

March 6, 1951

C. I. BRATENG
CRANBERRY PICKER

2,544,443

Filed June 7, 1946

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

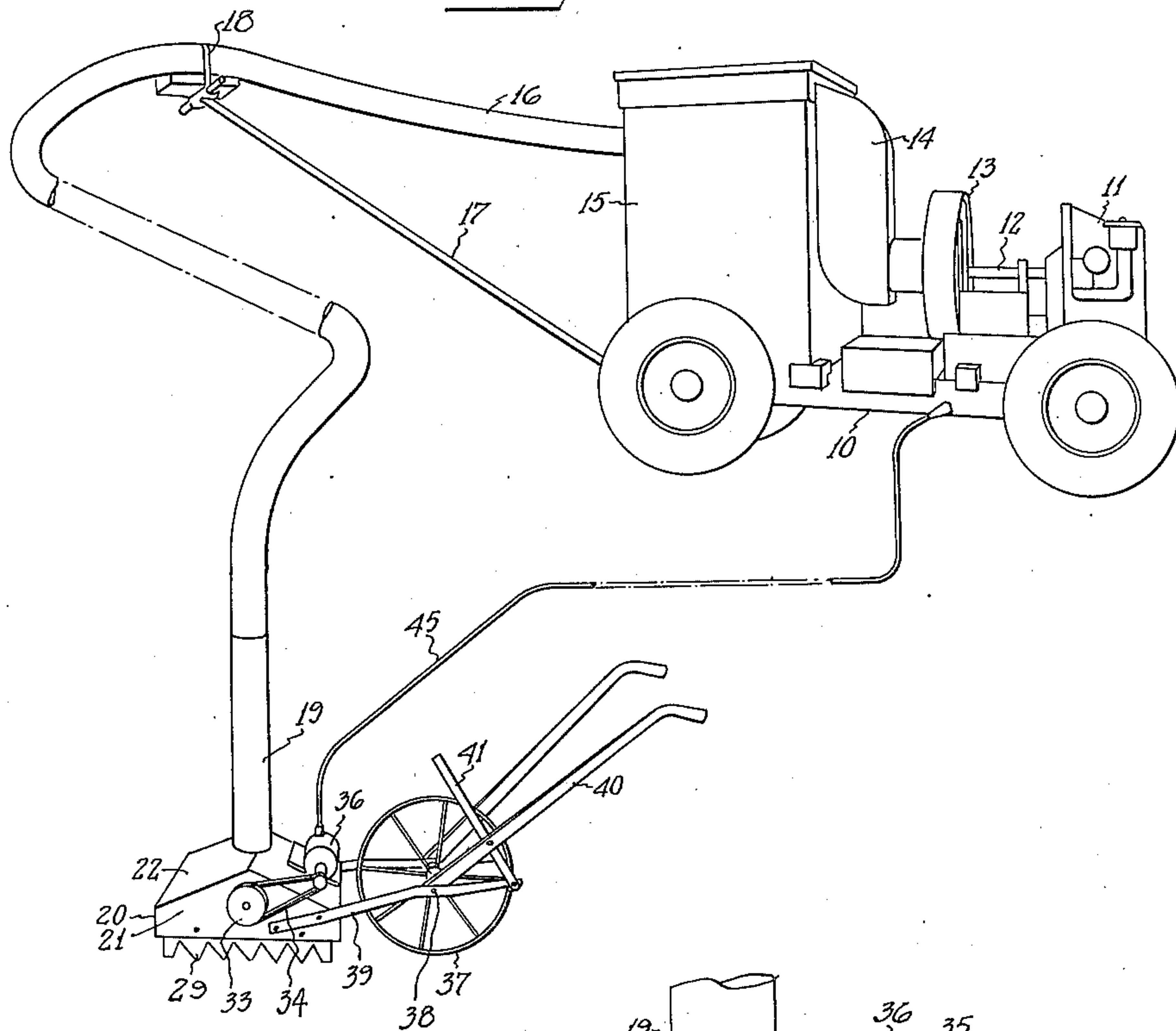
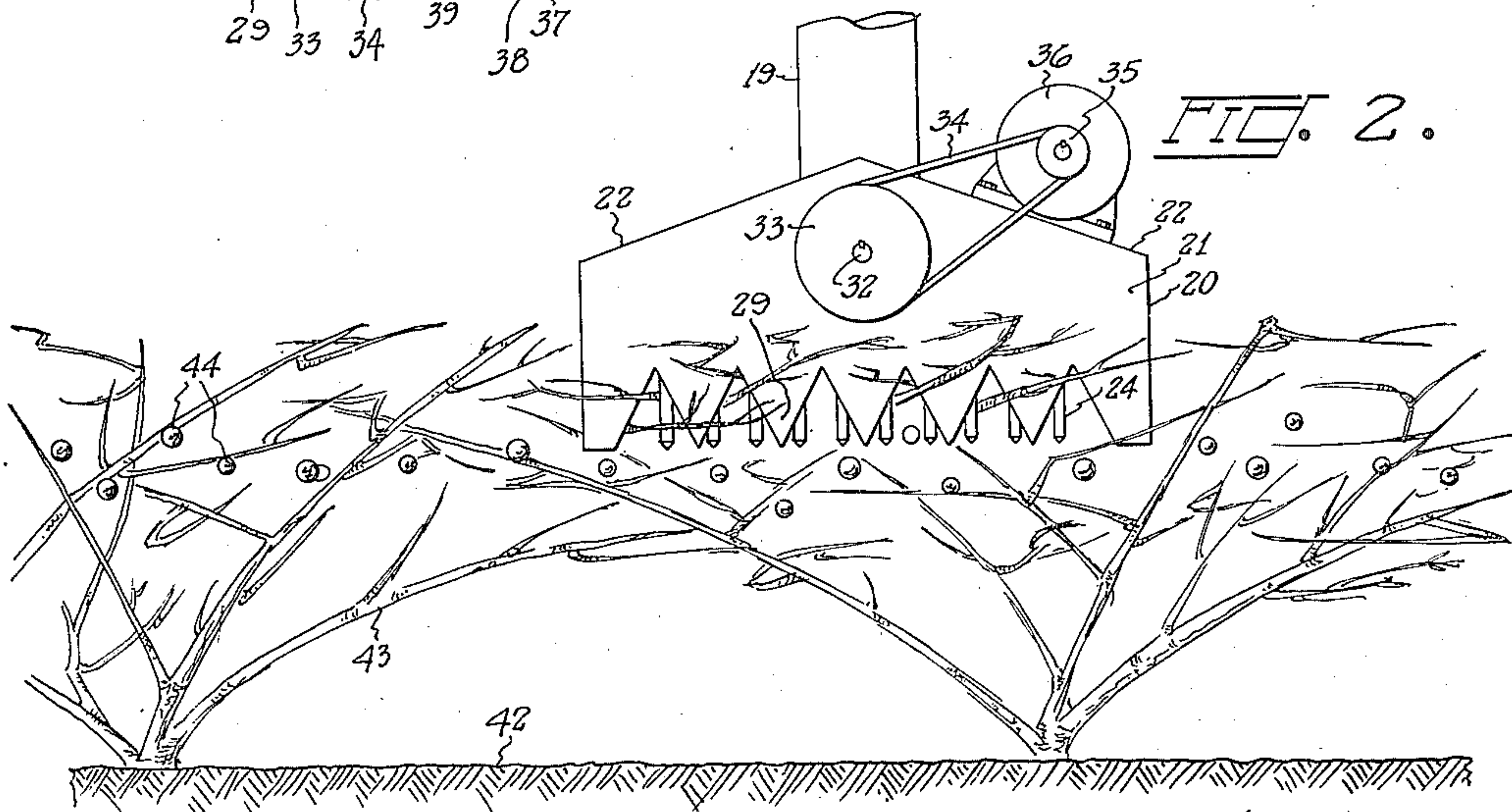


FIG. 2.



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FIG. 3.

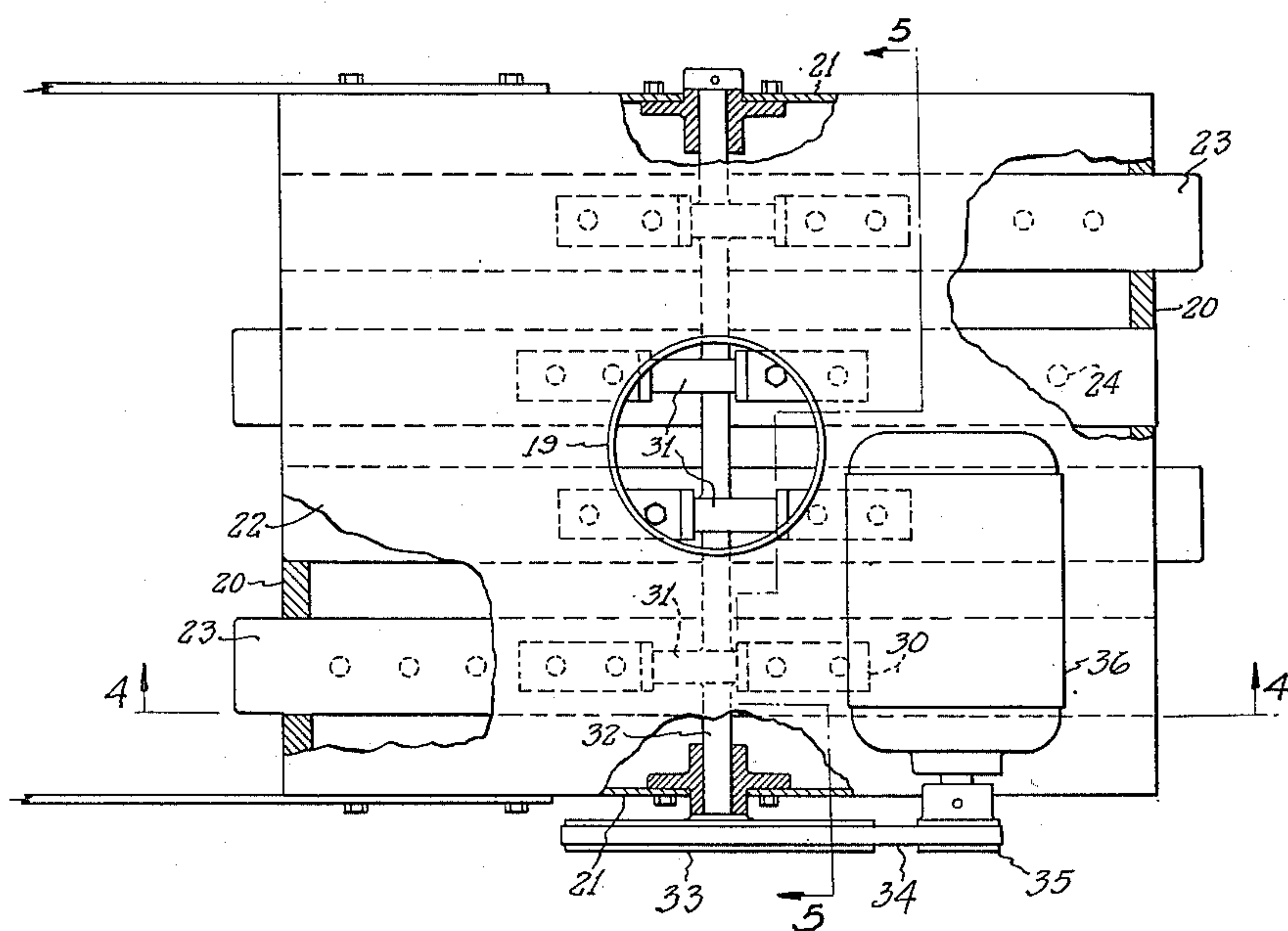
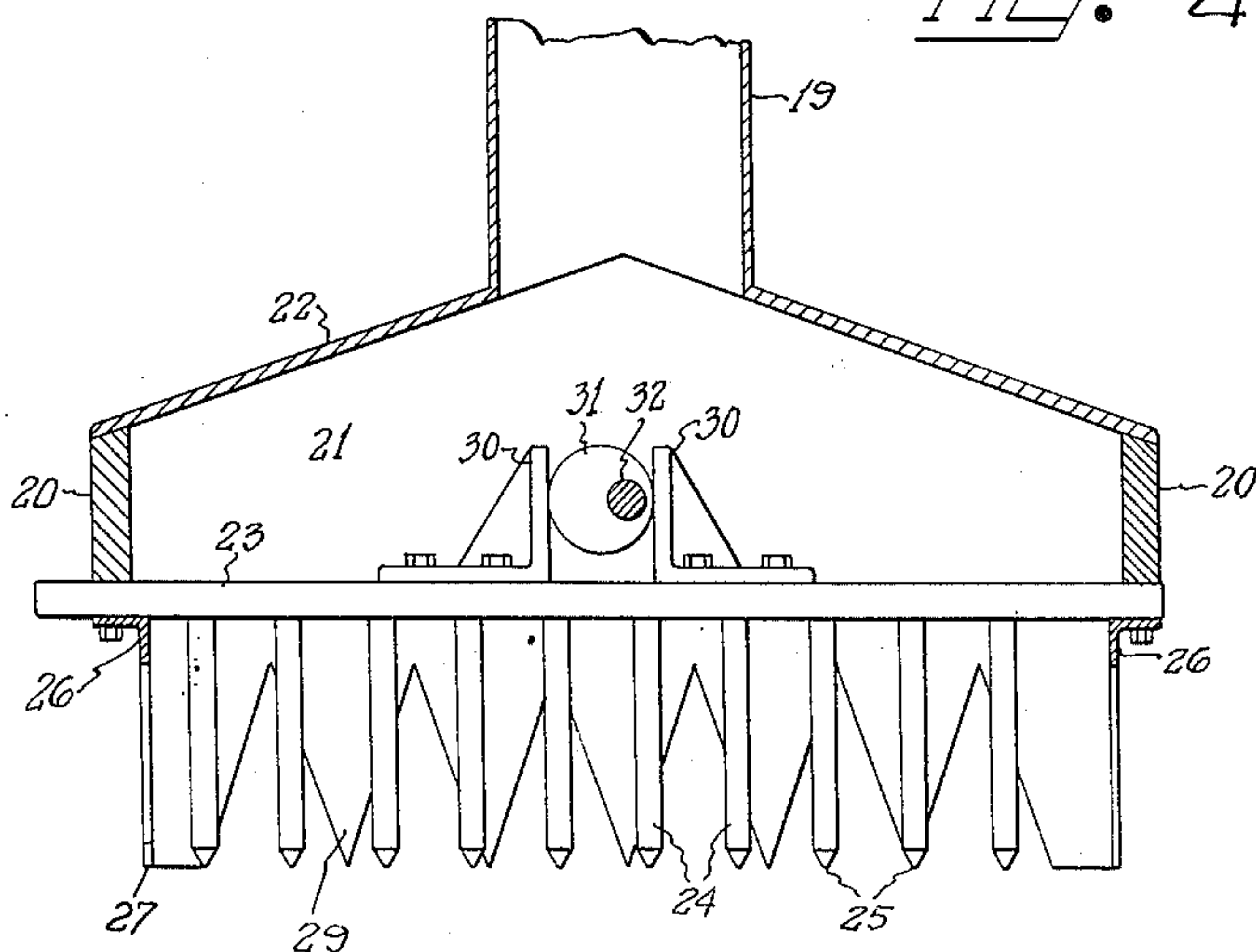


FIG. 4.



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FIG. 5.

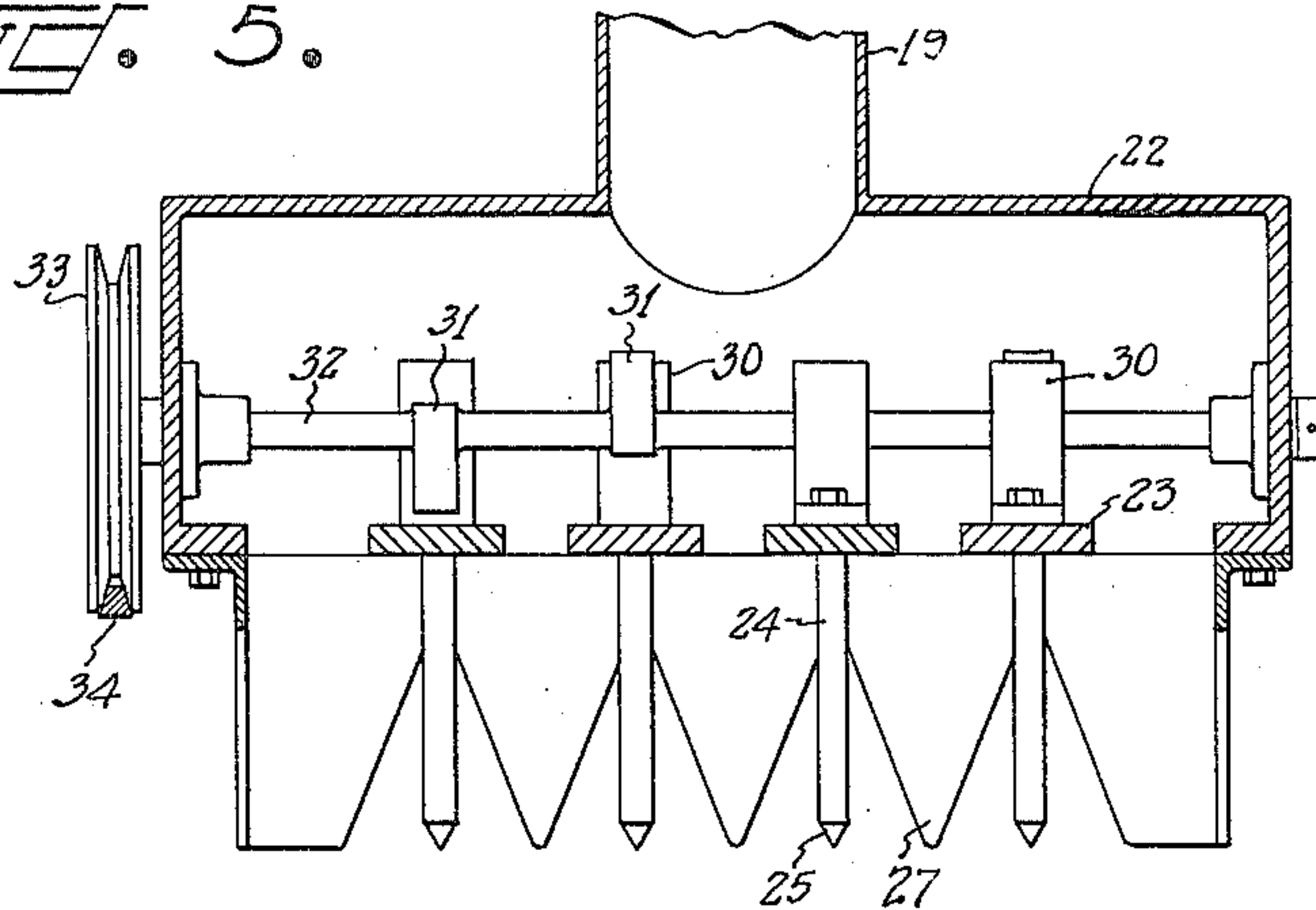


FIG. 6.

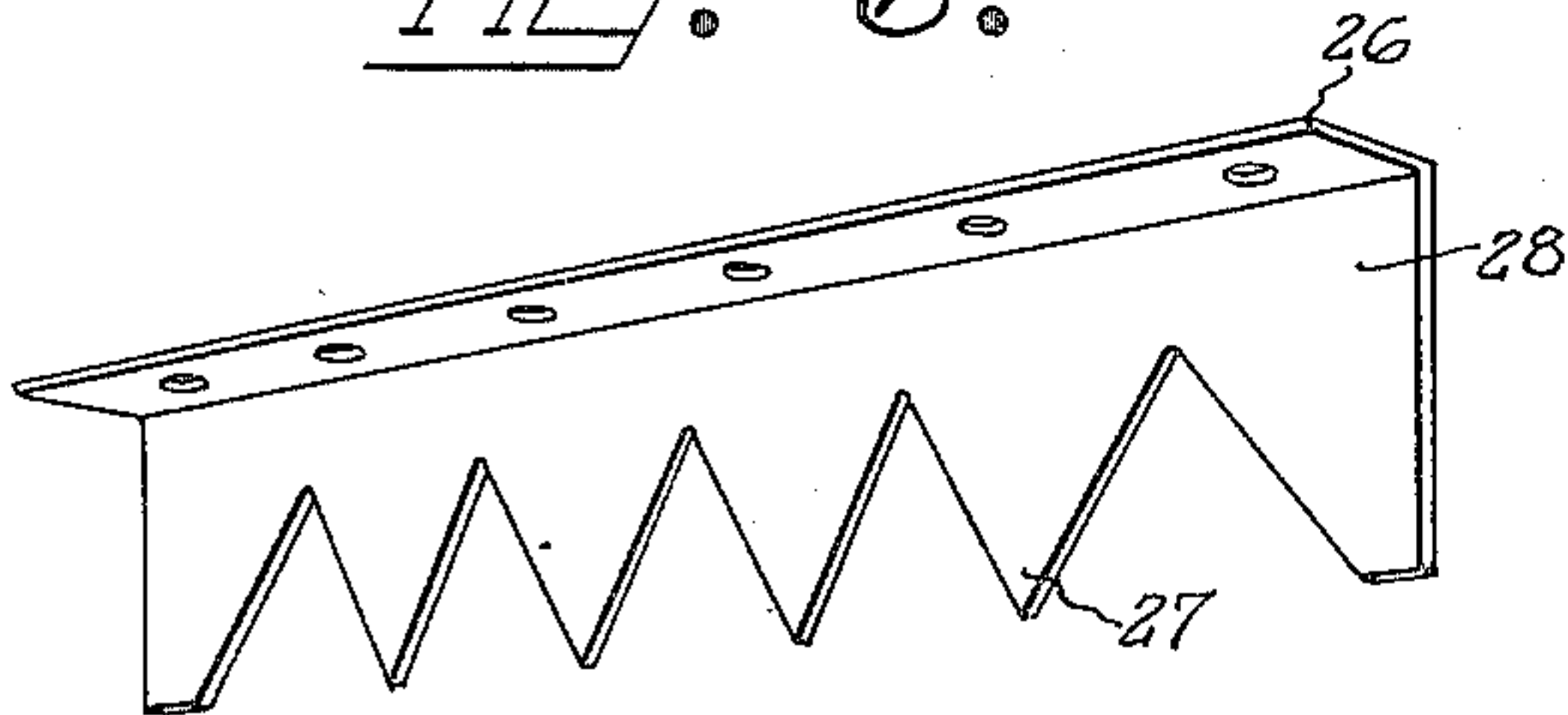
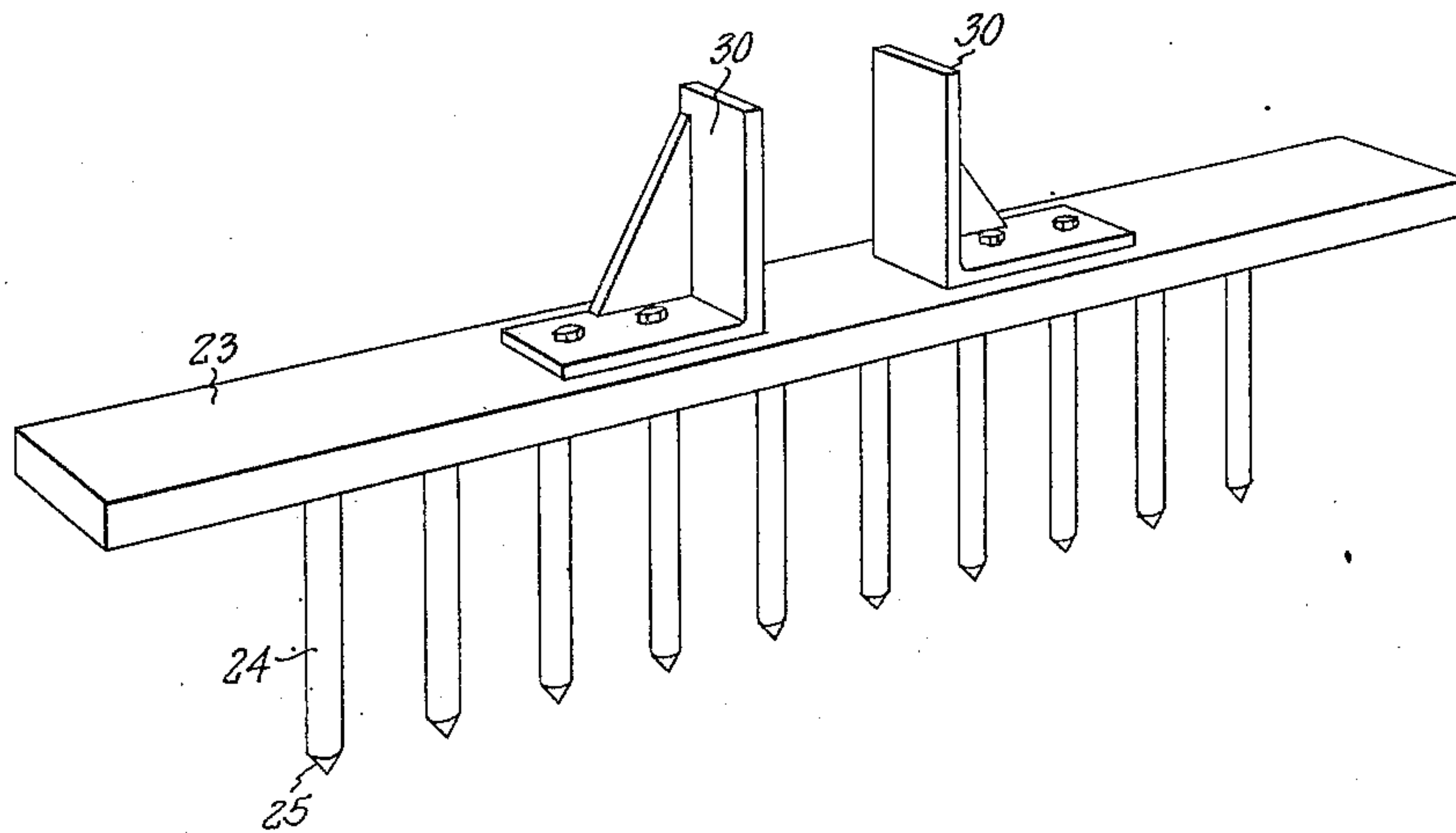


FIG. 7.



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CRANBERRY PICKER

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Application June 7, 1946, Serial No. 675,189

3 Claims. (Cl. 56—330)

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This invention relates generally to the cranberry industry and particularly to a cranberry picker.

The main object of this invention is to provide a means for picking cranberries with a minimum expenditure of time and labor and with the least tendency to injure the vines and fruit.

The second object is to reduce the fatigue ordinarily occasioned by the picking operation.

I accomplish these and other objects in a manner set forth in the following specification as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the entire apparatus.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view showing the picking head in an elevated position. Fig. 2 is drawn to a larger scale than is Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a plan of the picking head with parts broken away to show the construction. Fig. 3 is drawn to a larger scale than is Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a section taken along the line 4—4 in Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a section taken along the line 5—5 in Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of one of the aprons.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the reciprocating bars.

Similar numbers of reference refer to the same or similar parts throughout the several views.

Referring in detail to the drawings there is shown a wheeled vehicle 10, on which is mounted a motor 11, whose shaft 12 drives a fan within the casing 13, to which air is supplied by the duct 14, which connects with the separating compartment 15. A suction housing 16 extends from the compartment 15 and is supported by the brace 17 which extends from the vehicle 10 to the clamp 18, which is placed on the housing 16 some distance from the member 15. The housing 16 terminates in a pick-up end 19.

The mechanism thus far described is in common use; its purpose being to pick up the cranberries and deliver them into the separator 15.

Referring especially to my invention, same will be seen to consist of a rectangular box composed of the sides 20 and the ends 21, while the top consists of two sloping roof members 22, through which the pick-up end 19 communicates with the interior of the box.

The sides 20 are slotted to receive the slidable bars 23, from which extend downwardly the vertical pegs 24, preferably having their lower ends 25 pointed. The bars 23 are held in place by their angle members 26 having the points 27

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formed on their downturned sides 28. The lower edges of the ends 21 are also provided with downturned points 29, which are similar in function to the points 27. Each of the bars 23 is provided with a pair of angle bars 30, which are spaced to receive an eccentric 31 mounted on a shaft 32 which journals in the ends 21.

On the shaft 32 is secured a pulley 33, whose belt 34 passes around the pulley 35 of the drive motor 36 mounted on the roof 22. It is desired to set the eccentric 31 in different positions in order that the positions and travel of the bars 23 be constantly changing with relation to each other.

In order to support the device, there is provided a ground engaging wheel 37, whose axle 38 extends through the side bars 39, and held in their proper relation by means of the arched brace 41. Handles 40 are secured to the axle 38 and the arched brace 41.

In order to illustrate the invention, there is shown the surface 42 of a cranberry bog on which are grown the plants 43, which bear the cranberries 44. It is a peculiar fact that the major portion of the cranberries occupy a plane two-thirds above the level of the surface 42, and one-third below the top of the plants 43. The current may be supplied to the motor 36 through a flexible conductor 45 from the prime mover of the wheeled vehicle 10.

The operation of the device is as follows:

Assuming that the apparatus is in a form shown in Fig. 1 and that the cranberries are ready for harvesting, it is only necessary to move the device on its wheel 37, and that it is in a position as shown in Fig. 2, and then by raising up on the handles 40 to permit the device to settle down upon the brushes from which the berries are to be picked. Power is now supplied to the motor 36 causing the bars 23 to reciprocate and violently shake the berries free from their plants and capable of being picked up by the suction end 19.

It can be seen from the foregoing that there will be no tearing of the vines which are held in a different position by means of the points 27 and 29, that is, a definite area which is included in the box-like structure as all of the fruit or berries 44 are shaken from the plants 43 and picked up by the suction tube 19 from which they are delivered with whatever may accompany them to the separator 15.

The operator soon learns how long the process should be conducted before moving to the next area, which is accomplished by merely pressing

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down on the handles 40 and moving the device to the desired setting.

While I have shown the eccentrics 31 within the box-like structure, it will be apparent that they will function in a similar manner if placed on the outside of the member 20, where they will not be fouled with chaff or any lubricant which is used will not find its way into the fruit.

While I thus illustrated and described my invention, it is not my intention to limit myself to the precise form illustrated herein, but I do intend to cover such forms and modifications thereof as fall fairly within the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A cranberry picker consisting of a rectangular box having an open ground engaging bottom, the edges of which are serrated, a plurality of horizontal bars slidably mounted in parallelism across the opposite sides of the box, each of said bars having vertical pegs projecting from the under side thereof, means for reciprocating said bars in alternately opposite directions and means for drawing a partial vacuum through the top of said box.

2. A cranberry picker consisting of a box having an open ground engaging bottom and a roof operatively associated with means for creating a par-

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tial vacuum in said box through the top of the roof, a plurality of parallel slide bars mounted across the bottom of the box, downturned pins carried by said bars, eccentric for moving said slide bars in opposite directions and downturned serrated sides attached to the box sides.

3. The box described in claim 2 in combination with a wheel barrow having forwardly extending side bars supporting said box.

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