

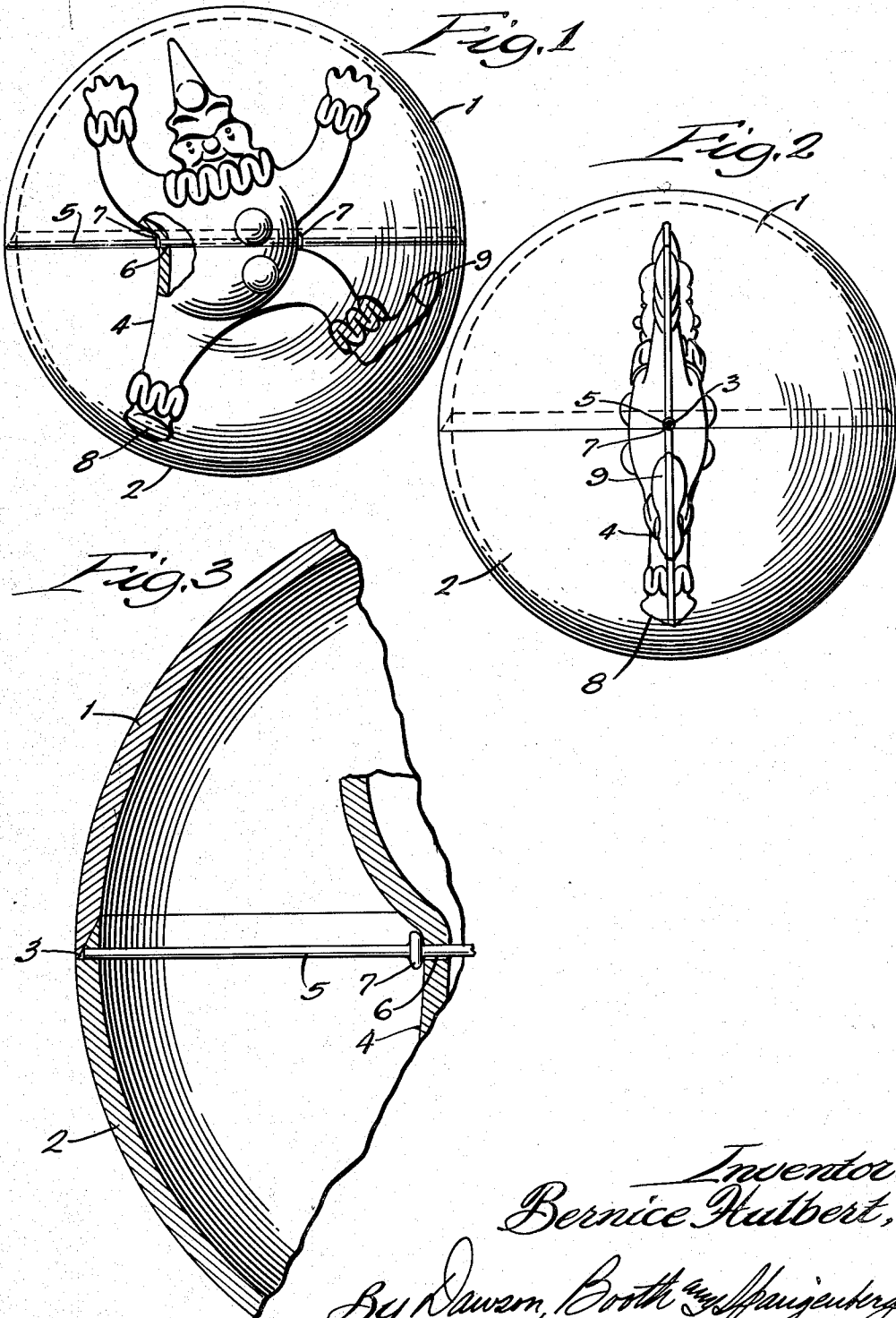
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B. HULBERT

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TOY BALL WITH ROTATABLY MOUNTED FIGURE THEREIN

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Inventor:
Bernice Hulbert,
By Dawson, Booth & Spangenberg,
Attorneys.

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TOY BALL WITH ROTATABLY MOUNTED
FIGURE THEREIN

Bernice Hulbert, Chicago, Ill.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 46-100)

1

This invention relates to a toy ball for a child's amusement which has the figure of a man or other object suspended in it in such a way that the figure will revolve when the ball is rolled and will come to rest in an upright position when the ball ceases to roll.

An object of the invention is to provide for the amusement of small children a toy ball made of a transparent substance with a figure so suspended inside the ball on a pin or rod attached to either side of the ball that the figure is caused to revolve on said pin or rod by the motion of the ball, when the ball is rolled, but comes to rest each time in a predetermined position, when the rolling motion of the ball stops. A further object of the invention is to provide a toy ball made of a transparent substance and the figure of a clown, with hands upraised, suspended in the ball in such manner on a pin or rod attached to either side of the ball that the figure revolves on the pin or rod as the ball rolls and comes to rest in an up-right position when the ball stops rolling, so that the clown appears to be doing hand springs.

The invention is illustrated, in a preferred embodiment, by the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 shows the ball and front view of the figure of the clown inside the ball, Fig. 2 shows the ball and a side view of the clown figure, and Fig. 3 an enlarged broken sectional view of the ball illustrating the manner in which the pin or rod suspending the figure of the clown is attached to the ball.

The ball is made in two halves, 1 being the upper half and 2 being the lower half. A good material to be used in making the ball is cellulose acetate, but any other transparent material, preferably one that is non-breakable, can be used. Glass may also be used but, because of its fragile nature, is not preferred.

Holes 3 are drilled into the inner wall of the bottom half of the ball, one on either side, as close to the top of such half as possible, having a diameter sufficiently large to permit the insertion of the pin or rod on which the figure 4 is suspended and at the same time small enough to engage such pin or rod firmly so that it cannot turn. An adhesive substance, such as glue or cement, may also be used, if necessary or desirable, to prevent the pin or rod from turning in its hole sockets. 4 is a figure of a clown, but any other figure or object may be used and the same result that is here shown will be obtained, if the principle herein explained is adhered to.

2

Any light weight, preferably opaque, material may be used to make the figure. A good material is plastic. The figure must be small enough to fit into the two halves of the ball when they are brought together.

The pin or rod 5 may be made of metal, such as steel or aluminum, or it may be made of a plastic material. A hole 6 is drilled into each side of the body of the clown figure at about the midway point. One end of the pin or rod 5 is inserted into one of the holes 6 in the figure and extended through the figure and out the hole on the other side of the figure, so that the pin or rod runs completely through the figure from side to side. One end of the pin or rod is then inserted into the hole 3 in the inner wall of the lower half of the ball on one side and the other end is inserted into the hole 3 on the other side.

The two halves of the ball, 1 and 2, are now brought together so as to form a whole ball, and are fixed firmly in that position, by cementing, gluing, or any other appropriate means. The figure of the clown is thus suspended inside the ball, the pin or rod being crimped at 7 on either side of the figure or other appropriate means being provided to prevent the figure from sliding from side to side on the pin or rod and to hold it in the middle of the ball.

The feet of the clown figure, 8 and 9, are weighted so that the bottom half of the figure is slightly heavier than the top half. By reason of the weight in the feet, the figure always comes back to an upright position after revolving on the pin or rod that suspends it. The foot 9 is upraised and off center, and, being weighted, it exerts pressure on the pin or rod 5 so that, when the pin or rod turns with the roll of the ball, the resultant friction between the body of the figure and the pin or rod causes the figure to revolve on the pin or rod as an axis. It is necessary that the weight in the feet be sufficient to bring the figure back to an upright position but not so great as to overcome the force of the friction between the body of the figure and the turning pin or rod. The holes 6 in the body of the figure through which the pin or rod is extended should be large enough so that the figure will revolve on the pin or rod 5.

It will be understood that the weight of the laterally-extending legs or other portions of the figure may be varied to produce different effects. The lateral weight, which tends to cause a binding between the figure and the rod, may be relatively small so that when the ball is rolled on

3

an axis concentric with said pin or rod, the figure will not turn somersaults or rotate with the rod. However, when the ball is rotated on an axis different from the axis of the rod, such offset weight will be sufficient to cause the figure to somersault or rotate with the ball. Thus, the figure can be caused to somersault or rotate with the ball or to remain in a true vertical position during the rolling of the ball, depending upon the point of the sphere along which the ball is rolled.

The crimps 7 on the rod also enter into the operation of the device in that they engage the figure on one side when the rod extends in a vertical position, and this tends to cause the clown to rotate with the ball, producing a somersault effect, etc.

The offsetting of the clown produces a variety of interesting maneuvers of the figure when the ball is rotated with the rod extending in different positions relative to the path of travel of the ball. For example, when the shaft is in a vertical position during the rotation of the ball, the figure will rotate, but because of its offset weight characteristics, the ball will turn toward the end of its travel and swing laterally under the effect of the weight movements of the figure.

I wish it to be understood that I do not desire to be limited to the exact details of construction shown and described, for obvious modifications will occur to a person skilled in the art.

I claim:

1. A toy device comprising a ball formed of transparent material, a pin extending across said ball and fixed to the walls thereof, and a figure having a transverse passage therethrough receiving said pin, the lower portion of the figure being heavier than the upper portion to cause said figure to assume the desired vertical position within said ball, said figure having a member extending laterally in the general plane of the pin to overbalance the weight on the other side of the figure and to create a binding action between the figure and the pin along the passage in the figure through which the pin extends.

2. A toy device comprising a ball formed of transparent material, a pin having its ends fixed

4

to the interior walls of the ball and extending diametrically therethrough, a toy figure simulating an animate being and having a transverse passage extending therethrough rotatably receiving said pin, said figure being heavier in the lower side to maintain said figure in a vertical position upon said pin, said figure having also a member on one side thereof extending laterally in the plane of the pin and at a greater distance than other members of the figure to create a preponderance of weight on one side of the figure in the plane of said pin whereby a binding action occurs between the figure and the pin along said passage.

3. A toy device comprising a ball formed of transparent material, a pin fixed to the interior walls of the ball and extending diametrically through the central portion of the ball, a toy figure simulating a human being having a transverse passage therethrough rotatably receiving said pin, said figure being heavier in the lower side to maintain said figure in a vertical position upon said pin said pin being equipped with enlargements on either side of the figure for maintaining the same centrally located upon said pin, and said figure having a limb on one side thereof extending laterally in the vertical plane of the pin to a greater distance than the opposite limb and to create a preponderance of weight on that side of the figure whereby the figure binds against the pin along the line of said passage and to cause the figure to rotate at least partially with the pin as the pin rotates in the rolling of the ball.

BERNICE HULBERT.

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