Dec. 25, 1923. 1,478,979

M. STOEHRER ET AL

AMUSEMENT APPARATUS

Filed March 31, 1922

Fig. 1.

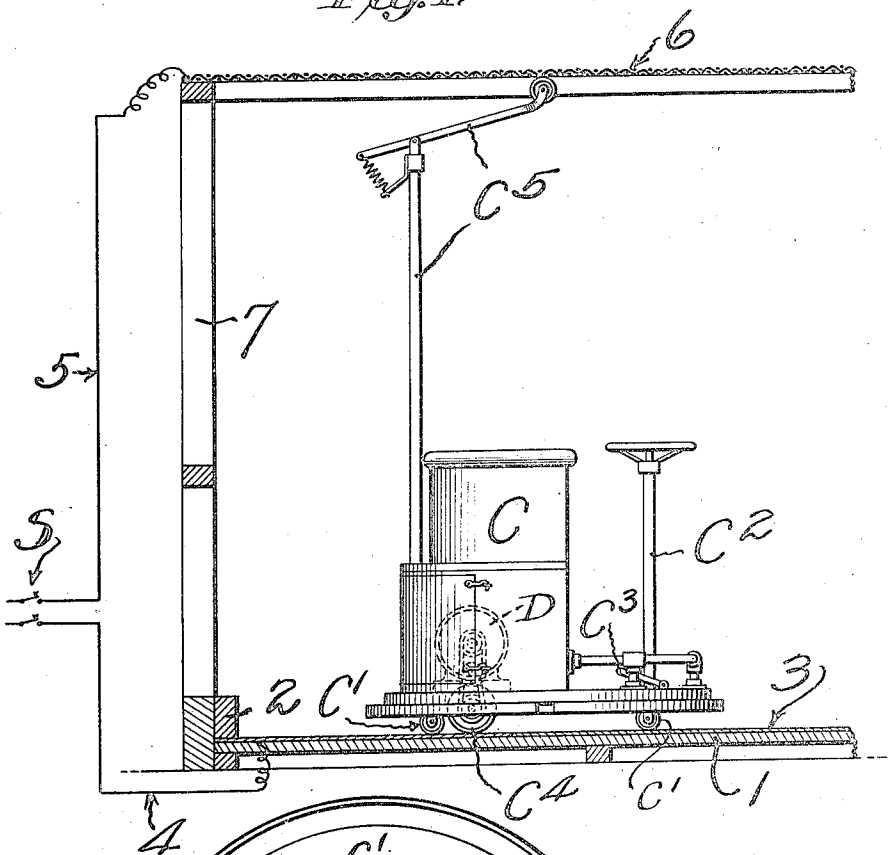
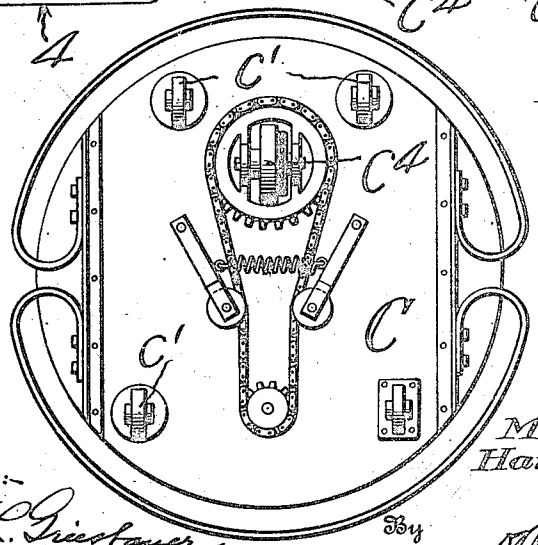


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:-

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MAX STOEHRER AND HAROLD STOEHRER, OF METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNORS TO STOEHRER & PRATT DODGEN CORPORATION, OF LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS, A CORPORATION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

AMUSEMENT APPARATUS.

Application filed March 31, 1922. Serial No. 548,397.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, MAX STOEHRER and HAROLD STOEHRER, citizens of the United States, residing at Methuen, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Amusement Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

This inventions relates to that class of amusement apparatus disclosed in our pending application Serial No. 369,381 and in our issued Patent No. 1,373,108, granted March 29, 1921, and has particular reference to one species of the invention involving the use of a wire mesh or equivalent interstitial electrically charged ceiling structure.

Accordingly, the object of the present invention is the construction of a practical form of amusement apparatus permitting a car to freely travel upon the running floor promiscuously in any direction and to associate with the car a simple manner of supplying current to the driving motor in perfect safety and without danger at all to either the occupants of the car or to the structure.

The particular species of the invention of the present application is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a detail vertical sectional view of the apparatus showing the wire mesh overhead conductor and the platform conductor together with one of the cars located thereon.

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the car shown in Figure 1 clearly illustrating the supporting rollers and motor driven traction unit.

Similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

The apparatus embodying the present invention may be of either a permanent or portable character thereby conveniently permitting of its use at carnivals, fairs and other places of amusement, and includes a plurality of individual cars C adapted to be propelled by a motor driven device D arranged in an electrical circuit which includes a wire mesh or equivalent interstitial electrically charged ceiling structure, and also a metallic conducting platform, floor, or like running field 1, both of which are connected with a source of electrical energy.

As set forth in our Patent No. 1,373,108 the cars C are adapted to be independently and individually manipulated over the floor or running field in such a manner that, due to novel structural features including the unguided supporting rollers or casters C′ in combination with the steering means C^2, they are compelled to follow a more or less uncertain course which frequently results in collisions with other cars and sides of the inclosure to produce sensations and thrills characteristic only of this type of device.

The said platform or running field 1 is preferably inclosed by suitable relatively stout sills 2 or the like which constitute the "blanks" or bumpers for preventing the cars from leaving the platform, while the surface of the latter is preferably covered with a plurality of metallic sheets electrically connected or bonded so as to make in effect a continuous metallic electrode 3 which covers the entire playing field or platform. This metallic electrode 3 is connected with one of the wires 4 of an electric circuit while the other is connected with an overhead wire mesh conductor 6 supported on the framework 7 located around the edges of the platform 1 and serving to support the conductor 6 in such a manner that it is entirely coextensive with the metallic electrode 3.

In connection with the overhead conductor 6 it will be observed that the same is of interstitial form, the same being a wire mesh of any desired form. That is to say, any suitable, convenient and readily obtainable form of open work or wire mesh ceiling may be used to constitute the overhead or ceiling structure for the present apparatus. The wire mesh may be of any gauge or weight but is preferably of a type that is sold in strips of convenient width and length thereby premitting of readily and quickly erecting the overhead conductor. When these strips or parts of the mesh are electrically connected they constitute an interstitial ceiling which provides a very satisfactory overhead conductor because it is not only light and easily erected, but at the same time by reason of its open formation it is especially ad-

vantageous for outside as well as inside installation since it permits of the free circulating of air and shuts out no light from the running or playing field, beside permitting the trolley wheel to have a promiscuous and unguided travel without interruption of the electrical circuit.

The line wires 4 and 5 which supply electrical current respectively to the floor 3 and wire mesh overhead 6 are preferably connected with a switch S connected with a source of electrical supply for opening and closing the circuit to the charged floor 3 and wire mesh 6. The motor device D of the car C is controlled by a foot switch C^3 and is grounded to the floor 3 through the driving caster C^4, and furthermore is electrically connected with the wire mesh 6 through the trolley device C^5 which has a promiscuous traveling engagement with the open work ceiling or wire mesh.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the device includes the metal floor 3 which may be formed of a series of electrically connected conductor plates or their equivalent and the wire mesh ceiling 6, both of which are electrically connected by the line wires 4 and 5 with any conveniently available source of electrical energy. Thus, a ceiling and floor is provided, the former constituting a charged member and the latter a conducting element, and it will be obvious that any element extending between these two members will bridge the gap and close the circuit.

Without further description it is thought that the features and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art and it will of course be understood that changes in the form, proportion and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A trolley system including in combination with a ceiling and floor both possessing electrical conductivity, a vehicle adapted to be supported by said floor, and being in electrical contact therewith, means connecting said vehicle with said ceiling, said ceiling presenting interstices.

2. A trolley system including in combination with a ceiling and floor both possessing electrical conductivity, a vehicle adapted to be supported by said floor, and being in electrical contact therewith, means connecting said vehicle with said ceiling, said ceiling comprising a wire mesh.

3. An amusement device consisting of the combination of a metal floor, an electrically charged ceiling consisting of wire mesh, a motor-driven car free to travel upon and in electrical contact with the metal floor, and a trolley promiscuously movable on the wire mesh and in electrical connection therewith and with the car.

4. A trolley system including in combination with a ceiling and floor both possessing electrical conductivity, and current conducting leads connected to said ceiling and floor respectively, a vehicle adapted to be supported and being in electrical contact with said floor, a motor for driving said vehicle, said ceiling presenting a plurality of interstices, a pole secured to said vehicle, a collector supported by said pole, said collector being of sufficient width to bridge said interstices.

In testimony whereof we hereunto affix our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

MAX STOEHRER.
HAROLD STOEHRER.

Witnesses:
JOSEPH M. HARGEDON,
FREDERICK L. MARKEY.