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O. J. GAGNE ET AL
PREFABRICATED SWIMMING POOL

2,944,264

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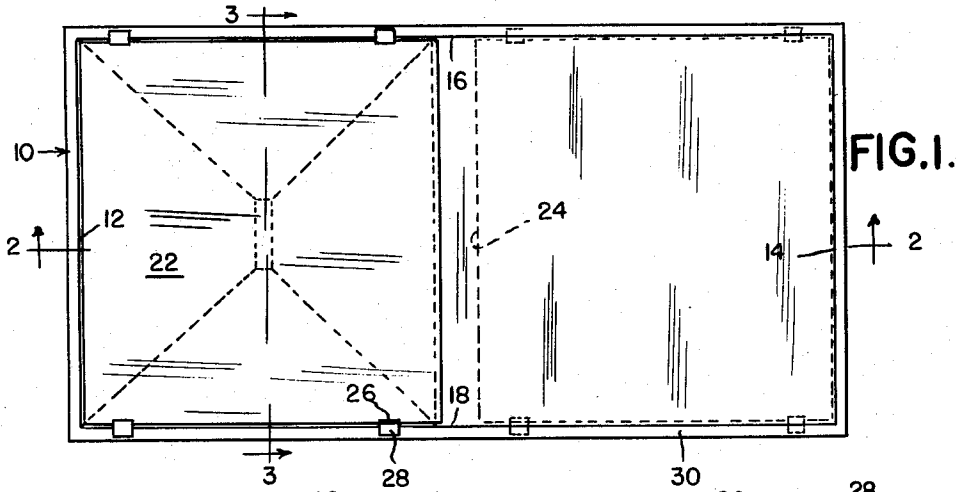


FIG. 1.

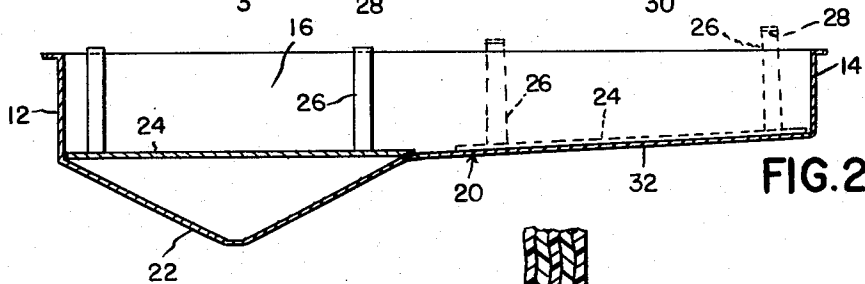


FIG. 2.

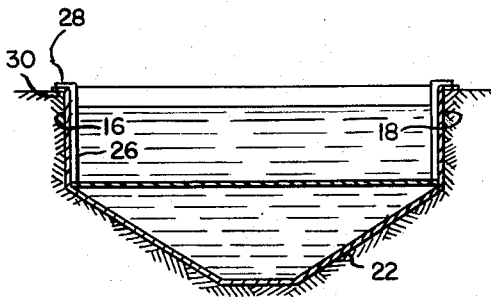


FIG. 3.

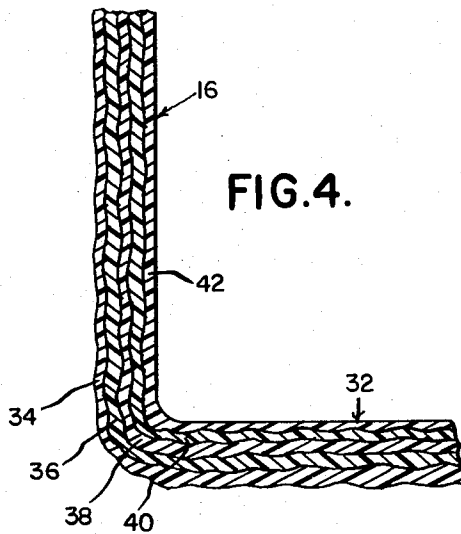


FIG. 4.

INVENTORS
OSCAR J. GAGNE
BY BERNARD J. BROWN
*Whittemore, Fulbert
& Belknap* ATTORNEYS

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PREFABRICATED SWIMMING POOL

Oscar J. Gagne, 5221 Grayton, and Bernard J. Brown,
8664 Penrod, both of Detroit, Mich.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 4-172)

The present invention relates to a prefabricated swimming pool.

Stated in general terms, the swimming pool is prefabricated as a integral unit and has a bottom, side and end walls interconnected to each other and formed essentially of a combination of fibrous and plastic material. More specifically, the walls of the prefabricated swimming pool are formed of plies of woven fibers such for example as glass fibers impregnated, bonded together, said sealed with a plastic material such for example as a polyethylene resin.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a prefabricated swimming pool adapted to be transported as a unit to the site and there located in a recess in the ground prepared therefor.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a prefabricated swimming pool having a bottom wall a portion of which is displaced downwardly to provide for increased depth in the pool, together with a movable platform or jacket including a floor portion and support arms, said platform being selectively movable between a first position in which its floor portion overlies the downwardly displaced bottom wall portion of the pool member to make the pool safe for non-swimmers, and a second position in which its floor portion rests upon the bottom wall of the pool at a shallower portion thereof to reinforce said bottom of the pool at said shallower portion.

Other objects and features of the invention will become apparent as the description proceeds, especially when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, illustrating a preferred embodiment of the invention, wherein:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the prefabricated swimming pool construction.

Figure 2 is a section on the line 2-2, Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a section on the line 3-3, Figure 1, showing the pool member seated in the ground.

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary view showing the construction of the swimming pool member.

In accordance with the present invention, the prefabricated unitary swimming pool member is illustrated at 10 and comprises end walls 12 and 14, side walls 16 and 18, and a bottom wall illustrated generally at 20. The bottom wall, as best seen in Figure 2, includes a downwardly displaced portion 22 which provides for increased depth of the pool at one end thereof. The downwardly displaced bottom wall portion 22 of the pool member occupies somewhat less than one-half of its longitudinal dimension as well illustrated in Figure 2.

As a safety feature, a selectively movable platform or jacket 24 preferably of the same material as the pool member 10 is provided having upwardly extending arms 26 including outwardly turned portions 28 which rest upon flanges 30 provided along the side walls 16 and 18 of the pool member at the top thereof.

The bottom wall portion 32 of the pool member con-

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stitutes slightly more than one-half of its longitudinal dimension and is slightly inclined toward the downwardly formed bottom wall portion 22. When it is desired to employ the deep portion of the pool, as for example for diving, the platform 24 is moved from the full line position shown in Figures 1 and 2 to the dotted line position where it rests upon and reinforces the bottom wall portion 32.

Inasmuch as the platform portion 24 and the downwardly formed bottom wall portion 22 occupy less than one-half of the longitudinal dimension of the pool member 10, it will be apparent that when moved toward the shallow end of the pool member, the platform member 24 is spaced from the downwardly formed bottom wall portion 22 and does not interfere with full use thereof.

The pool member 10 has been described as preformed and of unitary construction. In Figure 4 there is illustrated a sectional enlargement of a portion of a side and bottom wall thereof, as for example side wall 16 and bottom wall 32. The walls of the pool member are formed of a combination of fiber and plastic or resin. A preferred form of the invention comprises a plurality of laminations of a woven fiber. Due to the fact that it is completely inert, relatively strong, and substantially impervious to deterioration, the best results have been obtained when the woven fabric in the laminations is a woven glass fabric woven from glass fibers. In order to bond the laminations of the glass fiber fabric together, and to provide an effective water-tight seal, the layers of fabric are impregnated with a suitable resin. Best results have been obtained when the resin employed for this purpose is a polyester resin. The resin in uncured form is applied to the laminations of fabric in such quantity as to insure complete impregnation and filling up of all pores or openings therein. In Figure 4 layers 34, 36, 38 and 40 are illustrated diagrammatically, each of which represents a woven fabric of glass fibers fully impregnated with the resin and bonded thereby to adjacent laminations. At the inside of the pool member there is provided a smooth seal coating or covering layer 42 also of the same polyester resin. There is thus provided a smooth surface at the interior of the pool member completely avoiding cracks and crevices present in other types of tanks or pools, thus providing a completely sanitary inner lining or surface. Conveniently, the inner surface may be applied as a spray coat suitably compounded to cure immediately after deposition.

The structure disclosed herein is exceptionally light and strong and may be readily transported from the manufacturing or assembly area to the various sites of use. The product is substantially rigid but not brittle and due to its exceptional strength, requires only ordinary care and precautions in placing it in the ground and filling in around it. It is unnecessary to drain the water from the pool member during the winter, and if used in a cold climate, the pool member, filled with water, may function as a skating rink.

The drawing and the foregoing specification constitute a description of the improved prefabricated swimming pool in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to practice the invention, the scope of which is indicated by the appended claims.

What we claim as our invention is:

1. A swimming pool member having side, end and bottom walls, said bottom wall being substantially horizontal for at least half the length thereof from one end of the pool to form a shallow pool end, the remainder of said bottom wall being formed downwardly to provide a deep end at the other end of the pool, a safety jacket

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in combination with said pool having a floor portion substantially at the level of the horizontal portion of the bottom wall of said pool and also having means for support thereof from the sides of said pool, said floor portion of said safety jacket having substantially the same dimensions horizontally as the deep end of the pool, said safety jacket being adapted to be positioned selectively over the shallow end of said pool to provide reinforcement for the horizontal bottom at said shallow end and over the deep end of said pool to provide a bottom therefor thereby reducing the depth thereof for the safety of non-swimmers.

2. Structure as claimed in claim 1 wherein said pool member and safety jacket are separate unitary structures formed of a plurality of lamina of woven fabric impregnated, bonded together and sealed with plastic, each of said separate structures being adapted to be constructed, transported and installed as a single unit.

3. Structure as claimed in claim 1 wherein said means for supporting said safety jacket from the sides of the pool comprise substantially flat, upwardly extending,

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elongated arms secured to the floor portion of the safety jacket at each side thereof, said arms including portions at the upper ends thereof extending substantially horizontally outwardly of said pool member over the side walls of the pool member.

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