Oct. 6, 1931. G. W. WADDELL 1,826,641

GOLF BALL EJECTOR

Filed May 15, 1930 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

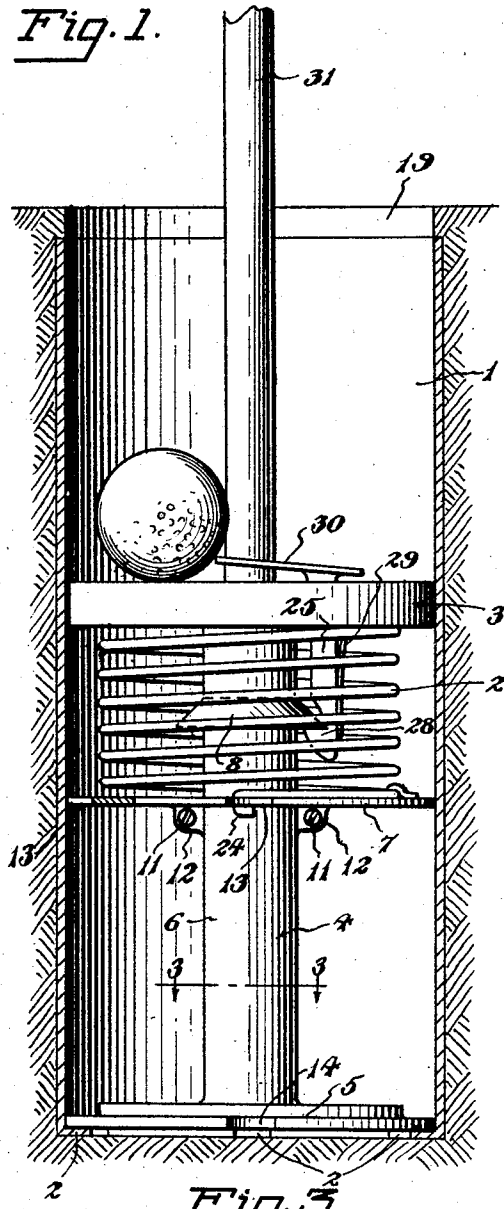


Fig. 2.

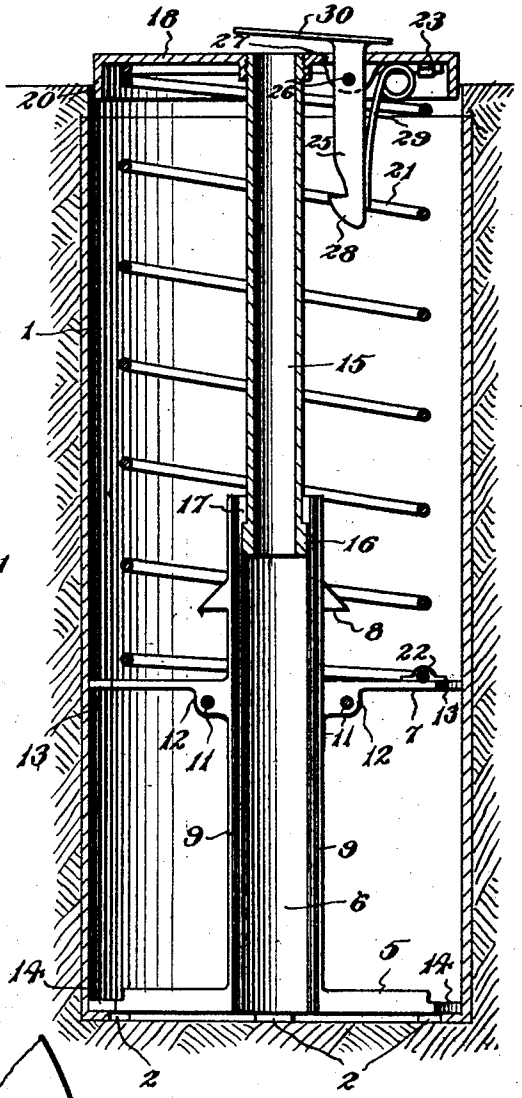
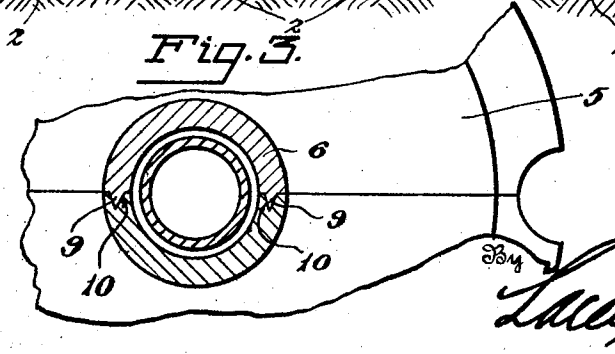


Fig. 3.



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Filed May 15, 1930 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 4.

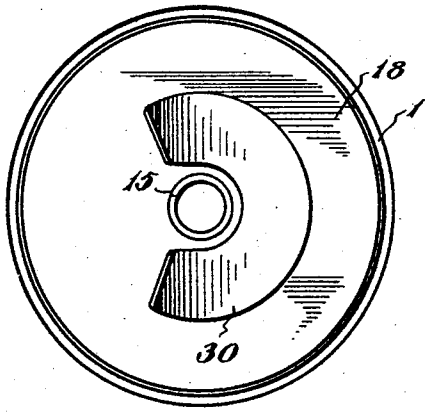


Fig. 5.

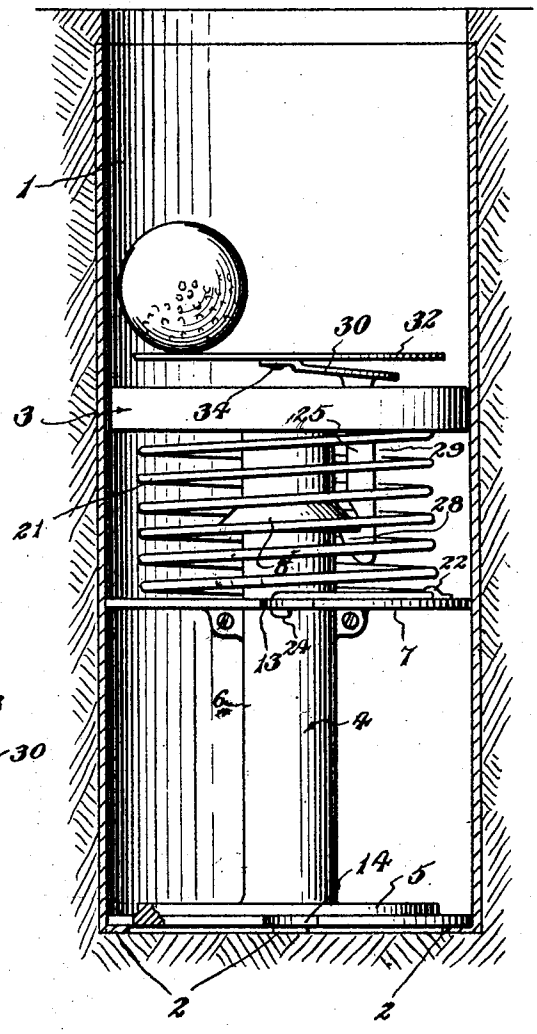
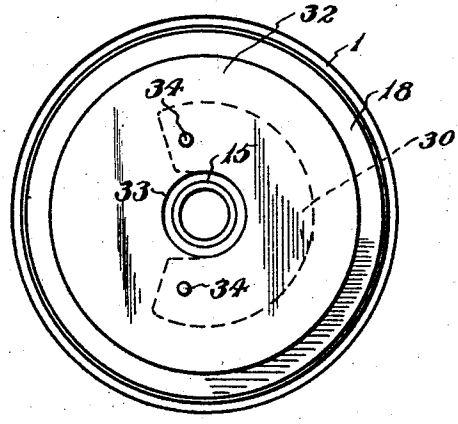


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GOLF BALL EJECTOR

Application filed May 15, 1930. Serial No. 452,701.

This invention relates to games and toys and more particularly to a device adapted to be mounted in a golf cup and by means of which a golf ball after dropping into the cup may be projected upwardly to such a position that it will either roll out of the cup or may be very easily removed therefrom.

One object of the invention is to provide a device which when set in place and properly adjusted will not interfere with a golf ball dropping into the cup but at the same time permit the ball to be moved upwardly and ejected from the cup.

Another object of the invention is to so form the device that it will limit downward movement of a golf ball when dropped into the cup and thereby prevent the ball from becoming soiled by contact with the bottom of the cup and also prevent a person's hands from becoming soiled by reaching into the cup in order to remove a ball.

Another object of the invention is to so form the device that it may serve not only as means for ejecting a ball from the cup but also constitute means for supporting a flag staff in an upright position within the cup.

Another object of the invention is to provide the device with a latch for releasably retaining it in a retracted position and so locate the latch that it may be released by thrusting the flag staff downwardly into the cup in order to engage the latch after a ball has dropped into the cup.

Another object of the invention is to so form the device that the ball when dropping into the cup may move the latch to a releasing position and thereby cause the ball to be immediately ejected from the cup after dropping into the same.

Another object of the invention is to provide a golf ball ejecting device which is simple in construction and may be easily set within a golf cup already in use.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view through a golf cup having the improved ejecting means set therein and disclosed in a retracted position,

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view showing the ball ejecting means in an extended position,

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the cup and ball ejecting means,

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing a modified form of ball ejector, and

Fig. 6 is a top plan view of the cup and ball ejector shown in Fig. 5.

The golf cup, which is indicated in general by the numeral 1, is set into the ground in the usual manner and is open at its upper end so that a golf ball may drop into the cup. The lower end of the cup may be formed with a bottom having openings therein for drainage, but in the accompanying drawings the cup is shown provided with tongues 2 at its lower end which project inwardly to provide abutments. Instead of tongues the lower end of the cup may be formed with an inwardly extending annular flange.

The combined ball ejector and flag staff support fits within the cup, as shown in Figures 1, 2 and 5, and consists of upper and lower sections 3 and 4. The lower section has a base 5 from which rises a tubular post or socket 6 and about the socket is disposed a platform or spring support 7. The post also carries a circumferentially extending flange 8 disposed above the spring support in spaced relation thereto and constituting a latch-engaging keeper which extends entirely about the post. This lower section is preferably split vertically, or, in other words, formed of companion sections which meet in edge to edge contact with each other and one section has its edge faces formed with ribs 9 which are received in grooves or seats 10 formed in the abutting edge faces of the other section so that when the two sections are applied to each other and secured by screws 11 passed through ears 12 beneath the spring support the two sections will be very firmly held in engagement with each other. It should be noted that the marginal portions of the spring support and base are recessed, as shown at 13 and 14, so that rain water or water from melted snow flowing into the cup

may pass downwardly to the bottom of the cup and into the ground beneath the cup. Therefore, water will be prevented from accumulating in the cup.

The upper section has a hollow stem 15 of such diameter that it may slide freely in the post 6 and has its lower end enlarged externally, as shown at 16, in order to form a circumferentially extending abutment adapted to bear against the internally thickened upper portion or abutment 17 of the post and limit upward movement of the stem. This stem is of such length that when it is in an elevated position the platform or ball support 18 formed integral with or threaded upon its upper end, as shown in Figure 2, will be disposed close to the top of the hole 19 formed in the ground to receive the cup and thereby cause a golf ball to be either ejected from the hole or the ball supported in such position that it may be easily removed. This ball support or platform 18 is formed with a depending annular flange 20 which fits snugly in the cup and guides sliding movement of the ball support and stem and prevents likelihood of the ball support or cup catching and failing to move upwardly to the proper position. A coiled spring 21 surrounds the stem and upper portion of the post and has its lower end resting upon the spring support 7 where it is secured by a clip 22 and its upper end bearing against the under face of the ball support where it is secured by a clip 23. The lower end of the spring has also been formed with a hook 24 engaged through an opening formed in the spring support in order to very firmly secure the spring upon its support. This spring urges the ball support and stem upwardly in order to eject a ball from the cup when the upper portion of the device is released for movement from a retracted position shown in Figure 1 to an extended position shown in Figure 2.

In order to releasably secure the ball support and its stem in a retracted position, there has been provided a latch 25. This latch extends vertically at one side of the stem and is pivotally mounted, as shown at 26, with its upper portion projecting upwardly above the ball support through an opening 27 formed therein and its lower end is formed with a bill 28 adapted to engage beneath the keeper 8 when the upper portion of the device is pressed downwardly and retain it in a retracted position. A spring 29 carried by the ball support extends downwardly in engagement with the latch and yieldably holds the latch in the position shown in Figure 2 so that when the ball support or upper portion of the device is pressed downwardly the bill will engage the keeper and retain the ball support in a retracted position. Upon the upper end of the latch is secured a head 30, and from an inspection of Figure 4 it will be seen that this head is arcuate in shape and extends about the open upper end of the stem 15 so that a flag staff 31 may be thrust downwardly through the stem and into the post 6 with the lower end of the flag staff resting upon the ground or partially embedded therein. If so desired, a disk 32 having a center opening 33 for passage of the flag staff may be secured upon the head 30 by rivets 34 passed through the disk and ends of the head. It will be readily seen that when pressure is applied to the head or disk the latch will be moved out of engagement with the keeper thereby releasing the ball support or upper portion of the device and permitting the spring 21 to expand and move the ball support upwardly until upward movement is stopped by engagement of the abutment 16 with the abutment 17. Therefore, a ball resting upon the support or upon the disk 32 will be either ejected from the cup or elevated to such a position that it may be very easily removed.

When this improved ball-ejecting device is in use, it is set into a golf cup embedded in the ground and the ball support or upper portion of the device pressed downwardly until the latch engages the keeper. Since the keeper extends entirely about the post 6, it is not necessary to have the latch in a certain position circumferentially of the post in order to engage the keeper. When a player is about to drive a ball into a cup, it is customary to remove the flag staff so that it will not interfere with passage of the ball into the cup but the diameter of the cup is always such that a ball may drop into the cup even if the flag staff is in place. When a ball drops into the cup, it falls upon the ball support and in order to eject the ball from the cup it is merely necessary to insert the flag staff until its lower end rests upon the head 30 and then apply pressure in order to move the latch out of engagement with the keeper. This will release the ball support or upper portion of the device and the spring 21 will project it upwardly to the position shown in Figure 2 and cause the ball to be either ejected from the hole or supported in such position that it may be easily removed. The flag staff may then be applied to the ball support and pressure exerted in order to force the ball support and its stem downwardly to a lowered position in which it will be secured by the latch. If the device is provided with a disk 32, such as shown in Figures 5 and 6, the force of the ball striking the disk will cause the latch to be released and the ball ejected. It will thus be seen that when a golf cup is equipped with this device the ball will be prevented from dropping to the bottom of the cup and becoming soiled by mud or other dirt in the cup and also it will not be necessary for a player to reach into the cup in order to remove the ball. When the

flag staff is set in place, it passes through the stem and post and, therefore, will be firmly held in an upright position and cannot move to such a position that it may interfere with a ball entering the cup in case the ball approaches the cup before the staff is withdrawn. A golf club, such as a putter, may be employed to release the ejector if so desired instead of using the flag for this purpose.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:

1. A golf cup comprising a hollow body open at its top and adapted to be set into the ground, a flag staff holder extending vertically in said body, a ball support slidable in the body from a retracted to an elevated position, a latch carried by said support to engage the flag staff holder and releasably retain said support in a retracted position and permit a ball to drop into the cup, and resilient means to project the support upwardly and move a ball into position for removal from the cup when the latch is released.

2. A golf cup comprising a hollow body open at its top, a flag staff support in said body having tubular upper and lower sections slidable one within the other, a collar secured about the upper section and moving therewith from a position adjacent the upper end of the body to a retracted position, a keeper carried by the lower section of the staff support, a latch carried by said collar and yieldably held in position to engage said keeper when the collar and upper section are pressed downwardly and releasably secure the collar and upper section in a depressed position, said latch being adapted to be moved to a releasing position by an element thrust downwardly into the body, and a spring to move the collar and upper section upwardly into position to permit removal of a ball from the cup when the latch is released.

3. A golf cup comprising a hollow body open at its top, a flag staff support in said body having tubular upper and lower sections slidable one within the other, a collar secured about the upper section and moving therewith from a position adjacent the upper end of the body to a retracted position, a keeper extending entirely about the lower section, a latch pivoted to said collar with portions extended above and below the collar and its lower portion formed with a hill to engage said keeper and releasably secure the collar and upper section in a depressed position, the latch being movable out of engagement with the keeper by pressure applied to its upper portion, and a spring to move the collar and upper section upwardly into position to permit removal of a ball from the cup when the latch is released.

4. A golf cup comprising a hollow body open at its top, a flag staff support in said body having tubular upper and lower sections slidable one within the other, a collar secured about the upper section and moving therewith from a position adjacent the upper end of the body to a retracted position, a keeper carried by the lower portion, a latch pivoted to said collar and yieldably held in position to engage said keeper when the collar and upper portion are pressed downwardly in the body and releasably secure the collar and upper section in a depressed position, a spring support carried by the lower section below said keeper, and a coiled spring disposed about said flag staff support with its lower end resting upon the spring support and its upper end bearing against said collar with the latch extending downwardly through the spring, said spring serving to move the collar and upper section upwardly into position to permit removal of a ball from the cup when the latch is released.

5. A golf cup comprising a hollow body open at its top and adapted to be set into the ground, a ball support slidable in the body from a retracted to an elevated position, a latch to releasably retain said support in a retracted position and permit a ball to drop into the cup, said latch being pivotally mounted and extending upwardly above said support and having a head at its upper end adapted to be pressed upon to move the latch to a releasing position, and resilient means to project the support upwardly and move a ball into position for removal from the cup when the latch is released.

6. A golf cup comprising a hollow body open at its top, a flag staff support in said body having tubular upper and lower sections slidable one within the other, a collar secured about the upper section and moving therewith from a position adjacent the upper end of the body to a retracted position, a keeper extending entirely about the lower section, a latch passed through an opening in said collar and pivoted to the collar, said latch having a bill at its lower end to engage said keeper and a head at its upper end disposed above the collar and adapted to be pressed upon to release the latch from the keeper, a spring urging the latch into position to engage the keeper when the collar and upper section are pressed downwardly, and a spring to move the collar and upper section upwardly into position to permit removal of a ball from the cup when the latch is released.

7. A golf cup comprising a hollow body open at its top, a flag staff support in said body having tubular upper and lower sections slidable one within the other, a collar secured about the upper section and moving therewith from a position adjacent the upper end of the body to a retracted position, a keeper extending entirely about the lower section, a latch passed through an opening in said collar and pivoted to the collar, said latch having a bill at its lower end to engage said keeper and a head at its upper end dis-

posed above the collar and adapted to be pressed upon to release the latch from the keeper, a spring urging the latch into position to engage the keeper when the collar and upper section are pressed downwardly, a disk secured upon the head of said latch and adapted to be struck by a golf ball to apply pressure to the latch and release the latch, and a spring to move the collar and upper section upwardly into position to permit removal of a ball from the cup when the latch is released.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

GEORGE W. WADDELL. [L. S.]