March 27, 1934. C. C. BECKETT 1,952,113

GOLF BALL TEEING DEVICE

Filed Nov. 22, 1932 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

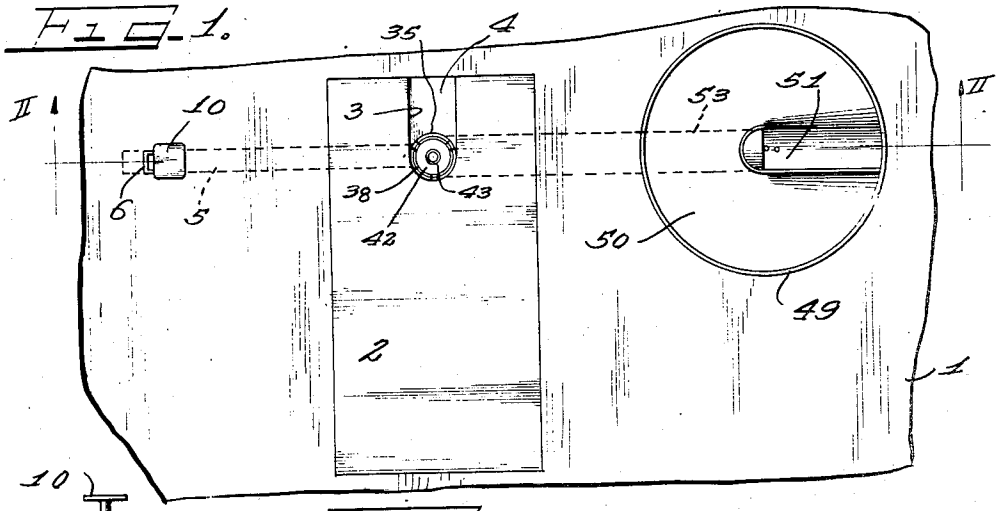


FIG. 2.

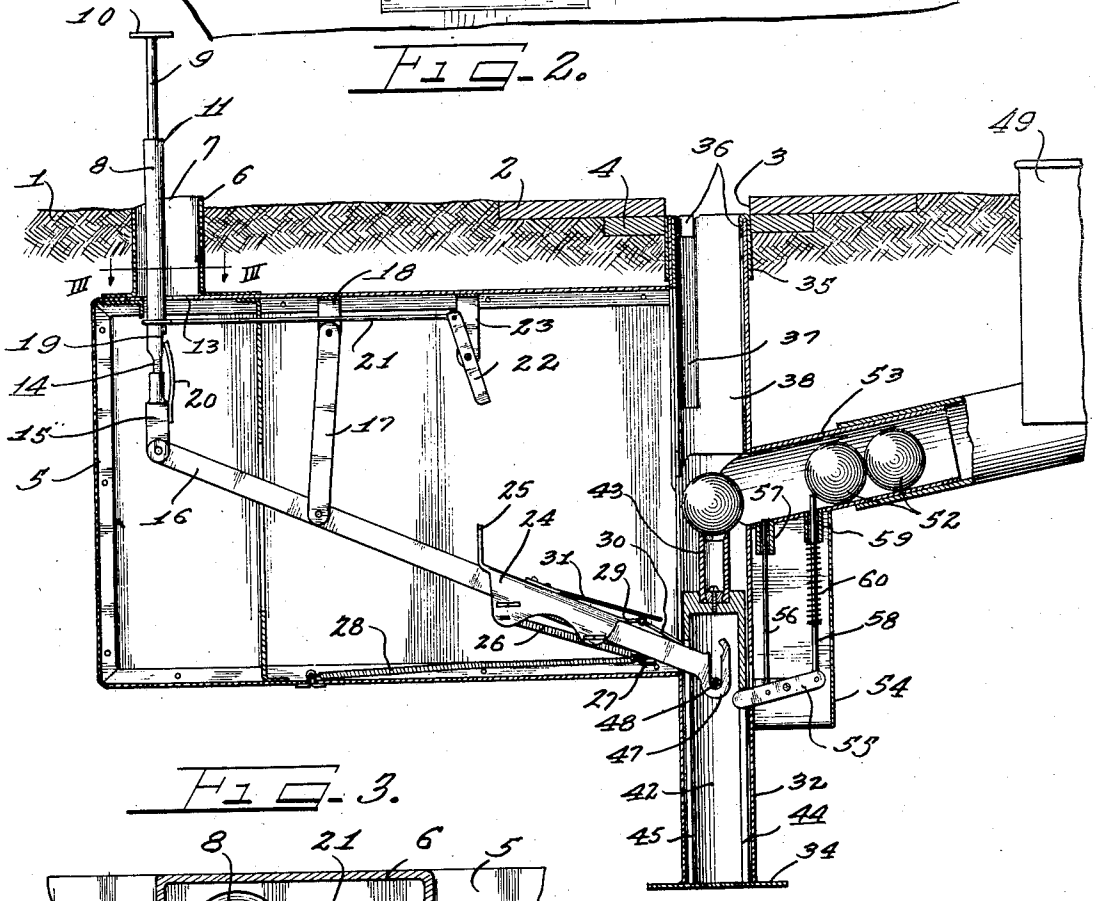
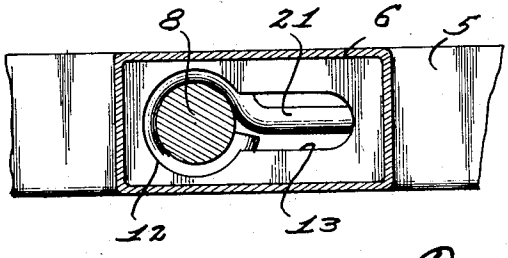


FIG. 3.



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GOLF BALL TEEING DEVICE

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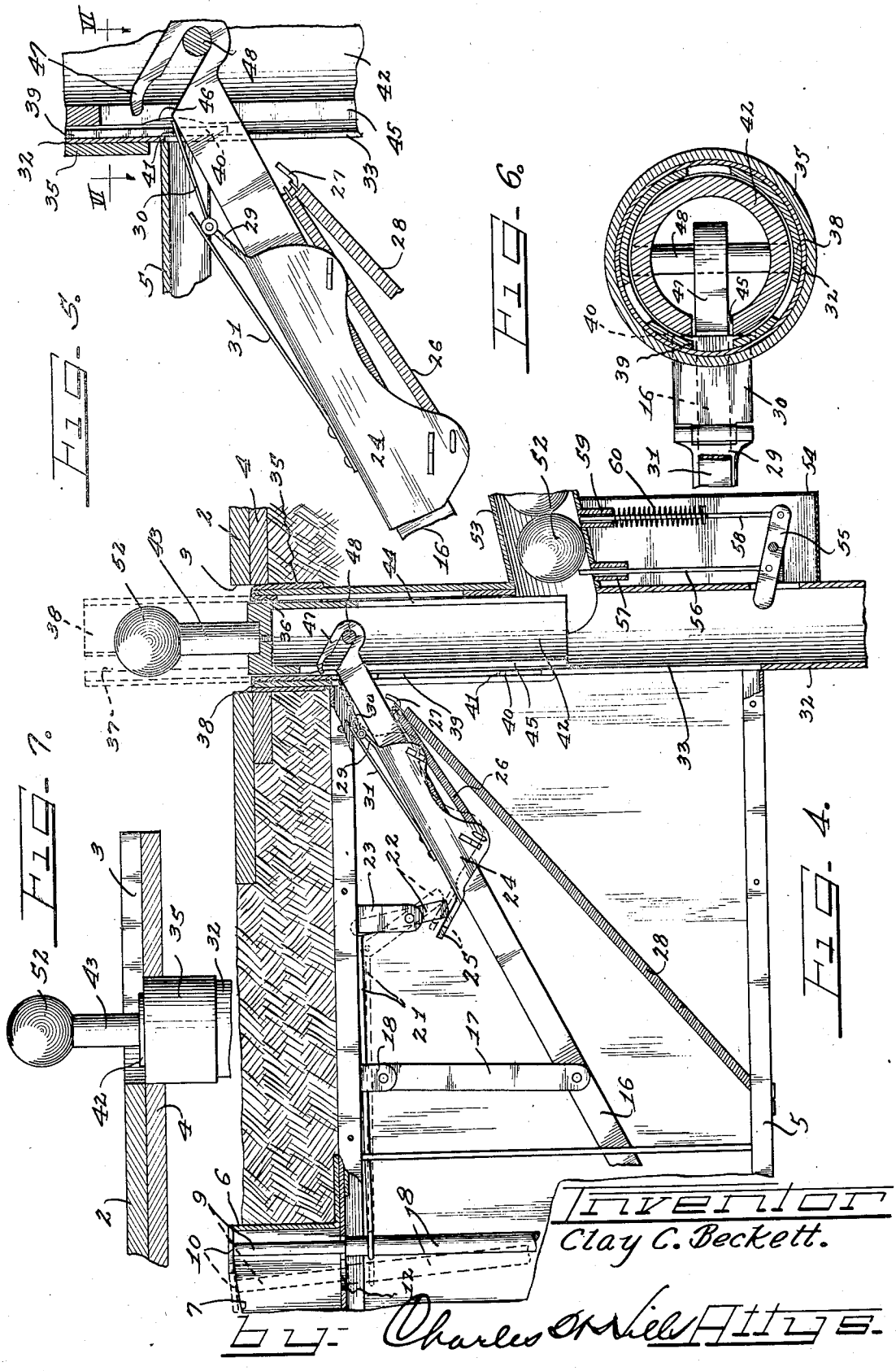


FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

FIG. 7.

FIG. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,952,113

GOLF BALL TEEING DEVICE

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Application November 22, 1932, Serial No. 643,935

15 Claims. (Cl. 273—33)

Golf players find it desirable to practice driving balls on special fields or courses commonly known as "stop and sock" fields. On such fields, large quantities of golf balls are driven from tees requiring that the player repeatedly bend over to tee the balls.

The present invention relates to an improved golf ball teeing device adapted to be buried in the ground at a teeing position with only a foot operated control member projecting above the ground to be operated by a player whereby a golf ball is elevated on a tee and within a guide sleeve which is adapted to be automatically released by a further operation of the control member allowing the guide to drop downwardly out of view, permitting the tee to remain projected with the golf ball seated thereon in position to be driven therefrom by the player.

It is an object of this invention to provide a golf ball teeing device including a movable tee and a golf ball guide which are adapted to be elevated by the operation of a control mechanism which may be pivotally adjusted to cause automatic release of the guide without releasing the tee on which an elevated golf ball is in position to be driven from the tee.

It is also an object of this invention to provide an improved golf ball teeing device wherein a golf ball retaining means is elevated with a tee and is adapted to be returned into a hidden position without disturbing the elevated position of the tee or a golf ball carried thereon.

It is a further object of this invention to provide an improved golf ball teeing device including a tee and a guide which are mounted for telescopic movement with respect to one another by means of a control member which is selectively operable to simultaneously elevate the tee and the guide, and then cause release of the guide and the tee independently of one another.

It is furthermore an important object of this invention to provide an improved golf ball teeing device wherein a foot operated control mechanism is selectively operable to simultaneously raise a tee and a golf ball guide, and then release the guide to permit driving of a golf ball elevated by the tee, said foot operated control means being adjustable for varying the height to which the tee is adapted to be elevated.

It is furthermore an object of this invention to provide an improved type of golf ball teeing device, wherein a golf ball feed mechanism is controlled by the movement of a movable tee having associated therewith a guide sleeve which is elevated with the upward movement of the tee, said guide sleeve adapted to be released in advance of the lowering of the tee by the operation of the actuating mechanism employed for the raising of the tee and the guide sleeve.

It is an important object of this invention to provide an improved type of golf ball teeing device adapted to be buried in the ground beneath the teeing pad, said teeing device including a combination tee and ball guide, with the tee movably mounted to control the operation of a golf ball feed mechanism. The tee is actuated by a control mechanism for elevating the tee and actuating the guide or retaining sleeve to prevent falling of a golf ball off of the tee during the elevation thereof into a teeing position, said control mechanism furthermore including a release device whereby the retaining or guide sleeve is permitted to drop into an out of the way position independently of the tee to expose the ball in a position permitting the ball to be played prior to the lowering of the tee when the control mechanism is released.

Another important object of the invention is to provide an improved golf ball teeing device wherein the golf ball feed mechanism is controlled by means of a reciprocating tee operable by a control mechanism including means for elevating a guard sleeve for retaining a golf ball in position during the elevation of the tee, said control mechanism adapted to be moved into a locked position for retaining the elevated tee in a set position of adjustment and simultaneously causing release of the elevated guide sleeve permitting the same to drop into an out of the way position to allow the golf ball to be played after which the control mechanism is released permitting the elevated tee to drop back into normal position to receive the next golf ball from the golf ball feed mechanism.

Other and further important objects of this invention will be apparent from the disclosures in the specification and the accompanying drawings.

The invention in a preferred form is illustrated in the drawings, and hereinafter more fully described.

On the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a golf ball teeing device embodying the principles of this invention illustrating the major portion of the device buried in the ground and showing the relative positions of the golf ball magazine, the teeing plate and the upper end of the tee actuating device.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view taken on

lines II—II of Figure 1 with the operating mechanisms shown in elevation and partly in section, in their normal released position.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary detailed section taken on lines III—III of Figure 2 illustrating the locking arrangement for the foot operated control device.

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view similar to that illustrated in Figure 2, with parts broken away and showing the tee in its elevated position and illustrating the raised position of the guide sleeve in dotted lines, and the lowered position of the sleeve in full lines to permit playing of the teed golf ball.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary side view of the tee raising end of the tee operating means together with the guide sleeve control means carried by the tee operating means.

Figure 6 is an enlarged horizontal detailed section taken on line VI—VI of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is an elevational view of the upper end of the tee when in raised position showing its relation to the teeing plate which is positioned to obviate striking of the upper portion of the supporting base of the tee on which the ball supporting tubular tee is supported.

As shown on the drawings:

The reference numeral 1 indicates a golf green having seated in the top surface thereof a teeing pad or plate 2 constructed of fiber board, heavy fabric, rubber or the like and having a slot 3 disposed longitudinally in one end thereof. Positioned beneath the teeing pad or plate 2 is a lower plate or pad 4 having a round opening therein positioned directly beneath the inner end of the slot 3.

The golf ball teeing device proper comprises a housing or casing 5 which is adapted to be buried in the ground beneath the green 1 as illustrated in Figure 2. Provided on the top near one end of the casing 5 is a tube or collar 6, the upper end of which projects slightly above the green surface, and is slightly inclined upwardly in a direction towards the teeing plate 2 to form the upper inclined edge 7 as illustrated in Figure 2. As shown in Figure 3, the tube or collar 6 is preferably of rectangular cross section and is elongated to permit operation of a control or operating plunger or stem consisting of an enlarged plunger rod or shaft 8 of round cross section, the upper portion of which is of reduced diameter to provide a neck or stem 9 terminating at its upper end in a head or foot pedal 10. By reducing the diameter of the neck or stem 9, a stop shoulder 11 is provided at the upper end of the enlarged lower section of the plunger or shaft 8. As illustrated in Figure 3, the top wall of the casing 5 is provided with a key slot surrounded by the tube 6. The key slot comprises an enlarged round end 12 and an elongated or narrow slot section 13. The plunger or shaft 8 is positioned to normally project slidably through the enlarged portion 12 of the key slot to position the foot pedal or head 10 in an elevated position as illustrated in Figure 2 ready for operation by a golf player's foot. The lower or inner end of the plunger or shaft 8 is of reduced diameter and is externally threaded to form a screw 14. The screw portion 14 of the plunger shaft is threaded into a coupling 15 which is pivotally mounted on one end of a fulcrumed beam or lever 16. The beam 16 is fulcrumed or pivotally mounted intermediate its ends on the lower end of a link 17, the upper end of which is pivotally supported on a bracket secured on the inner surface of the top plate of the casing 5.

For the purpose of preventing accidental rotation of the control shaft 8, said shaft has a notch 19 provided near the lower end thereof to afford a flat surface against which the upper end of a strap spring 20 engages. The lower end of the strap spring 20 is rigidly secured to the coupler 15.

Slidably around the lower portion of the control shaft 8 is the looped end of a connecting rod 21, the opposite end of which is pivotally connected to the upper end of a trip arm 22 which is pivotally mounted intermediate its ends on a bracket 23 secured on the inner surface of the top wall of the casing 5.

Shiftably mounted on the beam or lever 16 is a saddle or carriage 24 having integrally formed on one end thereof a tail or flange 25 which is adapted to be elevated into the field of operation of the trip arm 22 when the control shaft 8 is depressed as illustrated in Figure 4 to raise the saddle supporting end of the beam or lever 16. When the control shaft 8 is moved from the dotted line position into the full line position of Figure 4, the trip arm 22 is moved from the dotted line position into the full line position thereby causing the carriage 24 to be slidably moved into a release position as illustrated in full lines in Figure 4. For returning the carriage 24 from the full line position to the dotted line position, one end of a control spring 26 is connected to the lower portion of the carriage while the second end of the control spring 26 is secured to a hook 27 fastened to the bottom surface of the fulcrumed beam 16. Also engaged on the hook 27 is the upper end of a coiled spring 28, the lower end of which is secured to the bottom of the casing 5. The spring 28 is provided for the purpose of assisting in the lowering of the carriage carrying end of the beam 16 and the elevating back into normal position of the operating shaft 8 when said shaft is moved from the full line position of Figure 4 into the dotted line position, which movement of the shaft causes the shoulder 11 of the shaft to be moved away from underneath the restricted slot 13 of the key slot and into register with the enlarged portion 12 of the key slot thereby releasing the shaft from its lowered position and permitting elevation or return of the shaft upwardly into its normal operating position.

Integrally formed on the upper end of the saddle or carriage 24 is a deflected neck piece or flange 29 on the outer end of which is hingedly mounted a control blade or tongue 30 which is adapted to be slidably moved upon the top surface of the beam 16 into and out of operating position with the slidable movement of the saddle or carriage 24 on the beam 16. For the purpose of preventing the control blade 30 from swinging upwardly beyond a desired distance with the downward movement of the carriage carrying end of the beam 16, a resilient stop is provided in the form of a strap spring 31, one end of which is secured to the top of the saddle or carriage 24 while the free end of the strap spring projects upwardly beyond the hinged or pivoted end of the control blade 30 as clearly illustrated in Figure 5 so that the projecting end of the blade 31 will serve as a resilient stop for the pivoted blade 30.

Rigidly secured or formed on one end of the housing 5 is a cylindrical auxiliary housing 32 which is provided with a longitudinally disposed opening or slot 33 to afford a communication between the interior of the main housing 5 and

the auxiliary housing 32 as clearly illustrated in Figure 4. The auxiliary housing 32 extends downwardly below the lower end of the main housing 5 and is provided with a base plate or foot 34 which closes the lower end of the auxiliary housing 32 to permit the device to be properly anchored in the ground. Secured on the upper end of the auxiliary housing 32 is a collar 35 having a plurality of spaced guide tabs 36 integrally formed on the upper edge thereof. The guide tabs 36 are bent inwardly and downwardly into the upper end of the auxiliary housing 32. The guide tabs 36 are so positioned that they fit into a plurality of longitudinal guide grooves or slots 37 provided in a golf ball retaining or guard sleeve 38 which is telescopically positioned within the upper portion of the auxiliary housing 32. The retaining or guard sleeve 38 normally is in the lowered full line position as illustrated in Figure 4 with the upper end thereof flush with the upper end of the auxiliary housing 32. In addition to the slots 37 the retaining or guard sleeve 38 is provided with a narrow slot 39 which extends downwardly and terminates in a wide slot 40 providing shoulders 41.

Slidably mounted within the auxiliary housing 32 is a tee base or plunger 42. The tee plunger 42 is closed at its upper end and supports a flexible tubular tee 43. Provided in one side of the tee plunger 42 is a slot 44 which is open at its lower end and extends upwardly to about two-thirds of the length of the tee plunger. Also provided in the tee plunger 42 opposite the slot 44 is a longitudinally disposed slot 45 which extends upwardly from the lower end of the plunger to a point near the upper end of the tee plunger as clearly illustrated in Figure 4. The outer surface of the tee plunger 42 is provided with a curved notch 46 as illustrated in Figure 5 to permit the control blade 30 to project through the enlarged lower slot 40 of the guard sleeve 38 to permit elevation of the guard sleeve at a predetermined time in the elevation of the tee plunger 42 as hereinafter more fully described. One end of the operating lever or beam 16 projects through the slot 33 in the auxiliary housing 32 and through the tee plunger slot 45 into the interior of the tee plunger to permit the hooked end 47 of the lever or beam 16 to be engaged on a diametrically positioned pin 48 which is secured through the tee plunger to permit raising of the tee plunger.

Buried in the green 1 at any suitable distance from the teeing plate 2, is a golf ball receiving hopper or bucket 49 having a spiral bottom 50 to afford a runway for golf balls to permit the golf balls to be fed downwardly through an outlet 51 which directs the golf balls 52 in a continuous row into a feed chute or pipe 53 which connects the hopper 49 with the auxiliary housing 32.

The golf ball feed control mechanisms are mounted in a protecting box or casing 54 which is removably secured on one side of the auxiliary housing 32 beneath the golf ball feed chute or pipe 53 as clearly illustrated in Figure 2. A golf ball feed control arm 55 is fulcrumed intermediate its ends in the box 54 and has one end thereof projecting through a slot in the auxiliary housing 32 and into the slot 44 of the tee plunger 42. Pivotally connected to the control arm 55 to one side of the pivot pin thereof is the lower end of a golf ball control rod or stem 56, the upper portion of which slidably projects through a guide sleeve 57 to permit the upper end of the rod 56 to be projected into the golf ball feed chute or pipe 53 to serve as a stop for the golf balls. Pivotally connected to the control arm 55 is the lower end of a golf ball control rod or stem 58, the upper end of which projects slidably through a guide sleeve 59 into the golf ball feed chute or pipe 53 to serve as a stop for the supply of golf balls in the chute when the control rod 56 is in its lowered position to permit the lowermost golf ball to be fed into position upon the tee 43 as illustrated in Figure 2. A coil spring 60 is wound around the rod or stem 58. The lower end of the control spring 60 seats against a stop pin or washer fastened near the lower end of the rod 58 while the upper end of the spring abuts against the lower end of the guide sleeve 59. The spring 60 is provided for the purpose of causing the control rod or stem 56 to be projected upwardly into the golf ball feed chute 53 when the tee plunger 42 is elevated after the lowermost golf ball has been permitted to drop from the chute 53 onto the tee 43. With the elevation of the feed control rod 56, the control rod 58 is of course lowered to permit the supply of golf balls in the chute 53 to advance downwardly to permit the next golf ball to be advanced into position ready to be fed onto the tee 43 when the stem 56 is in its lowermost position.

The operation is as follows:

The improved golf ball teeing device is adaptable for use in golf ball driving practice fields and is adapted to be buried in the ground as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 beneath a driving pad or plate 2 with the upper end of the tube or neck 6 projecting slightly above the top surface of the green and with the golf ball bucket or hopper 49 positioned in a convenient location to permit a quantity of golf balls to be deposited therein, in order to permit the golf balls to be fed one at a time to the teeing device.

A quantity of golf balls 52 when deposited in the hopper 49 feed downwardly by gravity and roll into the golf ball feed chute 53 which is inclined downwardly towards the auxiliary housing 32 and provides a row or line of golf galls ready to be fed to the tee one at a time. Normally, the operating mechanisms are in the position illustrated in Figure 2 with the foot pedal 10 in its elevated position, and with the tee 43 in its lowermost position permitting the first golf ball in the lower end of the chute 53 to roll into the auxiliary housing 32 and into position upon the golf ball seat provided on the upper end of the tee 43.

A player desiring to operate the device has merely to step upon the foot pedal 10 and push downwardly on the stem to lower the shaft 8 into the dotted line position of Figure 4 thereby causing the lever or beam 16 to be actuated to swing the hooked end upwardly towards the full line position of Figure 4. With the upward movement of the hooked end of the lever 16, the tee plunger 42 is gradually moved upwardly in the auxiliary housing 32 thereby releasing the control arm 55 of the golf ball feed mechanism whereby the control spring 60 acts to move the stop rod 58 downwardly simultaneously with the upward movement of the stop rod 56 thereby allowing the golf balls in the chute to move downwardly until the lowermost golf ball comes into contact with the upper end of the raised stop rod 56.

With the elevation of the hooked end of the lever 16, the end of the control blade 30 is moved upwardly into the enlarged slot 40. When the control blade 30 reaches the shoulders 41 at the lower end of the restricted slot 39 in the guard

sleeve 38, said sleeve is adapted to be raised upwardly in the auxiliary housing 32 to project above the upper end of the tee plunger 42 to serve as a guard for retaining the golf ball 52 in position upon the upper end of the flexible tee 43. When the hooked end of the lever 16 reaches its uppermost position as illustrated in Figure 4, the upper portion of the guard sleeve 38 projects upwardly above the top surface of the teeing plate 2. It will thus be noted that during the elevation of a golf ball from the lowermost position of the tee plunger 42 to the uppermost position thereof the golf ball supported on the upper end of the flexible tee 43 is prevented from rolling off of the tee.

To permit access to be had to the teed golf ball the foot pedal 10 is moved from the dotted line position of Figure 4 into the full line position thereby causing operation of the connecting rod 21 which in turn causes pivotal swinging of the fulcrumed control arm 22 to cause the same to co-act with the tail piece 25 of the carriage 24 to slide the same from the dotted line position of Figure 4 into the full line position to retract the control blade 30 outwardly from beneath the shoulders 41 of the guard sleeve 38. The guard sleeve 38 is thus released by the control blade and drops downwardly from the dotted line position of Figure 4 into the auxiliary housing 32 while the flexible tee 43 and the golf ball 52 supported thereon remain in elevated position. When the control shaft 8 is swung from the dotted line position of Figure 4 into the full line position, the reduced upper stem portion 9 of the shaft moves into the restricted portion 13 of the key slot provided in the top plate of the housing 5 so that the shoulder 11 of the said shaft is moved into locking position beneath the top plate of the housing thereby locking the tee elevating mechanism in position with the tee 43 in its raised position supporting a golf ball 52 on the upper end thereof ready to permit the golf ball to be driven off of the tee.

The player now moves the foot pedal 9 from its locked position over the inclined upper edge 7 of the tubular neck 6 into the dotted line position shown in Figure 4 thereby moving the enlarged portion of the shaft 8 into alignment with the enlarged portion 12 of the key slot. When the operator's foot is removed from the foot pedal 10, the shaft 8 is automatically moved upwardly into the full line position illustrated in Figure 2 by the hooked end of the lever 16 which is weighted by the weight of the saddle or carriage 24 and its parts. The downward swing of the weighted end of the fulcrumed lever 16 is caused by gravity assisted when necessary by the coiled spring 28.

With the downward movement of the hooked end of the lever 16, the tee plunger 42 is lowered in the auxiliary housing 32 to the position illustrated in Figure 2. When the upper end of the slot 44 is reached, the tee plunger is brought into contact with one end of the golf ball feed control arm 55 to move the same from the position illustrated in Figure 4 into the position illustrated in Figure 2 thereby lowering the stop rod 56 to release the lowermost golf ball in the chute 53 and at the same time causing the stop rod 58 to be elevated to stop the remaining golf balls in the chute 53 thus allowing only one golf ball at a time to be fed onto the upper end of the flexible tee 43 when in its lowermost position.

With the downward movement of the tee plunger 42 and the hooked end of the lever 16, the control blade 30 slides over the exterior surface of the guard sleeve 38 until said blade reaches the upper end of the enlarged slot 40 permitting the carriage control spring 26 to slide the carriage from the full line position of Figure 4 back into the dotted line position and projecting the free end of the control blade 30 into the guard sleeve slot 40 to permit elevation of the guard sleeve 38 with the next upward movement of the tee plunger 42.

The improved golf ball teeing device is adapted to raise golf balls one at a time into a teeing position with the raised golf ball retained in position by means of the guard sleeve 38 which is adapted to be released to drop into an out of the way position permitting the teed golf ball to remain in an elevated position to permit a player to drive the golf ball from the tee. In the operation of the device, the tee plunger 42 is first adapted to be partially raised in the auxiliary housing 32 to project into the guard sleeve 38 until the shoulders 41 are engaged by the control blade 30 to cause the guard sleeve to be elevated to project a certain distance above the upper surface of the tee plate 2. With the movement of the foot pedal 10 from the dotted line position of Figure 4 into the locked full line position, the guard sleeve 38 is first released to permit the golf ball to be played after which the foot pedal is returned to the dotted line position of Figure 4 thereby releasing the raised tee 43 and its supporting plunger 42 to permit the same to be lowered downwardly through the previously released guard sleeve 38 into the lower portion of the auxiliary housing 32 to actuate the golf ball feed control mechanism in the box 54 to permit another golf ball to be fed onto the upper end of the lowered tee 43.

It will of course be understood that various details of construction may be varied through a wide range without departing from the principles of this invention, and it is therefore not the purpose to limit the patent granted hereon otherwise than necessitated by the scope of the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A teeing machine comprising a housing, a golf ball feed mechanism connected therewith, a tee movably mounted in said housing and controlling the operation of the golf ball feed mechanism to permit golf balls to be fed to the tee one at a time, a control mechanism for raising the tee and a golf ball into a position to permit the ball to be driven from the tee, and a golf ball guard in said housing being movable by said control mechanism to retain the golf ball on the tee during the elevation of said tee, said control mechanism being operable to first release the guard and subsequently release the tee after the raised golf ball has been driven from the tee.

2. A golf ball teeing device comprising a housing, a golf ball feed mechanism connected therewith, a tee and a golf ball guard slidably mounted in said housing, the movement of said tee controlling the operation of the golf ball feed mechanism to cause the delivery of golf balls one at a time to the tee, and a control device for raising the tee and said guard and including means for releasing the guard prior to release of the tee to permit the raised golf ball to be driven from the tee between the release of said guard and said tee.

3. A golf ball teeing device comprising a golf ball feed mechanism, a reciprocating tee means positioned to receive golf balls from the feed mechanism one at a time and raising them to a striking position, a guard movable with said tee means

for retaining a golf ball in position during the elevation thereof, and a plurality of control means selectively operable to release the guard and said tee means in sequence.

4. A golf ball teeing device comprising a golf ball feed mechanism, a tee means for controlling the operation of the golf ball feed mechanism and for receiving golf balls therefrom one at a time and raising them to striking position, a golf ball guard means, and an operating means including a control means for raising the tee means and the guard means for positioning a golf ball in a striking position, said control means and operating means being operable to first cause release of the guard means and then cause release of the raised tee means.

5. A golf ball teeing device comprising a housing, an auxiliary housing forming a part thereof, a lever in said housing projecting into the auxiliary housing, a tee mechanism movably mounted in said auxiliary housing connected with the lever and operable thereby to elevate and hold a golf ball in position to be driven, a golf ball guard movably mounted in the auxiliary housing for coaction with the tee mechanism, and control means on the lever for raising the guard to project above the tee mechanism for retaining a golf ball in position during the elevation thereof, said control means being operable to release the guard in advance of the lowering of the tee mechanism to permit the raised golf ball to be driven from the tee mechanism.

6. A golf ball teeing machine comprising a housing, a golf ball feed mechanism connected therewith, a tee mechanism movably mounted in said housing, means for actuating the tee mechanism to move the same into co-acting engagement with the golf ball feed mechanism to receive a golf ball therefrom and then raise the golf ball above the housing into a position to be played, a guard having telescoping engagement with the tee mechanism, and control means for raising the guard with the elevation of the tee mechanism to retain a golf ball in position during the elevation thereof, said control means being operable to cause release of the raised guard to permit the raised golf ball to be driven from the tee mechanism prior to the release of the tee mechanism.

7. A golf ball teeing machine comprising a housing, a golf ball tee mechanism and a golf ball guard slidably mounted in said housing in co-acting relation with one another, and a control mechanism for elevating the tee mechanism and the guard in a predeterminded order and then releasing the same at intervals in the reverse order.

8. A golf ball teeing machine comprising a housing, a tee mechanism and a guard slidably mounted in said housing in telescopic relation with one another, a lever connected with the tee mechanism for elevating the same to raise a golf ball into an elevated position to be played, means on the lever for moving the guard upwardly above the upper end of the tee mechanism and around the golf ball being raised, and a control device for operating the lever and moving the means on said lever into engagement with the guard to cause elevation of the guard, said control mechanism being movable into a position to actuate the means on said lever to cause release of the guard leaving the tee mechanism in elevated position.

9. A golf ball teeing machine comprising a housing, a tee mechanism and a guard mounted therein in telescopic relation with respect to one another, and a control mechanism for projecting the tee mechanism into the guard and then simultaneously raising the tee mechanism and said guard, said control mechanism being operable to simultaneously cause locking of the tee mechanism in an elevated position and release of the guard to expose the raised golf ball to permit the same to be driven from the tee mechanism.

10. A golf ball teeing machine comprising a golf ball feed mechanism, a tee mechanism controlling the operation of the golf ball feed mechanism, and receiving the golf balls therefrom one at a time and raising them into striking position, a golf ball guard, and means for raising the guard with the tee mechanism and releasing the guard while the tee mechanism is retained in an elevated position to permit the raised golf ball to be driven from the tee mechanism.

11. A golf ball teeing machine comprising a housing, a tee plunger slidably mounted therein, a flexible tee supported on said tee plunger, feed means controlled by the movement of the tee plunger for admitting a golf ball to seat on said flexible tee, a guard slidably mounted in said housing, a pivoted member in said housing connected with the tee plunger for raising the same, a foot operated device connected with the pivoted member for operating the same, a control mechanism slidably mounted on the pivoted member for engagement with the guard to raise the same into a position surrounding the tee and the golf ball supported thereon to retain the golf ball in position during the elevation thereof, and means operable by the foot operated device for retracting the control mechanism on the pivoted member to release the guard to expose the raised golf ball and tee.

12. A golf ball teeing machine comprising a housing, a tee mechanism and a guard mechanism movably mounted in the housing in axial alignment with one another, and a control mechanism for raising the tee mechanism to project the same into the guard mechanism and then simultaneously continue the raising of the tee mechanism with the guard mechanism, said control mechanism being operable to lock the tee mechanism in a predetermined elevated position and simultaneously cause release of the guard mechanism to permit the same to drop back into the housing to expose the upper end of the tee mechanism until the same is released by a further operation of the control mechanism.

13. A golf ball teeing machine comprising a housing, a tee and a guard movably mounted in said housing, and a plurality of control means in said housing connected with said tee and being operable selectively to project the tee into the guard and then simultaneously raise the tee and said guard to project the upper ends of the tee and the guard above the housing, one of said control means being further operable to release the guard and said tee in sequence.

14. A golf ball teeing machine comprising a housing, a tee movably mounted therein, a lever mechanism pivotally mounted in the housing and connected with the tee, a control shaft adjustably connected with the lever mechanism to actuate the same to cause the tee mechanism to be elevated to a predetermined height, said shaft mechanism being adjustable for varying the height to which the tee may be elevated, a guard slidably mounted in the housing, a carriage mechanism movably mounted on the lever mechanism normally positioned for engagement with the guard to raise the same with the tee for retaining a golf ball in position as it is being elevated into a posi-

tion to be played, and a connecting device in said housing being operable by the control shaft to retract the carriage mechanism and allow the raised guard to drop back into the housing without disturbing the raised position of the tee, said control shaft further being operable to release the raised tee after the golf ball has been driven off of the tee.

15. A golf ball teeing machine comprising a housing, a tee movably mounted therein, a golf ball guard movably mounted in the housing in associated relation with the tee, a lever pivotally mounted in the housing and connected with the tee, a shaft member connected with the lever and projecting upwardly out of the housing through a key slot provided in the housing, said shaft member being depressible to actuate the lever and cause the same to raise the tee to a predetermined elevation above the housing, said shaft member being adjustable with respect to the lever for varying the height to which the tee may be raised, a spring controlled carriage slidably mounted on the lever, a control blade pivotally connected to said carriage and normally held in engagement with the guard to raise the same simultaneously with the elevation of the tee by said lever, and a connecting means mounted in the housing between the shaft member and said carriage, said shaft member when in its depressed position being pivotally movable with respect to the key slot to cause the connecting means to operate the carriage to retract the control blade out of engagement with the guard to release the guard and permit the same to drop back into the housing while the tee remains locked in its elevated position due to the position of the depressed control shaft and its locking engagement with the housing, said control shaft being movable in the key slot into a released position to permit the raised end of the lever and the tee to drop back into their normal positions while the released control shaft is projected upwardly out of the housing into position ready for the next operation of the machine.

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