No. 647,845. Patented Apr. 17, 1900.

A. J. KING.

FIRE ESCAPE.

(Application filed Jan. 25, 1900.)

(No Model.)

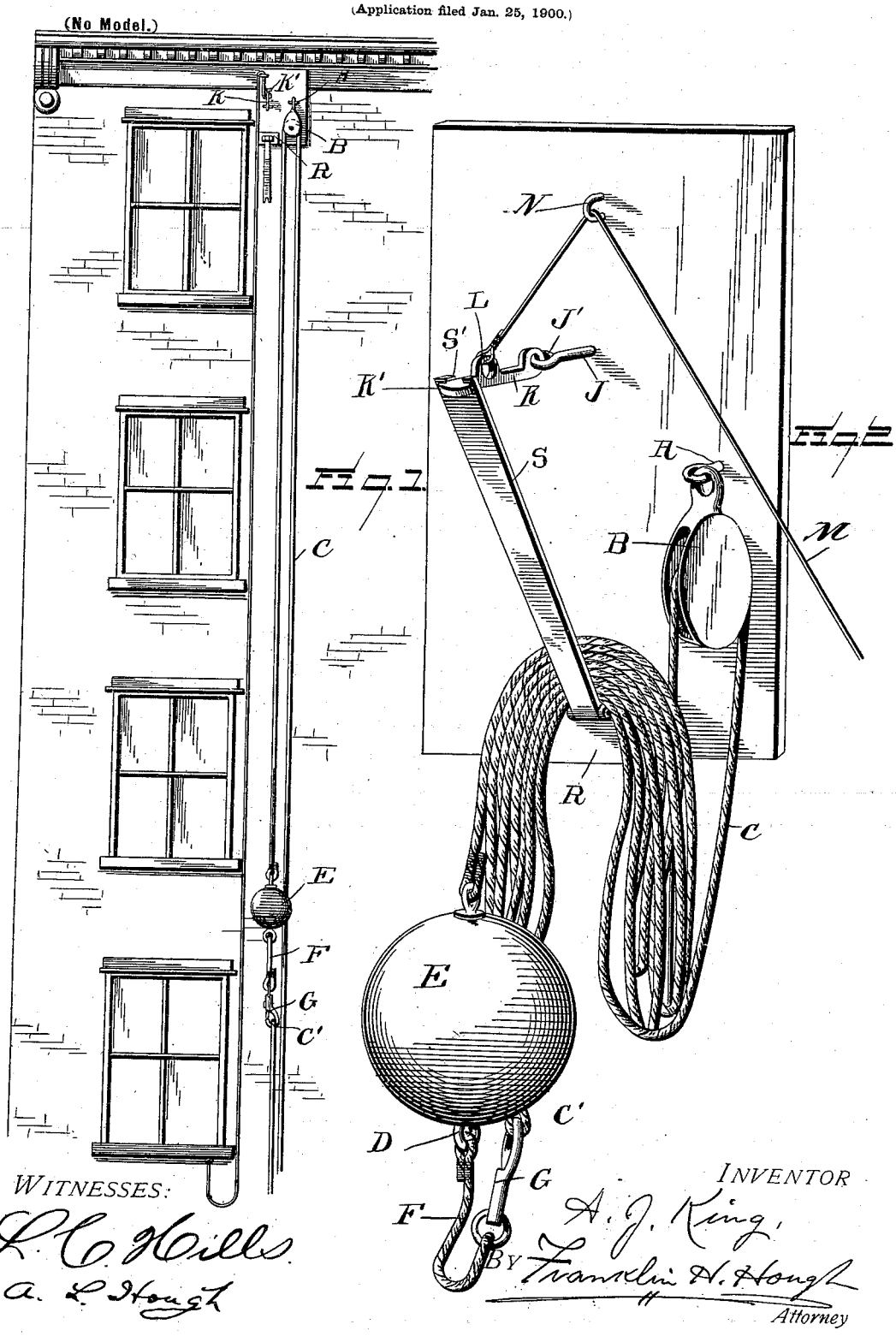

FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

WITNESSES:

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FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 647,845, dated April 17, 1900.

Application filed January 25, 1900. Serial No. 2,774. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANTONE J. KING, a citizen of the United States, residing at Orcas, in the county of San Juan and State of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in fire-escapes, and especially to an apparatus adapted to be held to the outer wall of a house at a location near the roof and containing a pulley and rope the ends of which are adapted to be connected together to make an endless cable, said cable adapted to be coiled up and held near the roof, means being provided whereby said coil of rope or cable may be disengaged from the supporting-pin and allowed to fall by gravity to the ground, thereby providing means for lowering persons safely to the ground from the various stories of the building or of hoisting up hose-pipe to any story or a fireman, as may be desired.

More specifically, my invention consists in the provision in a fire-escape, of a pulley secured to a block fastened near the roof and underneath the eaves, said pulley carrying a rope the ends of which are fastened together in any suitable manner, and to said rope being fastened a flexible ball which may be hollow and inflated and adapted for a person to sit astride while being lowered from any of the various stories to the ground, and the provision of a bar which is pivoted to a stationary plate, said bar being held in an upwardly-inclined position by means of a releasing member, to which is connected a rope extending through the various stories and accessible from each, whereby said releasing member may be raised from engagement with said bar, which supports the coil of rope which passes over the pulley and allows the end of the rope to fall by gravity to the ground beneath and be in readiness to lower persons from the various stories.

To these ends and to such others as the invention may pertain the same consists, further, in the novel construction, the arrangement, and adaptation of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described, and then specifically defined in the appended claim.

My invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form part of this application, and in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation showing my improved fire-escape as applied to the front wall of a building having a number of stories. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail view of means for holding and releasing the coil of rope which passes over the pulley.

Reference now being had to the details of the drawings by letter, A designates a bolt which is passed through the front wall of the building or suitably attached thereto and carries a pulley B in an eye at its outer end. Passing over this pulley is a rope or cable C, which has secured thereto a rod D, having an eye at each end, and on said rod is mounted a flexible ball E, which is made, preferably, of hide and inflated, forming a suitable cushion, on which a person can sit while being lowered from any of the stories of the house to the ground beneath. Secured to the eye on the opposite end of said rod is a short piece of rope or cable F, carrying a snap-hook G at its other end, which snap-hook is designed to engage in a loop C′ in the other end of the cable C, thus making, when the several parts are connected, a continuous or endless rope or cable passing over the pulley B. Fastened to the front wall of the house at a location adjacent to said pulley and slightly above the same is a threaded bolt J, having an eye J′, to which is loosely held the releasing-link K, which has at its free end lateral and oppositely-extending lugs K′, and an eye L, to which one end of the rope M is connected, said rope passing through a pulley or loop N and its end extended down the wall of the building, and, if desired, the said rope may be passed through a pipe or tube at any location and extended a suitable distance through the lower story and within convenient reach of any person, either in the lower story, through which said end passes, or within reach of persons who may be at any of the various windows adjacent to the fire-escape

apparatus. Pivotally held to the plate R, which is secured to the wall of the building at a location preferably beneath the screw-threaded bolt having an eye to which the releasing-link is held, is a bar S, which has a notch S′ at its free end, in which the free end of the link K is adapted to engage to hold the said bar in an upright position. Said bar is provided to hold up the endless cable to which the ball is secured, which cable is first coiled up and placed over the bar. When it is desired to utilize the endless cable or rope for the purpose of escaping in case of emergency, as of fire, any person pulling on the rope secured to the releasing-link will cause the latter to be raised out of the notch at the free end of said bar, and said bar will by means of gravity fall down and hang against the outer wall of the building, and the cable or rope will fall to the ground, and the apparatus is then ready for use.

In operation the cable may be utilized for hoisting firemen from the ground to any of the various stories, or by disengaging the snap-hook from the loop one end of the rope or cable may be fastened around a hose for the purpose of pulling the same up. When the ends of the rope are connected together, the ball described may be used by hoisting the same to positions opposite either one of the stories, and persons by sitting astride the ball may be safely lowered to the ground in a manner which will be clearly understood from the foregoing when taken in connection with the drawings forming part of this application.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim to be new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A fire-escape comprising in combination with the pulley B and rope carried thereby, the bar S pivoted at its lower end to the outer wall of a building, an eyebolt J, a link K pivoted thereto, said link having a T-shaped end K′ adapted to rest in a recess or notch in the free end of said bar S to hold the same in an upright inclined position, a rope M secured to said link K, and passed through a suitable eyelet N, whereby said link may be raised from engagement with the bar S, to allow the same to fall by gravity, and release said rope carried by the pulley, which rope is folded over said bar, as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ANTONE J. KING.

Witnesses:
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