June 25, 1929. N. DE PENTO 1,718,637

BATHER'S AMUSEMENT DEVICE

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Fig. 1.

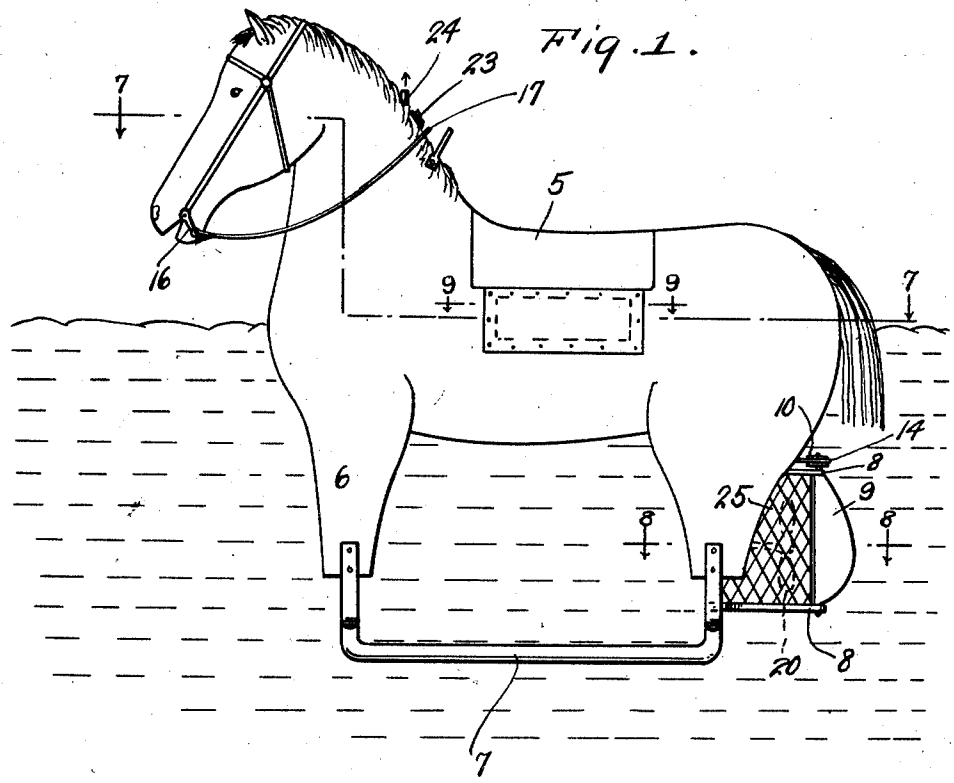


Fig. 2.

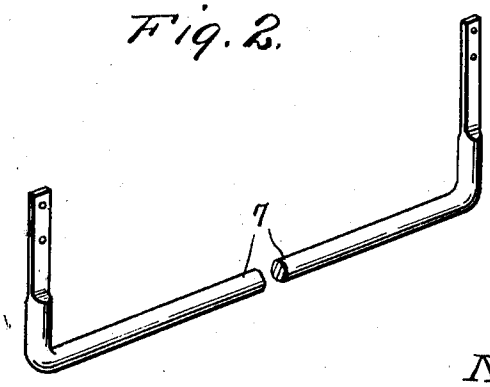
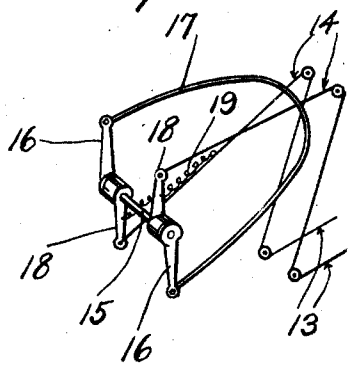


Fig. 3.



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BATHER'S AMUSEMENT DEVICE

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Fig. 4.

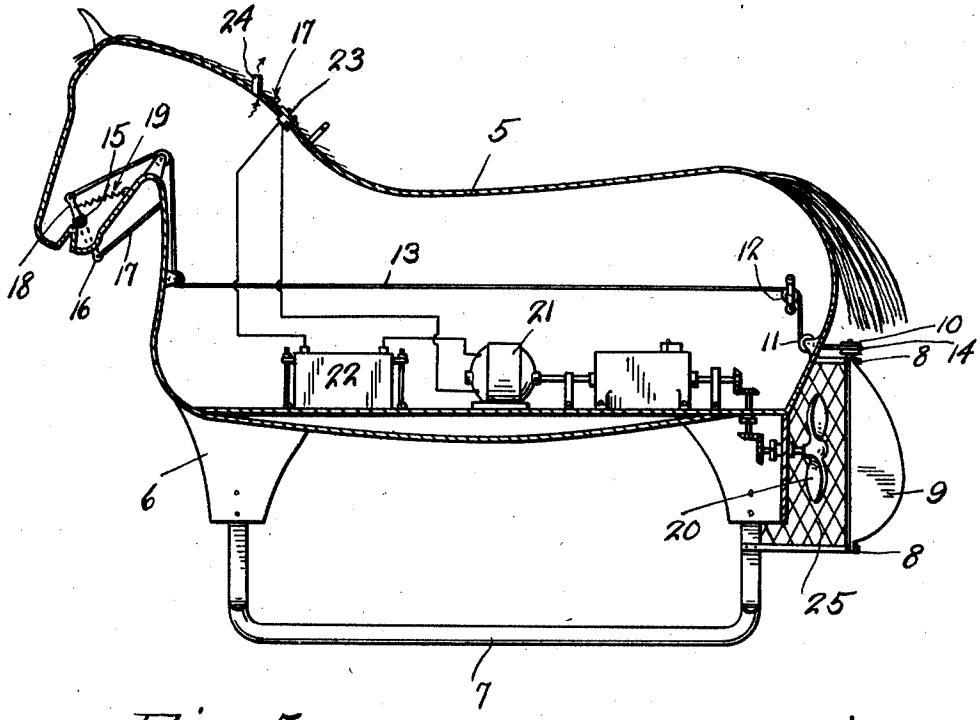


Fig. 5.

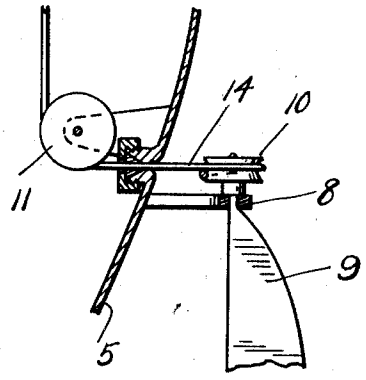
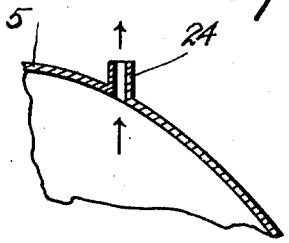


Fig. 6.



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BATHER'S AMUSEMENT DEVICE

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Fig. 7.

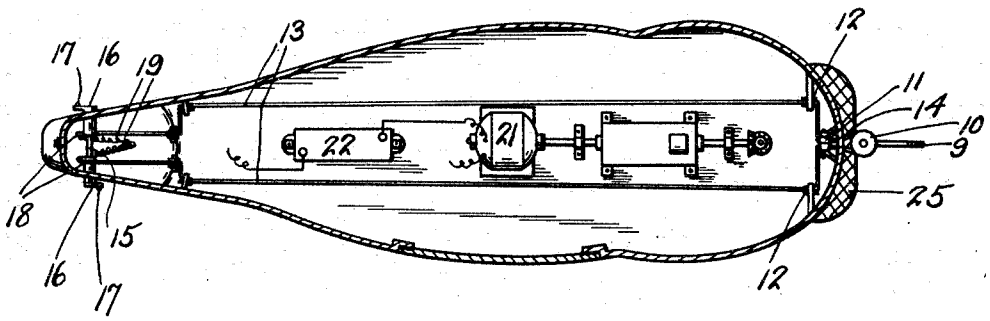


Fig. 9.

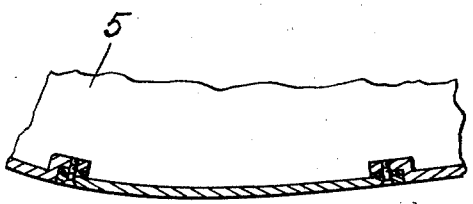


Fig. 8.

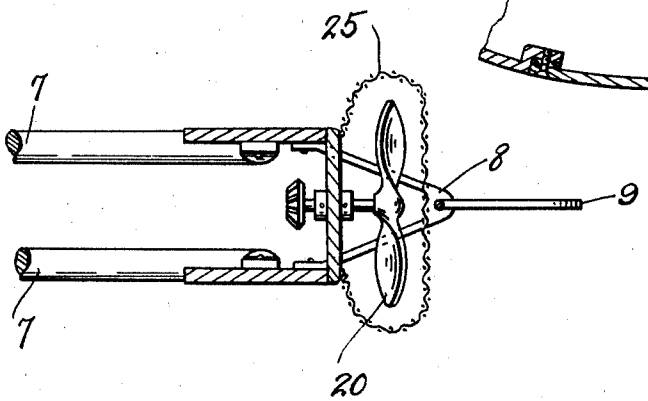
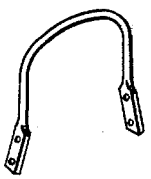


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NICOLA DE PENTO, OF CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA.

BATHER'S AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

Application filed April 12, 1928. Serial No. 269,387.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in amusement devices for use by bathers and aims to provide a self-propelled animal simulating structure that will float upon the surface of the water and that will support a bather and that will carry the bather from place to place within the water.

A foremost object of this invention is to provide an amusement device of this character that will always assume an upright position in the water and that is constructed to simulate a horse, pony, mule, sea lion or other animal to be ridden about by the bathers while in bathing, be it a tank, the ocean or other body of water. A further and most important object is to provide a steering means for the device consisting generally of a rudder arranged perpendicularly at the rear end of the device and adapted to be actuated by the bather riding upon the device by drawing upon a bridle simulating the bridle of a riding horse or the like, simple means being provided for causing the turning movement of the rudder in reverse directions when the bridle is drawn in a manner similar to the drawing of the bridle of a riding horse or the like.

With the foregoing and other objects in view as the nature of the invention will be better understood, the same comprises the novel form, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawings and claimed.

In the drawings wherein like reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved amusement device the same being constructed to simulate a riding horse,

Figure 2 is a perspective of one of the weighted bar members arranged longitudinally between the front and rear legs of the animal which bars serve to maintain the device in upright position within the water,

Figure 3 is a perspective of the bridle control means for causing the swinging of the steering rudder in reverse directions when the opposite sides of the bridle are drawn,

Figure 4 is a detail longitudinal section of the device,

Figure 5 is a somewhat enlarged fragmentary section taken through the rear end of the body of the device illustrating the rudder and certain of its associated structural features,

Figure 6 is a fragmentary section through the body of the device constructed at its top side with a gas outlet opening,

Figure 7 is a detail horizontal section taken substantially upon the broken line 7—7 of Figure 1,

Figure 8 is a somewhat enlarged horizontal section taken substantially upon the line 8—8 of Figure 1,

Figure 9 is a fragmentary horizontal section taken substantially upon the line 9—9 of said Figure 1 disclosing the means whereby access may be had to the interior of the animal simulating body, and

Figure 10 is a perspective of the holding handle.

Now having particular reference to the drawings, my novel amusement device consists of a hollow body 5 of wood or other suitable floatable material constructed to simulate in a general manner the body of a riding horse or in fact any character of animal desired. Constructed integrally with the body and depending from the bottom side thereof at the front and rear ends of the body are appendages 6 simulating in general manner the legs of the animal. Arranged longitudinally between these appendages at opposite sides of the body are weighted bars 7, 7 preferably of elongated U-formation which will serve to maintain the body in upright position within the water as disclosed more clearly in Figure 1. Arranged at the rear end of the said body 5 are horizontally extending spaced parallel frame members 8, 8 between the rear ends of which is pivotally mounted a suitable rudder blade 9 the uppermost pivot thereof being constructed with a pulley 10. Mounted upon the inside of the body 5 in line with this pulley 10 is a guide pulley 11 while at opposite sides of this pulley and slightly thereabove are other pulleys 12, 12 trained over which are the opposite runs 13, 13 of a cable 14.

From the pulleys 12, 12 the runs of the cable extend downwardly and are trained over the said pulley 11 from which point they pass through a suitable packed opening in the rear end of the body 5 after which said cable is trained over the rudder pulley 10 with the obvious result that when the opposite runs are drawn forwardly the rudder 9 will be moved upon its pivot for controlling the movement of the body through the water. Arranged transversely through the mouth

portion of the animal simulating head of said body 5 is a shaft 15, equipped at its opposite ends with reversely extending arms 16, 16 said arms being exteriorly of the body head as clearly disclosed in Figure 1. Attached at its opposite ends to the ends of these arms 16, 16 is a strap or rope bridle 17 extended over the neck of the animal body as disclosed. Within the head of the body the shaft 15 is equipped with a further pair of oppositely extending arms 18, 18 to which are connected the inner ends of the runs 13, 13 of said cable 14 the runs of said cable being suitably guided over other pulleys arranged within the body 5 as more clearly disclosed in Figure 4. All of the arms of the shaft 15 are normally maintained in perpendicular position through the medium of retractile coiled springs 19 arranged between the inner arms 18, 18 and the head portion of the animal simulating body.

Thus when the shaft 15 is rocked in reverse direction by pulling upon the opposite ends of the bridle 17, similar to the drawing of the bridle of an actual animal the rudder 9 will be controlled for steering the device through the water. Any suitable power plant may be provided for operating a propeller 20 arranged for rotation at the rear end of the body 5 this means being disclosed in the present instance as including an electric motor 21 arranged within the body 5 and operatively connected to the propeller 20 in, if desired, the manner disclosed, this motor receiving its current from a storage battery 22 also located within the body. If this character of driving means is provided for the propeller 20 a suitable switch 23 should be mounted upon the top side of the body preferably at the back of the animal's neck as disclosed said switch being located in the wiring between the battery 22 of the motor 21. Furthermore if an electric motor and battery is employed it will be necessary to construct the body 5 at its top side and preferably adjacent the head of the animal with a vent opening 24 so that the fumes from the battery may escape therefrom.

In order to protect the bathers it is preferable that the propeller 20 be protected by a suitable screening 25. If desired, one of the well known types of outboard motors may be associated with the rear end of the animal simulating body but as a matter of fact I do not desire to be limited to any particular character of propelling means for the device.

It will thus be seen that I have provided a very simple, novel and amusing device for use by bathers and even though I have herein shown and described the invention as consisting of certain detail structural elements it is nevertheless to be understood that some changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim is:—

1. In an amusement device of the character described, a hollow body of animal or other suitable shape adapted to float upon the surface of a body of water, means arranged at the bottom side of the body for supporting the body in upright position within the water, means associated with the body for propelling it through the water, a steering rudder pivoted to the rear end of the body, means associated with the head portion of the body whereby the rudder may be swung in reverse directions, said means consisting of a shaft arranged through the mouth of the animal shaped body and connected to said rudder whereby the reverse rocking movement of the shaft will cause the reverse movement of the rudder, and a bridle attached at its ends to the ends of the shaft whereby the shaft may be rocked.

2. In an amusement device of the class described, an animal simulating figure of hollow formation adapted to float upon the surface of a body of water, a pair of substantially U-shaped weighted bars connecting the respective forward and rear pairs of legs for supporting the figure in an upright position, a motor driven propeller extending from the rear of the figure for propelling the figure through the water, means within the body of the hollow figure for actuating the propeller, a steering rudder mounted at the rear of the figure, and means operable by the occupant of the figure for actuating the steering rudder.

3. In an amusement device of the class described, an animal simulating figure of hollow formation adapted to float upon the surface of a body of water, a pair of substantially U-shaped weighted bars connecting the respective forward and rear pairs of legs for supporting the figure in an upright position, a motor driven propeller extending from the rear of the figure for propelling the figure through the water, means within the body of the hollow figure for actuating the propeller, a steering rudder mounted at the rear of the figure, means operable by the rider of the figure for actuating the steering rudder, said last mentioned means including a pulley carried by the rudder, a rock shaft arranged through the mouth of the animal simulating figure, arms attached to the rock shaft, a cable having its intermediate portion trained around said pulley and connected at its respective ends to the respective arms, and a bridle strap operatively connected to the rock shaft for actuating the same to swing the rudder.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

NICOLA DE PENTO.