P. V. TOWNSEND.

WAVE COASTER SLIDE.

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1,239,848. Patented Sept. 11, 1917.

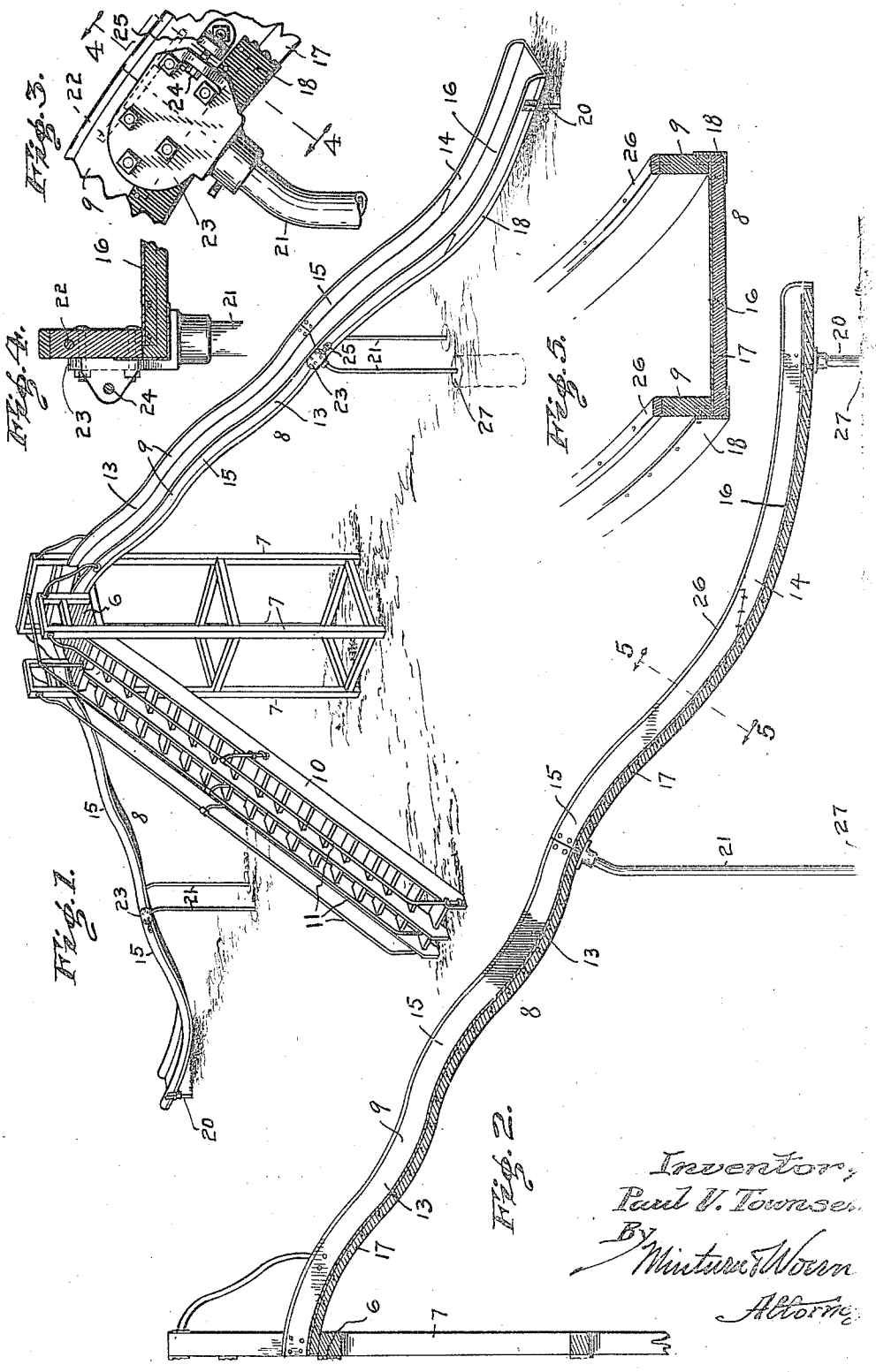


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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WAVE COASTER-SLIDE.

1,239,848. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 11, 1917.

Application filed October 4, 1916. Serial No. 123,655.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PAUL V. TOWNSEND, a citizen of the United States, residing at Anderson, in the county of Madison and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wave Coaster-Slides, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices for physical exercise and pleasure, particularly for children where large numbers of them are to be entertained in public parks and school and other playgrounds, and the object of the invention is to provide a strong and durable structure capable of being shipped in sections and assembled and erected by unskilled labor, and a further object is to provide a coaster-slide with a series of waves which will afford a corresponding number of thrills to the person using it and finally leave them in an easy sitting posture on the lower end of the slide.

I accomplish the above, and other objects which will hereinafter appear, by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my device comprising a double coaster-slide. Fig. 2 is a vertical section longitudinally of one of the slides. Fig. 3 shows a fragment of the slide and middle supporting post and the casting in side elevation for attaching the post to the slide and for uniting the two portions of the slide which are here joined together. Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3 and Fig. 5 is a cross section of the slide on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2.

Like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

A platform 6 is elevated by four posts 7 to the height from which the slides 8 are to descend, and the posts 7 are continued above the platform to aid in supporting suitable guard-rails 9. I have shown two coaster slides 8 descending from the platform in two diametrically opposite directions, but in many installations in practice, only one slide is used.

A stairway 10, leads from the ground to the top of the platform and slides and provides the means for reaching the platform preparatory to the use of the slide. It is provided with hand-rails 11 to avoid accidents and also to aid the climber. I have shown three hand-rails 11 in Fig. 1, the middle one dividing the stairs and platform into two runs for separate use by boys and girls respectively.

The slide 8 comprises a pair of risers 9, preferably of wood, which extend the full length of the slide and are longitudinally sinuous to impart the desired wave movement to the person coasting, and to check his speed and to land him in a comfortable sitting position at the lower end of the slide. A series of undulations which vary the speed of the coaster and give him a series of thrills, one at each quickening of descent, is more enjoyable than a single glide. I therefore shape the risers with two downward curves 13, 13 at the upper portion of the slide and a longer downward curve 14 at its lower end, each of said curves merging into the substantially equal upward curves 15, as shown. These upward curves tend to slacken the rate of travel of the person coasting, whereas the descent into the downward curves accelerates it.

The lower downward curve 14 is much longer than the two downward curves higher up, and it terminates with a substantially horizontal portion at the end of the slide, whereby the speed of the coaster is checked and he comes to a stop there instead of being violently discharged.

The two risers are connected at their lower curved edges by a sheet of smooth metal 16, which is nailed thereto and provides a smooth surface down which the coaster glides by direct contact therewith. This metal is reinforced and supported by a wooden floor 17 of preferably tongued and grooved boards placed transversely of the slide and nailed to the risers. The corners of the slide where the floor joins are bound and reinforced by a sheet metal angle-strip 18, which laps the joints between the risers and flooring and underlaps the slide and is nailed at each longitudinal edge as shown.

The lower end of the slide is supported above the ground by legs 20, at a suitable height to enable a child's feet to reach the ground by the bend of his knees, when he arrives at the lower end of the slide when coasting down it.

About midway of the length of the slide I provide a pair of post-supports 21, and at this location I also prefer to divide the slide transversely into two detachable sec-

tions for convenience in manufacture, storage and transportation. Dowel pins 22 enter the abutting ends of the joint thus formed, and a plate 23 of cast iron overlaps the adjoining ends of the slide on the outside and is bolted to the riser. This plate has an under side socket on an angular extension of the plate as shown in Fig. 4, to receive the end of post 21. The post 21 is secured by a set screw.

In assembly, the platform 6 can be erected and the upper portion of the slide to and including the posts 21, placed. Then the lower portion of the slide can be readily brought into position with the dowel pins inserted and the joint closed by the aid of a bolt 24 passing through a perforated lug on plate 23 and through a screw-threaded hole in a lug 25 in a plate bolted to the lower riser member, as shown in Fig. 3, and when the joint is thus drawn tight the bolts securing the plate 23 to the lower riser-member may be easily placed. The joint can be kept tight by the aid of the bolt 24.

The sheet metal floor cover 16 is bent down against the edges of the floor at the joint, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4, and there held when the ends are drawn together.

The risers for the upper slide member can be cut out of one piece of timber with security but size of the curve in the lower slide member requires the use of two pieces of timber to secure the strength of the grain, and these I unite by a bevel scarf joint 25. As the risers form hand-rests for the coasters I avoid splinters by bending a cap-strip of wood 26 and nailing it upon the upper edges of the risers.

The bases of the legs 20 and posts 21 are embedded in concrete 27, in the manner shown.

While I have described my invention with more or less minuteness as regards details of construction and arrangement and as being embodied in certain precise forms, I do not desire to be limited thereto unduly or any more than is pointed out in the claims. On the contrary, I contemplate all proper changes in form, construction and arrangement, the omission of immaterial elements and the substitution of equivalents as circumstances may suggest or as necessity may render expedient.

I claim—

1. A coaster slide having a plurality of downward curves and a plurality of upward curves merging therewith, said slide comprising a pair of sinuous risers and a smooth metal covered floor connecting them, said slide being in two transversely separable members, a socket plate bolted to one member of the slide and having an extension overlapping the other slide member, means fixed to said other slide member to engage said plate and draw said slide members together, and a post in the socket supporting the socket plate.

2. A coaster slide having a plurality of downward curves and a plurality of upward curves merging therewith, said slide comprising a pair of sinuous risers and a smooth floor connecting them, said slide being in two transversely separable members, dowel pins in their meeting ends, a metal plate bolted to the outside of one member of the slide, said plate having an under side post socket and a perforated lug on an extension of the plate which overlaps the other slide member, a second plate with a perforated lug bolted to the last named slide member, a bolt connecting the two lugs to draw the slide members together, means to secure the plate to said last slide member and a post to enter the socket in the plate and extend to the ground to support the slide at said joint.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Anderson, Indiana, this 8th day of July, A. D. one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

PAUL V. TOWNSEND. [L. S.]