

# Just For Openers January-December 2026 1

## No Dandelion Wine From 1895 'Puller'

By Don Thornton

Frederick W. Read of Marquette, Michigan was awarded a patent for his all-wire "puller" on October 8, 1895. Read, a director of the First National Bank of Marquette, was quite verbose in describing his invention:

"The tool is preferably made of rod or bar steel, which material is twisted or otherwise manipulated to form a handle at the upper end, preferable horizontally located, and twin shanks below the handle. These shanks are outwardly curved or curved in direction of front and back in opposite directions and near their lower ends are made to cross one another...each of the shanks being given somewhat of spiral form..."

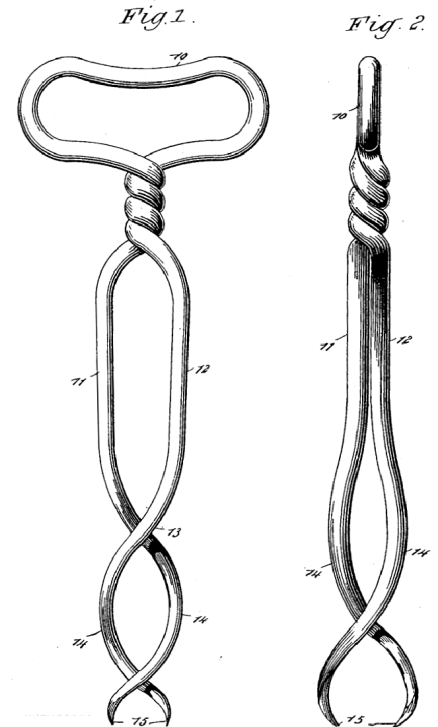
**MANHARD-JOPLING CO.,**  
(LIMITED.)  
MARQUETTE, L. S., MICHIGAN,  
**Steam Pumps, Steam Hose, Packings,**  
**Waste, Paints and Oils,**  
Iron, Steel, Wire Rope, Manilla Rope, Oakum.  
GAS PIPE AND FITTINGS. BRASS GOODS.  
**SUPPLIES OF ALL KINDS.**

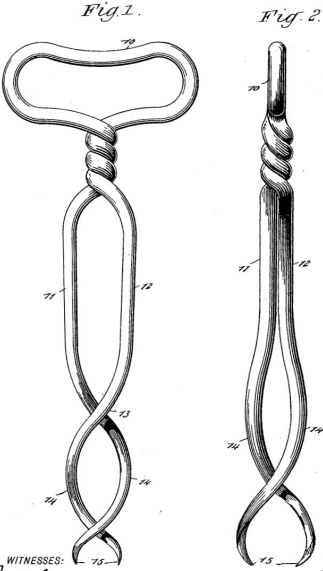
And once inserted, or "buried deep enough," Read said, all it took to get the job done was "a quick upward movement of the tool." A corkscrew right? No, a "weed puller," or more specifically, a dandelion puller with no hint of dandelion wine.

The tool was made by the Manhard-Jopling Company of Marquette and branded "The Boss." In a newspaper advertisement in 1885, the company said it offered steam pumps, steam hose, wire rope and "supplies of all kinds."

An advertisement in 1896 in *Hardware Dealer's Magazine*, a trade publication, said in part: "If the root of the dandelion is not extracted it will grow again. The tool is intended to be used as an auger around the root of plant or weed, and when buried deep enough in the ground, by an upward spiral movement of the tool, the weed, foliage and root will be removed without cutting the roots, thus effectively cleaning a lawn or other surface from any objectionable plant. The tool is strongly made of steel."

**"THE BOSS" DANDELION PULLER....**  
F. W. READ, Patentee, Marquette, Mich.  
  
PATENTED OCT. 8, 1895.  
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SOLE AGENTS OR APPLICATORS BY  
**MANHARD-JOPLING CO., LIMITED**  
Selling Agents, Marquette, Mich.



(No Model.)  
F. W. READ.  
WEED PULLER.  
No. 547,679. Patented Oct. 8, 1895.  
  
WITNESSES:  
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ATTORNEYS.