

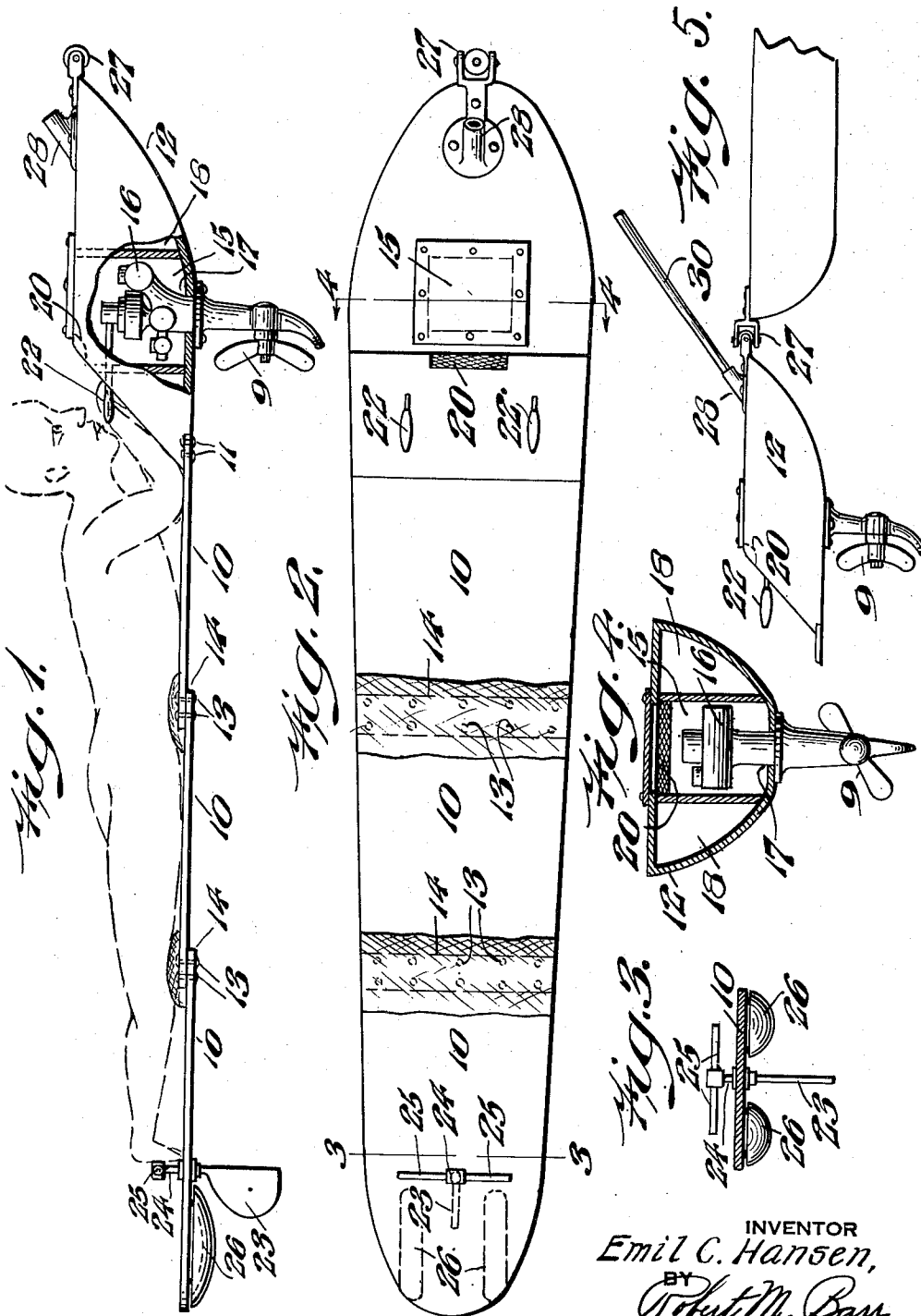
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SKIM BOAT

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SKIM BOAT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 9—18)

The present invention relates to an aquatic device and more particularly to a self-propelled skim board for sporting purposes.

Some of the objects of the present invention are to provide a novel craft for skimming over the surface of a body of water in an improved aqua-planing style; to provide a self-propelled board for supporting the user in extended face down position and which is under control of the user at all times; to provide a person supporting board which maintains itself on an even keel while being propelled by a motor on the surface of a body of water; to provide a propelled water craft which can be readily converted into a pusher for propelling other craft; to provide a board capable of supporting a person lying down and utilizing a conjunction with such board a buoyant prow body carrying propelling means for the board; and to provide other improvements as will hereinafter appear.

In the accompanying drawing Fig. 1 represents a side elevation of a sporting or skim boat embodying one form of the present invention; Fig. 2 represents a plan of the same; Fig. 3 represents a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 represents a section on line 4—4 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 5 represents the device used to propel another boat.

Referring to the drawing one form of the present invention consists of a board 10 removably connected by bolts 11 to a buoyant prow body 12. The board 10 is relatively thin and of a size to comfortably support the user lying full length thereof in much the same manner as does a surf board as used in riding a wave toward the shore. Preferably the board 10 is made in three sections jointed together by bolts 13 with the sections relatively stepped as indicated at 14.

The prow body 12 is preferably enclosed to form a water tight compartment 15 in which a gas engine 16, such for instance as known as an out-board motor, is mounted with its propeller support projecting through a sealed opening 17 in the bottom of the body to bring the propeller 9 into proper submerged position for propelling the board 10 through the water. The engine compartment 15 is surrounded by an air tight chamber 18 whereby the body 12 is given its desired buoyancy. The engine 16 is arranged to exhaust under water as will be understood. A slot 20 preferably covered with fine gauge wire mesh is located at a convenient location in the top of the body 12, so that air can enter to supply the carburetor of the engine.

When the board 10 and body 12 are in assem-

bled condition the former lies substantially in the plane of the bottom of the body 12 and therefore the prow body 12 becomes in effect a shield to protect the face of the user from wind and spray. To that end the height of the body 12 is such as to rise above the plane of anyone lying upon the board 10. Also the rear face 21 of the prow body 12 is forwardly inclined or away from the face of the user to form a dash board for bringing the engine controls 22 to a convenient location for manual operation.

In order to steer the skim boat a rudder 23 is mounted adjacent the rear end where it is controlled by a post 24 passing vertically through the board so that its attached cross-bar 25 can be operated by the feet of the user.

To counteract any tendency of the board 10 to become unduly submerged under the weight of the user, two pontoons 26 are attached to the bottom of the board, one at each side thereof so that tilting of the board about its longitudinal axis is counteracted.

A feature of the present invention resides in the fact that the board 10 can be disconnected from the prow body 12 so that the latter can be used as a pusher or propelling means for a canoe or other craft. For that purpose a universal joint member 27 is attached to the body 12 at a location suitable for attachment to the rear of a canoe or boat. When so attached the operation of the motor or engine 16 will cause the canoe to be propelled as desired.

For guiding the craft while being pushed by the propelling body 12, a socket 28 is mounted at the forward end of the deck of the body for the purpose of receiving a lever or tiller 30 of a length suitable for operation from the stern of the boat being propelled.

In connection with the stepped joints between the sections of the board member it is desired to cover these on the upper face of the board with strips of padding 31 respectively, such as kapok or the like, whereby the person using the board is protected from minor injuries while lying on the board.

While only a single form is shown in which this invention may be embodied, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to any specific construction, but might be applied to various forms without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:—

1. An aquatic device comprising a buoyant prow body, means including a motor for propel-

ling said body, a relatively flat buoyant member attached to the rear of said body for supporting a person lengthwise thereon, two pontoons attached to said member and arranged in spaced relation, a rudder alined with the space between said pontoons, and means controlled by said person for operating said rudder.

2. An aquatic device comprising a buoyant prow body, means including a motor for propelling said body, a relatively flat buoyant member attached to the rear of said body for supporting a person lengthwise thereon, two pontoons attached to said member and arranged in spaced relation, a rudder alined with the space between said pontoons, means controlled by said person

for operating said rudder, and means operable by said person for controlling said motor.

3. An aquatic device comprising a relatively flat thin board like member arranged to support a person in face down position, a buoyant prow body attached to one end of said member and projecting a sufficient distance above said member to form a shield in front of the person on said board, means including a motor mounted in said body for propelling said body, a rudder operatively mounted on said member, means controlled by said person for operating said rudder, and control means on said buoyant body in position to be operated by said person.

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