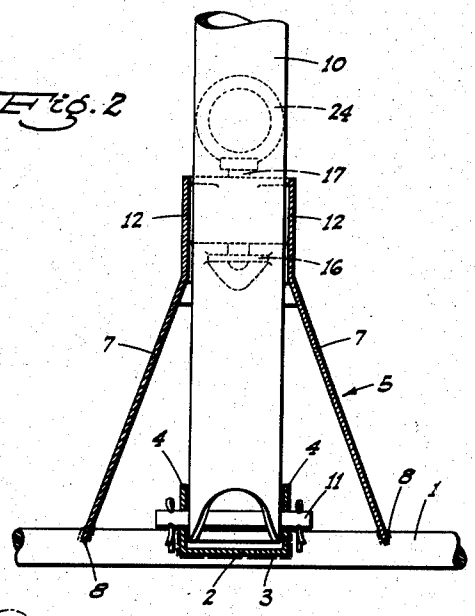
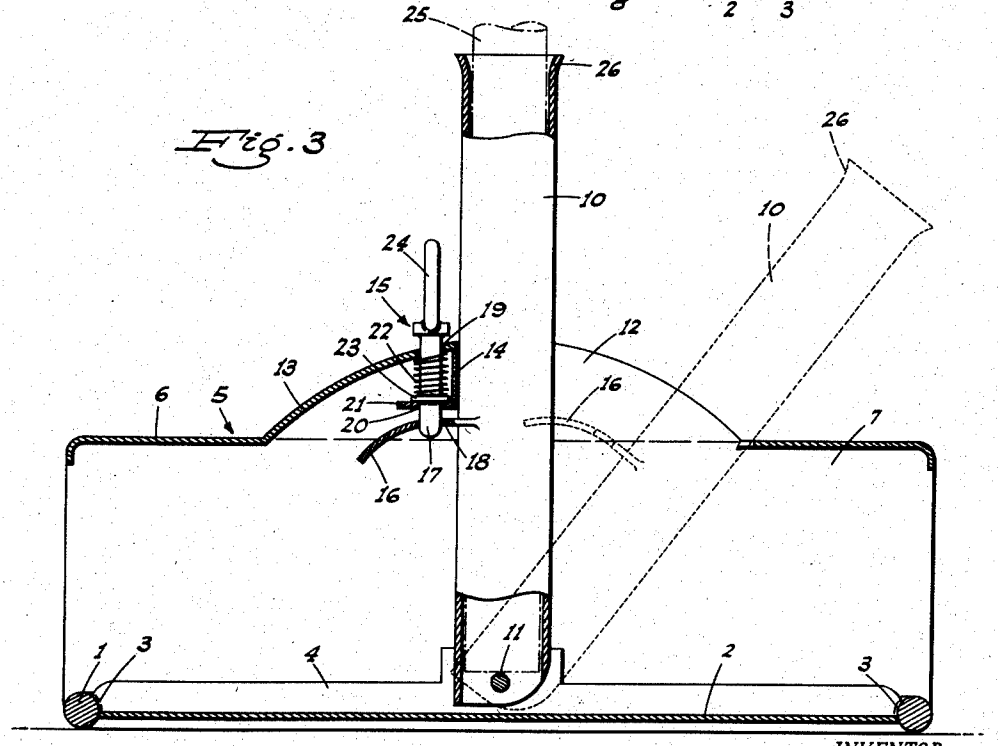


Fig. 3



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FLAG STAND

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2 Claims. (Cl. 248—44)

The present invention is directed to, and it is a major object to provide, a novel floor stand adapted to support in a stationary position a flag of the type which includes a flag stick or staff which is manually grasped for carrying of such flag; the stand being especially designed—but not limited—for use for the flags of fraternal organizations or the like, and wherein it is customary to erect such flags at formal meetings or other gatherings.

Another important object of this invention is to provide a flag stand which, while being simple in structure, is extremely stable in use so that there is no tendency for the flag to teeter or tip over when engaged in the stand.

A further object of the invention is to provide a flag stand which includes an upwardly opening socket for reception of the lower end portion of the staff; such socket, though normally vertical, being mounted for movement to an upwardly inclined position in order to permit easy and convenient manual placement of the staff in such socket and without having to lift the flag above the usual carrying height.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a flag stand, as in the preceding paragraph, which includes a novel catch operative to releasably secure the socket in its vertical position; such catch automatically engaging upon the staff being inserted in the socket when inclined and then swung by said staff to such vertical position.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a flag stand which is designed for ease and economy of manufacture, compact in arrangement, and attractive in appearance.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a practical, reliable, and durable flag stand, and one which is exceedingly effective for the purpose for which it is designed.

These objects are accomplished by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts as will fully appear by a perusal of the following specification and claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspecive view of the flag stand as in use; the flag staff being shown in broken lines and only in part.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged transverse sectional elevation of the flag stand; the upper portion of the socket being broken away.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged longitudinal sectional elevation of the flag stand; the socket being shown in its normal vertical position in full lines, and in its inclined position in dotted lines.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings and to the characters of reference marked thereon, the flag stand is constructed in its entirety of metal and comprises a relatively large diameter base ring **1**, and a diametral channel **2** of upwardly opening form extends from side to side of said ring **1** within the same. At its ends, the channel **2** is welded to the ring **1**, as at **3**; the upstanding side flanges of channel **2** being indicated at **4**.

A horizontal, elongated housing, indicated generally at **5**, extends diametrally across and is supported by the base ring **1** in parallel, centralized relation above the channel

2. The housing **5**, which is of inverted, generally box-beam like form, includes a longitudinal top **6** and downwardly divergent sides **7**; such sides being welded at their lower edges to the base ring **1**, as at **8**.

Intermediate its ends, the longitudinal top **6** of housing **5** is formed with an elongated slot **9**, and a socket **10** in the form of a relatively tall tube extends from adjacent the channel **2** and upwardly through the slot **9** to a termination some distance above said housing **5**.

At its lower end, the elongated socket **10** is transversely pivoted by a pin **11** in connection with the side flanges **4** of the channel **2** whereby said socket **10** is swingable in the slot **9** from a vertical position to an upwardly inclined position which is approximately 45° from vertical. The vertical position of the socket **10** is shown in full lines in Figs. 1 and 3, while the inclined position of said socket is shown in dotted lines in the latter figure.

When the socket **10** is in its inclined position, it abuts the top **6** at one end of the slot **9**; such socket being located and releasably maintained in its vertical position in the following manner:

The housing **5** is formed at the top and along the sides of the slot **9** with upstanding, longitudinal, transversely spaced guide plates **12** having arcuate upper edges; the socket **10** resting between the plates **12** in relatively close but free-swinging relation, and said plates thus guiding such socket as it is swung between the selective positions occupied thereby.

An arcuate closure plate **13** fills the space between the upper edges of the plates **12** beyond the socket **10** when the latter is vertical, and on the side opposite the path of swinging motion of said socket. A transverse stop **14** extends between the guide plates **12** immediately below the upper end of the arcuate closure plate **13**; such stop **14** serving to limit swinging motion of the socket **10** when it is swung from its inclined position to its vertical position.

Upon the socket **10** being so swung and when it reaches vertical position, it is automatically releasably latched in such position by a catch unit, indicated generally at **15**, and which comprises the following:

An outwardly and downwardly curved catch tongue **16** is fixed to the socket **10** below and extending in the same direction as the arcuate closure plate **13**, and a spring-pressed plunger **17** normally depends through a bore **18** in the tongue **16** intermediate its ends. Vertically alined bores **19** and **20** are formed in the closure plate **13** and a horizontal flange **21**, respectively; the flange **21** being formed integrally with and projecting from the lower edge of the transverse stop **14**. The bores **19** and **20** receive the plunger **17** in slidable relation. At its lower end the plunger **17** is rounded for easy entry into the bore **18**, which bore registers with the bores **19** and **20** when the socket **10** is vertical. The plunger **17** is normally but yieldably pressed downwardly by a compression spring **22** surrounding said plunger between the plate **13** and a fixed collar **23**; there being an exposed finger ring **24** on the upper end of said plunger **17** above the plate **13**.

In use of the above described flag stand, the finger ring is first grasped and pulled upwardly which releases the plunger **17** from the tongue **16** whereupon the socket **10** is swung down to its inclined position, abutting in stop relation against the top **6** at the outer end of the slot **9**. Thereafter, the flag bearer—walking toward the stand and without materially altering the normal carrying position of the staff **25**—inserts it into said inclined socket; the upper end of said socket being flared, as at **26**, to facilitate such entry of the staff.

Nextly, the staff is swung upwardly to vertical position, carrying the socket **10** to a like position. When this occurs the curved tongue **16** engages the spring-pressed

plunger 17 and the latter rides up such tongue until the lower end portion of the plunger snaps into the bore 18 whereupon the socket is automatically and effectively locked in its vertical position. The flag then stands in a stable erected position.

From the foregoing description, it will be readily seen that there has been produced such a device as substantially fulfills the objects of the invention, as set forth herein.

While this specification sets forth in detail the present and preferred construction of the device, still in practice such deviations from such detail may be resorted to as do not form a departure from the spirit of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, the following is claimed as new and useful and upon which Letters Patent is desired:

1. A flag stand comprising a floor supported base, an elongated socket projecting upwardly from the base to receive a flag staff therein, a housing mounted on and upstanding from the base on opposite sides of the socket and including a top plate provided with a longitudinal slot through which the socket projects, a pivot element mounting the socket at its lower end on the base for swinging movement lengthwise of the slot between an inclined position at one end of the slot and a vertical position, a stop element on the housing to engage the socket when swung to said vertical position, a plunger slidably projecting downwardly through the top plate adjacent but beyond said stop element and being finger-engageable at its upper end for lifting the same, a flange fixed in the housing below the top plate at right angles to the plunger and through which the latter also projects, a collar fixed on the plunger above and normally engaging the flange, a spring on the plunger between the top plate and collar and yieldably holding the plunger down, and a tongue fixed on the socket and extending lengthwise of the slot in the direction of the plunger and on a level below the stop element and flange but above the lower end of the plunger; said tongue being positioned and arranged to engage and lift the plunger as the socket moves toward a vertical position and having a hole into which the lower end of the plunger drops when the socket reaches a vertical position and engages the stop element.

2. A flag stand comprising a floor supported base, an elongated socket projecting upwardly from the base to receive a flag staff therein, a housing mounted on and upstanding from the base on opposite sides of the socket and including a top plate provided with a longitudinal slot through which the socket projects, a pivot element mounting the socket at its lower end on the base for swinging movement lengthwise of the slot between an inclined position at one end of the slot and a vertical position, a stop element on the housing to engage the socket when swung to said vertical position, a tongue fixed on the socket and extending lengthwise of the slot in a direction opposite said one end thereof and on a level below the stop element to pass under the same when the socket is in a vertical position, a plunger projecting into the housing in position to be engaged by the tongue when the socket approaches a vertical position, means slidably supporting the plunger in the housing for movement toward and from the tongue, the plunger including a finger-engageable element on its outer end, a collar fixed on the plunger short of its outer end, a spring about the plunger between the housing and collar and yieldably urging the plunger against the tongue; the latter being arranged to retract the plunger as the socket swings to a vertical position and having a hole into which the inner end of the plunger drops when the socket reaches such position and engages the stop element.

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