

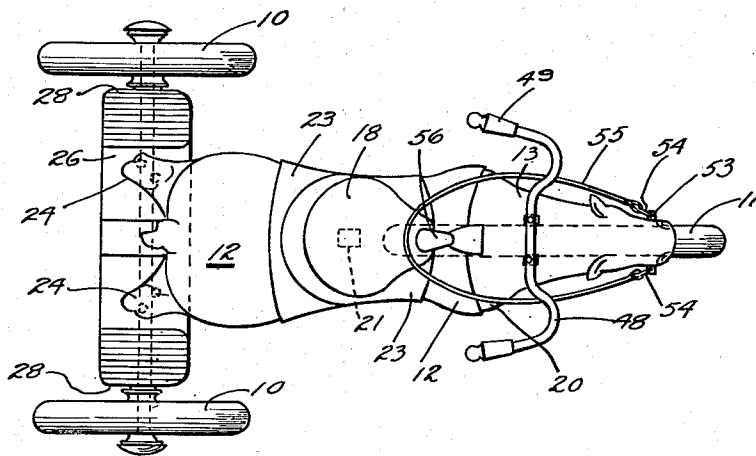
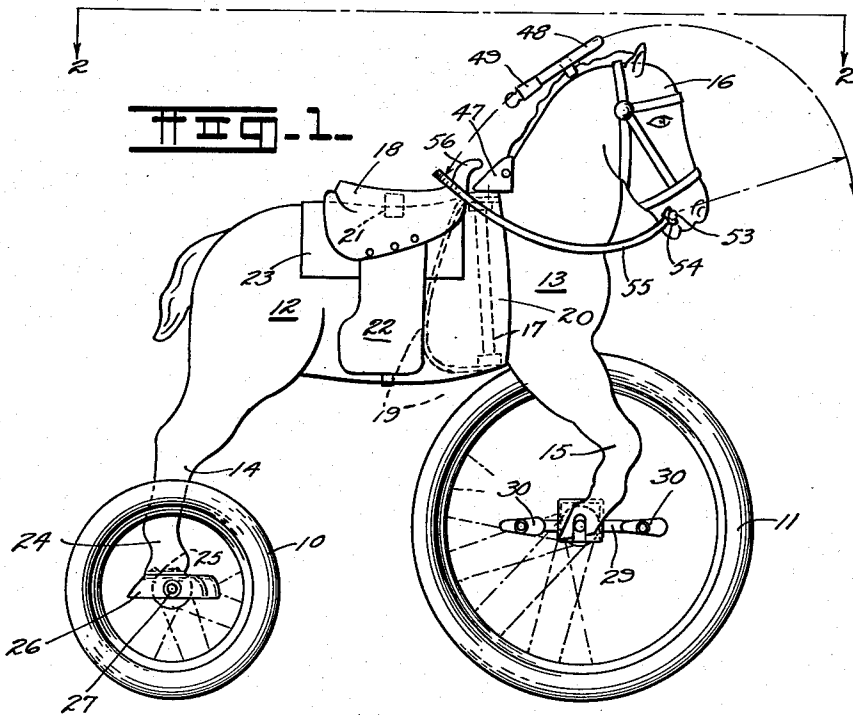
April 8, 1952

J. H. GONDA
ANIMATED WHEELED TOY

2,591,804

Filed Feb. 24, 1951

5 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR.
John H. Gonda.
BY *W. B. Harpman*
ATTORNEY.

April 8, 1952

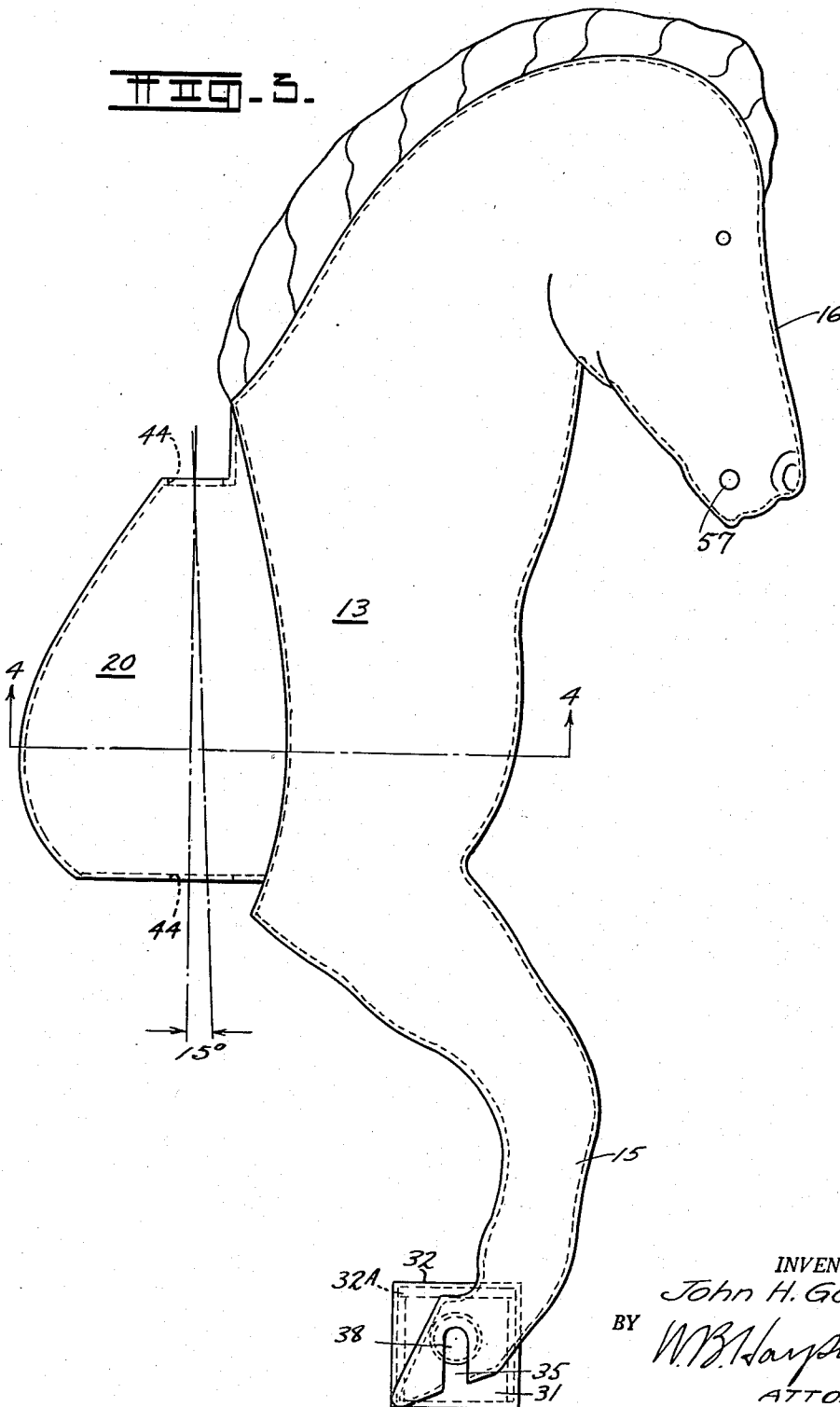
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FIG. 3.



INVENTOR.

John H. Gonda.

BY

W. B. Langman

ATTORNEY.

April 8, 1952

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Fig. 4.

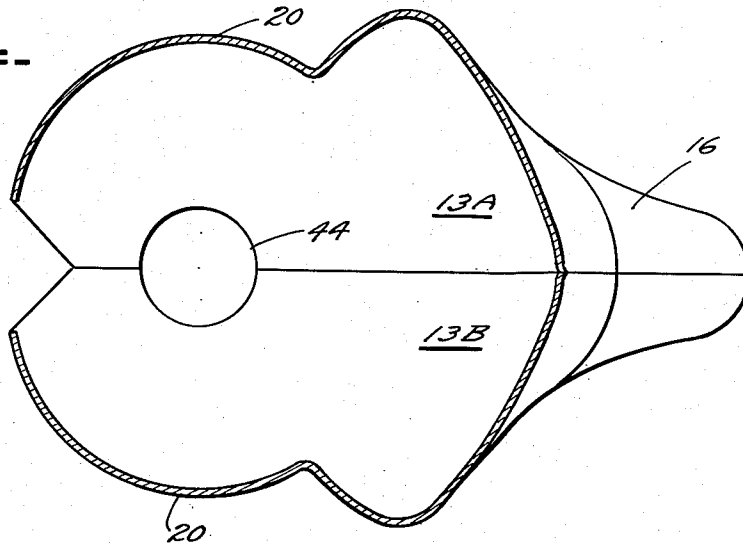


Fig. 5.

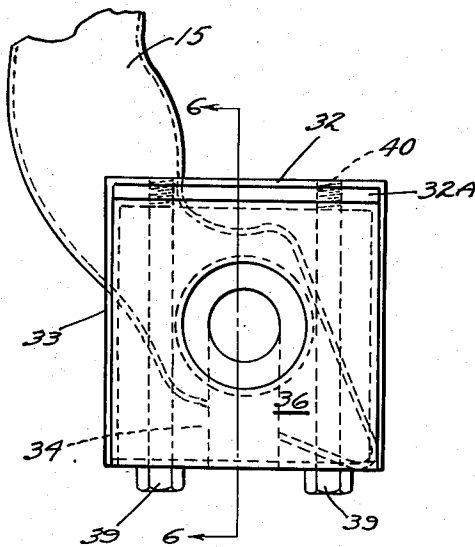
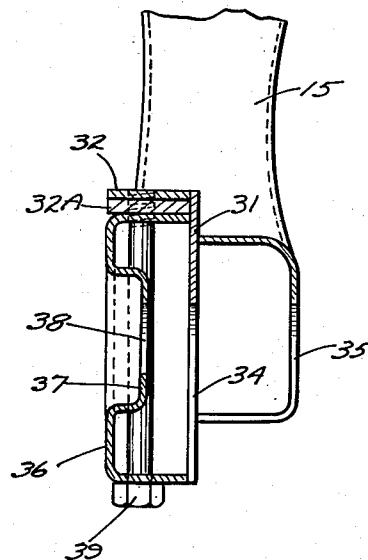


Fig. 6.



INVENTOR.
John H. Gonda.
BY *W.B. Harpman*
ATTORNEY.

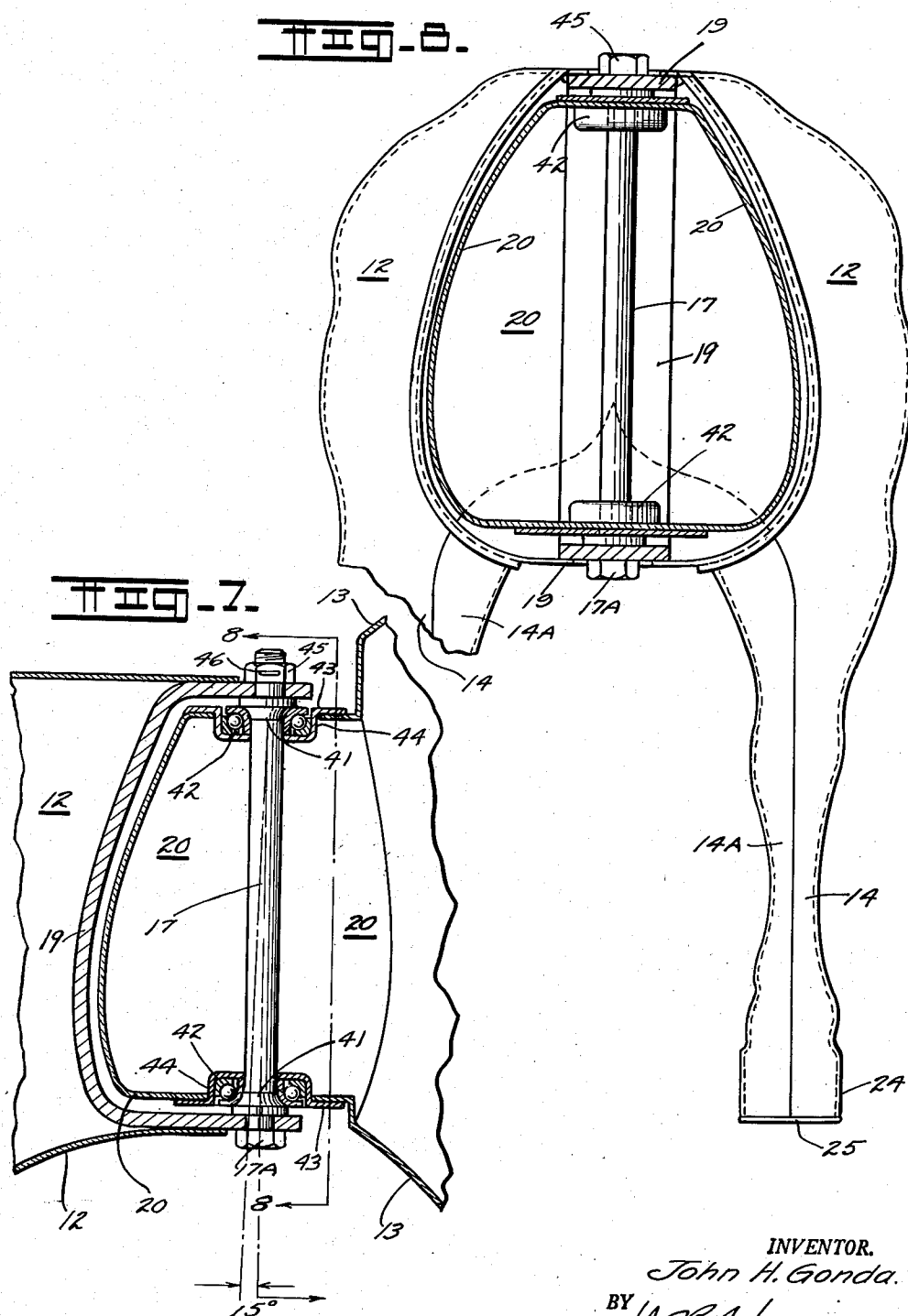
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5 Sheets-Sheet 4



INVENTOR.
John H. Gonda.
BY *W.B. Harpman*
ATTORNEY.

April 8, 1952

J. H. GONDA

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Fig. 9.

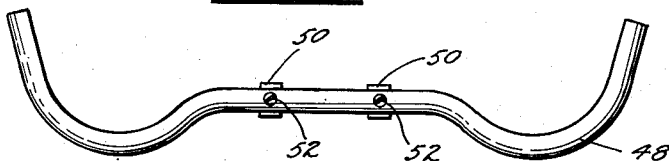


Fig. 10.

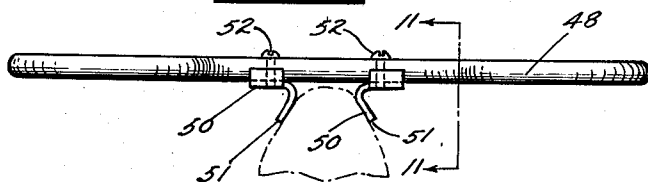


Fig. 12.

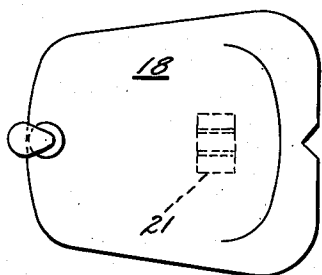


Fig. 13.

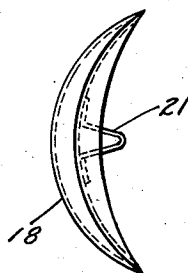


Fig. 14.

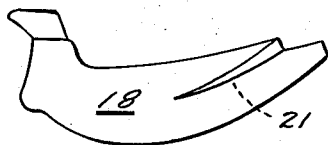
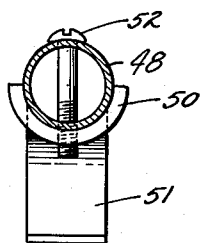


Fig. 11.



INVENTOR.
John H. Gonda.
BY *W. B. Harpman*
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ANIMATED WHEELED TOY

John H. Gonda, Salem, Ohio

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3 Claims. (Cl. 280—1.188)

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This invention relates to a wheeled toy and more particularly to a wheeled toy taking the form of a tricycle, the body portion of which is formed to simulate a pony.

The principal object of the invention is the provision of a wheeled toy incorporating several novel features making possible the economic and practical formation of the toy.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a wheeled toy having the body portion formed of metal stampings arranged to pivot with respect to one another and to carry the axles and wheels of the toy.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a wheeled toy, the body portion of which simulates an animal figure and includes a saddle adjustably positioned on the back thereof.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a wheeled toy taking the form of an animal figure and including a front wheel positioned between the front legs of the animal figure and adjustably mounted with respect thereto.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a wheeled toy comprising an animal figure mounted on wheels and including a combination steering gear simulating the reins and bit commonly used on a pony or horse.

The improvements in wheeled toys as disclosed herein relate primarily to the novel formation and arrangement of the component parts of the wheeled toy and including means making possible the economic and practical production of the toy. The difficulties heretofore experienced in attempting to form tricycles having bodies simulating animals have been overcome in the present disclosure wherein a number of stamped metal parts are assembled and welded to form a superstructure with means for adjustably positioning a saddle, a steering gear and the wheels with respect thereto.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being the intention to cover all changes and modifications of the example of the invention herein chosen for purposes of the disclosure, which do not constitute departures from the spirit and scope of the invention.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the wheeled toy.

Figure 2 is a top plan view.

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Figure 3 is an enlarged side elevation of a portion of the wheeled toy shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a horizontal section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is an enlarged detail of a portion of one of the front legs of the wheeled toy shown in Figure 1 of the drawings.

Figure 6 is a vertical section on line 6—6 of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a vertical section through the middle body section of the wheeled toy showing the pivotal arrangement.

Figure 8 is a vertical section on line 8—8 of Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a plan view of a portion of the handle bars.

Figure 10 is a front view of the handle bar assembly.

Figure 11 is an enlarged detailed view of a portion of the handle bar assembly with parts broken away and parts in cross section.

Figure 12 is a top plan view of the saddle.

Figure 13 is an end elevation of the saddle.

Figure 14 is a side elevation of the saddle.

By referring to the drawings and Figures 1 and 2 in particular it will be seen that the wheeled toy disclosed herein comprises a simulated pony, the rear legs of which are supported on a transverse axle carrying ground engaging wheels and the front legs of which are secured to an axle carrying a single wheel positioned between the front legs. The axle comprises a crank equipped with pedals so that a child seated on the back of the simulated pony is in effect positioned on a tricycle and is able to move the toy by engaging the pedals on the crank with its feet. The toy is steered by a handle bar arrangement and the simulated pony is pivoted vertically immediately forward of the saddle area to enable the device to be turned and satisfactorily steered.

In Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings the rear ground engaging wheels are indicated by the numerals 10, the front wheel by the numeral 11, the rear portion of the simulated pony body by the numeral 12 and the front portion by the numeral 13. The rear legs 14 form extensions of the body portion 12 and include vertical half sections 14A welded to the extensions 14 to form tubular rear legs. The front legs 15 form extensions of the body portion 13 and include a head portion 16. The body portions 12 and 13 are engaged one within the other, as best shown in Figure 7 of the drawings, and secured to one another by a pivot 17 which is positioned at an angle from vertical. The rear body portion 12

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carries a movably positioned saddle 18 and the said rear body portion 12 is secured to the front body portion through the medium of a U-shaped bracket 19, the arms of which are apertured and engaged on the pivot 17 and also secured to the rear body portion 12 as by welding the same thereto. The rear body portion 12 is formed of right and left half sections tack welded together on their vertical center line and the front body portion 13 is formed of right and left half sections tack welded together on their vertical center line. As shown in Figure 4 of the drawings, the edges of the sections abut continuously and are preferably overlapped to form a smooth unbroken connection between the respective half sections. The right and left half sections are indicated in Figure 3 by the numerals 13A and 13B, respectively.

It will be observed that the rear portion of the front body portion 13 is formed in a projecting semi-circular shape 20, the center of which corresponds with the center of the pivot 17. In assembled relation, as shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, the semi-circular extension 20 of the front body portion 13 is substantially covered by the open end of the rear portion 12 and due to the circular formation of the extension 20, the open front end of the rear portion 12 acts as a socket for the semi-circular extension 20. This enables the front body portion 13 to turn on the vertical axis of the pivot 17 with the semi-circular extension 20 rotating in the open front end of the rear body portion 12.

The saddle 18 is mounted on the rear body portion 12 by the formation of a slot in the upper portion thereof and the formation of the saddle 18 with a depending V-shaped spring member 21 as best seen in Figures 12, 13 and 14 of the drawings. By referring to Figures 12, 13 and 14 it will be observed that when the saddle 18 is positioned on the upper part of the rear body portion 12, the V-shaped spring member 21 will engage the longitudinally extending slot in the rear portion 12 and thereby hold the saddle 18 in desired position thereon. The saddle 18 may obviously be moved forwardly or backwardly on the device to provide adjustment. The V-shaped spring member engages the slot at all times to hold the saddle 18 in desired position.

Flaps 22 are attached to the saddle 18 one at each side thereof and depend therefrom and overlie the side sections of the rear body portion 12. A representation of a saddle blanket 23 is formed on the rear body portion 12 so that the simulated pony is complete in all details. The rear legs 14—14 terminate in hoofs 24. The lower portions of the hoofs 24 are formed of separate portions which are provided with plates 25. The plates 25 are apertured so that they can be bolted to a step 26 which is positioned directly over the rear axle 27. The ends 28—28 of the step are apertured thereby positioning the axle 27 longitudinally of the step 26 and transversely with respect to the rear legs 14—14 of the toy. The ground engaging wheels 10—10 are positioned on the ends of the axle 27 and secured by means known in the art.

The legs 15 on the front portion 13 of the toy are spaced with respect to one another a distance sufficient to provide clearance only for the front wheel 11 which is positioned on the middle portion of a crank 29, the outermost ends of which have pedals 30—30 rotatably secured thereto. The middle portion of the crank 29 is keyed to the wheel 11 so that motion imparted

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to the crank 29 through the pedals 30 will be transmitted to the wheel 11.

In order that the middle portion of the crank 29 (which serves as a front axle for the wheel 11) may be adjusted for desirable horizontal alignment and to insure proper spacing of the wheel 11 with respect to the front legs 15, the lower portions of each of the front legs 15 are formed as shown in Figures 3, 5 and 6 of the drawings to include retainer plates 31 which are welded to the lower portions of the legs 15 and each of which retainer plates include a horizontal flange 32 across its uppermost portion and a vertical flange 33 on its forward edge. The retainer plates 31 are both slotted upwardly from their lowermost edge as at 34 to permit the middle section of the crank 29 to be engaged therein. The adjacent lower portion of each of the legs 15 is also slotted as at 35 for the same purpose.

A bearing retainer 36 which comprises a flanged rectangular plate, the center area 37 of which is formed with a depression for the reception of a standard ball bearing assembly, is located against the retainer plate 31 and beneath the flange 32 thereon and against the flange 33 thereon, as best shown in Figures 5 and 6 of the drawings. The bearing retainer 36 is also apertured as at 38 so that the middle portion of the crank 29 may be passed therethrough. It will be observed by those skilled in the art that shims (not shown) can be positioned between the flanges 32 and 33 and the bearing retainer 36 if desired to properly adjust the same with respect to the retainer plate 31 and the leg 15 thereby making possible the desired horizontal alignment of the crank 29 and hence the front wheel 11 which is secured thereto.

The assembly is secured together by a pair of bolts 39 which are passed upwardly through the bearing retainer 36 and engaged in threaded orifices 40 in the flange 32 of the retainer plate 31. It will be observed that the flange 32 is doubled by the addition of a second section 32A so that sufficient stock is available to enable the bolts 39 to be properly threaded therein. The shims heretofore mentioned but not shown in the drawings are actually positioned between the upper horizontal surface of the bearing retainer 36 and the portion 32A of the flange 32 when used.

By referring now to Figures 4, 7 and 8 of the drawings it will be seen that the particular pivot structure including the pivot 17 is arranged for easy formation and rapid assembly as the pivot is provided with oppositely disposed annular bearing surfaces 41 which are positioned against the respective inner sides of the arms of the U-shaped bracket 19 and adapted to engage oppositely disposed ball bearing assemblies 42—42 which are formed with annular flanges 43—43 serving to locate the same in openings 44—44 formed in vertical alignment in the semi-circular extension 20 of the front body portion 13. The pivot 17 is provided with a head 17A at its lowermost end and threaded at its uppermost end for the reception of a nut 45. The nut 45 and the upper end of the pivot 17 are apertured so that a cotter pin 46 may be positioned through the same to hold the assembly in position. It will thus be seen that the front portion 13 of the wheeled toy and particularly the semi-circular extension 20 thereon carries the pivot 17 which in turn is positioned through the apertured arms of the U-shaped bracket 19 and the U-shaped bracket 19 is in turn welded in position in the

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foremost portion of the rear portion 12 of the wheeled toy.

This construction enables a relatively rapid rate of assembly to be achieved in the production of the toy and at the same time insures a suitable turning radius for the front portion of the toy with respect to the rear portion. The nut 45 and the cotter pin 46 as well as the upper threaded end of the pivot 17 are covered in the finished assembly as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings by the application of a sheet metal cap 47 which is in turn affixed to the front portion 13 of the toy by a suitable fastener.

In order that the toy may be steered, suitable steering gear is provided, as may be seen by referring to Figures 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11 of the drawings, and takes the form of a transverse handle bar 43 having handle grips 49 on the opposite ends thereof. A pair of brackets 50—50 are attached to the head portion 16 at right angles thereto as by being welded thereto so that they provide transversely aligned portions for receiving the transverse handle bar 43.

The brackets 50—50 are U-shaped in cross section and provided with angular depending portions 51—51 as best seen in Figures 10 and 11 of the drawings. The transverse handle bar 43 is cradled in the U-shaped sections of the brackets 50—50 and secured therein by bolts 52 positioned therethrough and engaged in threaded apertures in the orifices in the U-shaped brackets 50—50.

By referring again to Figure 1 of the drawings it will be observed that a bit 53 is positioned transversely of the head portion 16 so that its outermost ends extend beyond the sides of the head portion 16. Openings formed in the ends of the bit 53 provide for the engagement of D-shaped rings 54—54 which in turn are secured to the ends of a rein 55. The rein 55 is of a length sufficient to enable it to extend backwardly over a horn 56 on the saddle 18 and it will be observed that the bit 53 is positioned in a transverse opening 57 formed in the head portion 16 as shown in enlarged detail in Figure 3 of the drawings.

It will thus be seen that a wheeled toy has been disclosed which is capable of being efficiently produced at relatively low cost and easily assembled. The pivotal connection between the respective front and rear body portions of the toy enable the toy to present a life-like appearance and at the same time incorporate the necessary turning action between the front portion and the rear portion. The toy is dissimilar from tricycles heretofore known in the art as there is no frame as such but rather the front and rear stamped metal body portions welded to one another in opposed relation and pivotally secured to one another to form the entire superstructure of the toy.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. In a wheeled toy including a two-part body simulating the front and rear portions of an animal, an axle and wheels disposed beneath the

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rear body portion and a crank and wheel disposed beneath the front body portion and a pivot interconnecting the said front and rear body portions, said front body portion having spaced depending legs, the said crank and wheel being positioned between the said spaced legs, the said legs including means for adjusting the said crank vertically with respect to the said legs, said means comprising retainer plates secured to the said legs in oppositely disposed relation, each of the said retainer plates having a horizontally flanged upper edge and a vertically flanged rear edge and a bearing retainer member and bolts securing the said bearing retainer member to said retainer plate, the said crank having bearing assemblies spaced thereon and positioned in said bearing retainers.

2. In a wheeled vehicle having a body portion simulating an animal comprising front and rear body portions, the rear body portion being open at the forward end thereof and having fixedly secured therein a substantially U-shaped bracket, the legs of the bracket extending beyond the opening and having vertically aligned holes adjacent each of their ends, the front body portion having a substantially semi-circular, in vertical section, reduced extension extending rearwardly therefrom, the extension fitting into the opening in the forward end of the rear body portion and within the U-shaped bracket, the extension having vertically aligned holes in the upper and lower parts thereof, the holes of each of the U-shaped bracket and extension being aligned when the extension is fitted into the opening of the rear body portion, inwardly projecting circular depressions surrounding the aligned openings in the extension, bearing means positioned in the depressions, a pivot pin insertable through the aligned hole of the U-shaped bracket and extension, and means for fastening the pin in place so that one body portion may be freely moved with respect to the other body portion while the body portions are joined together by a continuously closed joint to simulate the animal.

3. In a wheeled vehicle as set forth in claim 2 wherein the pivot pin has surfaces thereon cooperating with the bearing means to aid the free movement of one body portion relative to the other body portion.

JOHN H. GONDA.

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