Nov. 30, 1965 O. L. SHIRLEY, SR 3,220,140

LIVE BAIT CARRIER

Filed April 23, 1963 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

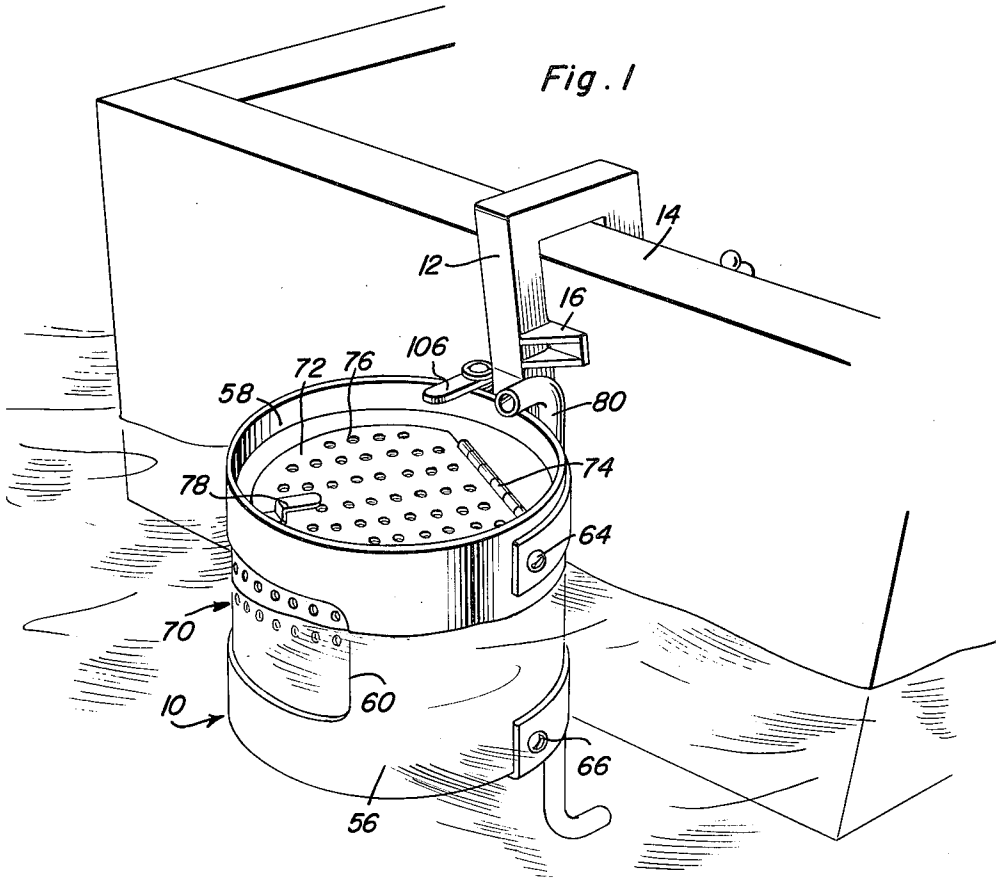
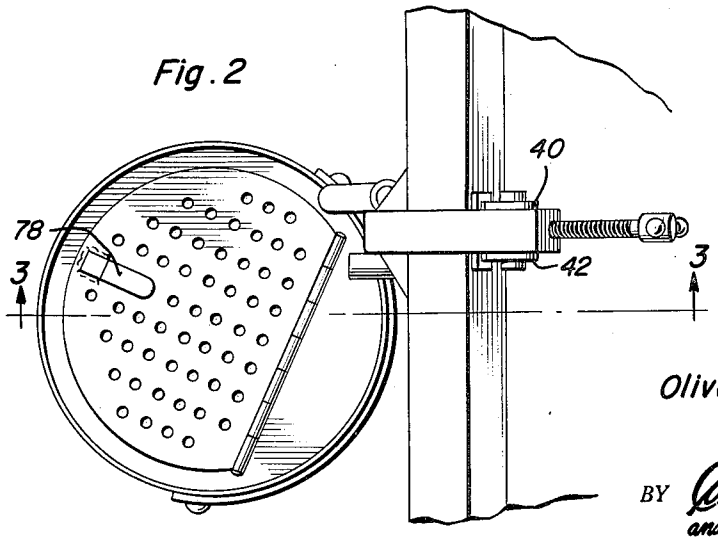


Fig. 2



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Filed April 23, 1963 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3

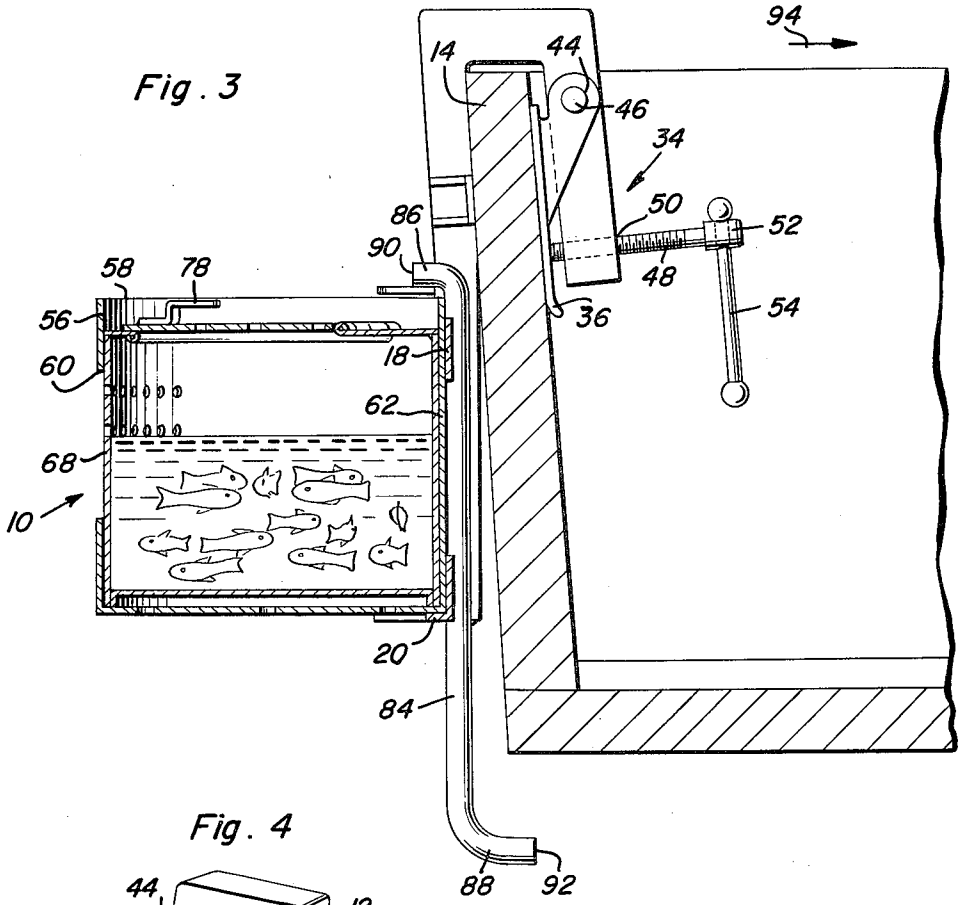


Fig. 4

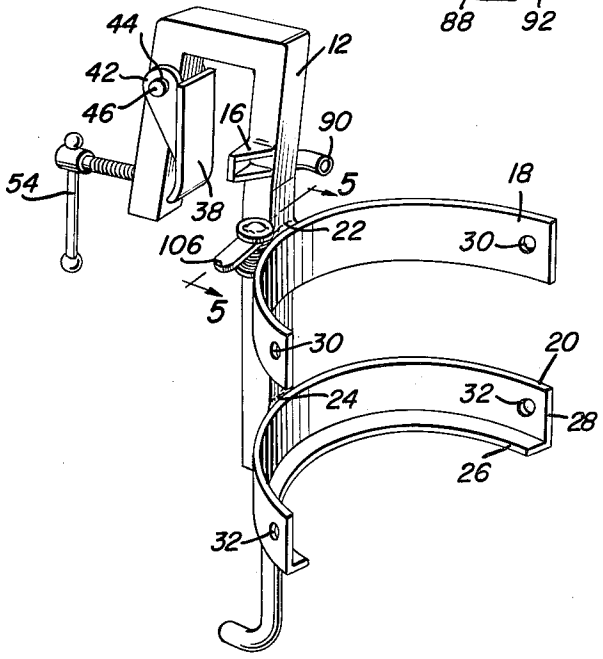
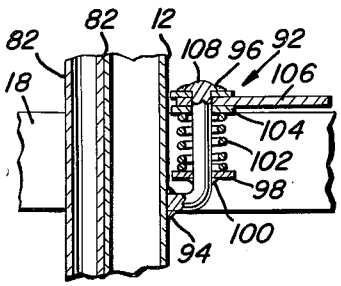


Fig. 5



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3,220,140

LIVE BAIT CARRIER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 43—55)

This invention relates to a live bait well for fish and more particularly to a bait well adapted to be attached to a boat including means to circulate water within the well when the boat is moving or is stationary.

It is an object of this invention to provide a novel bait well assembly which may be removably attached to the rear of a motor boat or the like which will automatically circulate water within the well when said boat is moving, and will also provide water circulation when the boat is stationary.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a novel water jet device for feeding water to a live bait well.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a novel perforated live bait well having a jet water circulation device which operates in response to forward movement of the boat to feed water to the well.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the bait well assembly comprising the present invention in position on the boat;

FIGURE 2 is a plan view partially broken away of the bait well assembly illustrated in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a cross-sectional view taken substantially on the plane of the line 3—3 of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of the mounting portion of the bait well assembly comprising the present invention;

FIGURE 5 is a cross-sectional view partially broken away taken substantially on the plane of the line 5—5 of FIGURE 4.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings, the reference numeral **10** refers generally to the bait well assembly comprising the present invention. The assembly **10** includes a J-shaped channel supporting member **12** which mounts over the rear transom **14** of the boat as shown in FIGURES 1 and 3. The support member **12** has a transverse member **16** integral therewith to provide stability for the assembly when mounted on a transom. U-shaped bracket members **18** and **20** are spaced along the support member **12** at **22** and **24** and fastened thereto by conventional fastening means such as by welding. The bracket **20** has a transverse flange **26** integrally formed with the body **28** of the bracket **20** and perpendicular thereto at the bottom thereof. Also included in brackets **18** and **20** are bolt-receiving holes **30** and **32**.

Reference numeral **34** refers generally to the clamping device mounted on the support **12** for clamping the support **12** fixedly to transoms such as **14**. The clamping device **34** includes a pressure plate **36** which has a flat surface **38** for contacting the inner transom wall. The pressure plate **36** has first and second parallel wings **40** and **42** integral therewith and extending toward the support **12**. Wings **40** and **42** include bolt receiving holes **44** for receiving the bolt **46**, thereby rotatably mounting the pressure plate **36** on the support **12**. A wing screw **48** is threadably mounted through threaded hole **50** in support **12** and has a head **52** including a slidable handle **54** therein. It may be seen that mounting

the support **12** is accomplished by placing the upper J-portion of the support over the transom **14** and then tightening screw **48** against the pressure plate **36** thereby forcing the pressure plate **36** against the transom **14**.

A receptacle **56** of generally cylindrical configuration, having an open top **58**, rearwardly directed opening **60** and forwardly directed closed portion **62** is mounted in brackets **18** and **20**, resting upon the flange **26** and secured to the brackets by bolts **64** and **66** through holes **30** and **32**. The opening **60** may be of any size considered practical, so long as when the boat is stationary the water level rises above the bottom of the opening.

A perforated bait container **68** is removably disposed within the receptacle **56**. The container **68** has perforations **70** in a wall area thereof, the container being oriented so that the perforated area is aligned with the opening **60** in the receptacle **56**. The bait container **68** has a perforated lid **72** mounted by hinge **74** over an opening in the top of the container. This lid has perforations **76** therein, and a handle **78** mounted thereon to enable the lid to be lifted upwardly. The handle **78** may be of any conventional construction.

A water circulation pipe **80** is attached to the support **12** at **82**. The pipe **80** has a first vertical portion **84**, a second horizontal portion **86** overlying the open top **58** of receptacle **56**, and a second horizontal portion **88** which normally will be disposed below the surface of the water in the direction of movement of the boat. The portion **86** has an opening **90** therein and the portion **88** has an opening **92** therein. It may thus be seen that movement of the boat in the direction shown by the arrow **94** causes water to be forced into opening **92**, through the pipe **80**, out the end **90** and onto the perforated lid **72** of container **58**. Thus water may be circulated in the bait container **68** when the boat is moving forwardly by water flowing through the perforation **76** into the container and then out from the container through the perforations **70**. Further, when the boat is setting still in the water, the receptacle **56** is so disposed on the support **12** that the water line will reach to a depth so that water will enter perforations **70** of the container **68** in order to provide circulation. When the boat is moving in a forward direction, water from the water circulation pipe **80** will not fall directly into the container **68** but will fall upon the lid **72** and through perforations **76** thereby eliminating direct discharge of the water onto the live bait contained within the container so as not to harm the bait.

Reference numeral **92** refers generally to a retainer assembly which is mounted on support **12** as for example by weld **94**. The assembly **92** includes a stem **96**, a first washer **98** fixed to the stem as for example by a weld **100**, a spring **102** overlying the stem **96** and positioned against the washer **98**. A second washer **104** is mounted on the stem **96** adjacent the top portion of the spring **102**. A rotating finger **106** is mounted on the stem **96** over the washer **104**, and a top washer is mounted on the stem **96** over the finger **106**. The spring **102** is compressed downwardly and held in such compressed position by a retaining top **108** fixedly attached to the stem **96**. It thus may be seen by referring to FIGURES 1 and 4 that the finger **106** may be rotated out of position to remove the receptacle **56**, and when the receptacle **56** is located in the brackets **18** and **20** the finger may be rotated into position over the open top **58** of the receptacle thereby contributing to the mounting of said receptacle on the support **12**.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention

to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be restored to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A live bait retaining device comprising a receptacle, bracket means attached to said receptacle and adapted to be rigidly secured to a boat at its forward end, a perforated bait container removably disposed in said receptacle, said receptacle having an open top and a rearwardly directed opening and a forwardly directed closed portion spaced below the open top, and a water circulating pipe carried by said bracket means and including an upper end overlying the open top of the receptacle and a lower end opening and extending forwardly in the direction of movement of the boat, the lower end of the pipe adapted to extend below the water level for discharge of water into the open top of the receptacle for circulation through the receptacle and container when the boat moves forwardly, said opening in the receptacle being enlarged to expose a material portion of the perforated container to provide for water circulation through the live bait container by use of the water circulation pipe during movement of the boat and by entry of water

therethrough when the boat is setting still, said receptacle being disposed below the water line to at least a depth so that water will enter the perforations of the container through said enlarged opening when the boat is still.

2. The structure defined in claim 1 wherein said perforated bait container includes a hingedly mounted perforated lid disposed below the open top of the receptacle whereby water discharged from the upper end of the water circulating pipe will fall onto the perforated lid thereby eliminating direct discharge of water onto bait in the perforated container.

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