March 24, 1936. N. J. RYAN 2,035,277

GAME APPARATUS

Filed March 26, 1935 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

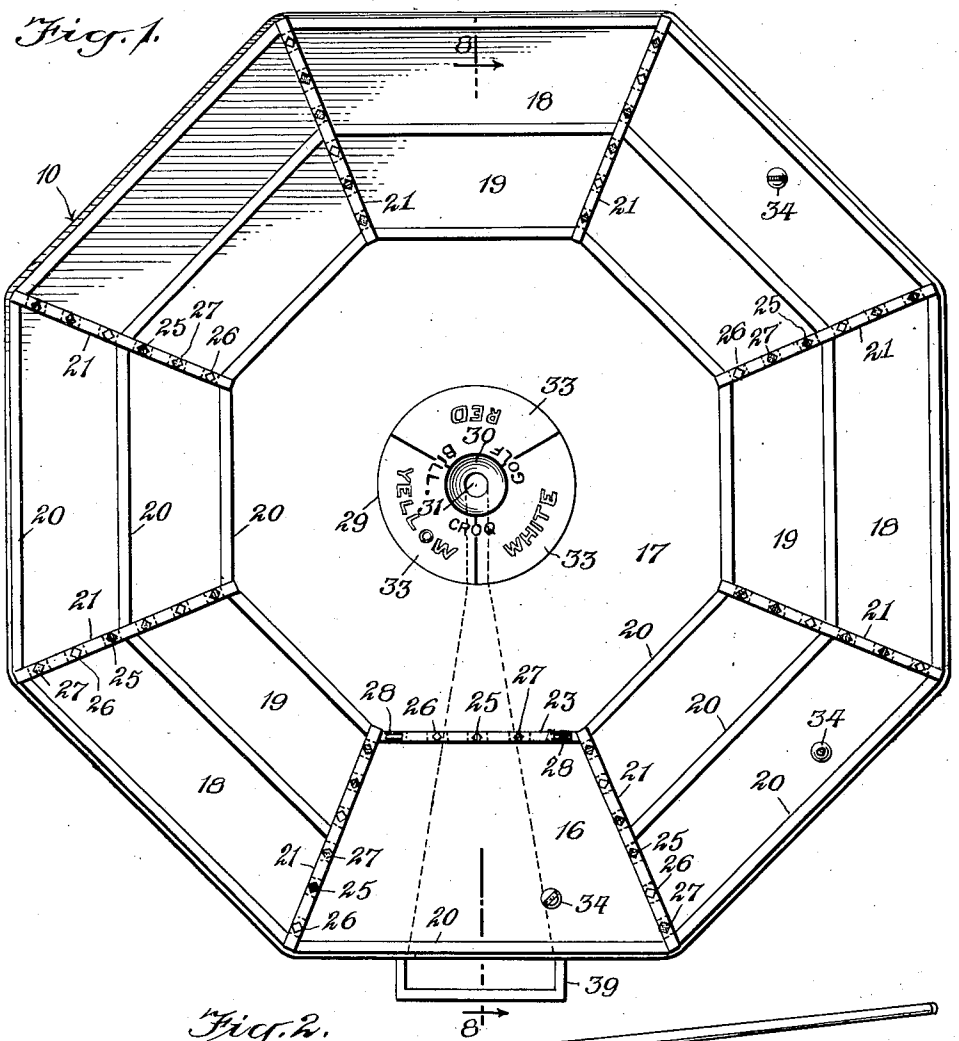


Fig. 2.

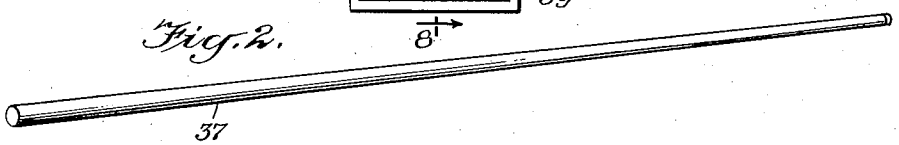


Fig. 3.

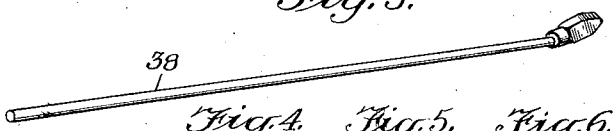
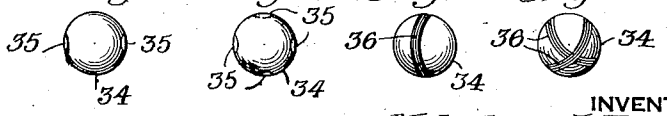


Fig. 4. Fig. 5. Fig. 6. Fig. 7.



WITNESSES

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GAME APPARATUS

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Fig. 8.

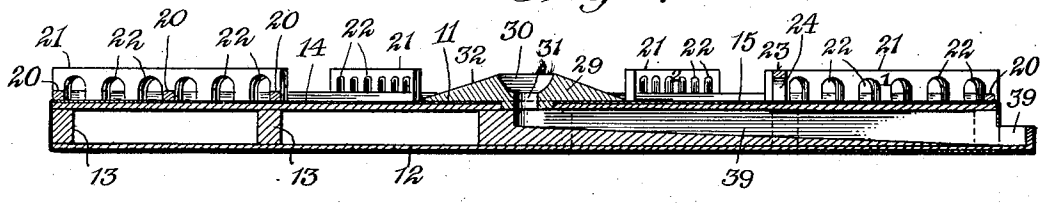


Fig. 9.

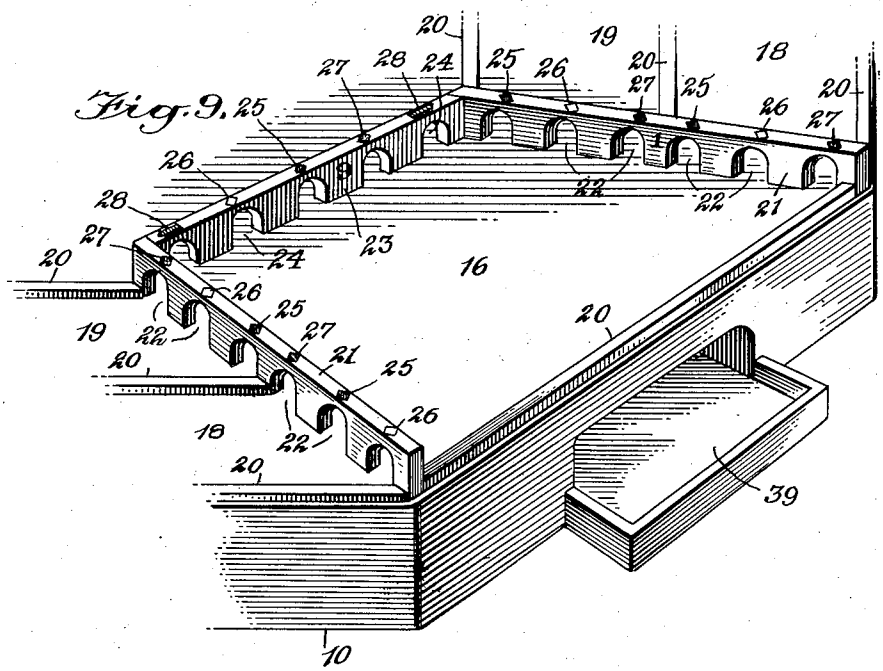
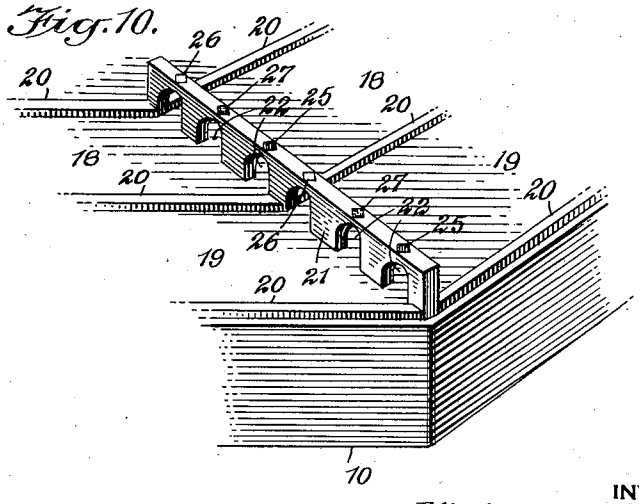


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,035,277

GAME APPARATUS

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Application March 26, 1935, Serial No. 13,165

8 Claims. (Cl. 273—118)

This invention relates to a game apparatus.

An object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus designed and adapted so that persons may play games of an interesting, pleasing and amusing nature requiring the exercise of skill and patience.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus of the indicated character, which, by virtue of the novel features thereof, enables persons to play games having the characteristics of billiards, croquet and golf.

The invention consists of the features of construction and arrangement of parts, as well as the combinations thereof, as hereinafter described and claimed and illustrated.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a plan view showing certain features of the apparatus;

Fig. 2 is a view of one of the cues of the apparatus;

Fig. 3 is a view of one of the drivers of the apparatus;

Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7 are views showing variously marked balls respectively of the apparatus;

Fig. 8 is a section taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating certain features; and

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating certain features.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, it will be apparent that the apparatus includes a structure 10 which may be termed a board of any preferred construction, size and shape. In the present instance the structure 10 consists of upper and lower plates or panels 11 and 12 respectively, preferably of laminated wood, which are secured in any suitable manner to spacers 13. The panels 11 and 12 therefore will be in spaced parallel relation to each other. Certain of the spacers 13 will be disposed along the marginal edges of the panels 11 and 12. The structure 10, in the present instance, is octagonal in outline or contour. The structure 10 is covered throughout by covering material 14 such as billiard cloth, muslin or any other suitable material of a like nature. The structure 10 with its covering material 14 provides a flat playing surface 15. The playing surface 15 is subdivided by suitable means into a starting outfield 16, an infield 17, an outer series of fairways 18, and an inner series of fairways 19. The said means constituting continuous boundaries is fixedly secured to the structure 10 and projects upwardly from the surface 15. This means consists of strips 20 of wood, rubber, or a combination of these materials. When rubber is used, its purpose is to cause a rebounding action. The strips 20 are arranged in spaced parallel relation to each other and parallel to the sides of the structure 10, to provide the fairways 18 and 19. The strips 20 constitute rails bounding the opposite sides of the fairways 18 and 19. Use is made of pieces 21 of wood which are notched to provide wickets or arches 22. The pieces 21 are secured to the structure 10 and are disposed radially with respect to a central point on the structure 10, and transversely to the rails 20 with which they are interlocked. There are eight pieces 21, and each has six arches 22, three of the arches being in line with the outer fairways 18 and the other three arches being in line with the inner fairways 19. A piece 23 of the same material as the pieces 21 is arranged coincidental with a line dividing the outfield 16 with the infield 17. The piece 23 is formed to provide five arches 24 similar to the arches 22 communicating with the outfield 16 and the infield 17. As pointed out, the arches 22 are in two groups of three each, and the arches 22 of each group are distinguished from each other by suitable means such as the markers 25, 26 and 27, respectively, on the top of each of the pieces 21, these markers in the present instance being depressions which are colored respectively red, white and yellow. In other words, one arch 22 is distinguished by the red marker 25, the second arch is distinguished by the white marker 26, and the third arch of the group is distinguished by the yellow marker 27. The markers 25, 26 and 27 of the several pieces 21 are changed about as shown in Fig. 1. The arches 24 of the pieces 23 are distinguished by markers 25, 26 and 27 to correspond to the markers of the pieces 21, and the remaining two arches 24 are distinguished by markers 28 each of which consists of a combination of the three colors red, white and yellow. The arches 22 and 24 in conjunction with the outfield 16, the infield 17 and the fairways 18 and 19 provide a plurality of courses which may be traversed by game pieces such as rollers or balls driven on the playing surface 15 through the arches 22 and 24 in a prescribed order from the outfield 16 to the infield 17.

In accordance with another feature of the invention, use is made of an element 29 positioned on the structure 10 within the infield 17 centrally thereof. This element is made of suitable material such as wood and is of a conical

formation, and is formed to provide a cup **30** communicating with a hole **31**. The element **29** being of a conical formation provides an inclined surface **32** extending from the cup **30** to the playing surface of the infield **17**. The surface **32** is subdivided into a plurality of areas **33** leading from the playing surface of the infield to the cup. The areas **33** are distinguished from each other by suitable means such as the words red, white and yellow, respectively, corresponding to the colors of the arches.

In accordance with the invention use is made of balls **34**, there being two balls to each set, and a suitable number of sets, according to the number of colors, will be provided. To meet the requirements in the present instance twelve balls **34** or six sets of two each are provided. The balls shown in Figs. 4 and 5 constitute one set, the ball shown in Fig. 4 having two spots **35**, whereas the ball shown in Fig. 5 has four spots **35**. These spots **35** are white. The balls shown in Figs. 6 and 7 constitute another set and are distinguished from the spotted balls by red stripes, the ball shown in Fig. 6 having one stripe **36** and the ball shown in Fig. 7 having two stripes **36**. It is to be understood that sets of balls **34** having distinguishing marks and colored yellow are provided.

Suitable implements are provided for propelling or driving the balls such as the cue **37** shown in Fig. 2, and the driver **38** shown in Fig. 3. Six of the cues **37** and also six drivers **38** are provided so that there will be enough cues or drivers to go around in the event that the games are played by partners.

A game may be played having the characteristics of billiards in which each player uses a cue **37** and a set of the spotted balls **34**. The color of the spots determines the course to be followed through the arches arranged at intervals along the pathways or fairways. The two balls are arranged in the outfield **16** in any preferred position. The four-spot ball is used as a driver of the two-spot ball. The cue is used to drive the four-spot ball. The color chosen determines the course to be followed. For instance, the white spot balls follow the course through the arches marked with the markers **26**. The two-spot ball is first driven with the four-spot ball through the first arch to the right of the outfield **16**, after which the four-spot ball is driven with the cue through the particular arch. The player continues to shoot or drive the balls until a miss is made, after which the other or next player shoots or drives the chosen balls through the particular colored arches. The balls are driven through the arches along the outer fairways **18** in a prescribed order to the left side of the outfield **16**, after which the play continues to the inner fairways **19** from the right side of the outfield **16** around the board to the left side of the outfield **16**. Then from the outfield **16** into the infield **17** through the particular colored arch **24** from the infield **17** into the cup **30** over the proper colored area **33**. The player first to negotiate the cup **30** with both balls is declared the winner or the winner may be determined by the number of shots taken by the players.

If desired a game may be played using drivers such as the driver **38** instead of a cue. In this case a single ball is used by each player. The ball is driven through the arches from the outfield **16**, first along the outer fairways **18** and then the inner fairways **19** to the infield **17**, and finally into the cup **30**, the number of strokes taken determining the winner.

It will also be obvious that by using a driver, such as the driver **38**, a game may be played with the balls having the characteristics of golf. The winner may be determined by the number of strokes, and a score may be kept of each "hole" as in golf, each arch constituting a hole. The cup **30** constitutes the eighteenth hole.

The penalties in playing the games mentioned are as follows. If a ball is driven through an arch of a color different from that of the ball chosen, the player must return the ball through the particular arch and return the same through the proper arch in a forward direction, and these shots in returning the ball are counted the same as the shots driving the ball forward along its course. If a ball is driven back into another fairway from the one played in, a re-start has to be made from that point where the ball landed in the wrong course. If a ball is driven off the board, the player has to re-start at the beginning from the outfield **16**.

Any preferred set of rules may be provided and observed in playing games with the apparatus. The additional markers **28** are provided to allow a player or players reaching the outfield **16** after the first player has reached the same, to select either of the arches **24** marked by the marker **28**, or the other arch **24** marked by the proper color.

As shown most clearly in Fig. 8, the cup **30** by virtue of the hole **31** may communicate with an inclined runway **39** between the panels **11** and **12**. This runway **39** terminates beyond one side of the structure as shown most clearly in Fig. 9 to enable the removal of the balls. It is to be understood that the structure **10** may be mounted on suitable legs, or a portable frame may be provided to hold the structure at the desired elevation. It is also to be understood that a board may be constructed of a single piece of material such as wood or concrete covered in the manner described.

I claim:

1. In a game apparatus, a board providing a flat playing surface, an arrangement of rail elements on said board projecting upwardly from said surface providing a starting outfield, an infield, fairways connecting the outfield and infield, and arches on the fairways and also between the outfield and infield.

2. In a game apparatus, a board providing a flat playing surface, an arrangement of rail elements on said board projecting upwardly from said surface providing a starting outfield, an infield, fairways connecting the outfield and infield, and arches on the fairways and also between the outfield and infield, said arches in conjunction with said outfield, infield and fairways providing a plurality of courses which may traversed by balls driven through the arches in a prescribed order from the outfield to the infield.

3. In a game apparatus, a board providing a flat playing surface, an arrangement of rail elements on said board projecting upwardly from said surface providing a starting outfield, an infield, fairways connecting the outfield and infield, arches on the fairways and also between the outfield and infield, said arches in conjunction with said outfield, infield and fairways providing a continuous course which may be traversed by a roller made to pass through the arches from

the outfield to the infield, and a cup within the infield into which the roller may be propelled.

4. In a game apparatus, a structure providing a flat upper surface, rails fixed on said structure overlying said surface in spaced relation to each other, elements fixed on said structure overlying said surface in spaced relation to each other and extending radially with respect to a central point on said structure and transversely of said rails, said elements providing a plurality of arches, said rails and elements in conjunction with said surface providing a starting outfield, an infield, and fairways connecting the outfield and infield, a single element fixed on said structure between the outfield and infield and providing a plurality of arches, all of said arches in conjunction with the outfield, infield and fairways providing a plurality of courses which may be traversed by rollers driven through said arches in a prescribed order from the outfield to the infield.

5. In a game apparatus, a structure providing a playing surface having upwardly projecting means defining an outfield and an infield, a portion of said means providing a plurality of arches communicating with the outfield and infield, an element positioned on the structure within said infield, said element providing a cup and an inclined surface extending from the cup to the playing surface of the infield, said inclined surface being subdivided into a plurality of areas leading from the playing surface of the infield to the cup, and said arches and areas having corresponding distinguishing means respectively.

6. In a game apparatus, a structure providing an upper playing surface having upwardly projecting means defining a starting outfield, an outer and an inner pathway extending from one side of the outfield around the structure to the other side of the outfield, similar arches spanning each of said pathways at intervals in groups, and distinguishing means for each arch of each group and the distinguishing means of the arches of each group being similar.

7. In a game device, a board providing a flat playing surface, members secured to the board in relation to said surface defining a playing field, one of said members having a plurality of passages therein for the passage of suitable objects therethrough onto said field, distinguishing means on said member for each of said passages, said members also constituting obstructions against which the objects may strike, and a cup on said board within said field to receive said objects when properly propelled.

8. In a game device, a board providing a flat playing surface, members secured to the board in relation to said surface to define an outfield and an infield, one of said members being between said fields and having a plurality of passages therein for the passage of suitable rollers therethrough from the one field to another, distinguishing means on said member for each of said passages, said members also constituting obstructions against which said rollers may strike, and a cup on said board within said infield to receive said rollers when properly propelled.

NICHOLAS J. RYAN