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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

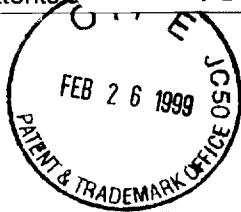


Tab settings

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To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents

and original documents or copy thereof.



1. Name of conveying party(ies):
Dr. Jubal Watts

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

Name: **LaCane Manufacturing, Inc.**

Internal Address:

Additional names(s) of conveying party(ies) Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:

- Assignment Merger
- Security Agreement Change of Name
- Other

Street Address: **P. O. Box 71**

City: **Thibodaux** State: **LA** ZIP: **77302**

Execution Date: **October 9, 1997**

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No

4. Application number(s) or registration numbers(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is:

A. Patent Application No.(s)

B. Patent No.(s)

5,816,036

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: **Loren G. Helmreich**

Internal Address: **BROWNING BUSHMAN**

Street Address: **5718 Westheimer, Suite 1800**

City: **Houston** State: **TX** ZIP: **77057**

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: **1**

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41):.....\$ **40.00**

Enclosed - Any excess or insufficiency should be credited or debited to deposit account

Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

02-4345

40.00 DP

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9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Loren G. Helmreich

Name of Person Signing

Signature

February 19 **1999**

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: **3**

3

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PATENT ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, Dr. Jubal Watts, an individual residing in Carrollton, Georgia (herein "Assignor"), was previously conveyed U.S. Patent Application 08/728,835 filed October 10, 1996, entitled "APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR HARVESTING CANE" by Louisiana Cane Manufacturing, Inc., a Louisiana corporation (herein "Assignee").


WHEREAS, the Assignee now desires that said Patent Application be reconveyed by Assignor to Assignee, and Assignor agrees to such reconveyance.

Now, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged by me, Assignor has assigned, sold, transferred and set over and by these presents does assign, sell, transfer and set over unto said Assignee the entire right, title and interest in and to (a) said invention and world-wide rights therein, (b) said application, including all divisions, continuations, continuations-in-part and substitutions thereof, and (c) all United States and foreign patents which shall issue on said inventions, including all reissues, renewals and extensions thereof, for the United States, its territories and possessions and all foreign countries, including the right to file applications for Letters Patent on said invention in any and all foreign countries, the same to be held and enjoyed by said Assignee, its assigns and successors, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by me, had this assignment and sale not been made.

Assignor covenants and agrees that he will, at any time upon the request and at the expense of said Assignee, execute and delivery any and all papers and do all lawful acts that may be necessary or desirable, in the opinion of said Assignee, to enable and assist said Assignee to (a) obtain Letters Patent, both domestic and foreign, on said invention, (b) establish, maintain and secure title in said Assignee, its successors and assigns, to said invention, application and Letters Patent, including making such title of lawful public record, and (c) defend, establish or otherwise preserve the validity of said Letters Patent against any and all infringes, and perform such other acts as are necessary to give full force and effect to this assignment.

I hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents of the United States to issue all Letters Patent based on said application and all said divisions, continuations, continuations-in-part, reissues, renewals and extension to said Assignee, its successors and assigns.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have executed this assignment this 9 day of October, 1997.

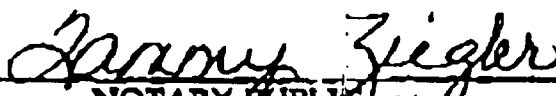

DR. JUBAL WATTS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF _____

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Dr. Jubal Watts known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of office this 9 day of October, 1997.

(SEAL)


NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires: 4-2-2000