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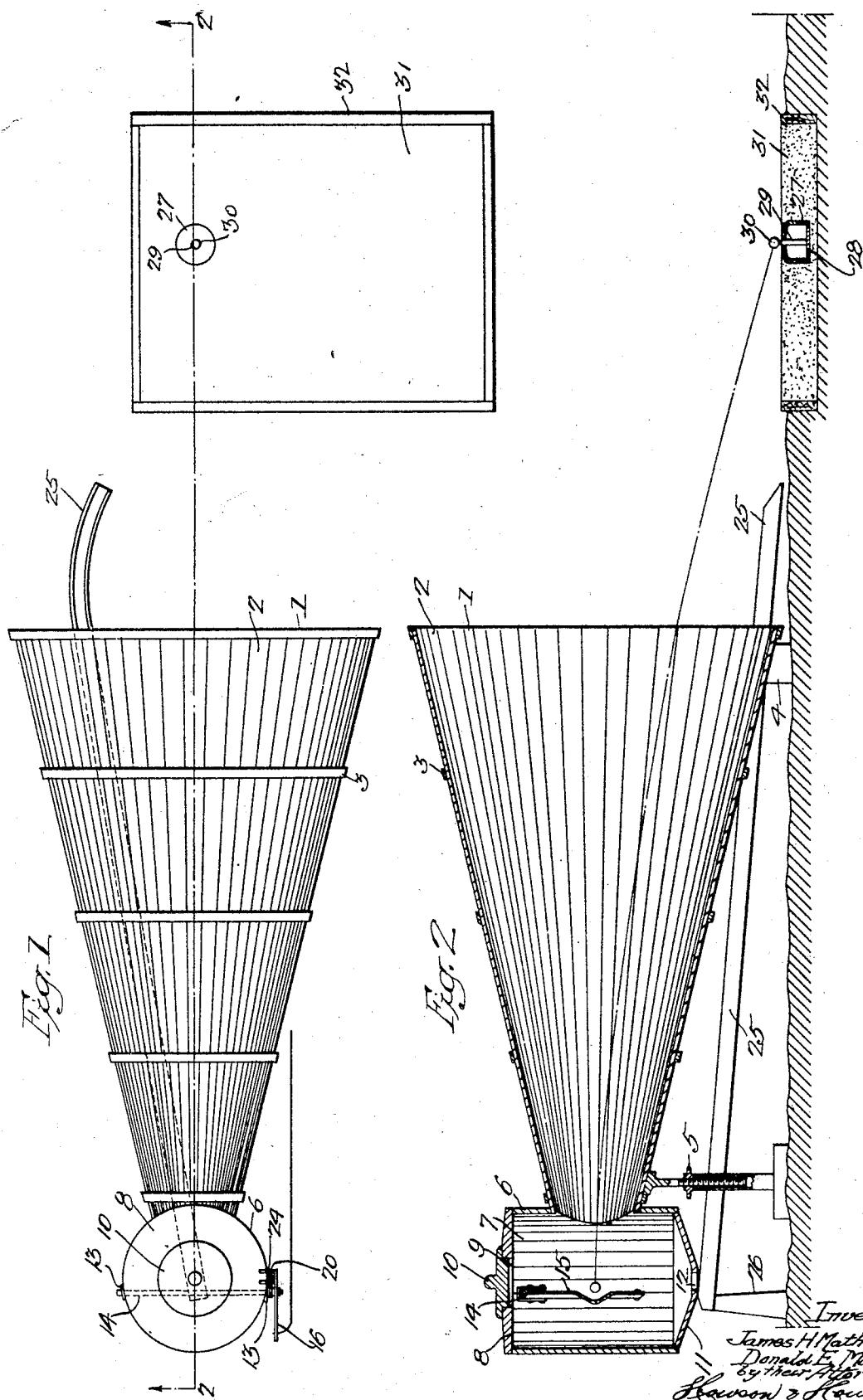
J. H. MATHESON ET AL

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DEVICE FOR MINIATURE GOLF COURSES

Filed Oct. 24, 1930

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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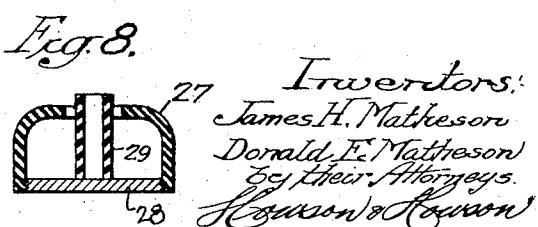
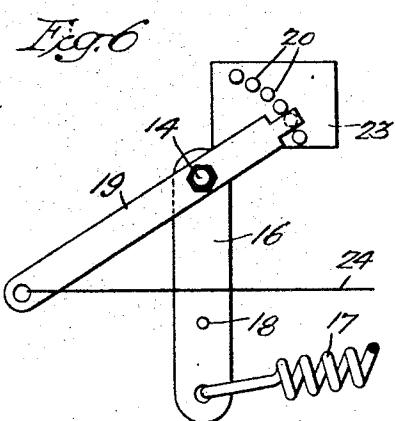
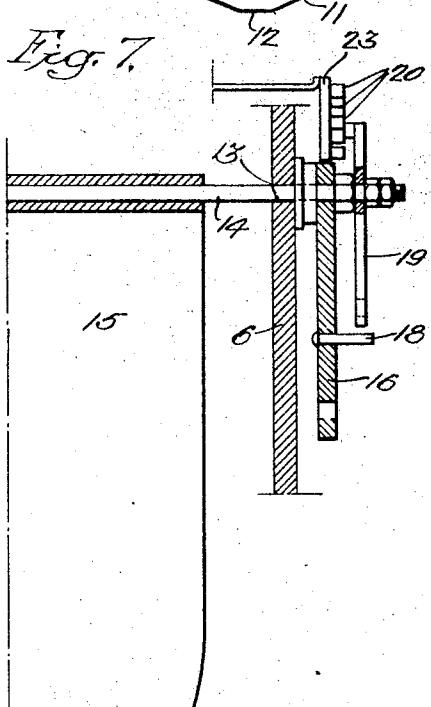
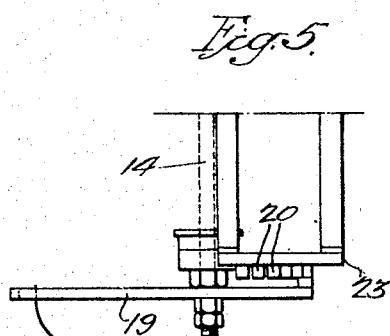
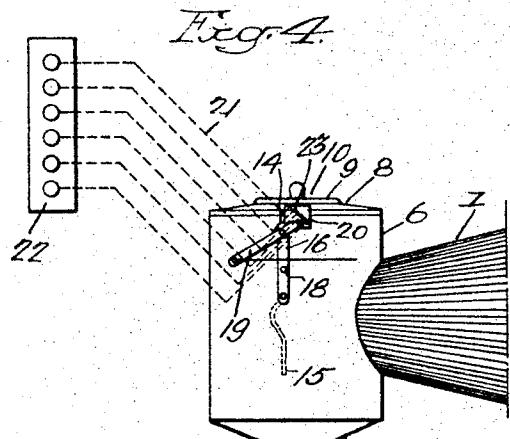
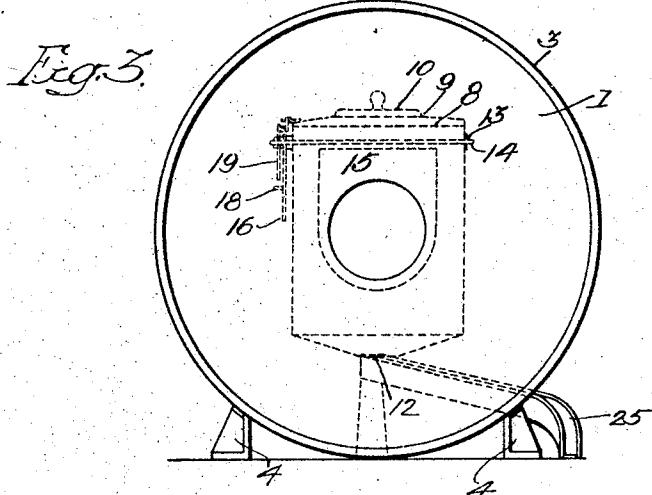
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DEVICE FOR MINIATURE GOLF COURSES

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Patented May 3, 1932

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## DEVICE FOR MINIATURE GOLF COURSES

Application filed October 24, 1930. Serial No. 491,050.

This invention relates to new and novel features in games and more particularly in games wherein a golf ball is impelled by an ordinary golf club with the customary force as on regular golf courses.

One object of this invention is to provide a game apparatus of this type to be used in conjunction with miniature golf courses, preferably at the first and eighteenth holes, 10 and thereby enable the players to start off and finish the game with the full and hard ordinary driving stroke.

Another object of the invention is to provide an indicating means in conjunction with the game apparatus, adapted to show the distance the golf ball would travel, if the flight of the said ball was not arrested by the game apparatus.

A further object of the invention is to provide an apparatus which is equally effective as a game or as a device adapted to be used in the practice of regular golf shots.

The invention further resides in certain structural features hereinafter set forth.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the apparatus showing the golf ball receiver and the relative position of the tee in conjunction therewith;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the line 2—2 Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an end elevation of the golf ball receiving apparatus shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a side elevation showing the indicating mechanism mounted on the external surface of the game apparatus;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged plan view showing the indicating mechanism;

Fig. 6 is a side elevation of the indicating mechanism;

Fig. 7 is an end elevation showing the indicating mechanism mounted upon the game apparatus; and

Fig. 8 is an enlarged section view of the driving tee.

Referring to the drawings, the game apparatus comprises a hollow conical section 1, composed of a plurality of longitudinal elements 2 made of wood or other suitable material, and held in conical relation preferably

by rings 3 of metal or other suitable material. The cone elements 2 are each secured to the rings 3 by any suitable means such as rivets.

The conical section 1 is mounted upon supports 4 adapted to be positioned adjacent the forward or base end of the cone 1. The rear or apex end of the cone 1 is supported by means of an adjustable jack 5, in such a manner that the axis of the cone 1 from the base to the vertex will lie in a plane substantially parallel with the ground, or may be placed at an angle with the ground thereby affording a steep angle for a mashie shot or a relatively flat angle for a mid iron shot as the player desires.

A tubular receptacle 6 composed of vertical elements 7 made of wood or other suitable material has a circular opening cut in the side surface thereof. The rear or vertex end of the cone 1 extends into the said opening and is securely fastened to the receptacle. The receptacle 6 in the present instance is provided with a cover 8, the said cover in the present instance having a hand hole 9 therein, closed by a lid 10. The bottom or base 11 of the receptacle is in the form of an inverted conical frustum and in the present instance has a hole 12 in the vertex thereof to allow the ball to roll out of the receptacle.

Bearings 13 are securely mounted in the sides of the receptacle 6 at a point near the top thereof. A shaft 14 is rotatably mounted in the bearings 13 and extends entirely through the bearings 13 to the exterior of the receptacle 6. An arresting or stopping member 15 is rigidly mounted on the shaft 14 within the said receptacle 6 opposite the opening of the conical section, the lever 16 is secured to one end of the said shaft 14 exterior of the receptacle, the lever 16 and the stop member 15 preferably lying in the same plane. Connected to the lever 16 and to the receptacle is a spring 17 tending to oppose any force on the stop 15, to rotate the shaft 14 and the lever 16 in a clockwise direction. The spring 17 is of such strength that it will permit a clockwise rotation of the shaft and lever when a sufficient force is exerted on the stop 15. Projecting from the lever 16 is a pin 18 which lies in the path of a second

lever 19 rotatably mounted upon the shaft 14. Thus a sufficient force on the stop 15 causes the rotation of the shaft 14 and the lever 16 and pin 18 on the lever 16 engages the lever 19 and rotates it about the shaft 14.

5 The lever 19 is adapted to contact with the contact points 20 and completes an electric circuit through wires 21 and thereby lighting the indicating lamps 22. The contact points 20 are mounted upon a base 23, which is in turn mounted on the side of the receptacle 6 in any well known manner.

10 The contact point upon which the lever 19 comes to rest is dependent upon the force on the stop 15 which causes a relative degree of rotation of the shaft 14 and the lever 16, against the resisting force of the spring 17. The lever 19 will remain in contact and complete the electric circuit to the lamps after the 15 spring 17 has returned the lever 16 to its normal position.

15 A string 24 is provided and attached to the lever 19 whereby the player may give the lever 19 a counter-clockwise rotation to its normal position, breaking the electric circuit.

20 In the present instance, directly beneath the hole 12 in the base of the receptacle 6 is an inclined trough 25, supported beneath the hole 12 on a suitable support, 26, the said trough 25 is adapted to extend to a position preferably adjacent the tee from which the golf ball 30 is impelled.

25 A tee is provided consisting of a soft rubber housing 27 mounted on a steel base 28 and having a tubular member 29 adapted to extend upward through the housing 27. The inner diameter of the member 29 is sufficient to support an ordinary golf ball 30. The housing 27 and the base 28 are embedded in sand 31 which is enclosed by side and end members 32, the housing 25 being embedded in the sand 31 to such a depth that the tubular tee member 29 will extend upward through the upper surface of the sand bed 31.

30 In playing the game:

35 The player places a golf ball 30 upon the tubular tee 29 and impells the golf ball, with a full hard stroke, through the hollow cone 1 and into the receptacle 6. The golf ball 40 entering the receptacle 6 hits the stop 15 with sufficient impact to cause the stop to rotate the shaft 14 and the lever 16 against the resisting tension of the spring 17. The rotation of the lever 16 causes the pin 18 on the lever 16 to engage the lever 19 and rotate the said lever 19 about the shaft 14 and into contact with one of the contact points 20. The contact point upon which the lever 19 stops depends upon the force of the impact 45 of the golf ball upon the stop 15, the spring 17 being of a definite strength relative to the force of the impact of the golf ball so that in the event of a drive shot normally travelling 300 yards, the spring 17 will permit 50 the pin 18 on the lever 16 to rotate the contact

lever 19 to the contact point which completes the circuit to the indicating lamp signifying a golf shot of that distance.

55 It will be apparent that certain modifications and changes may be made hereto without departing from the invention.

We claim:

1. A game apparatus comprising a conical member, composed of a plurality of longitudinal staves, and adapted to guide a golf ball, 70 a tubular receptacle composed of a plurality of longitudinal staves and having a top and bottom thereon and adapted to be securely mounted on the conical member at the apex thereof; means within said receptacle for arresting the flight of a golf ball, and means operative in conjunction with the said arresting means for indicating the distance of an uninterrupted flight of the golf ball, the said indicating means being mounted on the exterior of the said receptacle.

75 2. A game apparatus comprising a conical member, a tubular receptacle mounted at the apex thereof, a shaft rotatably mounted in and extending externally of the receptacle, means mounted on the shaft and within the receptacle for arresting the flight of a golf ball, and indicating means mounted externally of the receptacle and operative in conjunction with the arresting means, the said indicating means comprising a lever rigidly mounted on the said shaft, the said lever having a pin, a second lever lying in the path of the pin, a plurality of contact points in operable relation with said second lever for completing electric circuits when the second lever is rotated by the pin on said first lever, the second lever is adapted to remain in contact with the point until manually returned to normal position.

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