Oct. 11, 1927. 1,644,807

C. D. ZEIGLER

CHRISTMAS TREE HOLDER

Filed June 9. 1926 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

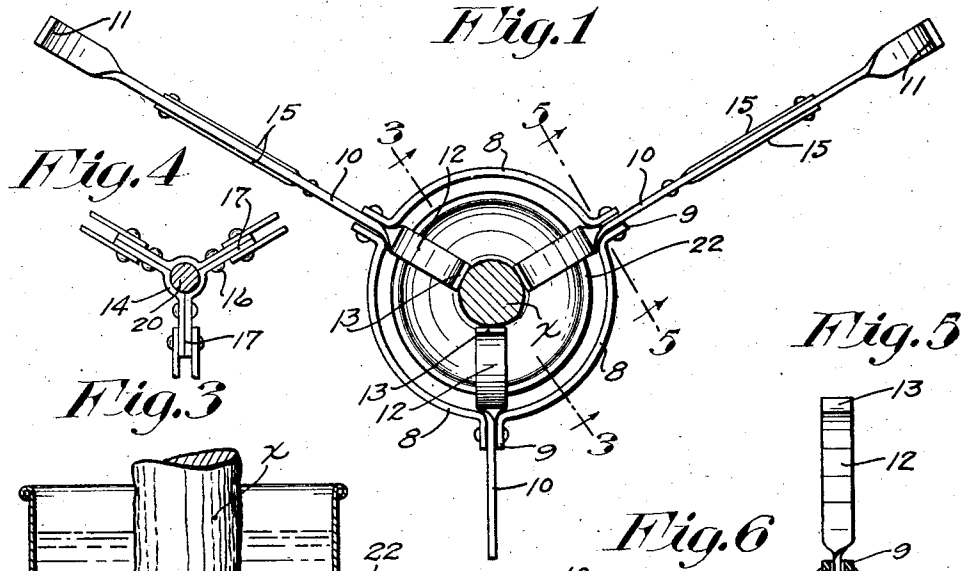


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

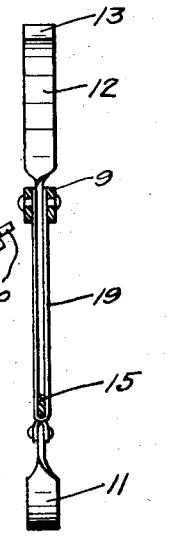


Fig. 3

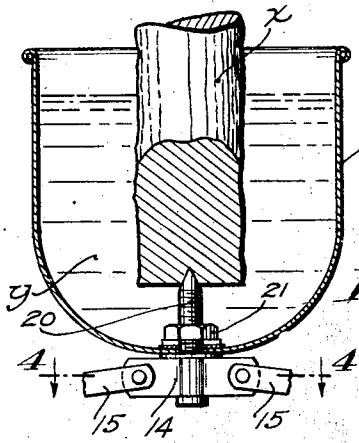


Fig. 6

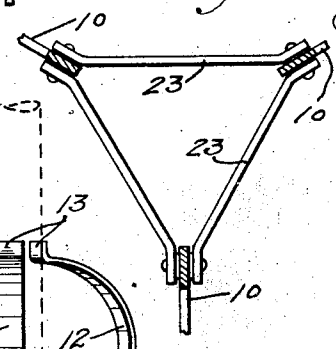


Fig. 2

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Charles D. Zeigler
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Merchant and Gould

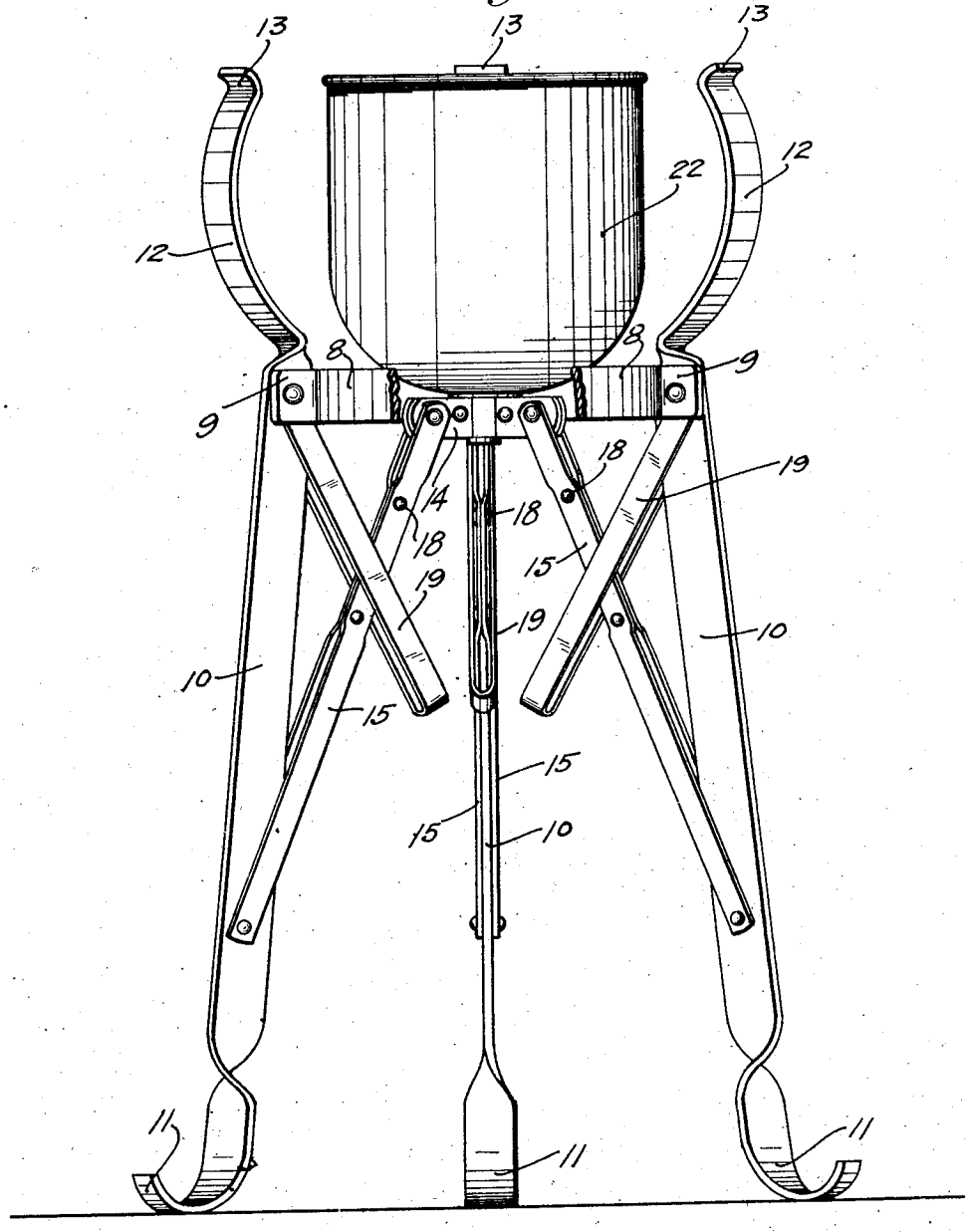
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CHRISTMAS TREE HOLDER

Filed June 9. 1926 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 1



Inventor
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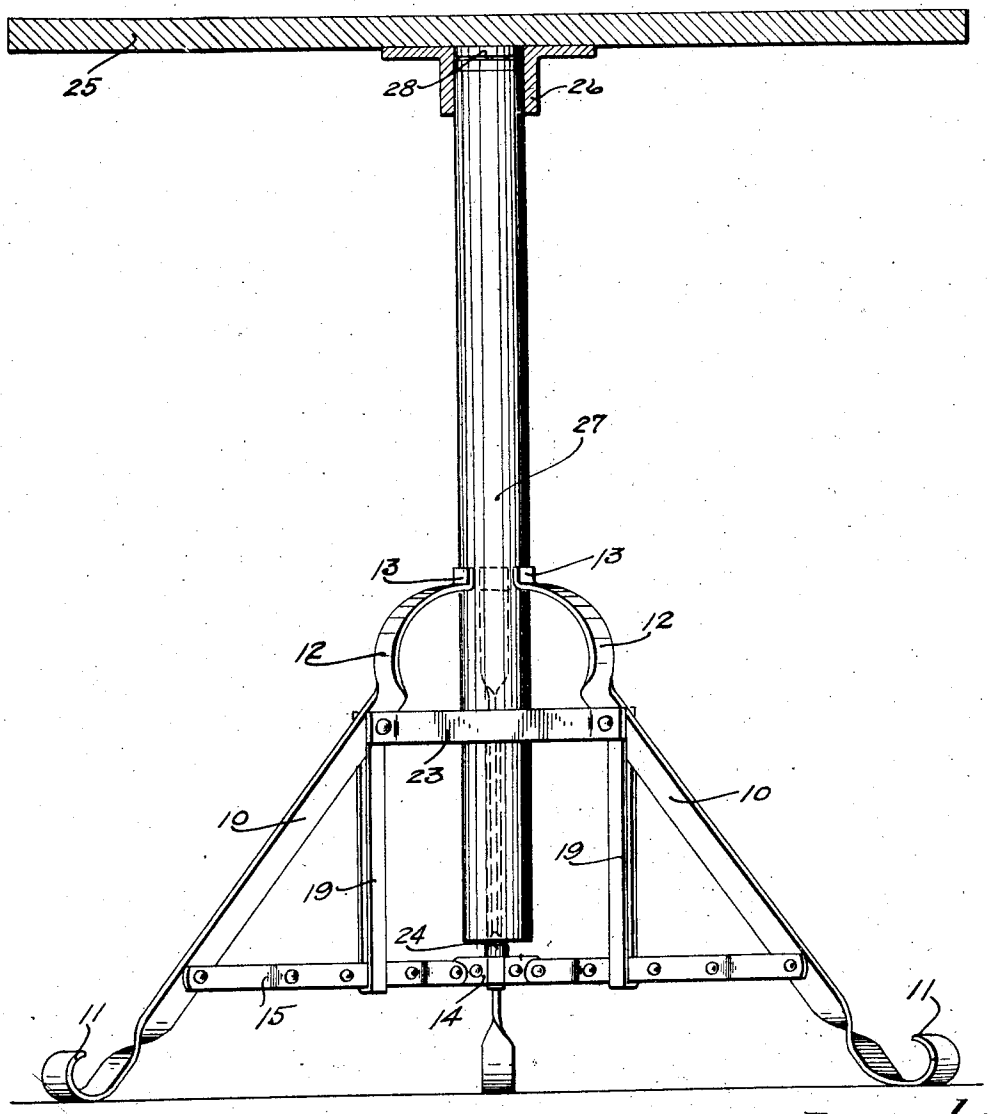
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CHRISTMAS TREE HOLDER

Filed June 9, 1926 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

Fig. 8



Inventor
Charles D. Zeigler
By his Attorneys
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Patented Oct. 11, 1927. 1,644,807

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES D. ZEIGLER, OF ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.

CHRISTMAS-TREE HOLDER.

Application filed June 9, 1926. Serial No. 114,794.

My present invention is in the nature of an improvement on my United States Letters Patent No. 1,579,275, of date April 6, 1926, and entitled "Christmas-tree holder", and to this end, it consists of the novel devices and combinations of devices hereinafter described and defined in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate the invention, like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the improved Christmas tree holder, with some parts broken away and illustrating in section the butt end of a Christmas tree;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, with some parts broken away and sectioned, and with the butt end of the Christmas tree illustrated by means of broken lines;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary detail view with some parts sectioned on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1 on an enlarged scale;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary detail view with some parts sectioned on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a detail view with some parts sectioned on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary view illustrating a modified form of the body member;

Fig. 7 is a side elevation of the Christmas tree holder partly folded; and

Fig. 8 is a view partly in side elevation and partly in central vertical section showing the holder used for supporting a table top.

The numeral 8 indicates an annular horizontal body member comprising three segments, the ends of which are bent radially outward and circumferentially spaced to afford three pairs of hinge lugs 9. Diverging supporting legs 10 have their upper ends inserted between the lugs 9 of each pair and pivoted thereto for radial swinging movement. The lower ends of the supporting legs 10 are curved outwardly and upwardly to afford feet 11 that rest or slide on a floor without scratching or marring the same.

Formed with the upper ends of the supporting legs 10 are converging tree-gripping prongs 12, the inner or upper ends of which are bent upward to afford relatively wide gripping fingers 13 that are circumferentially spaced around the projected axis of the body member 8 and extend substantially parallel thereto. These gripping fingers 13 are preferably formed, as shown in Fig. 1, on the arc of a circle so as to contact with the body of a Christmas tree X throughout their entire width.

A relatively small annular supporting head 14 is located materially below the body 8, axially aligned therewith and connected by links 15 to the supporting legs 10. Said supporting head 8 comprises three segmental flat bars, the end portions of which are extended radially outward, and the adjacent end portions of said bars are placed back to back and connected by rivets 16 to afford hinge lugs 17. Each link 15 comprises a pair of flat bars, the intermediate portions of which are placed back to back and rigidly connected by a pair of longitudinally spaced rivets 18. The inner end portions of the members of the links 15 are laterally spread to receive the lugs 17 and are pivotally connected thereto. The outer end portions of the members of the links 15 are also laterally spread to receive the supporting legs 10 and are pivoted thereto. These links 15 connect the supporting head 14 to the legs 10 for raising or lowering movements.

The salient feature of my present invention is the provision of simple and highly efficient means for limiting the downward movement of the supporting head 14 to prevent the same from being moved below a dead center, and which means, in the form illustrated, are U-shaped stop links. The end portions of the arms of the links 15 extend between the lugs 17 of each pair with the legs 10 extending therebetween, and which arms are pivoted to said lugs by the same pivots as said legs. The connecting links 15 extend loosely between the arms of the links 19 for engagement with the transverse portions of the links 19 to limit their downward movement and thereby prevent the head 14 from being moved below a dead center.

An upstanding center barb 20, for holding the Christmas tree X in an upright position, is mounted in the supporting head 14 and rigidly secured thereto by a head on its lower end and a nut 21 applied thereto above said head.

Mounted on the supporting head 14 is a

water pot 22 preferably formed from aluminum and having a concavo-convex bottom. This water pot 22 is rigidly secured to the supporting head 14 in axial alignment with the body member 8 by the barb 20 and its nut 21. Upright and lower gaskets on the barb 20 form water-tight joints between said barb and the water pot 22, where said barb projects therethrough to prevent leakage of water Y from said pot. The diameter of the water pot 22 is such as to freely move axially within the body 8 during the raising or lowering movements of said water pot. By moving the supporting body 14 upward, the connecting links 15 will fold the legs 10 circumferentially around the water pot, so that the Christmas tree holder may be stored in a comparatively small space. The links 19 will also fold with the legs 10.

To mount the Christmas tree in the holder, the supporting head 14 is moved axially toward the body member 8 to spread the gripping fingers 13. The butt end of the Christmas tree X is then inserted between the fingers 13 until brought into engagement with the barb 20. The Christmas tree X is then pressed downwardly between the gripping fingers 13 and which movement, by the engagement of the tree with the barb 20, moves the supporting head 14 downward and spreads the legs 10 by the links 15 and causes the gripping fingers 13 to tightly engage circumferentially around the Christmas tree X before the links 15 engage the transverse portions of the stop-acting links 19. It is, of course, evident that if it were not for the stop-acting links 19, the supporting head 14 could be moved below a dead center and such a movement would open up the gripping fingers 13 and release the Christmas tree X. The water pot 22 is then filled with water. It is, of course, understood that in some instances the water pot may be dispensed with and the means for holding the same on the supporting head is such that the same can be easily mounted thereon or removed therefrom. The tree-gripping prongs 12 are such that they may be easily bent to adjust their fingers 13 for trees that vary materially in diameter.

The modification of the body member 23 shown in Fig. 6 is for use in connection with the Christmas tree when not provided with a water pot. In this construction, the body member 23 is formed from straight bars and they are arranged to form a triangle.

When the Christmas tree holder is partly folded, as shown in Fig. 7, the same is well adapted for holding a flower pot, which may be placed in the water pot 22.

While the invention has been described as a "Christmas tree holder," the same is also well adapted for supporting a seat, stool, stand or table having a single leg arranged to be gripped by the gripping fingers 13 while resting on the barb 20 and supported in the same manner as a Christmas tree.

Referring now to the invention as illustrated in Fig. 8 the construction is the same as that illustrated in Fig. 6 in which the body members 23 are straight and the bowl 22 is removed, and in place of the barb 20 a simple barb 24 is substituted therefor. The numeral 25 indicates a table top having on its under side a casting 26 provided with a depending sleeve in which the upper end of a single table leg 27 is telescoped. An anti-friction bearing 28 is interposed between the table top 25 and upper end of the leg 27. The leg 27 rests on the barb 24 and is held in an operative position by the gripping prongs 12. The holder is also well adapted for holding a lawn umbrella or sun shade.

What I claim is:

1. A Christmas tree holder comprising a body member, supporting legs attached to the body member for spreading and contracting movements and having tree-gripping prongs arranged to partake of reverse movements from that of said legs, a Christmas-tree-supporting head, links connecting said head to said supporting legs for vertical movement in respect thereto and operative to spread said legs by a downward movement and contract the same by an upward movement, and stop-acting means on a relatively fixed part of the holder and operative on a relatively movable part thereof to prevent the supporting head from moving below a dead center.

2. A Christmas tree holder comprising a body member, supporting legs attached to the body member for spreading and contracting movements and having tree-gripping prongs arranged to partake of reverse movements from that of said legs, a Christmas-tree-supporting head, links connecting said head to said supporting legs for vertical movement in respect thereto and operative to spread said legs by a downward movement and contract the same by an upward movement, and stop-acting links carried by the holder and operative on another part of the holder to prevent the supporting head from moving below a dead center.

3. A Christmas tree holder comprising a body member, supporting legs attached to the body member for spreading and contracting movements and having tree-gripping prongs arranged to partake of reverse movements from that of said legs, a Christmas-tree-supporting head, links connecting said head to said supporting legs for vertical movement in respect thereto and operative to spread said legs by a downward movement and contract the same by an upward movement, and U-shaped stop-acting links having their arms pivoted to the holder, said connecting links being extended between the arms of said U-shaped links, the transverse

portions of said links being arranged to be engaged by the connecting links to prevent the supporting head from moving below a dead center.

4. The structure defined in claim 3 in which the body is provided with pairs of radial lugs having transverse pivots, the arms of said U-shaped links being extended between the lugs of each pair and in which said legs are extended between said arms, said arms and legs being secured to the body by said pivots.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CHARLES D. ZEIGLER.