LE ROY RAYMOND.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

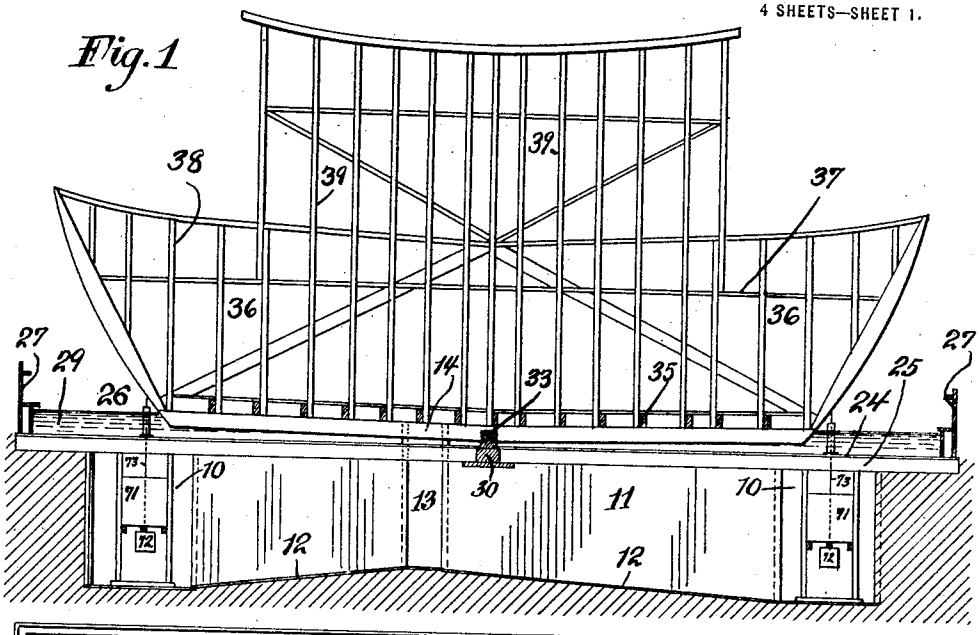
APPLICATION FILED MAY 26, 1920.

1,400,314.

Patented Dec. 13, 1921.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1



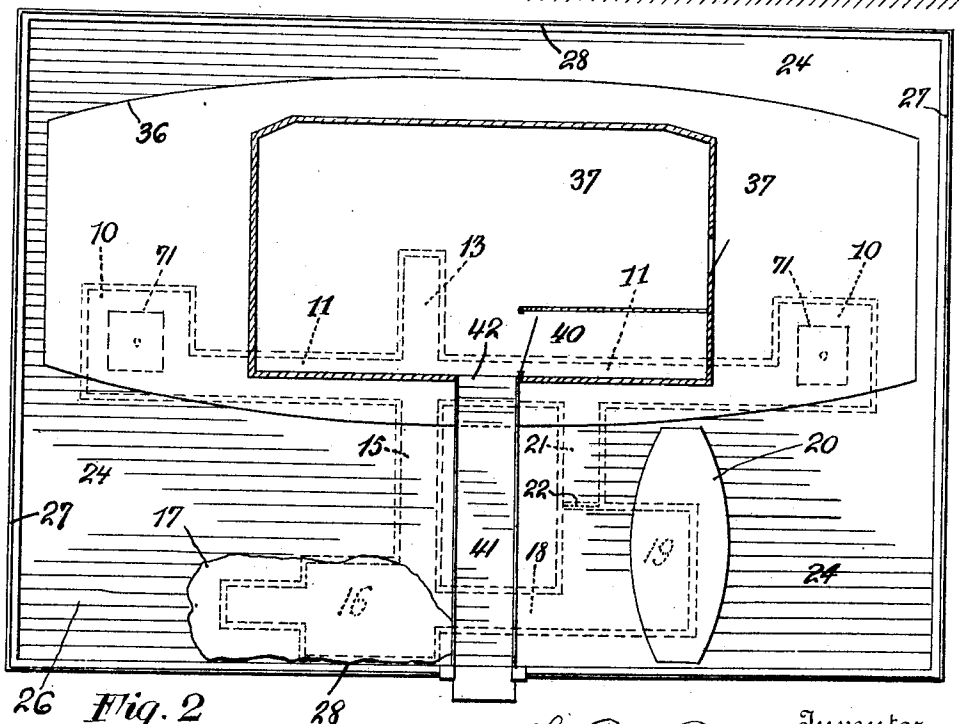


Fig. 2

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4 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3

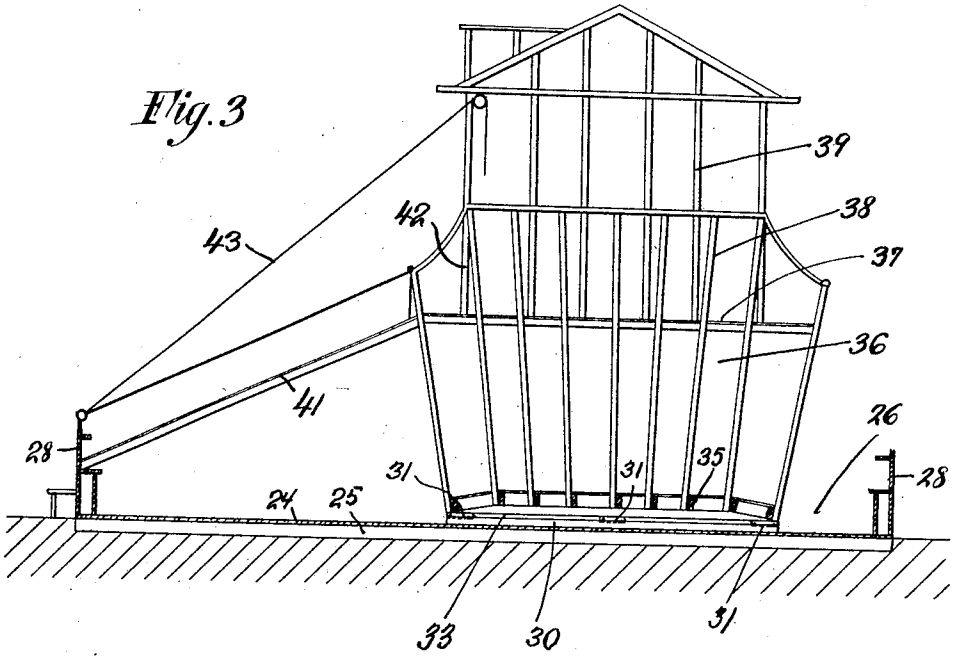
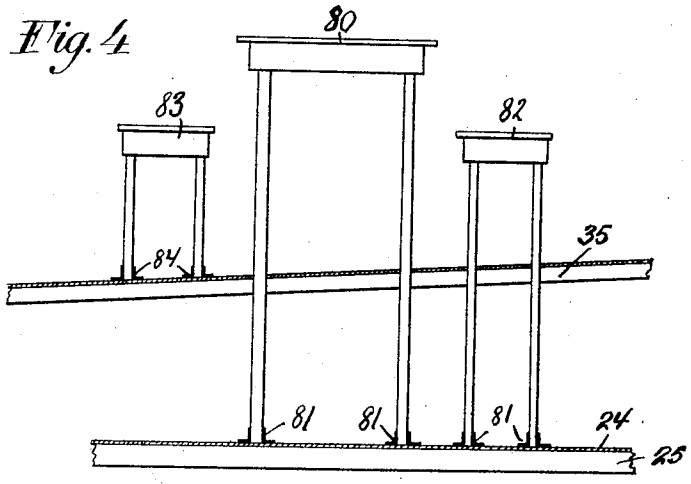


Fig. 4



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4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

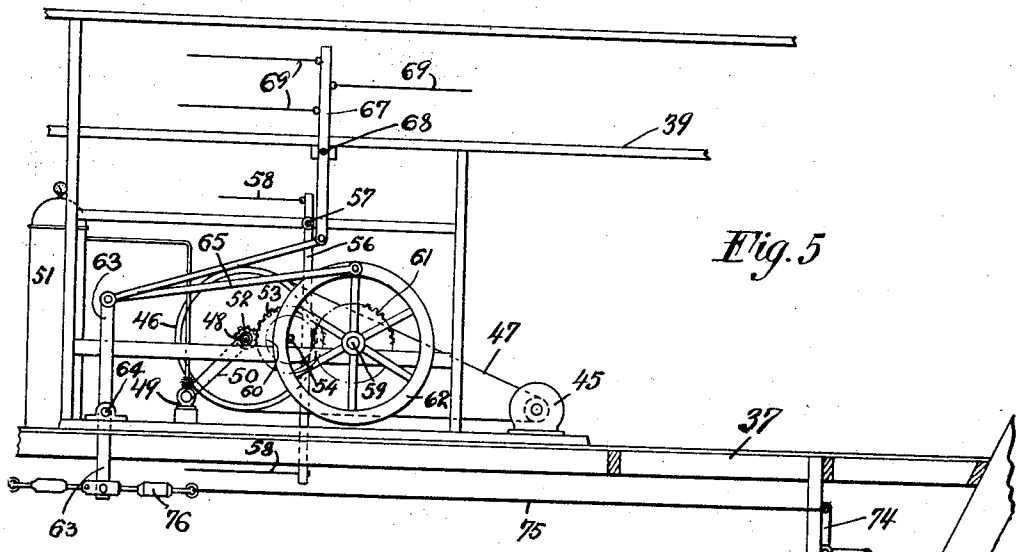


Fig. 5

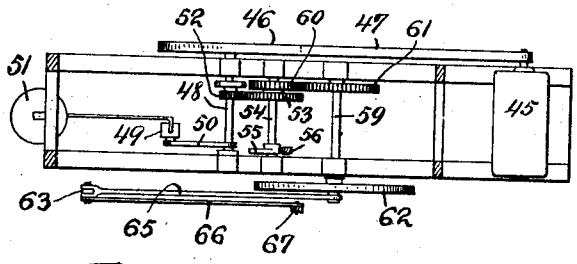
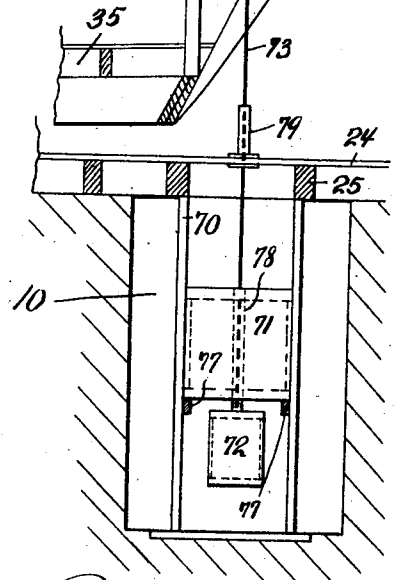


Fig. 6



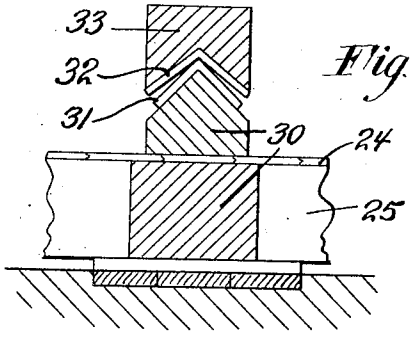


Fig. 7

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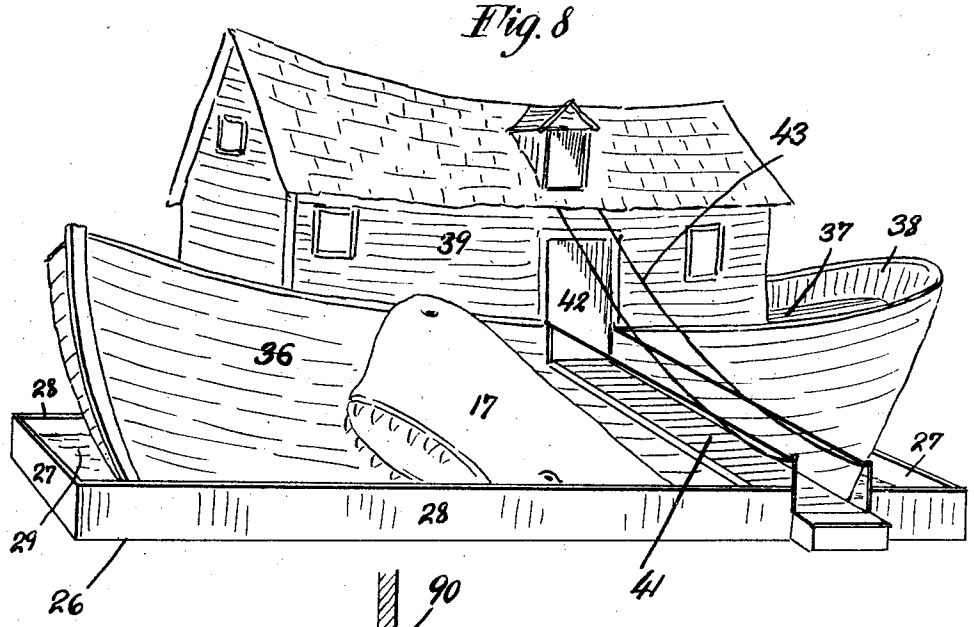
4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

Fig. 8



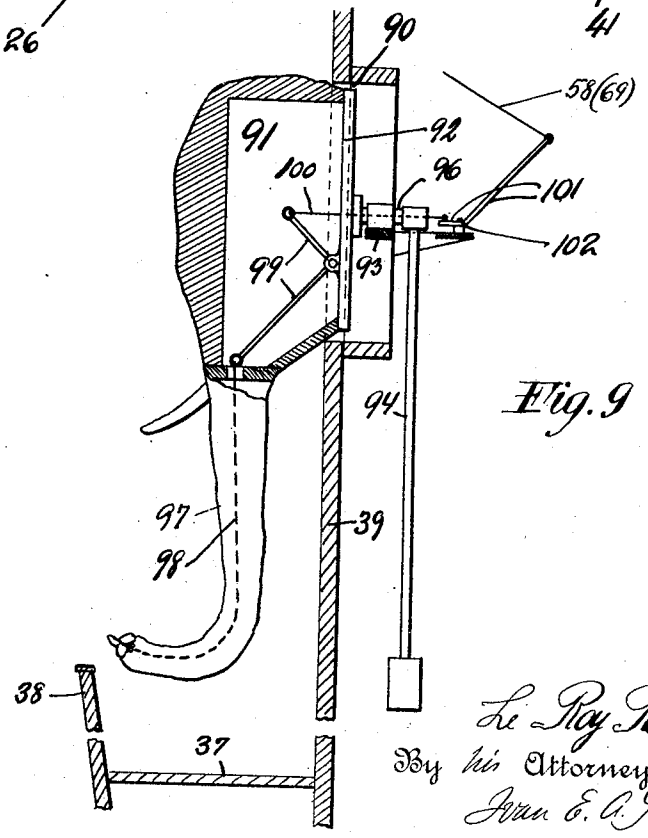


Fig. 9

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

1,400,314. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 13, 1921.

Application filed May 26, 1920. Serial No. 384,503.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LE ROY RAYMOND, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Ocean Park, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Amusement Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to amusement devices or apparatus. The object of the invention is to provide an amusement device embodying the popular conception of a "Noah's ark". To this end the invention contemplates a structure in the form of a boat house adapted to be operated to rock like a boat. The structure is mounted in a tank filled with water, or it may be mounted on a pier which already is in the water. The structure contains a plurality of "show" or amusement devices for the entertainment of the public who visit the boat. Other objects of the invention are to provide means for operating amusement devices from the machinery on board the boat or adapted to be actuated directly by the movement of the boat. Also to provide means whereby said device or apparatus may be conveniently installed in amusement places or public parks.

With the above and other objects in view my invention is embodied in an amusement device constructed and arranged as hereinafter set forth and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of the house boat structure showing the framework thereof, with the tank in section and certain subterranean features also in section.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the tank, showing the boat structure in outline and in section.

Fig. 3 is an end view of the frame structure of the boat and illustrates the supporting means therefor.

Fig. 4 illustrates an amusement device operated by the movement of the boat.

Fig. 5 is a detail view of the power plant or machinery for operating the device.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the machinery.

Fig. 7 is a detail view of the supporting pivots for the boat.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the completed structure.

Fig. 9 is a sectional view of an amusement device operated partly by the machinery of the boat and partly by the movement of the boat.

The amusement device herein disclosed comprises a houseboat structure preferably built of wood to resemble the popular conception of what a Noah's ark should look like. The structure is mounted in a tank to rock about the transverse axis of the structure. In order to complete the illusion the houseboat contains a great number of amusement devices, such as mechanical animals, trick furniture, difficult passageways and the like. Subterranean passages and devices are arranged, partly for amusement purposes and partly for the purposes of containing some of the machinery.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2 there is provided certain subterranean passages and wells as follows. The numerals 10 denote wells adapted to contain counterweights or balancing weights hereinafter described, and which are connected by a main passageway 11 having sloping floors 12 for drainage purposes. From the passage 11 extends a passage 13 in under the vessel communicating with the interior thereof through a suitable outlet or opening as at 14. Another passage 15 extends forwardly as it were and terminates in a chamber 16 over which is built a structure 17 resembling the head and forward portion of a huge whale. The chamber 16 and the whale head may be used for amusement purposes. From the passage 15 another passage 18 leads to a second subterraneous chamber 19 over which may be built a structure 20 resembling a submarine which is diagrammatically indicated in Fig. 2. A by-pass 21 leads to the chamber 19 from the main passage 11. A window 22 may be inserted in said by-pass 21 to serve as a screen or partition through which amusement features may be observed from the chamber 19. The said passages and chambers are all suitably lined as shown.

Above the aforesaid passages the ground is suitably prepared and a floor 24 laid upon proper foundation members 25. The floor 24 forms the bottom of a shallow tank 26 having sides 27 and 28 and containing water 29. Included in the floor construction are

certain pivotal base members 30, see Fig. 7. The said members 30 are provided with lower pivot plates 31 upon which rest upper pivot plates 32 secured to a transverse boat pivot member 33. There may be several of the said pivots arranged along the boat pivoted member 33, see Fig. 3, and the said member preferably extends centrally of the boat transversely thereof.

On the member 33 there is supported a suitable boat floor construction 35 which supports a vessel structure 36 containing a deck 37 and railing members 38. A house or superstructure 39 is erected on the deck 37. The said several structures are made preferably of lumber and no attempt has been made to indicate in the drawings the exact manner of shaping or joining the several units and members, it being obviously a work within the purview of persons skilled in the art of making structures of the types indicated. On the deck a suitable machinery room 40 may be partitioned off. In addition the entire houseboat will be filled with amusement features, which, however, are not shown. A suitable bridge 41 leads from the ground to a main entrance 42 on the deck 37. The bridge may be hoisted by means of cables 43 so as to close the entrance to the structure.

In the machinery room is located a power plant operated from a small electric motor or other prime mover 45 which drives a flywheel 46 by means of a belt 47. From the flywheel shaft 48 an air compressor 49 is driven by a belt 50. The compressor is piped to the storage tank 51 from which air is taken as it may be needed to operate some of the amusement devices installed on the boat. By means of gears 52 and 53 a shaft 54 is driven from the shaft 48. On the shaft 54 is secured a cam 55 which operates an oscillating member 56 pivoted at 57 and to which cables 58 are attached and from which other amusement devices may be operated. The shaft 54 drives a third shaft 59 by means of gears 60 and 61. On the shaft 59 is mounted a crank wheel 62 which oscillates a main rocking member 63 pivoted at 64 through the instrumentality of a link 65. By means of another link 66 a member 67 pivoted at 68 is oscillated to operate cables 69 secured to said member. It will be seen therefore that means are provided, namely the cables aforesaid, for operating the amusement devices on the boat from the power plant.

In the aforesaid wells 10 there is in each well erected a framework 70 within which a relatively heavy weight 71 is adapted to move vertically. Below said weight is an auxiliary weight 72 which is attached by a cable 73 to a bell crank 74 while another cable 75 passes from the bell crank to the main rocking member 63 aforesaid, a turn buckle 76 affords the means for required adjustment. The main weight 71 serves as an anchor and rests normally on suitable supporting means 77. The cable 73 passes through the main weight or anchor through a pipe 78 therein. The weights are preferably boxes filled with sand.

During normal operation the main rocking member serves to rock the boat by pulling against the main weight at either end alternately, each weight being heavy enough to serve as an anchor. If, however, too many people should gather at one end of the boat so as to overcome the weight of the anchor 71, the latter will be lifted off its supporting means 77 in that the auxiliary weight will be pulled up against the main weight. The auxiliary weight serves to keep the weight cables taut.

The steady operation of the power plant and the rocking member 63 with its equal alternate pull at either end of the boat on the weights there imparts a slow steady rocking movement to the boat fore and aft giving an excellent imitation of the natural rocking or swaying motion of a vessel at anchor. In order to prevent water from entering the weight wells, the cables pass upward through pipes 79 extending to above the water level.

As explained above, the boat contains amusement features of various sorts and description. Fig. 4 illustrates such a feature operated solely by the movement of the boat in the tank. In the said figure the numeral 80 represents a table which is secured at 81 to the tank floor 24. 82 is a seat similarly secured. 83 is another seat secured at 84 to the boat flooring 35. It follows that when the boat rocks downward on the right hand side, a person sitting on the seat 82 will suddenly feel the floor move away from his feet, while a person sitting on seat 83 will be moved down with respect to the table. When the boat rises, the person on seat 82 will feel the floor pushing upward against his feet, while the person sitting on seat 83 will have the sensation of being suddenly moved up into the air away from the table 80. This will afford considerable amusement and seem quite mysterious to the people.

Referring to Fig. 9 an example is there illustrated of an amusement device operated partly by the movement of the boat and partly from the power plant. Projecting through a suitable opening 90 from the boat housing 39 is the head 91 of an elephant constructed of lumber, canvas, plaster or other similar materials. The head is mounted on a disk 92 pivoted at its center to a shaft 96 on a bracket 93 which extends across the said opening 90 and to the said shaft there is attached a pendulum weight 94. It will be seen that the rocking of the boat will oscil-

late the elephant's head on the shaft 96 as the pendulum tends to maintain a vertical position.

In addition, the elephant's trunk 97 may be raised and lowered regularly by means of the cable 98 secured to bell crank 99, to which another cable 100 is attached which, passes through the shaft 96 and is operable from the two armed lever 101 which is pivoted at 102. One of the aforesaid cables 58 or 69, see Fig. 5, may be attached to the lever 101 to regularly raise and lower the trunk.

There is thus herein disclosed two examples of amusement features installed on the boat. It will be understood without further illustration that similarly numerous other features may be, and in fact are installed on the boat.

It will further be appreciated that although the invention herein is disclosed in its preferred form, it is susceptible of changes and alternations within the scope of the appended claims within the principle of the invention.

I claim:

1. In an amusement device the combination of a shallow tank, a vessel pivoted therein, said vessel being in the form of a houseboat and having substantiallly its entire body projecting above the said tank, anchors located below the said tank, a rocking member mounted on the said vessel and connected to the said anchors and means on said vessel for actuating said rocking member to oscillate the said vessel on its pivot.

2. In an amusement device the combination of a tank adapted to contain water, a houseboat structure pivoted in said tank on the floor thereof, a plurality of amusement devices in said houseboat structure, mechanism for oscillating said houseboat structure in the water in the tank, means for operating some of the said amusement devices from the said mechanism and means for operating other of the said amusement devices by the movement of the said houseboat structure.

3. In an amusement device the combination of a tank having a floor, a plurality of subterraneous wells below the said floor, a houseboat pivoted on the latter, anchors positioned in the said subterraneous wells, mechanism for oscillating the said boat and connections between the said anchors and the said mechanism.

4. In an amusement device the combination of a tank, a vessel therein, subterraneous wells arrange beneath said tank, anchors in said wells, mechanism for oscillating said vessel connected to said anchors and means communicating between said wells and the interior of the said vessel.

5. In an amusement device the combination of a tank, a vessel therein, wells arranged beneath said tank, mechanism for oscillating the vessel in the tank, normally fixed anchors supported in the said wells, connections between said anchors and the said mechanism and auxiliary weights adapted to be operated to lift the said anchors when the said oscillating mechanism acts against an abnormal load.

6. In an amusement device the combination of a tank containing water, a vessel in said tank, wells arranged underneath the latter, mechanism in said vessel for oscillating the same, anchors in said wells adapted to rest in normally predetermined positions by gravity, auxiliary weights in said wells, connections between the said auxiliary weights and the said oscillating mechanism, said connections extending upward through the said weights and the said tank to the said mechanism, said auxiliary weights being adapted to raise said anchors to counterbalance abnormal loads on the said oscillating mechanism.

LE ROY RAYMOND.