June 13, 1961 O. J. LAMBIOTTE 2,988,360

RECREATIONAL DEVICE

Filed Aug. 28, 1957 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

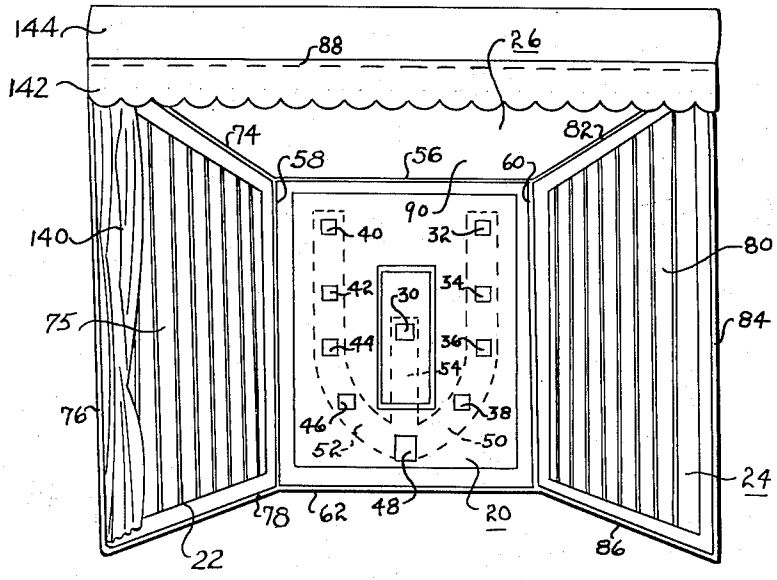


FIG. 1

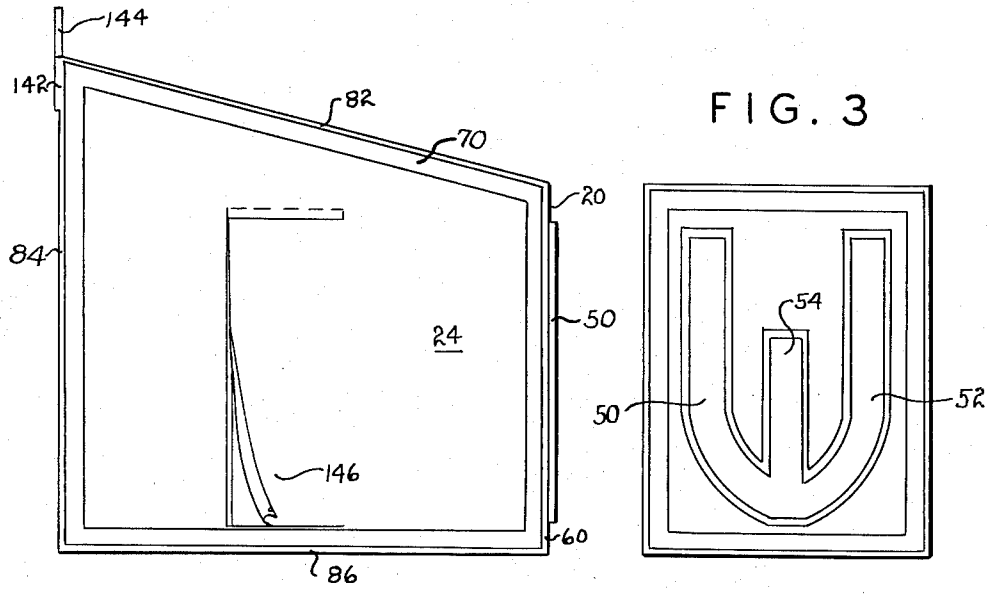


FIG. 3

FIG. 2

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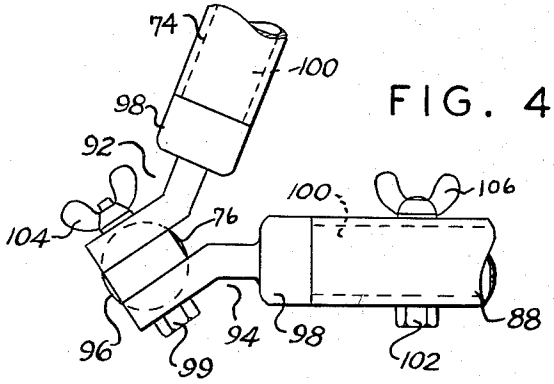


FIG. 4

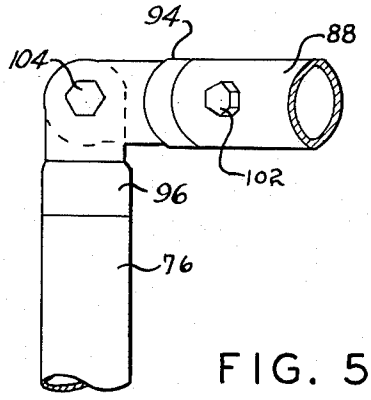


FIG. 5

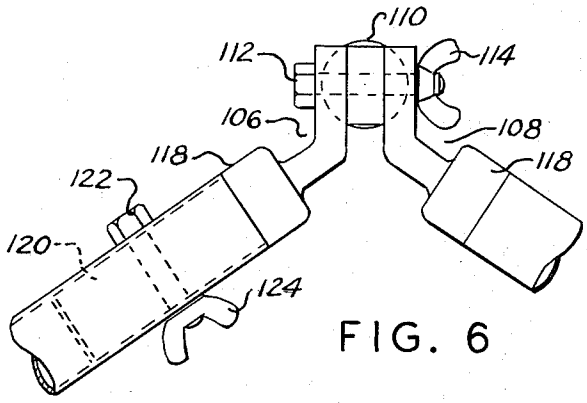


FIG. 6

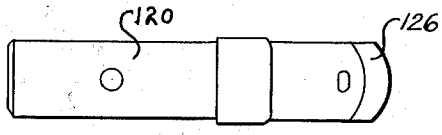


FIG. 8

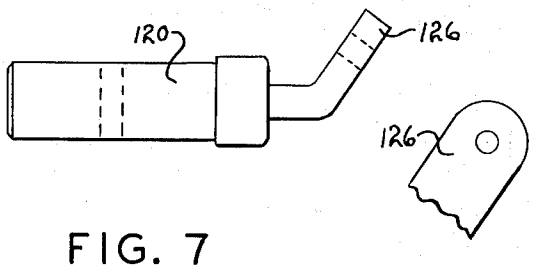


FIG. 9

FIG. 7

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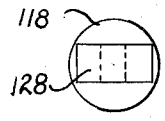


FIG. 12

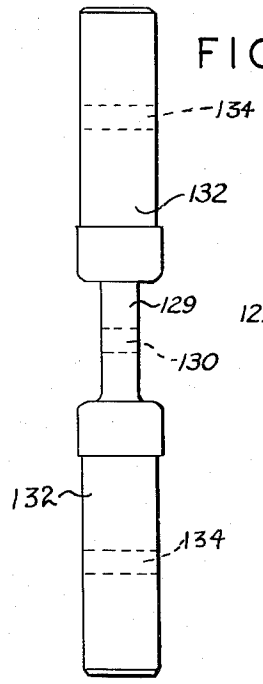


FIG. 13

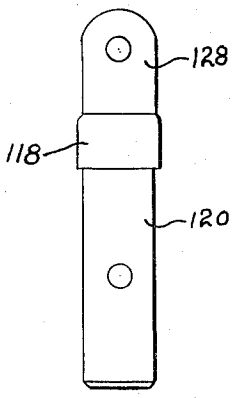


FIG. 10

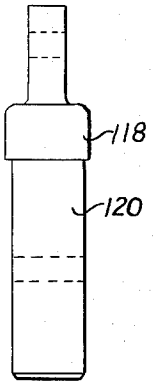


FIG. 11

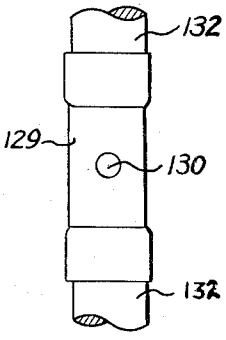


FIG. 14

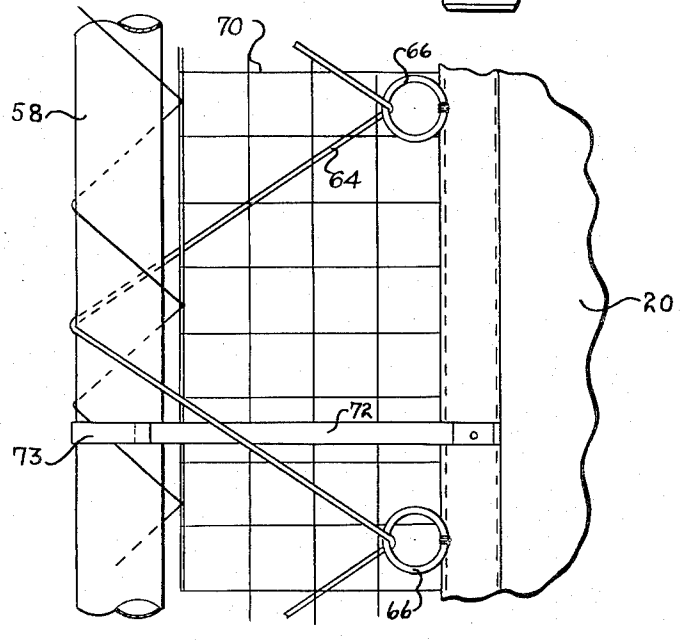


FIG. 15

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United States Patent Office 2,988,360 Patented June 13, 1961

2,988,360

RECREATIONAL DEVICE

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Filed Aug. 28, 1957, Ser. No. 680,848
3 Claims. (Cl. 273—105)

The present invention relates to a recreational device and structure therefor.

One of the principal objects of the present invention is to provide a recreational device which requires the same muscular motions and coordination as those used in the games of golf and baseball, but which can be played in a limited area either outdoors or indoors.

Another object of the invention is to provide a recreational device of the aforesaid type which assists the player in improving his game of golf and baseball and which can be played under adverse weather conditions and either day or night.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a structure for playing games involving bodily movements similar to those used in golf and baseball, which can be varied in size to satisfy space requirements for the individual players.

A further object is to provide a multiple purpose recreational structure which can easily be assembled and disassembled without the use of tools and can readily be folded into a compact bundle for transporting to various locations.

Another object is to provide a structure of the aforesaid type which can be changed in size by adding to or removing from the structure standard, interchangeable sections and which can be shaped into booths and multiple unit enclosures.

Additional objects and advantages will become apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of my amusement device and structure therefor;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of the structure shown in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is an end elevation of the structure shown in FIGURES 1 and 2;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged top plan view of one of the joints of the frame of my structure;

FIGURE 5 is an elevational view of the joint shown in FIGURE 4;

FIGURE 6 is a top plan view of another one of the joints of the structure frame;

FIGURE 7 is a top plan view of one of the members of the joint shown in FIGURE 6;

FIGURE 8 is a side elevational view of the member shown in FIGURE 7;

FIGURE 9 is a fragmentary end elevational view of the member shown in FIGURES 7 and 8;

FIGURE 10 is an elevational view of another one of the members shown in FIGURES 4, 5 and 6;

FIGURE 11 is a side elevational view of the member shown in FIGURE 10;

FIGURE 12 is a top plan view of the member shown in FIGURES 10 and 11;

FIGURE 13 is an elevational view of a splicing member for the frame of the present structure;

FIGURE 14 is a fragmentary side elevational view of the splicing member shown in FIGURE 13; and

FIGURE 15 is a fragmentary elevational view of the wall construction of my structure.

In the illustration of my recreational device and structure numeral **20** designates a game panel opposite the front opening of the structure, numerals **22** and **24** side walls joined at their rear edges to the sides of the game panel, and **26** the top joined on three sides to the upper edges of the two sides and the panel.

The game panel is constructed of canvas or other strong flexible material and contains a number of holes which serve as targets for the golf or base ball knocked or thrown by the player standing in the front of the structure or a short distance forward of the front. The panel shown contains a center hole **30**, four holes **32**, **34**, **36** and **38** vertically arranged on the right side of the center hole and four holes **40**, **42**, **44** and **46** vertically arranged on the left side of the center hole. These holes are so spaced vertically that they serve as a range indicator to the player which is particularly useful when the device is being used as a practice court for golf or baseball. The holes are all connected with a ball return hole **48** by chutes **50**, **52** and **54** formed of the same material as the panel and sewed or otherwise securely joined to the back of the panel as shown in FIGURE 3. In order to indicate whether the ball hits one of the target holes, a paper target may be placed over each hole and in addition to this or as an alternative a metal bell or gong may be hung on suitable fixtures behind each target hole to signal each hit to the player. After a hit is made through one of the target holes, the ball drops down through the respective chute and rolls through hole **48** into the playing area.

Panel **20** is supported by a rigid frame consisting of four tubular members **56**, **58**, **60** and **62**, preferably of aluminum or steel, joined together at their four corners. The panel is laced to the tubular members by a cord **64** looped through grommets **66** along the edges of the panel and looped around the tubular members in the manner shown in FIGURE 15. The grommets, which are of metal or plastic, are spaced at suitable intervals along the sides of the panel and are sewed or otherwise attached to the panel edges which have preferably been doubled over and sewed to give added strength to the panel where the grommets are attached. When the structure is being used as an open air game device a border of netting **70** is preferably inserted between the panel and the tubular member so that the air can pass freely through the structure. This netting is sewed along its inner edge to the edge of the panels and is laced at its outer edge to the adjacent tubular member, as seen in FIGURE 15. To assist in retaining the panel taut and to prevent it from sagging from repeated blows from the ball, a plurality of resilient members urge the panel outwardly. FIGURE 15 shows a rubber strip **72** secured to the edge of the panel and fastened to member **58** by a metal hook **73** secured to the end of the strip. These strips are placed at the corners and along the sides of the panel. When the structure is being used as a booth or the like where free circulation of air is not desired, the netting can be omitted and the panel pulled tight against the tubular member. When the canvas is laced tight against the tubular members the corner is closed and effectively keeps out the rain and wind.

The two sides **22** and **24** and top **26** are constructed in the same manner as panel **20**, i.e. they each consist of a panel of canvas or other suitable material laced to tubular members either with the edges pulled tight against the members or with the edges spaced from the members and a strip of netting inserted between the panel and the adjacent member. Side **22** is shown composed of a panel **75** of a vertically striped canvas material supported by tubular member **58**, which also supports game panel **20**, and by members **74**, **76** and **78**. Side **24** which is composed of the same material as side **22** consists of a panel **80** supported by tubular members **60**, **82**, **84** and **86**. The two side walls are held rigidly in position by a connecting member **88** extending across the upper front of the structure and joined to the upper front corners of the side walls. The top consisting of a panel

90 and constructed in the same manner as the side walls is supported by tubular members 56, 74, 88 and 82. It is seen that since the game panel 20 and panels 75, 80 and 90 are laced to tubular members 56, 58 and 60 a continuous structure is created between the panels which forms an effective stop for the balls used in the games and, if the panels are drawn tightly against the tubular members without the netting, an enclosure which will effectively keep out the rain and wind is formed.

The tubular members are joined together to form a rigid structure by the joints shown in FIGURES 4 through 12. The joint shown in FIGURES 4 and 5 for joining members 74, 76 and 88 consists of couplings 92, 94 and 96 held securely together by a bolt 99 extending through matching holes in the ends of the couplings. Each coupling has a shank 98 with a reduced diameter portion 100 which slips into the end of the respective tubular member and is held therein by a bolt 102 extending through aligned holes in the tubular member and shank. Both bolts 99 and 102 are secured in place by winged nuts 104 and 106, respectively. When the present structure is disassembled for moving it is necessary to remove only bolt 99 from this joint and all three members 74, 76 and 88 are disconnected. It is not necessary to remove bolt 102 when the structure is being moved. The joint shown in FIGURES 6 through 9 is employed in connecting tubular members 56, 58 and 74 or members 56, 60 and 82 and consists of couplings 106, 108 and 110 held together by a bolt and winged nut 112 and 114. Each of these couplings has a shank 118 with a reduced diameter portion 120 for slipping into the ends of the tubular member where they are held by bolt 122 and winged nut 124. The details of the three couplings are clearly shown in FIGURES 7 through 12 and these couplings like the ones comprising the joint in FIGURE 4 have flat sided extensions 126 and 128 which are shaped to the angle desired for the tubular members.

The tubular members are standard parts and are cut to construct certain sized structures. However, it is sometimes desirable to enlarge the structure, and in order to avoid having to furnish all the various lengths which might be needed, the extension joint shown in FIGURES 13 and 14 is employed instead. The construction and use of this type of joint are similar to those in the other joints, i.e. it consists of a flat portion 129 having a hole 130 therein for receiving a bolt to attach a coupling such as the one shown in FIGURES 10, 11 and 12, and shanks 132 for slipping into the ends of the tubular members where they are held by bolts inserted through holes 134.

One of the advantages of the present structure is its versatility. It can be used as a cabin, tent, sales booth, cabaña, or bath house with showers and lighting equipment, and these units can be used either alone or as companion cabins in conjunction with the game features previously described. Further, it can be used to form multiple unit structures all connected to form a rigid construction. In joining the tubular members to form the multiple unit structures, a common member, such as upright members 76 or 84, is used as a support for both units and a second member 74 or 82 is connected to the upright member. A number of different variations in the structure are possible with the present coupling and tubular member construction. In using the structure as a cabaña, cabin or tent, a draw curtain 140 is preferably used to close the front, and in using it as a sales booth or amusement device a valance 142 and panel 144 thereabove may be used for the name of the game or for advertisement. The structure is also sufficiently strong to support other game devices on the front, such as a basket ball practice goal and backboard mounted on the frame at the corners.

When the structure is to be used as a cabaña, bath house, tent or cabin a panel similar to panels 22 and 24 may be placed across the front and secured to the tubular members in the manner shown in FIGURE 15 and flap doors of conventional construction, such as illustrated at number 146 in FIGURE 2, may be provided in one or more of the panels. For these uses the game panel would normally be replaced by a panel similar to panels 75 and 80.

While a number of modifications and variations have been mentioned, various other changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

I claim:

1. A recreational device, comprising a generally rectangular frame of tubular members demountably joined together at their ends, a panel of canvas supported by said frame having a plurality of holes forming goals for receiving balls driven or thrown by a player, means of canvas secured to the back side of said panel forming channels for recovering said balls and delivering them to a discharge hole on the front side of said panel, netting material forming a border on said panel and attached to said frame, a plurality of resilient means connecting said panel to said frame, a generally rectangular frame of tubular members demountably joined together attached to and extending forward from said first mentioned frame, the forward ends of said frames being spaced from one another to form an open front for said structure, a panel of canvas in each of said forward extending frames supported by said tubular members, netting material forming a border on said last mentioned panels and attached to the respective forward extending frames, a tubular member demountably joined to the upper front corners of said forwardly extending frames to hold them in rigid spaced relation, a top panel of canvas supported by the upper tubular member of each frame, netting material forming a border on said top panel and attached to said upper tubular members, a draw curtain across the opening between said last mentioned panels under said last mentioned tubular member, and a valance supported by said last mentioned tubular member and a panel disposed thereabove.

2. A recreational device, comprising a generally rectangular frame of tubular members demountably joined together at their ends, a panel of flexible material supported by said frame and having a plurality of holes forming goals for receiving balls driven or thrown by a player, means of flexible material secured to the back side of said panel forming channels for recovering said balls and delivering them to a discharge hole on the front side of said panel, netting material forming a border on said panel and attached to said frame, a frame of tubular members demountably joined together attached to and extending forward from said first mentioned frame, a panel of flexible material in each of said forward extending frames supported by said tubular members, netting material forming a border on said last mentioned panels and attached to the respective forward extending frames, a tubular member demountably joined to the upper front corners of said forwardly extending frames to hold them in rigid spaced relation, a top panel of flexible material supported by the upper tubular member of each frame, netting material forming a border on said top panel and attached to said upper tubular members, a draw curtain across the opening between said last mentioned panels under said last mentioned tubular member, and a valance supported by said last mentioned tubular member and a panel disposed thereabove.

3. A recreational device, comprising a generally rectangular frame of tubular members demountably joined together at their ends, a panel of flexible material supported by said frame and having a plurality of holes forming goals for receiving balls driven or thrown by a player, means of flexible material secured to the back side of said panel forming channels for recovering said balls and delivering them to a discharge hole on the front side of said panel, netting material forming a border on said panel and attached to said frame, a frame of

tubular members demountably joined together attached to and extending forward from said first mentioned frame, a panel of flexible material in each of said forward extending frames supported by said tubular members, netting material forming a border on said last mentioned panels and attached to the respective forward extending frames, a tubular member demountably joined to the upper front corners of said forwardly extending frames to hold them in rigid spaced relation, a top panel of flexible material supported by the upper tubular member of each frame, and netting material forming a border on said top panel and attached to said upper tubular members.

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