July 7, 1925. 1,545,326

C. HIGGINS

TOY VEHICLE

Filed Sept. 12, 1924 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

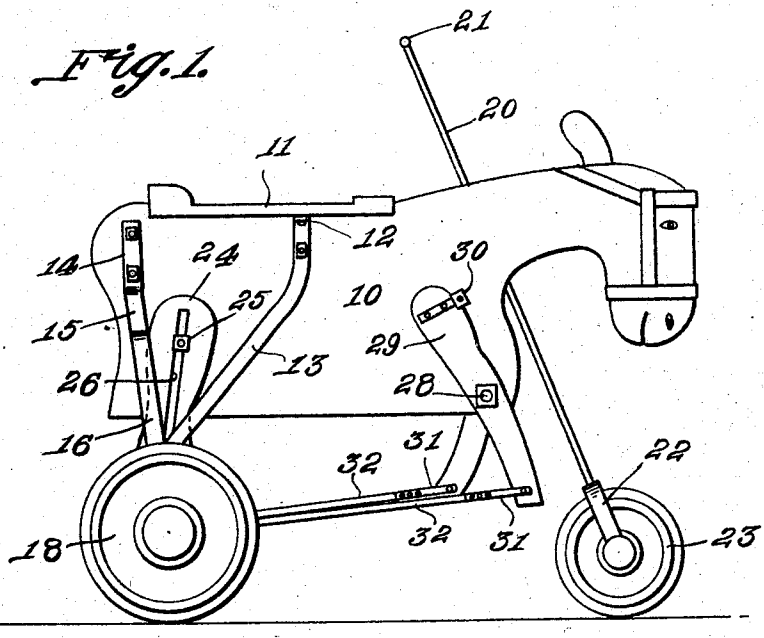
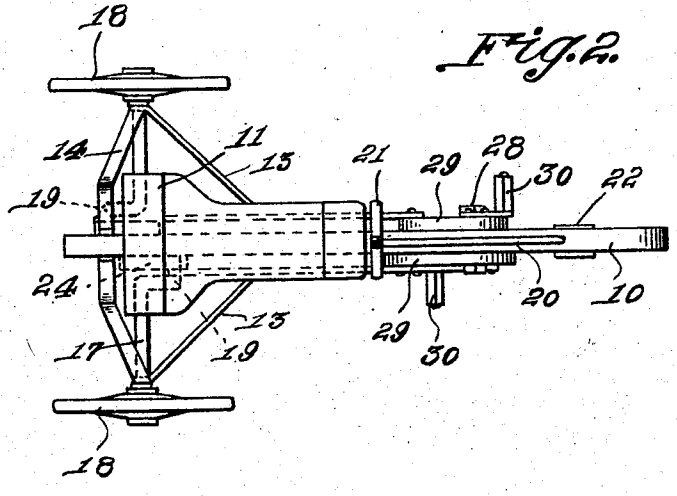


Fig. 2.



Witness:

Claude Higgins INVENTOR

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Fig. 3.

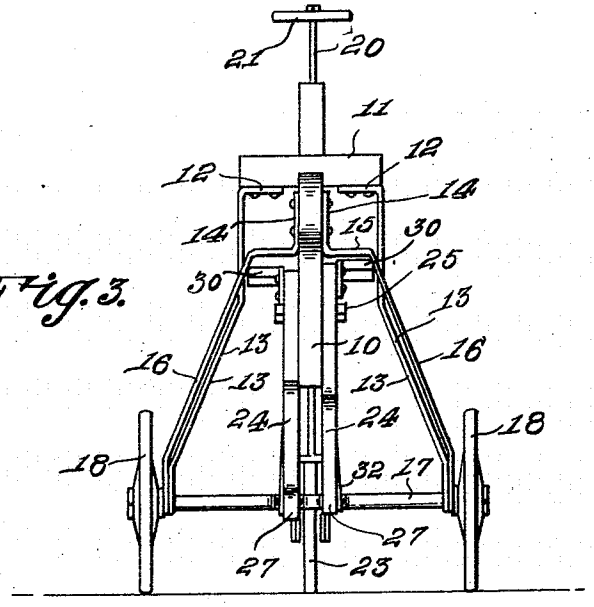


Fig. 4.

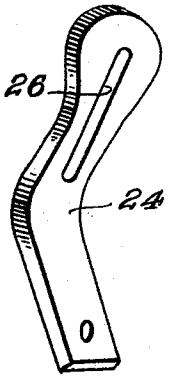


Fig. 5.

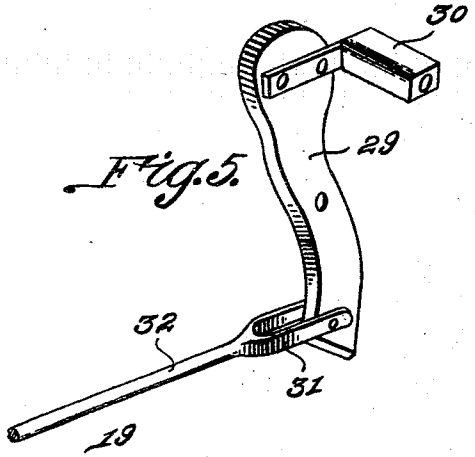
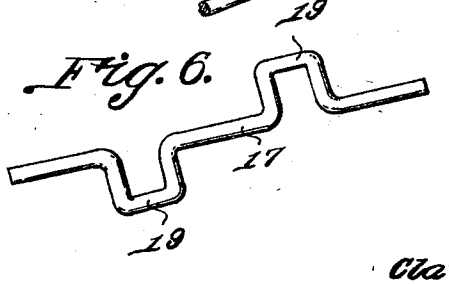


Fig. 6.



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WITNESS:

Patented July 7, 1925. 1,545,326

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLAUDE HIGGINS, OF DELAVAN, WISCONSIN.

TOY VEHICLE.

Application filed September 12, 1924. Serial No. 737,383.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLAUDE HIGGINS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Delavan, in the county of Walworth and State of Wisconsin, have invented new and useful Improvements in Toy Vehicles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to toy vehicles and has for its object the provision of a novel device preferably constructed to resemble a horse or other animal and equipped with pedal operated means whereby it may be propelled along the ground or other surface, the device being wheeled supported and also including legs movably mounted and capable of having a very realistic or life-like movement which will enhance the attractiveness.

An additional object is the provision of this character which will be comparatively simple and inexpensive to manufacture, easy to operate, positive in action, efficient and durable in service, and a general improvement in the art.

With the above and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists in the details of construction to be hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device,

Figure 2 is a top plan view,

Figure 3 is a rear elevation,

Figure 4 is a detail perspective view of one of the rear legs,

Figure 5 is a detail perspective of one of the front legs, and

Figure 6 is a detail view of the rear axle.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, I have shown the device as comprising an elongated body 10 which is preferably constructed of wood of any desired number of pieces suitably fastened together and which is also designed to represent a horse or other animal. Mounted on the top of this body is a platform or seat 11 for the accommodation of the rider, which seat is braced by means of a pair of angular metal strips 12 secured to the under side of the seat and extending downwardly to provide brace arms 13 which extend to a point considerably below the body 10. I also make use of other angular braces designated broadly by the numeral 14 which are secured to the opposite sides of the body 10 at the rear thereof and which include outwardly extending portions 15 and downwardly extending inclined brace arms 16, which together with the previously described brace arms 13 operate to define a frame structure for supporting the rear axle 17 on which are mounted ground engaging wheels 18. As is customary, one wheel is rigid with respect to the axle while the other is free to rotate in order that there will be no difficulty in making turns. This rear axle 17 is formed at opposite sides of its center with cranks 19 for a purpose to be described.

Suitably journaled through the neck portion of the body 10 is a steering post 20 equipped at its upper end with a steering means such as a cross bar 21 and having at its lower end a fork 22 within which is journaled a dirigible front wheel 23. By turning the member 21 it is quite evident that the device may be steered.

The numeral 24 designates a pair of rear legs which are disposed against opposite sides of the body and held thereto by bolts or the like 25 which pass through elongated slots 26 provided for the purpose of permitting these legs to move up or down during the rotation of the rear axle. These rear legs have their lower ends 27 suitably rotatably engaged upon the crank 19 and when the device is travelling along the rear legs will have an up and down as well as forward and rearward swinging movement which will be very realistic.

Pivoted at 28 upon the forward portion of the body are the front legs 29 which have their upper ends equipped with pedals 30 located within convenient reach of the operator mounted upon the seat 11. Pivotally connected with the lower ends of the legs 29 are the forked forward ends 31 of a pair of rearwardly extending links or rods 32 which have their rear ends engaged upon the crank 19 outwardly of the rear legs.

In the use of the device, the operator takes his place upon the seat 11, places his feet upon the pedals 30 and grasps the handle 21. In order to effect propulsion of the device it is merely necessary that alternate forward pressure be applied upon the pedals 30 which will result in rocking the front legs 29 upon their pivot 28. This movement of the legs causes forward and rearward movement of the rods 32 and they, being connected with the crank 19, will operate to turn the rear axle 17 carrying the

rear wheel, so that the device will travel along the ground or other surface. Steering is effected as above described simply by manipulating the handle 21.

From the foregoing description and a study of the drawings it will be apparent that I have thus provided a very simply constructed and consequently inexpensive device for the purpose specified which will be extremely attractive and which will be beneficial and affording an opportunity for exercise.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of the invention, it should be understood that I reserve the right to make changes in the form, construction and arrangement of parts as will not depart from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:

1. In a toy vehicle of the character described, a body, a seat mounted upon the upper edge portion thereof, base members secured to the under side of the seat and extending downwardly and outwardly at opposite sides of the body, other base members secured to the rear of the body at opposite sides and extending downwardly and outwardly, the lower ends of said brace members constituting bearings, a rear axle journaled through said bearings carrying ground engaging wheels, said rear axle being formed with crank portions, a dirigible wheel at the forward portion of the body equipped with steering means, and pedal operated means at the forward portion of the body operatively connected with said crank for turning the rear axle.

2. In a toy vehicle of the character described, a body, a seat mounted thereon, a dirigible front wheel equipped with steering means, a rear axle formed with crank portions and carrying ground engaging means, a pair of rear legs pivotally and slidably mounted at the rear portion of the body and connected with said crank portion to the axle, front legs pivoted intermediate their ends upon the forward portion of the body, pedals on the upper ends of the front legs, and rearwardly extending rods pivotally connected with the lower ends of the front legs and connected with said crank portion to the axle.

3. In a toy vehicle of the character described, a body, a rear axle formed with crank portions and carrying ground engaging wheels, a pair of rear legs disposed on opposite sides of the body and formed with elongated slots, pivot members passing through said slots whereby the legs will be capable of upward and downward as well as forward and rearward swinging movement, the lower ends of said legs being mounted on the crank portion of the axle, front legs pivoted on the body and equipped with pedal operating means, and operative connections with said front legs and said crank portions to the axle.

4. In a toy vehicle of the character described, a body having a seat thereon, a dirigible front wheel equipped with steering means, a rear axle having crank portions and carrying ground engaging wheel, rear legs pivotally and slidably mounted upon the body and connected with the crank portions of the axle, front legs pivoted upon the body and equipped with pedals, and driving means connecting said front legs with the axle for rotating the latter.

5. In a toy vehicle of the character described, a body equipped with a seat, a dirigible front wheel structure equipped with steering means, a rear axle carrying ground engaging wheels, front legs pivoted upon the body and equipped with pedals, drive connections between the front legs and said axle for rotating the latter and rear legs pivotally and slidably mounted upon the body and operatively connected with the axle whereby to have a walking movement during rotation thereof.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CLAUDE HIGGINS.