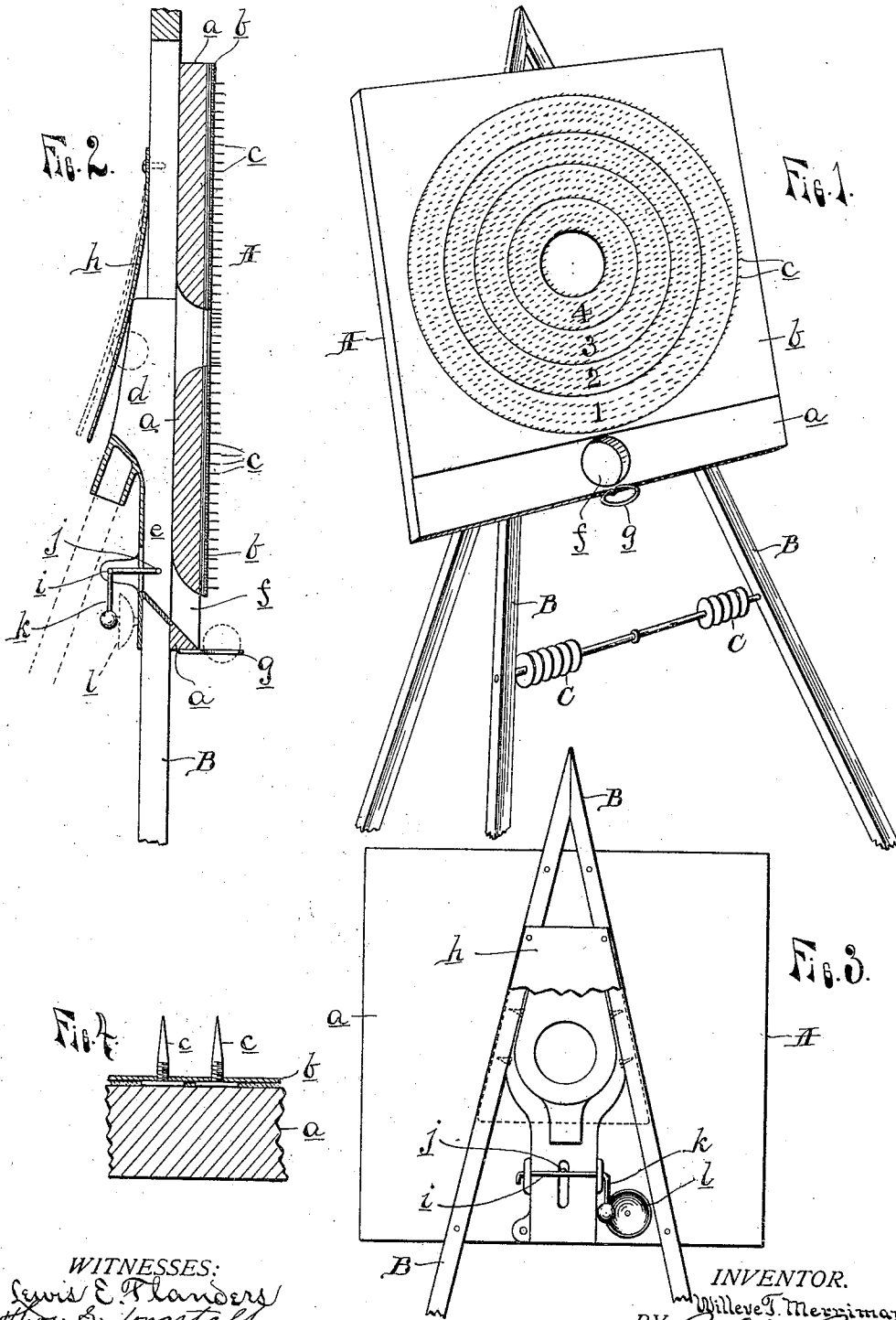


No. 807,041.

PATENTED DEC. 12, 1905.

W. T. MERRIMAN.
GAME APPARATUS.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 26, 1905.



WITNESSES:
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WILLEVE T. MERRIMAN, OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN.

GAME APPARATUS.

No. 807,041.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 12, 1905.

Application filed April 26, 1905. Serial No. 257,416.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLEVE T. MERRIMAN, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Jackson, in the county of Jackson and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to apparatus for playing a game in which balls are thrown at a target; and the invention consists in various improvements in the construction of the target, all as more fully hereinafter described and claimed in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the target. Fig. 2 is a vertical central section thereof. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation with the curtain partially broken away. Fig. 4 is an enlarged section of a small fraction of the target.

A represents the target, comprising a rigid backing *a*, of wood or other suitable material, and a facing *b*, upon which a series of concentric circles are drawn. The center or bull's-eye of the target forms an opening in the target, and the spaces between the concentric circles are thickly studded with points *c*. To this end I preferably take for the facing of the target tough hemp paper or the like, which I perforate by the use of die-plates prepared for the purpose. In the perforations thus made I place short flat-headed steel-wire tacks and then secure the facing with the tacks therein to the backing by suitable cement or glue, using pressure to firmly unite the parts together. The spaces between the concentric circles are also preferably of different colors and are numbered according to their value in the game. Behind the opening forming the bull's-eye there is a chamber or receiving-pocket *d*, adapted to receive the balls passing through the opening and conduct the same through a passage *e* at the base of the pocket into and through an opening *f* in the base of the target to a seat, such as the wire ring *g*. The rear wall of the pocket behind the bull's-eye is formed with an opening in it, and this opening is covered over by a flexible curtain *h*, secured at one

end only, so that it may yield by the impact of a ball and deaden it. By arranging the curtain in a slanting position, as shown, and enlarging the bull's-eye opening rearwardly the ball is prevented from rebounding out. Adjacent to the passage *e* is journaled a crank-shaft *i*, carrying a crank-arm *j*, extending into the passage, and a bell-hammer *k*, adapted to strike the bell *l* whenever a ball passes through the passage.

The target is preferably secured upon suitable legs *B*, so that its face will be upon a slight incline to the vertical, and between the front legs one or more cross-wires may be secured for carrying game-counters *C*.

In connection with the apparatus described balls are provided for throwing at the target. These balls, which may be simply of soft wood, are thrown from a distance, according to the rules of the game, and are intended to impale themselves upon the sharp points in striking the studded portion of the target, while those hitting the bull's-eye and counting the highest are caught in the pocket behind and roll out into the ring *g*, at the same time ringing the bell.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. In a game apparatus, the combination with a target having a bull's-eye forming an opening in the target, a chamber at the back of the target forming a receiving-pocket for a ball passing into said opening, an opening in the rear wall of said chamber opposite the bull's-eye opening and a flexible curtain covering said opening.

2. In a game apparatus, the combination with a target having a bull's-eye forming an opening in the target, a chamber at the back of the target forming a receiving-pocket for a ball entering through said opening, a flexible curtain forming the rear wall of said chamber opposite the bull's-eye opening, a passage leading from said chamber to the outside and mechanism for ringing a bell by the passing of the ball through the passage.

3. In a game apparatus, the combination with a target having a series of concentric rings studded with sharp points for impaling thrown balls thereon and with a bull's-eye constituting an opening in the center of the

target for the passage of balls therethrough,
a chamber at the back of the target adapted
to receive the balls entering the bull's-eye
opening, a passage for the ball leading from
5 said chamber to an opening in the target, and
adapted to conduct the ball through said
opening and a receptacle for the ball in front
of said opening, the target being mounted

upon legs and supported in an inclined position. 10

In testimony whereof I affix my signature
in presence of two witnesses.

WILLEVE T. MERRIMAN.

Witnesses:

OTTO F. BARTHEL,
THOS. G. LONGSTAFF.