

Feb. 23, 1926.

1,574,201

E. M. LYNCH

AMUSEMENT DEVICE

Filed June 25, 1925

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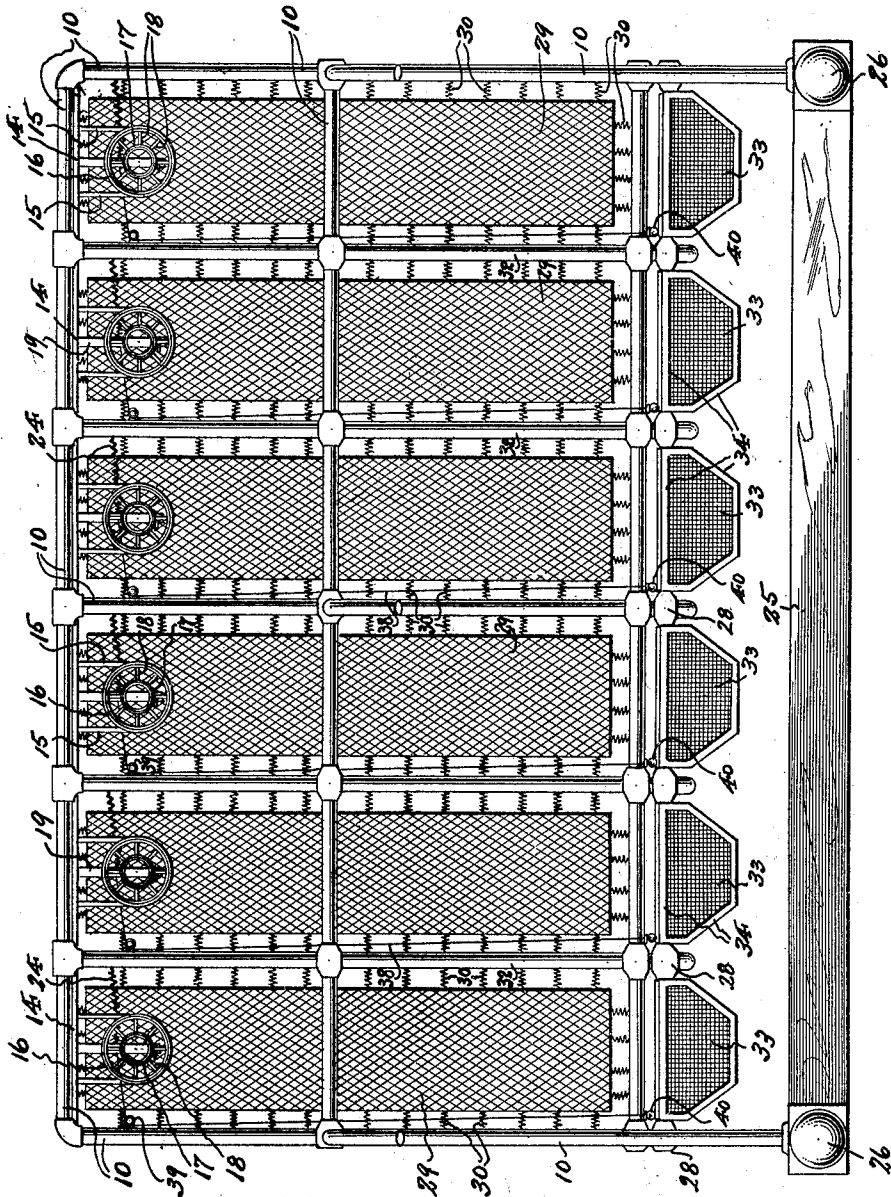


Fig. 1

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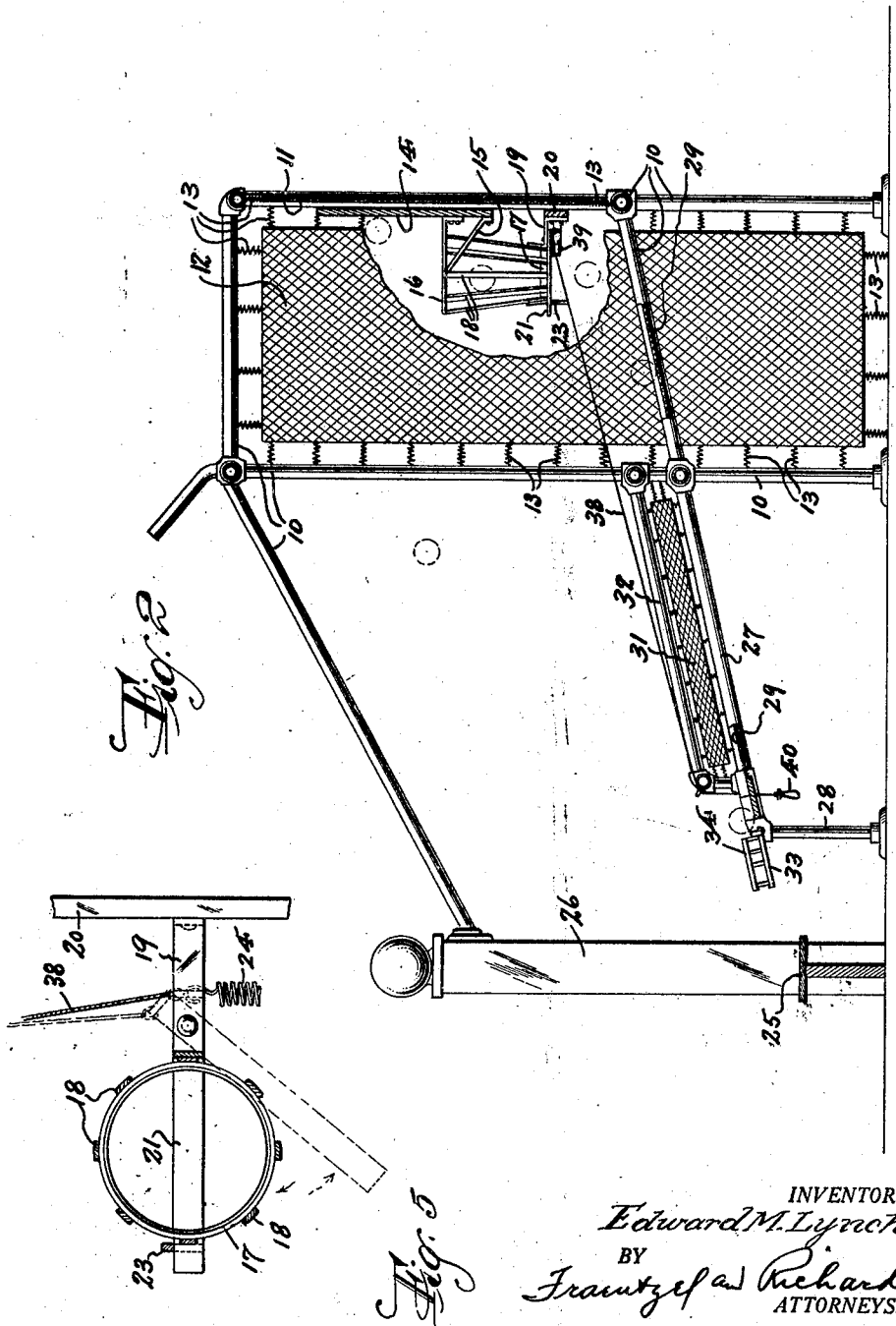
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3 Sheets-Sheet 2



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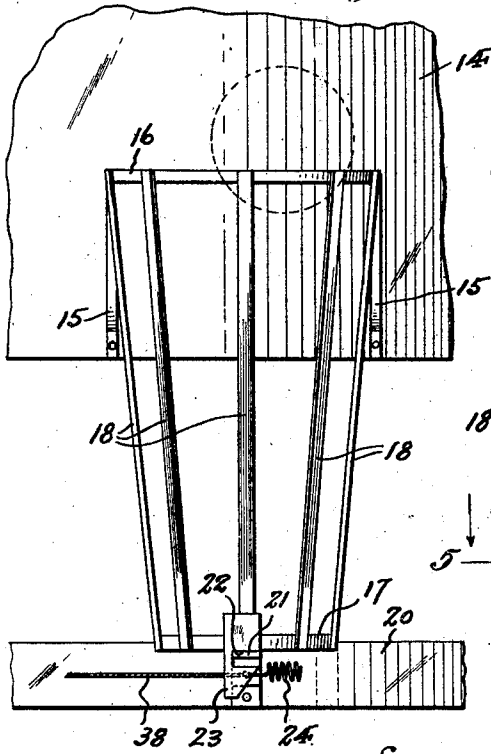
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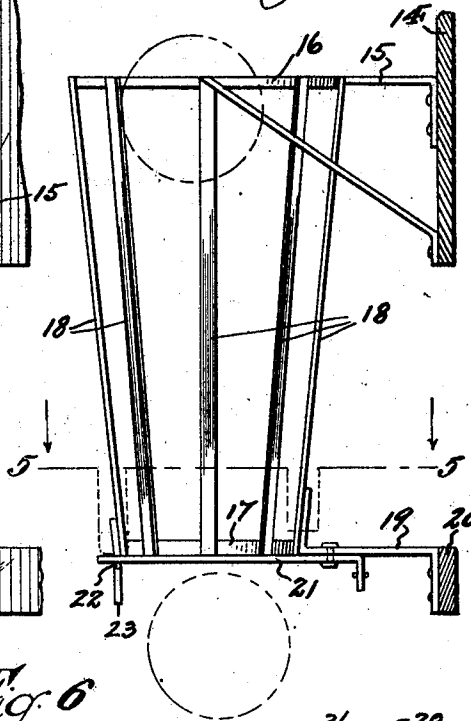
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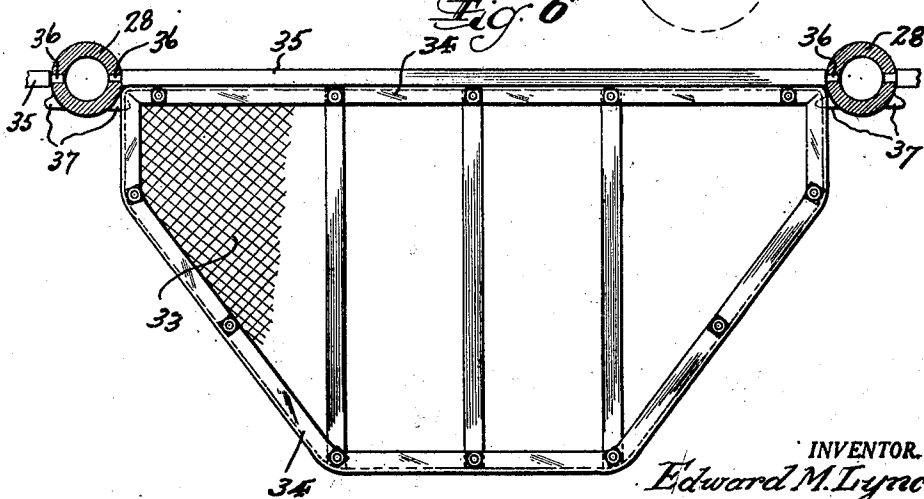
*Fig. 3*



*Fig. 4*



*Fig. 6*



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD M. LYNCH, OF BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY.

## AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

Application filed June 25, 1925. Serial No. 39,480.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD M. LYNCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bloomfield, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Amusement Devices; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to characters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to a novel construction of amusement device; and the invention has reference, more particularly, to an amusement apparatus in the form of a basket-ball throwing game.

The invention has for its principal object to provide a novel construction and arrangement of amusement device suitable for use in amusement parks, at fairs, and in similar locations; and consists in a novel construction of basket-ball throwing game, the same being arranged so as to be under the control of an attendant or operator, and being adapted to provide players opportunity for testing and exercising their skill in throwing regulation basket-balls into a basket.

With the above-stated object in view, this invention consists in the novel amusement device in the form of a basket-ball throwing game hereinafter set forth; and, the invention consists, furthermore, in the novel arrangements and combinations of the various devices and parts, as well as in the details of the construction of said parts, all of which will be hereinafter more fully described in the following specification, and then finally embodied in the appended claims.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the novel basket-ball throwing game, made according to and embodying the principles of this invention; Fig. 2 is a part side view and part vertical section of the same; Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the basket member of the game; Fig. 4 is a side elevation of said basket-member; Fig. 5 is a horizontal section through said basket-member, taken on line 5—5 in Fig. 4; and Fig. 6 is a plan view of a delivering tray for delivering the balls to the player.

Similar characters of reference are employed in all of the hereinabove described views, to indicate corresponding parts.

Referring now to said drawings, the novel amusement device in the form of a basket-ball throwing game, comprises a suitable frame-work 10 arranged to support a back wall 11 and forwardly projecting side walls 12, to thus provide one or more throwing stalls or courts. The said back wall 11 and side walls 12 may be made of any suitable material, but are preferably made of an open wire mesh or of cord net, as indicated in the drawings, the same being preferably attached to the supporting frame work by helical springs 13 interconnected between their margins and the frame work at desired intervals, thus rendering the same more or less resilient or shock absorbing in character when struck by thrown balls.

Affixed to the frame work, at the rear of each stall or court, is a back-board 14. Supported in connection with each back-board 14, by brackets 15, is a basket consisting of a top ring 16, a bottom ring 17, and interconnecting slats 18, thus providing a basket open at the top and bottom, and of a depth sufficient to receive a desired number of basket-balls, e. g. three. The lower end of each basket is braced and secured by a bracket-piece 19 interconnected between the same and a cross-bar 20 which is fastened transversely to the rear of the frame-work 10. The lower end of each basket is provided with a normally closed ball retaining means, whereby the balls thrown into the basket are retained therein until the player has completed the allowed number of throws. This ball retaining means consists of a stop-bar 21 pivoted to said bracket-piece 19 so that its forward end extends diametrically across the lower open end of the basket. The extremity of the outer end of said stop-bar 21 is normally engaged in the receiving slot 22 of a latch piece 23 which is secured to and depends from the outer side of the basket. The stop-bar 21 is yieldably retained in normal closed relation to the lower open end of the basket by means of a pull-spring 24 which is interconnected between the rear end of the same and one side of the stall in which the basket is located. The ball retaining means is provided with convenient means, within the control of the game oper-

ator or attendant, for actuating the same at proper times to release the balls lodged in the basket, as will be subsequently more particularly described.

5 Spaced outwardly from the front of the stalls or courts is a means for determining the position of the player when making the throws. Preferably this means is placed at distance from the baskets equivalent to the  
10 regulation foul penalty free throw distance marked in connection with regulation basket-ball courts. The said player positioning means consists of a transverse bar or rail 25 which extends between the forward  
15 corner posts 26 with which the outer sides of the frame 10 are connected.

Beneath the basket in each stall or court, and adapted to form the floor of the latter is a downwardly and forwardly inclined  
20 runway, the same being extended beyond the open front of the stall or court toward the positioning bar or rail 25. Said runways are formed by extensions 27 of the frame-work 10 which terminate in upright  
25 supporting posts 28, by a bottom wall or bed 29 supported between the frame-work and its extensions. Said bottom walls or beds 29 may be made of any suitable material, but are preferably made of open wire  
30 mesh or of cord net, as indicated in the drawings, the same being preferably tautly supported by helical springs 30 interconnected between their marginal edges and adjacent portions of the frame-work 10 and  
35 its extensions. The outlying portion of each runway is bounded on its sides by side or partition members 31 of similar character, which are supported between the extensions 27 of the frame-work 10 and similar additional  
40 extensions 32 parallel to and vertically spaced a desired height above said extensions 27.

Each runway terminates short of the positioning bar or rail 25, and out of reach of  
45 the players stationed at the latter. Located at the outer end of each runway is a pivoted delivering tray 33 having upstanding peripheral walls 34. Each tray is attached to a rock bar 35, having journals 36 at its respec-  
50 tive ends which are pivotally engaged in bearing openings provided in the adjacent upright supporting posts 28. The posts 28 are provided with suitably disposed stops 37 for supporting said trays 33 in normal  
55 horizontal forward extension from the ends of said runways, and so that any balls entered in the trays are within the reach of the player. The rear wall of each tray projects above the normal level of the runway  
60 at the outer end of the same, and when the tray is in normal position said rear wall stops the balls descending the runway from leaving the latter and entering the tray, thus withholding the returned thrown balls out

of reach of the player. When the game  
operator or attendant desires to deliver a set of balls to a player for an initial or succeeding  
inning of play, he swings the tray upwardly about its pivotal connection, whereby the rear wall of the tray is turned  
70 out of the ball obstructing position, and the balls are then permitted to roll into contact with the tray bottom, whereupon, when the tray is dropped again to normal initial forwardly projecting position, the balls will  
75 be retained therein, and thus delivered to the player by being brought within his reach.

As above stated, the basket is of sufficient size to receive and retain all the balls permitted to be thrown during a single turn or  
80 inning of play. If one or more or all of the balls are lodged in the basket when thrown by the player they are retained therein until released by the game operator  
85 or attendant. The releasing of the balls from the basket for deposit in the runway so as to roll down the latter ready for reception by the delivery tray is accomplished by actuating the pivoted stop-bar 21 to  
90 swing the same way from the bottom of the basket so that the balls may drop there-through. To conveniently arrange for such actuation of the stop-bar 21 from the front  
95 of the apparatus, a pull-cord 38 is connected to the rearward arm of said stop-bar, the same being extended over guide-pulleys or wheels 39 connected to the frame-work 10, and thence lead to the forward end of the  
100 runway. Said pull-cord 38 is provided at its outer end with a suitable hand grip 40. It will be obvious that by exerting an outward pull upon said pull-cord 38, the game operator or attendant will thus swing the  
105 retaining stop-bar 21 to open position and thereby release the balls from the basket, after which, upon relaxing the pull-cord, the spring 24 will return the stop-bar 21 to normal initial closed relation to the  
110 basket.

It will be understood, that the game apparatus may consist of one or any number of stalls or courts equipped as above described, so as to accommodate one or more players.  
115 In the drawings, the apparatus is shown as providing six courts, but such number may be increased or decreased as may be desired.

In making use of the game a player positions himself at the bar or rail 25, opposite  
120 a vacant stall or court, and the attendant thereupon tips up the delivering tray 33 so that the three balls are entered therein, and thus placed within reach of the player. The player now takes the balls, one at a time, and  
125 throws the same toward the basket at the back of the court at which he is stationed. Any ball successfully thrown by the player

remains in the basket. A ball which misses the basket falls upon the runway bottom 29 and rolls down to the forward end of the same, ready to be entered in the tray, when the latter is actuated. After all the balls are thrown, the inning ends, and the player's score is noted by the attendant, and, if desired, a prize proportioned to the score is awarded to the player. After the inning of play is completed, the attendant actuates the stop-bar 21 to release any balls lodged within the basket, whereupon said balls are deposited on the runway and returned to the front end thereof. If the same player desires to play again, or a new player is ready to take his place, the attendant again manipulates the delivery tray to deposit the balls therein ready to the hand of the player for renewed play.

From the above description it will be quite evident that the game provides an interesting amusement, and a real test of skill in throwing the balls.

It will also be evident that the game is so constructed and arranged as to be easily under control of the operator or attendant at all times, so that promiscuous or unauthorized throwing about of the balls can not occur, and only proper plays are permitted.

As changes of construction could be made within the scope of this invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the foregoing description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:—

1. An amusement device utilizing basket-balls, comprising a stall formed by resilient back and side walls, a back-board in the rear of said stall, a vertical open ended basket mounted adjacent to said back-board, an inclined ball-return runway extending from beneath said basket and outwardly from said stall, and a player positioning rail spaced from said stall and its runway.

2. An amusement device utilizing basket-balls, comprising a stall formed by resilient back and side walls, a back-board in the rear of said stall, a vertical open ended basket mounted adjacent to said back-board, an inclined ball-return runway extending from beneath said basket and outwardly from said stall, a player positioning rail spaced from said stall and its runway, a delivery tray pivoted transversely of the outer end of said runway, the rear side of which normally serves to retain returned balls in said runway, said tray when upwardly swung being adapted to receive said balls, and when again returned to normal position to deliver the same within reach of a player at said positioning rail.

3. An amusement device utilizing basket-balls, comprising a stall formed by resilient back and side walls, a back-board in the rear of said stall, a vertical open ended basket mounted adjacent to said back-board, movable means for normally retaining within said basket balls lodged therein, means for releasing said retaining means, and a ball-return runway extending from beneath said basket and outwardly from said stall.

4. An amusement device utilizing basket-balls, comprising a stall formed by resilient back and side walls, a back-board in the rear of said stall, a vertical open ended basket mounted adjacent to said back-board, movable means for normally retaining within said basket balls lodged therein, means for releasing said retaining means, a ball-return runway extending from beneath said basket and outwardly from said stall, a player positioning rail spaced from said stall and its runway, and means normally adapted to retain said returned balls in said runway, said means being manipulatable to receive and deliver said balls for use.

5. An amusement device utilizing basket-balls, comprising a stall formed by resilient back and side walls, a back-board in the rear of said stall, a vertical open ended basket mounted adjacent to said back-board, movable means for normally retaining within said basket balls lodged therein, means for releasing said retaining means, a ball-return runway extending from beneath said basket and outwardly from said stall, a delivery tray pivoted transversely of the outer end of said runway, the rearward side of which normally serves to retain returned balls in said runway, said tray when upwardly swung being adapted to receive said balls, and when again returned to normal position to deliver the same within reach of a player at said positioning rail.

6. An amusement device utilizing basket-balls, comprising a stall, an open ended basket mounted at the back of said stall, a ball-return runway beneath said basket, a player positioning rail outwardly spaced from said stall and its runway, a delivery tray pivoted transversely at the outer end of said runway, the rearward side of which normally serves to retain returned balls in said runway, said tray when upwardly swung being adapted to receive said balls, and when again returned to normal position to deliver the same within reach of a player at said positioning rail.

7. An amusement device utilizing basket-balls, comprising a stall, an open ended vertical basket mounted at the back of said stall, movable means for normally retaining within said basket balls lodged therein, means for releasing said retaining means, a ball-return runway beneath said basket, a player posi-

tioning rail outwardly spaced from said stall and its runway, a delivery tray pivoted transversely at the outer end of said runway, the rearward side of which normally  
5 serves to retain returned balls in said runway, said tray when upwardly swung being adapted to receive said balls, and when

again returned to normal position to deliver the same within reach of a player at said positioning rail.

In testimony that I claim the invention set forth above I have hereunto set my hand  
this 23rd day of June, 1925.

EDWARD M. LYNCH.