Feb. 13, 1923. 1,445,369.

E. A. TERRY.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

FILED JULY 19, 1921. 3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

FIG. 1.

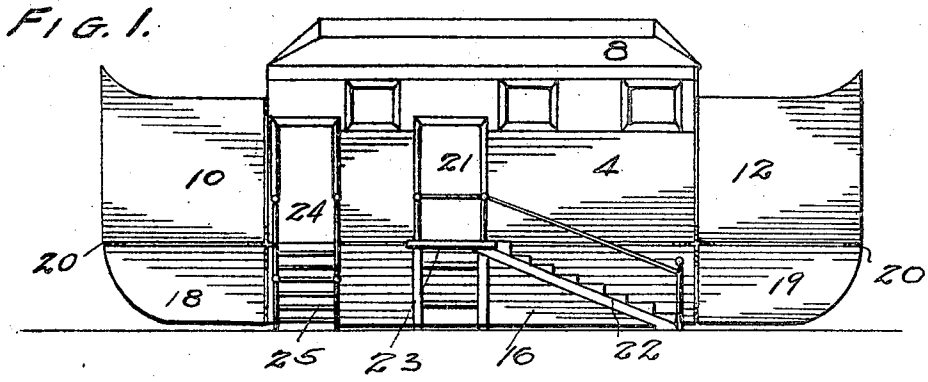
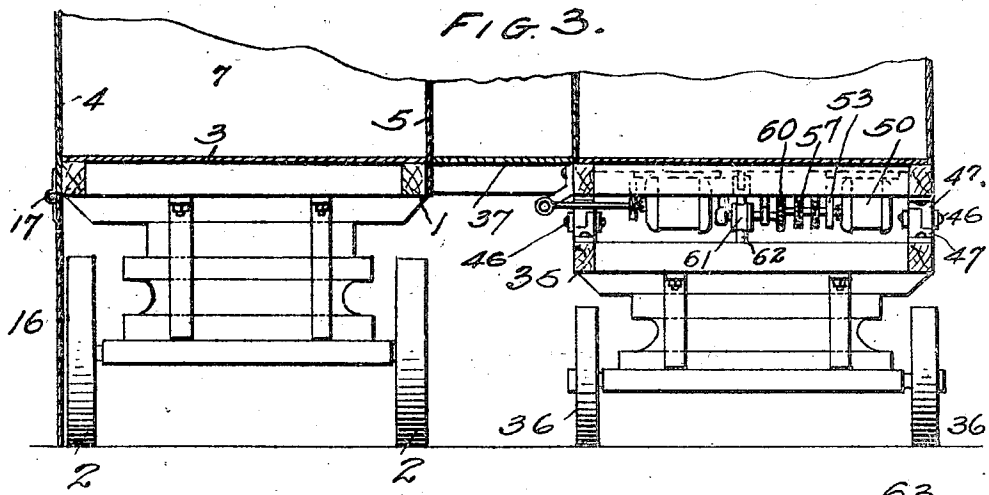



FIG. 3.



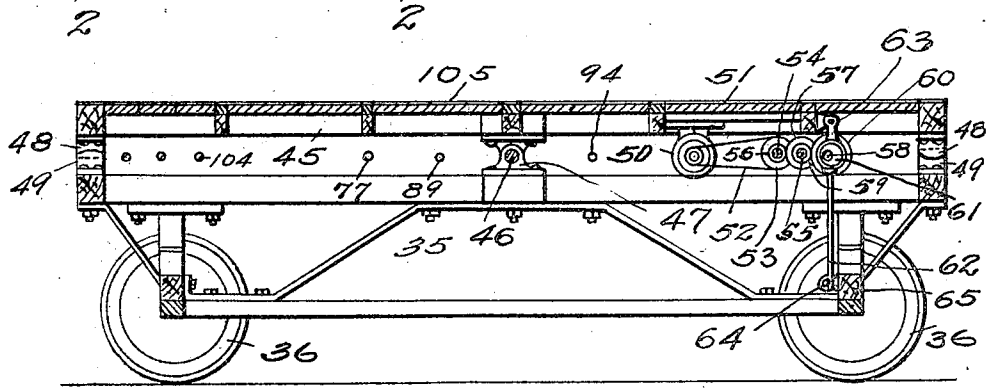




FIG. 4.

Inventor

EDWIN A. TERRY

Thomas R. Farmer

Attorney

Feb. 13, 1923.

1,445,369.

E. A. TERRY.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

FILED JULY 19, 1921.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

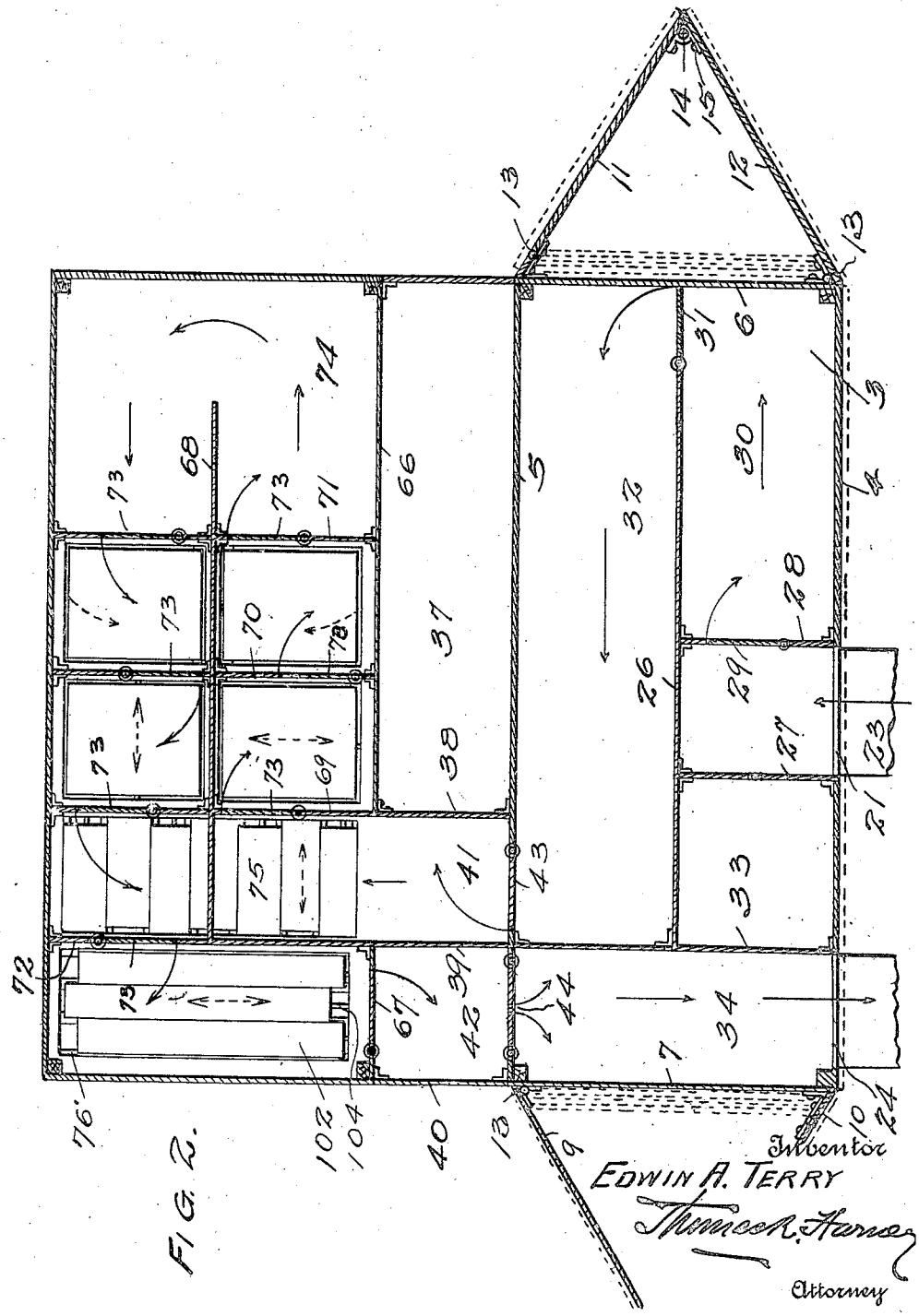


FIG. 2.

Inventor
EDWIN A. TERRY
Thurman R. Turner
Attorney

Feb. 13, 1923. 1,445,369.

E. A. TERRY.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

FILED JULY 19, 1921. 3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

FIG. 5.

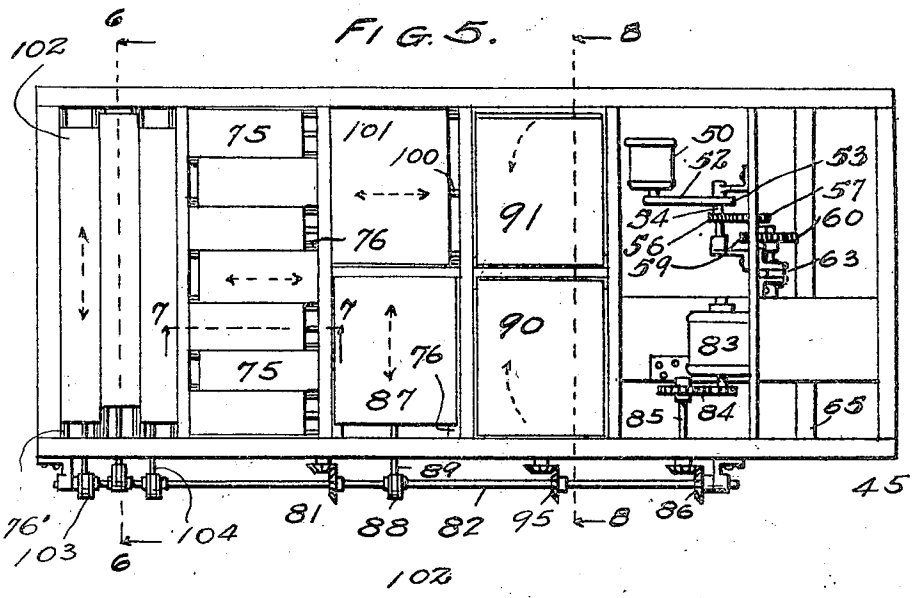



FIG. 6.

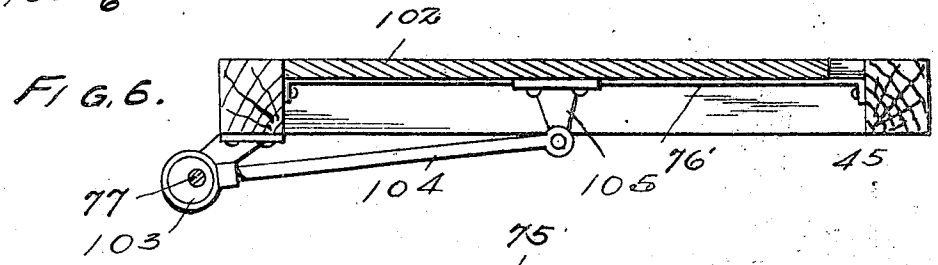



FIG. 7.

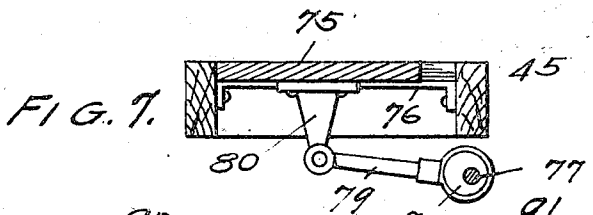
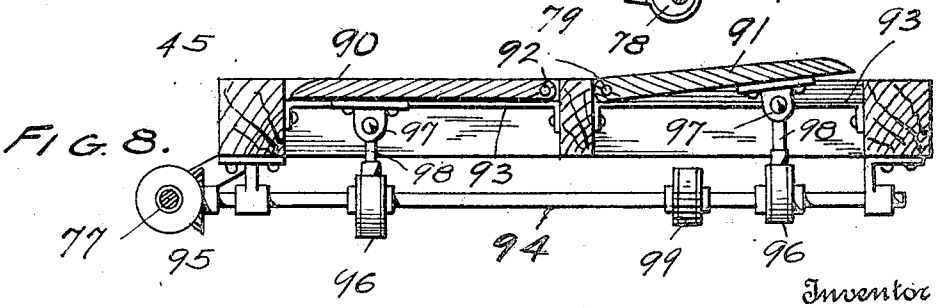



FIG. 8.




Inventor

EDWIN A. TERRY

Thomas R. Harmer

Attorney

Patented Feb. 13, 1923. 1,445,369

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN A. TERRY, OF CLINTON, ILLINOIS.

## AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

Application filed July 19, 1921. Serial No. 486,001.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWIN A. TERRY, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Clinton, in the county of De Witt and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Amusement Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates to improvements in amusement devices involving a portable equipment which includes vehicles having specially constructed superstructures or houses thereon divided into compartments, and comprising, in one instance a house adapted to be rocked and also fashioned with movable floor members. The primary object of the invention is the provision of a device or appliance of this character into which the public is to be admitted for passage therethrough, and during such passage the visitor is subjected to unusual and unexpected experiences due to the rocking of the structure and to the movement of the floor members, thus providing a novel and attractive amusement device as a source of fun and frolic.

To this end the invention involves the combination and arrangement of a plurality of passages and compartments with doors between, together with the movable structure and flooring and operating means therefor as will be more specifically hereinafter pointed out and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings I have illustrated one complete example of the physical embodiment of my invention wherein the parts are combined and arranged according to the best mode I have thus far devised for the practical application of the principles of my invention.

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of the amusement device forming the subject matter of my invention, the structure being fashioned in the form of a Noah's ark.

Figure 2 is a floor plan of the whole structure illustrating the communicating compartments or passages, and indicating by dotted lines the manner of folding some of the walls of the Noah's ark when transporting the same, or for packing.

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view through the pair of vehicles or wagons and floors therefor, showing especially the pivotal support of one of the structures and operating mechanism.

Figure 4 is a longitudinal view, in section of the floor portion of the oscillatable or rocking structure, showing one of its pivots.

Figure 5 is a plan view of the movable floor members, showing also the operating mechanism therefor, actuated from an electric motor.

Figure 6 is an enlarged sectional detail view at line 6—6 of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a sectional detail view longitudinally of the floor in Figure 5, on line 7—7.

Figure 8 is a transverse sectional view of the floor in Figure 5 on line 8—8.

In the preferred form of the invention as illustrated in the drawings I utilize two vehicles or wagons of suitable size, say 8′ wide by 19′ or 20′ long, spaced side by side with a space of 18″ to 24″ between them. The wagon which appears as the front of the amusement device, in Figure 1 has a body 1 supported by the wheels 2, 2, and provided with a floor 3. Above the supporting frame are front and rear side walls 4 and 5 and end walls 6 and 7 that form permanent members of the structure, which is formed as a rectangle with a roof or top 8. In order that this structure may be attractive in appearance it is made to resemble a Noah's ark by the utilization of a pair of foldable false walls 9 and 10 at one end and a similar pair of foldable walls 11 and 12 at the other end to simulate the bow and stern of the ark. These several false walls are hinged at 13 at the ends of the wagon structure or house with the joints offset, in order that the four walls may be folded against the ends of the house structure and there secured when the apparatus is stored or being transported to a show place. At their jointed ends these angular walls are secured together as by bolts at 14 to hold them in extended position, suitable locking plates 15 on the adjoining walls being utilized in connection with the bolts.

To obscure the wheels of the vehicle from sight and further enhance the appearance of the Noah's ark, a pair of intermediate foldable walls 16 are hinged along the bottom edges at the sides of the wagon, or a single wall 16 may be hinged at 17, as in Figure 3, to depend from the wagon as in said figure and in Figure 1. Each of the horizontally folding walls 10 and 12 also has a vertically swinging wall member as

18 and 19, depending from the lower edges of these two members and hinged at 20 thereto. As indicated in dotted lines Figure 2 the wall 16 may be folded up against the wall 4, the wall 18 against wall 10 and wall 19 against wall 12, and then the end walls folded against the permanent end walls of the house, in order to pack the structure, and for transportation purposes.

The house of the wagon 1 has an entrance door 21 reached from the steps 22 and platform 23, and an exit door 24 from which the steps 25 lead down to the ground surface, and it will be understood that elaborate and gay decorations and accessories usually accompanying a street show or amusement device of this character will be utilized to give an attractive and novel appearance to the device.

In the floor plan of Figure 2 it will be seen that the house of wagon 1 is divided longitudinally by a central partition 26, and within the doorway 21 two transversely extending partitions 27 and 28 form a vestibule from which the swinging door 29 permits passage through the hall 30. At one end of the partition 26 an alined, swinging door 31 permits access to the comparatively long corridor 32, which is closed at its left end by the transverse partition 33 extending entirely across the floor 3 of the wagon 1. This partition provides for an exit hall leading to the exit or outlet door 24 of the wagon. Within the vestibule, hall, corridor, and exit hall, suitable and appropriate devices may be provided for the fun and amusement of the passengers, and usually these compartments and passages are darkened to enhance the possibility for fun.

The wagon 1 provides a structure for introducing the patrons to and allowing for their exit from the mechanically operated devices of the wagon 35, which is supported on wheels 36 adjacent to and parallel with the wagon 1. A platform 37 is interposed between the two wagons, flush with the floors of the respective wagons, and properly supported. Transverse partitions 38 and 39 together with the end wall 40 of the platform, form alcoves 41 and 42 between the wagon houses and doors 43 and 44 respectively permit access to and from these alcoves.

The wagon structure 35 is provided with a tiltable or oscillatable rectangular frame 45 which is centrally pivoted at 46 in brackets or bearing blocks 47 on the respective frames 35 and 45, and the ends of this frame 45 are designed to have a slight movement, sufficient to give the impression of a rocking boat, on the supporting wagon 35. At the ends of the frames 35 and 45 are provided two pairs of guide plates as 48 and 49, which overlap and are in frictional contact to prevent relative lateral movement of the two frames 35 and 45, and hold them in proper position. At the joints of the oscillatable frame with the alcoves 41 and 42 flexible mats may be utilized to cover the adjoining parts and shield against danger to the feet of the patrons entering or leaving the tiltable or oscillating structure.

In Figures 4 and 6 the mechanism for oscillating or rocking the frame 45 on its pivots 46 is shown, actuated from an electric motor 50 supported beneath the floor 51 of the rocking frame 45, and a belt or sprocket chain 52 passing over a larger wheel 53 on the shaft 54 revolves said shaft. The shaft 54 is suitably supported or journaled beneath the rocking frame and a second, parallel shaft 55 is revolved from the shaft 54 by pinion 56 and gear 57, while a third or eccentric shaft 58 is revolved from shaft 55 by pinion 59 and gear 60. These enumerated members form the gearing for revolving the eccentric shaft, at a reduced speed, and through the eccentric shaft and eccentric head 61 thereon the eccentric or actuating rod 62 is vertically reciprocated. The eccentric rod is pivotally connected at 63 to the rocking frame, and at its lower end has a stationary pivotal connection at 64 to the axle 65 of the wagon. Thus with the lower end of the eccentric rod anchored or stationary, the action of the eccentric disk or head 61 results in elevating and lowering the ends of the oscillatable frame 45 providing for a continuous rocking or tilting movement of the frame 45 with relation to the wagon frame 35.

In Figure 2 it will be seen that the rocking frame has a housing thereon comprising the four end and side walls indicated by the numeral 66, access being had to the housing from the alcove 41 and exit therefrom being had through a swinging door 67 to the alcove 42. Within the housing 66 are erected a central longitudinally extending partition 68, three transversely extending partitions 69, 70, and 71, and a fourth transversely extending partition 72 at the exit end of the housing. These several partitions separate the housing space into a series of compartments, and swinging doors 73 are provided between the compartments in order that the patron may make progress through the tortuous way as illustrated by the arrows. A roof or covering is provided for the housing 66 to exclude light, and the successive doors 73 are preferably arranged out of alinement as indicated to further retard the ready progress through the series of compartments. At the right in Figure 2 the flooring 74 is solid and immovable, except as it moves with the rocking structure, but the major portion of the floor of the structure 66 is divided into movable members or boards that are continuously moving beneath the

feet of patron as he moves through the successive compartments, and the movement of these floor members is in various directions.

Thus upon passing from the alcove 41 the patron steps upon a floor portion comprising a series of floor boards 75, slidable longitudinally of the rocking frame and each adjoining board moving in opposite directions, or reciprocating horizontally as indicated by the double-head dotted arrows. In Figure 7 a detail view is shown to illustrate the structure and actuating mechanism for each of these boards, and it will be seen that they are slidably supported on guide plates or ways 76 between the transverse beams of the rocking frame. The boards are each reciprocated from a common countershaft or eccentric shaft 77 extending transversely of the rocking frame, and each board has an eccentric disk 78, a connecting rod 79 and bracket 80 by means of which the rotary movement of the eccentric shaft is transmitted and conveyed to the slide board to reciprocate the latter. The countershaft 77 is revolved through its bevel gear connection 81 by the driving shaft 82 which is supported and journaled on the rocking frame, and the driving shaft or operating shaft 82 is revolved from an electric motor 83 through gearing 84, countershaft 85 and the bevel gear connection 86 in Fig. 5.

Passing through the doorway of the partition 69, the patron steps from the longitudinally reciprocating, oppositely moving boards 75 to a transversely reciprocating board or platform 87, moving in a direction at right angles to the movement of the boards 75 and reciprocating as indicated by the double-head arrow in dotted lines. This platform is actuated in manner similar to each of the boards 75, an eccentric disk 88 being provided on the operating shaft 82 and the connecting rod 89 pivotally connected to the underside of the platform causes said platform to slide on its ways 76 as a support.

From the transversely reciprocating platform 87 the patron steps through the open door 73 of partition 70 and encounters a vertically moving, hinged platform 90, of which there is a counterpart 91 on the opposite side of the partition 68. Each of these platforms is hinged as at 92, preferably along the longitudinal center of the housing 66, and when in lowered or normal position, rest upon supporting straps or plates 93 flush with the level of the floor. The hinged platforms are successively elevated and lowered from the transverse eccentric shaft 94 revolved from the operating shaft 77 by bevel gearing 95, and the eccentrics 96 which are pivotally connected to the brackets 97 by rods 98 convert the rotary motion of the shaft 94 into a reciprocal movement of the rods 98, proper allowance being made for a loose joint to permit movement of parts.

Through the instrumentality of an eccentric 99 on shaft 94 and suitable connections including the connecting rod 100 (Fig. 5) the platform 101 is reciprocated longitudinally as indicated by the dotted arrow, and this platform is reached by the patron after leaving the hinged platform 91, passage being had through partition 71 by its door 73, around the open space at the right end of the housing and thence through the succeeding doors as indicated by the arrows.

The patron now passes through a swinging door 73 from the longitudinally reciprocating platform, which supports both feet of the person, to the longitudinally reciprocating boards 75 and these boards are sufficiently narrow to support only one foot on a board. After leaving these boards 75 the patron passes through the door in partition 73 and encounters the comparatively long boards 102, which extend transversely of the housing and reciprocate with short rapid strokes, sliding on the slide strips or plates 76′. The adjoining boards 102 move or reciprocate in opposite directions and are actuated from the operating shaft 77 by eccentrics 103 thereon, connecting rods 104 and the brackets 105 attached at the undersides of the boards. After leaving the transversely moving boards 102 the patron passes through the door 67 to alcove 42 and emerges through the double doors 44 to the outlet hall 34 and thence through the exit door 24.

As indicated at 105 in Figure 4 the floor members may have a flexible covering 105 which will not interfere with the individual movement of separate and moving parts, but which will prevent the feet of the patrons from getting caught between moving parts, and other proper safeguards will be utilized to insure safety of the patron as he passes through the maze of tortuous passages and bewildering and unexpected movements of the floor members. In this manner an unusually novel and attractive diversion is provided in the amusement device which proves a source of merriment and fun to the patrons.

Changes and alterations may be made in the structures embodied in the invention, as for instance, the number of sliding boards may be varied and the width of the boards 75 and 102 can be changed; the pivotal support for the rocking house may be a transverse axle instead of two pivot bearings; the guide flanges 48 and 49 for preventing lateral movement of the rocking structure may extend longitudinally of the side bars or bolsters of the rocking frame and its supporting wagon frame, and various other changes may be made within the scope of

my claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. In a portable amusement device the combination with wheeled vehicles adapted for parallel arrangement, a pair of housings supported on said vehicles having floors, an intermediate platform, and an entrance and exit for one of said housings, of angularly disposed partitions in said housings forming a succession of compartments and doors in said partitions, one of said housings having pivotal supports and means for rocking said housing on its pivotal supports.

2. The combination with a pair of houses one of which has an entrance and an exit and communication means between said houses, of angularly disposed partitions in said houses forming a succession of compartments from entrance to exit, doors in said partitions, pivotal supports for one of said housings and means for rocking said housing on its supports, said pivotally supported house having floor members movable in various directions, and means for moving said floor members.

3. The combination with a vehicle and its supporting frame, of a house structure thereon, foldable false walls angularly disposed at the ends of said house and adapted to fold against the ends of the house, foldable bottom false walls depending from the foldable angularly disposed walls, and an intermediate foldable wall depending from the fixed house wall, for the purpose described.

4. The combination in a pivotally supported house structure, of a motor and an eccentric mechanism operated therefrom for rocking said house on its pivotal support, said house having floor members movable in various directions, means providing a continuous passage over said floor members from entrance to exit of the house, a second motor, an operating shaft revolved therefrom and eccentrically operating mechanism between said operating shaft and floor members for reciprocating the latter.

5. The combination in a pivotally supported house structure, of a motor and an eccentric mechanism operated therefrom for rocking said house on its pivotal support, said house having floor members movable in various directions, an entrance and exit to the house, angularly disposed partitions in said house forming a succession of compartments from the entrance to the exit, doors in said partitions, a second motor, an operating shaft revolved therefrom, and eccentrically operating mechanism between said operating shaft and floor members for reciprocating the latter.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

EDWIN A. TERRY.