Sept. 20, 1949. W. C. SANDOR 2,482,294

GOLF BALL RETRIEVER

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FIG. 1

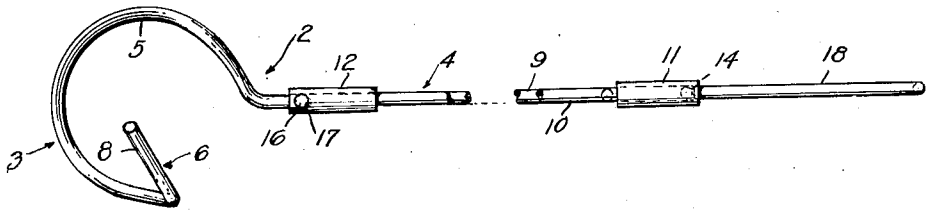


FIG. 2

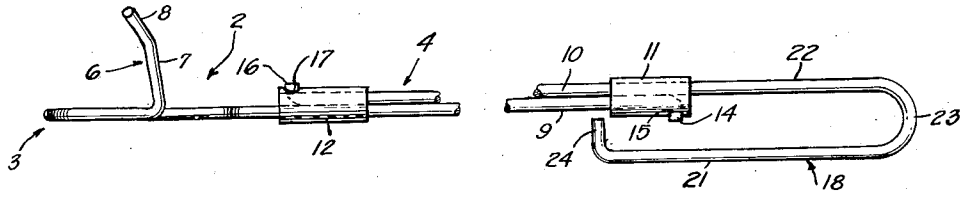


FIG. 3

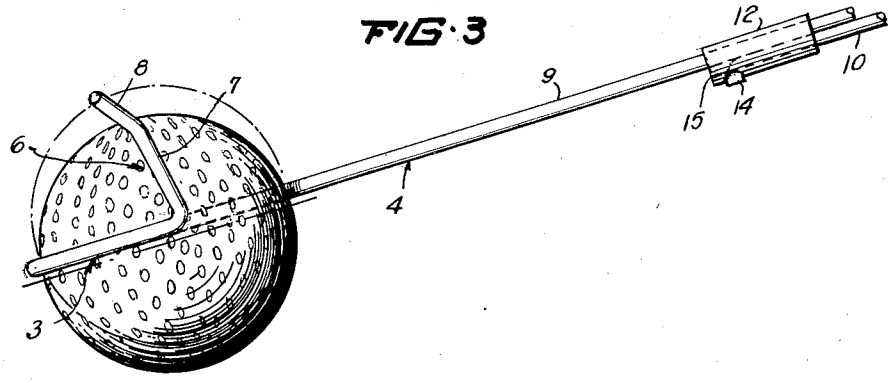
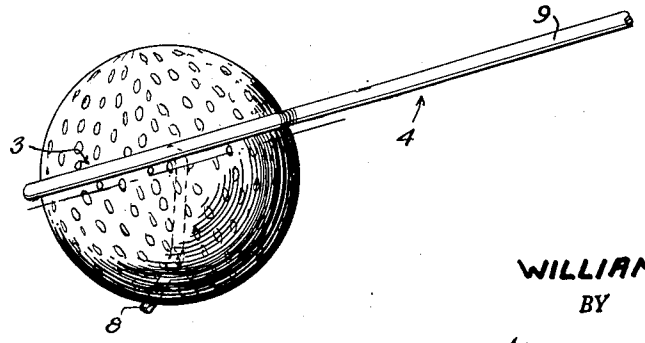


FIG. 4



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GOLF BALL RETRIEVER

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5 Claims. (Cl. 294—19)

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This invention relates to golf ball retrievers for retrieving golf balls from water hazards and other inaccessible places.

The general object of this invention is the provision of an improved golf ball retriever of steel wire which is formed with a yieldingly expansible grapple member constructed to yieldingly grip and support a golf ball when dropped in an inaccessible place such as a water hazard or other remote and congested places.

This general object of the invention is attained by the provision of a steel wire golf ball retriever having as grapple member an open, yieldingly expansible loop, the diameter of which is slightly less than the diameter of a golf ball, the expansible loop permitting yieldingly gripping a golf ball encircled by the loop.

Another object of the invention therefore is the provision of an improved steel wire golf ball retriever which is formed with an expansible, open wire loop having a diameter slightly less than the diameter of a golf ball.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a steel wire golf ball retriever with an expansible, open wire loop having a diameter slightly less than the diameter of a golf ball and guiding and stopping means integrally extended from the free end of the wire loop to prevent a golf ball from fully passing through the open wire loop and support such golf ball in the loop during retrieving operations.

Additional objects and features of invention, combinations and relations of parts, by which the objects in view have been attained, will appear and are set forth in detail in the course of the following specification.

The drawing accompanying and forming part of the specification illustrates certain practical embodiments of the invention, but it will be apparent as the specification proceeds that the structure may be modified and changed in various ways without departure from the true spirit and broad scope of the invention.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a steel wire golf ball retriever constructed in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is a side-view of the steel wire golf ball retriever shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a side-view showing the steel wire golf ball retriever disclosed in Figs. 1 and 2 in position to grip a golf ball; and

Fig. 4 is a similar view showing the said golf ball retriever when gripping a golf ball, the retriever being in upside-down position and supporting the

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gripped golf ball by guiding and stopping means associated with the loop of the retriever.

Referring now more particularly to the structure shown in the drawing, reference numeral 2 denotes a steel wire golf ball retriever embodying an open, looped grapple member 3 and an extensible handle member 4 integrally extended from member 3. The grapple member consists of an open wire loop 5 forming approximately three-fourths of a circle having a diameter slightly smaller than the diameter of a golf ball. This loop has integrally extended from its one end handle member 4 and from its other end a guiding and supporting member 6 including a lower guiding portion 7 angularly related to a plane through open loop 5 and an upper supporting portion 8 angularly and laterally extended from the end of portion 7 to engage and support a golf ball when forced into and partly through wire loop 5.

Handle member 4 embodies a stationary wire member 9 integrally extended from one end of wire loop 5 and a shiftable wire member 10 slidably coupled with stationary wire member 9 by clips 11 and 12. These clips encircle the two wire members and each of these clips is rigidly coupled with one of said wire members; thus, clip 11 is coupled with stationary wire member 9 by extending a bent end portion 14 on member 9 through a hole 15 in the wall of clip 11, and clip 12 is coupled with shiftable wire member 10 by extending an angularly offset end portion 16 on member 10 through a hole 17 in the wall of clip 12. This arrangement permits substantial elongation of member 4 and increases the reach of the golf ball retriever.

A handle 18 at the outer end of shiftable wire member 10 permits proper handling of the retriever. This handle is formed by bending the end of wire member 10 back upon itself to form parallelly arranged, spaced wire portions 21, 22 connected at one end by a curved wire portion 23 and spaced at its other end by an angular offset locking portion 24. This offset portion cooperates with clip 11 to prevent unintended elongation of the retriever handle member 4 when in its unextended position, as will readily be understood from inspection of the drawing. A locking action of offset portion 24 is readily overcome by slight outward pulling of wire portion 21 to permit passing of clip 11 under locking portion 24.

In operation, the open loop grapple member 3 is brought to a position above the top of the golf ball to be retrieved and pressed downwardly upon such ball until open loop 5 of the grapple member is forced to expand and slide over the largest

diameter of the golf ball to properly hold same in the grapple member, open loop 5, after expansion when forced over the ball, automatically retracts to original size and prevents escape of the ball from the grapple member. In this operation, guiding and supporting member 7 prevents the golf ball from fully passing through the grapple member. Retrieving of a golf ball is greatly facilitated when grapple member 3 is rotated to upside-down position to seat and rest the golf ball on guiding and supporting member 6.

Having thus described my invention what I claim is:

1. A golf ball retriever embodying a straight steel wire structure, formed at its one end with an open-loop, yielding grapple member arranged in a plane through the axis of said straight steel wire structure and having a diameter slightly less than the diameter of a golf ball, and stopping means at the end of the open-loop grapple member extended in substantial vertical relation from the end of said grapple member and bent to prevent passing of a golf ball through said grapple member when the golf ball is more than half extended through said yielding grapple member.

2. A golf ball retriever embodying a straight steel wire bent at one end to form an open, yieldingly expansible loop with a diameter slightly less than the diameter of a golf ball, and an upward extension dimensioned and bent to form a stopping means for a golf ball extended more than half through said open loop.

3. A golf ball retriever as described in claim 2, including a second straight steel wire bent at one end to form a handle, the straight wire portions of said steel wires being slidably coupled at spaced points to provide said golf ball retriever with an extensible handle member for its open loop.

4. A golf ball retriever as described in claim 2, including a second straight steel wire bent at one end to form a handle, and clip members attached to the respective steel wires and coupled with the other respective steel wires to slidably couple the wires at spaced points with each other and provide said golf ball retriever with an extensible handle member.

5. A golf ball retriever embodying a straight steel wire bent at one end to form an open, yieldingly expansible loop with a diameter slightly less than the diameter of a golf ball, and an upward extension dimensioned and bent to form a stopping means for a golf ball extended more than half through said open loop, a second straight steel wire bent at one end to form an elongated loop-shaped handle, and clip members attached to the respective straight steel wires and coupled with the other respective steel wires to slidably couple the wires at spaced points with each other and provide the golf ball retriever with an extensible handle member, and releasable locking means on said elongated, loop-shaped handle cooperating with one of said clip members in preventing shifting of said straight wires when the handle member is in unextended position.

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