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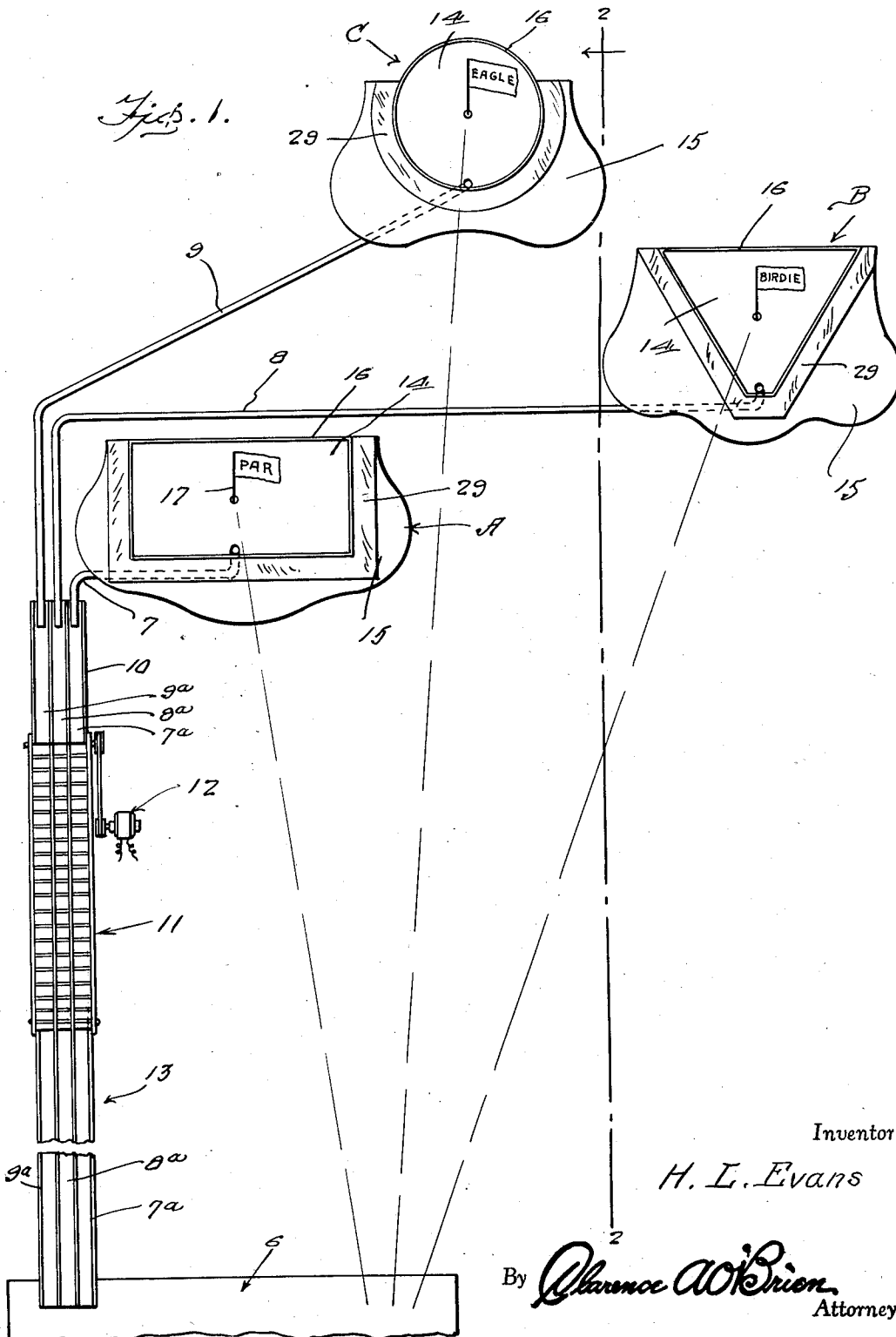
H. L. EVANS

2,011,146

SCORING UNIT FOR GOLF PRACTICE RANGE

Filed Jan. 17, 1934

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 2.

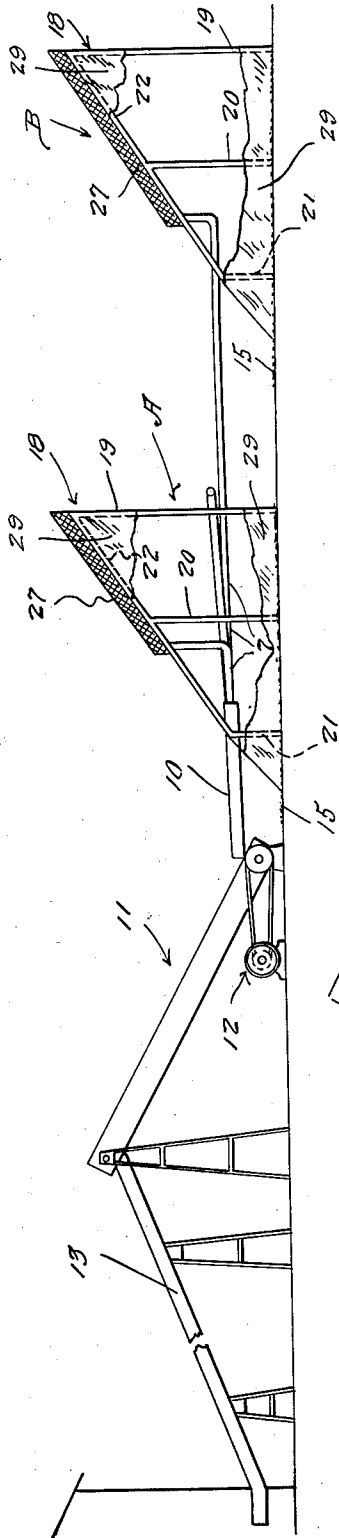
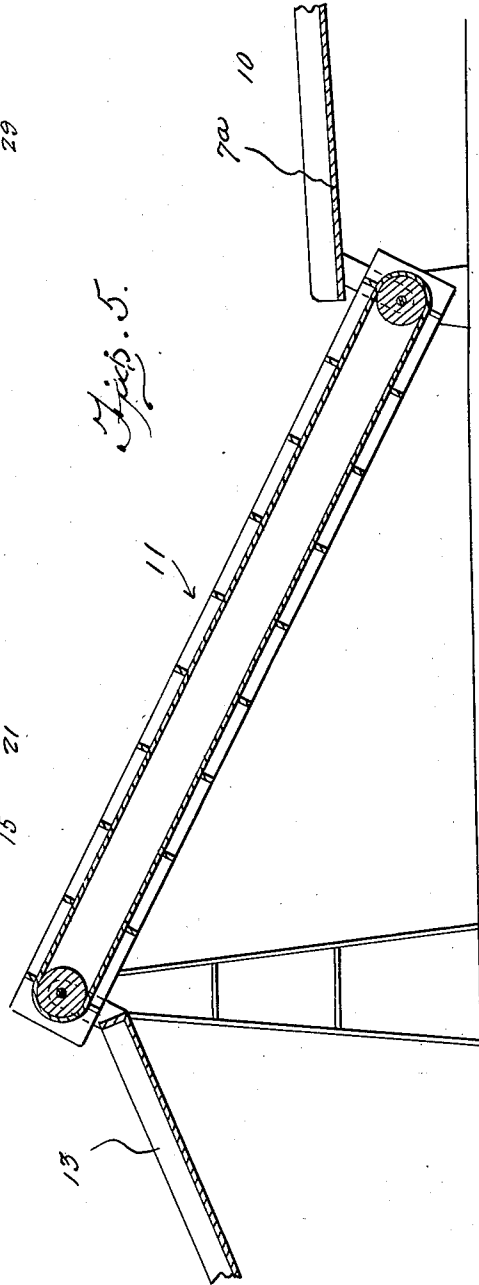


Fig. 5.



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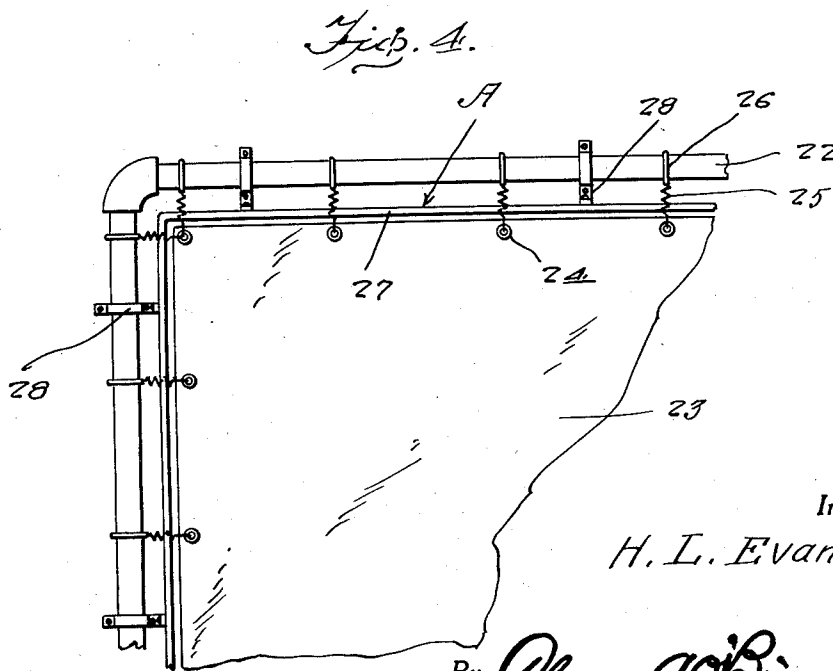
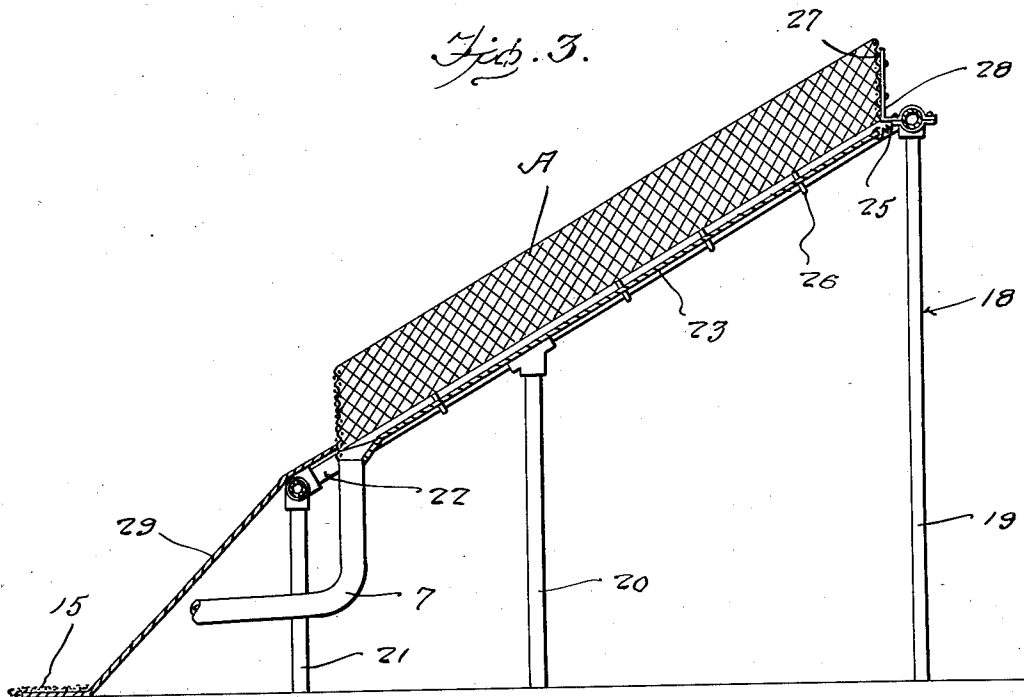
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SCORING UNIT FOR GOLF PRACTICE RANGE

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3



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SCORING UNIT FOR GOLF PRACTICE RANGE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273—32)

This invention relates to a scoring unit for a golf practice range.

In carrying the principles of the present inventive conception into actual practice, I have developed an assemblage of carefully selected and coordinated features designed and allocated in a manner to incite competitive pastime spirit and to promote friendly amusement typical of an innovation of this line of endeavor.

The apparatus is in a sense a game which requires the exercise of skill and judgment of advanced players and embodying such features of accommodation and adaptation as to make it aptly fitted to accomplish the realistic results desired by the inventor.

Briefly stated, the preferred embodiment of the invention comprises a simplified and systematic arrangement of suitably designed and distinguishable ball receptive enclosures, and individual means for returning the trapped balls to the club-house or other desired place in order that the score may be effectively and satisfactorily tallied by the attendant in charge.

Other features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and drawings.

In the drawings, wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same:—

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic top plan view showing the preferred arrangement or layout and illustrating the individual ball return means.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view disclosing the specific construction of the features a little more in detail.

Figure 3 is a sectional and elevational view of one of the ball trapping enclosures or targets, giving a clear idea of the general set-up.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary top plan view of the portion of the structure depicted in Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a longitudinal sectional view disclosing certain features of the ball return means.

Referring now to the drawings by distinguishing reference characters and considering Figure 1, it will be observed that the teeing ground, which may be of any appropriate dimension and character, is generally denoted by the numeral 6. Those familiar with public golf practice courses and driving ranges know that it is customary in such fields to have a suitable fairway and at the point where the balls are teed up for driving, it is customary to have suitably divided individual ground areas for the players and participants. As a general proposition, there are markers in the outfield in the form of flags which indicate

the directions and distances of drives, etc. Under certain conditions, a green is marked off or fenced in or a similar pen is utilized and located at a predetermined centralized point to test skill and accuracy of distance and drive. In the present arrangement it is the idea to use three ball trapping enclosures located at different distances apart and these are in the form of inclined ball trapping enclosures differentiated by the letters A, B and C. Each target or enclosure is the same in construction, although the outlines are shaped to vary somewhat to aid in distinguishing them. They are supposed to occupy positions at predetermined distances from the teeing ground 6. For example, the target A may be some two hundred yards away and the target B two hundred and twenty-five yards and the target C two hundred and fifty yards. Furthermore, in accordance with my idea, when the target is hit and the ball trapped, it determines the value or score of the drive. That is to say, by making the target A, a player can count this particular stroke as par, while making the target B enables him to count the stroke as birdie, and finally if the shot is landed and trapped by the target C, this denotes an eagle. Moreover, there is an individual ball return from each of the targets leading back to the club-house or other place where an attendant can tally the score.

The multiple ball return means illustrated in Figure 1 comprises a ball return pipe 7 leading from the green A. Similar distinguishable pipes 8 and 9 are operatively connected with the greens B and C, respectively. All of these pipes discharge into a common ball return trough 10. This trough 10 is, however, divided into separate runways, differentiated at 7^a, 8^a and 9^a, and obviously communicating with the companion ball return pipes 7, 8 and 9.

The numeral 11 in the ball return means comprises an endless inclined conveyor. This is of suitable construction and the endless belt thereof is operated through the instrumentality of an electric motor or suitable source of power 12. The belt is also divided so as to separate the balls and to feed them into the ball discharge trough 13. Thus the balls from the pipes 7, 8 and 9 are emptied first into the inlet or intake trough 10 and then carried up the inclined conveyor 11 and discharged into the exit or discharge trough 13. In practice, this trough 13 obviously leads back to a point at which the returning balls may be effectively checked and the score satisfactorily tallied.

Referring again to Figure 1, it is to be stated

that the numeral 14 designates the green proper and the numeral 15 designates the sand trap. The green is enclosed with a fence 16 and provided with a marking flag or indicator 17. Thus if a ball strikes the "green" it is trapped. This idea of a distant marked green of a predetermined value with a fence around it and a sand trap, is believed to be unique, particularly when taken in conjunction with the individual easy calculating ball return means.

As before stated, each one of the greens or targets A, B and C is the same in construction so far as mechanical details are concerned. Therefore, the description of one will suffice for all. Referring to Figure 3, for example, it will be observed that the numeral 18 designates a suitable stand having supporting legs 19, 20 and 21 of graduated height so as to incline the frame 22 carried by said legs. The frame may be of any appropriate configuration and dimension. The green is preferably constructed of canvas or appropriate textile material 23, as shown in Figure 4, and provided around its margin with eyelets 24 to which springs 25 are connected. The springs 25 are in turn attached to rings 26 surrounding the rod members of the frame. This provides the desired feature of resiliency found to be practicable in a target of this type. The wire fence which may be of any appropriate dimension is distinguished by the numeral 27 and said fence is supported from the frame by the L-shaped brackets 28 which support the fence slightly inwardly of the outer edge of the canvas. Hence, it will be seen that each target comprises a stand including an inclined frame and supporting leg, a green comprising flexible yieldably suspended sheet material, and the ball confining marginal fence in inclined arrangement facilitates not only the landing and trapping of the ball, but provides for automatic gravitation of the ball into the return pipe to facilitate subsequent retrieving thereof. Strips 29 of canvas or the like slope downwardly and outwardly from the front and sides of the frame to the ground and the sand extends outwardly from the lower edges of these strips. These strips prevent balls from passing under the frames and direct the balls striking them into the sand traps.

Rules of play

Ordinary play will consist of 18 holes; 36 or 72 hole play being reserved for teams in tournament competition.

Each ball driven will represent one hole played. All scores will be figured as Medal play (strokes).

Par score for eighteen holes will be 72, each of the three greens carrying its respective value, that is, A—green will be Par 4; B—green will be Birdie 3 and C—green will be Eagle 2.

A ball not scoring either of the three greens will be counted one over par; or 5.

A practice range carrying twenty driving tees will have the balls numbered from one to twenty.

These will be given out for play in sets of 18, each ball carrying the same number.

At no time must two players be allowed to play two sets of balls bearing the same number.

This is to avoid two or more players claiming the same score. Individual score tables, with ball tray will be placed at each tee so that the player can keep a tally of his score, hole for hole.

It is understood, of course, that the rules and regulations of play may be varied as conditions demand.

In interpreting the claims, it is believed that the so-called greens A, B and C may be also defined as marked graduated ball trapping targets in the sense that the players shoot at the desired target and in that each target is systematically located with respect to the other with the highest scoring target closest to the ball driving tee.

It is thought that persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates will be able to obtain a clear understanding of the invention after considering the description in connection with the drawings. Therefore, a more lengthy description is regarded as unnecessary.

Minor changes in shape, size, and re-arrangement of details coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to in actual practice, if desired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is:

1. A golf field having a teeing ground at one end thereof, a plurality of ball trapping targets located on the field at different driving distances from the teeing ground, each target including an elevated frame, having its top portion sloping downwardly and toward the teeing ground, a flexible sheet, means yieldably connecting the marginal portions of the sheet with said top portion of the frame for holding the sheet in stretched condition within the frame, an upright fence surrounding the sheet and supported from the upper portion of the frame, means for leading the balls from the lower part of the sheet to the teeing ground, an outwardly and downwardly sloping sheet having its upper edge connected to the front and side portions of the frame with its lower edge contacting the ground, and a sand trap extending outwardly from the lower edge of the last mentioned sheet, said targets being of different shapes.

2. A target for a golf field comprising an inclined openwork frame, supporting legs therefor, a flexible sheet, means yieldably connecting the marginal portions of the sheet with the frame for holding the sheet in stretched condition in the frame, an upright fence surrounding the sheet and supported from the frame, an outwardly and downwardly sloping sheet having its upper edge connected to the front and side portions of the frame with its lower edge contacting the ground, and a sand trap extending outwardly from the lower edge of the last mentioned sheet.

HARRY L. EVANS.