No. 714,969. Patented Dec. 2, 1902.

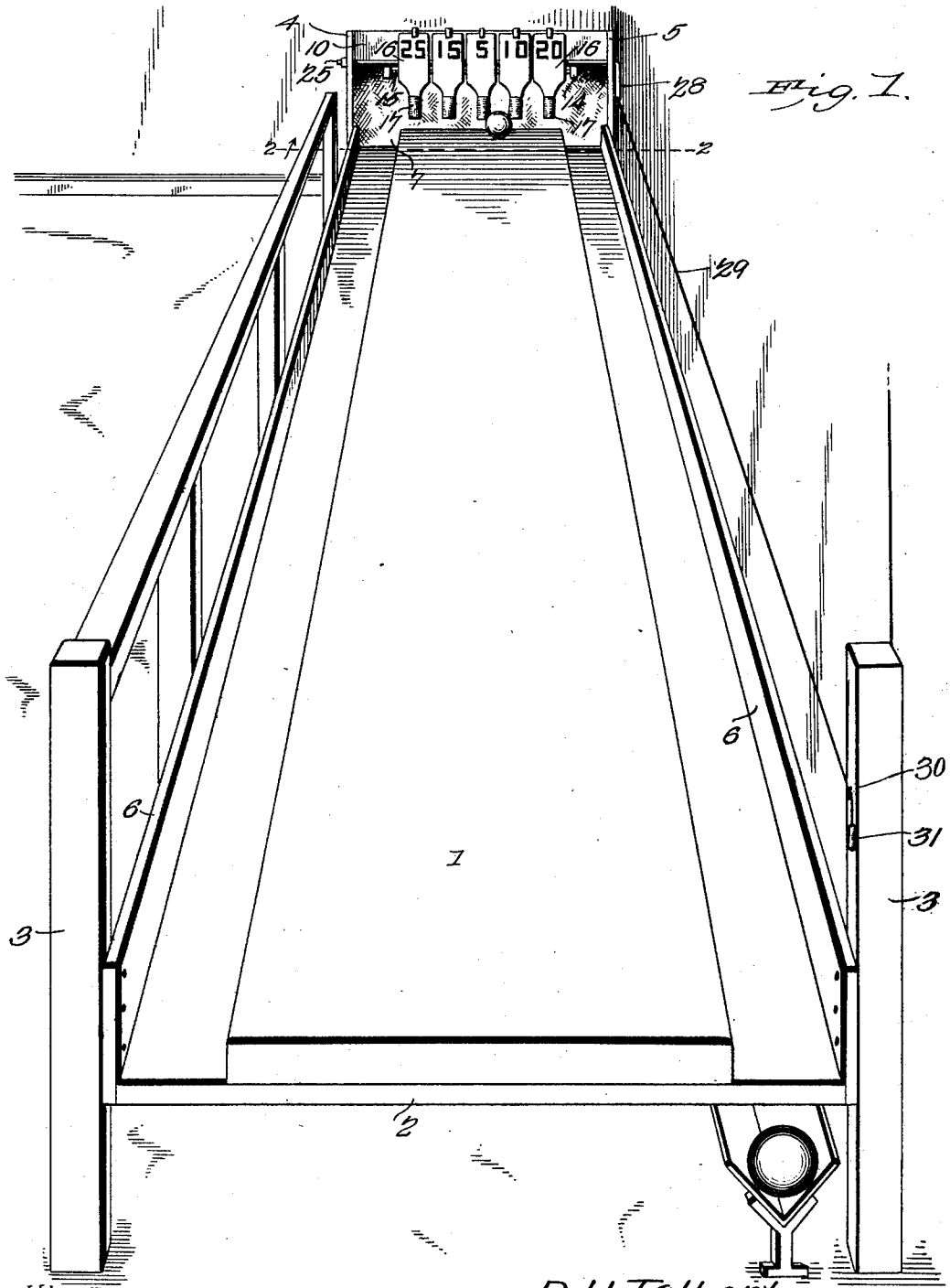
D. H. TALBERT.

GAME APPARATUS.

(Application filed Feb. 6, 1902.)

(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses
E. F. Stewart
R. M. Wiott.

D. H. Talbert, Inventor.
by C. A. Snow & Co.
Attorneys

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

No. 714,969. Patented Dec. 2, 1902.

D. H. TALBERT.

GAME APPARATUS.

(Application filed Feb. 6, 1902.)

(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

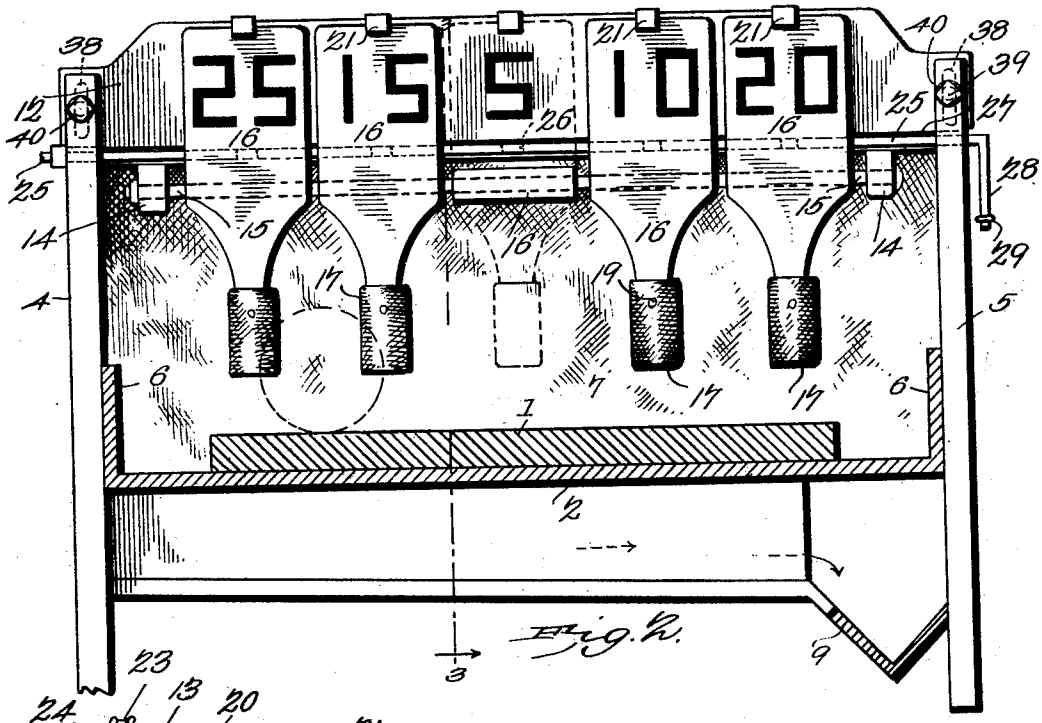


Fig. 2.

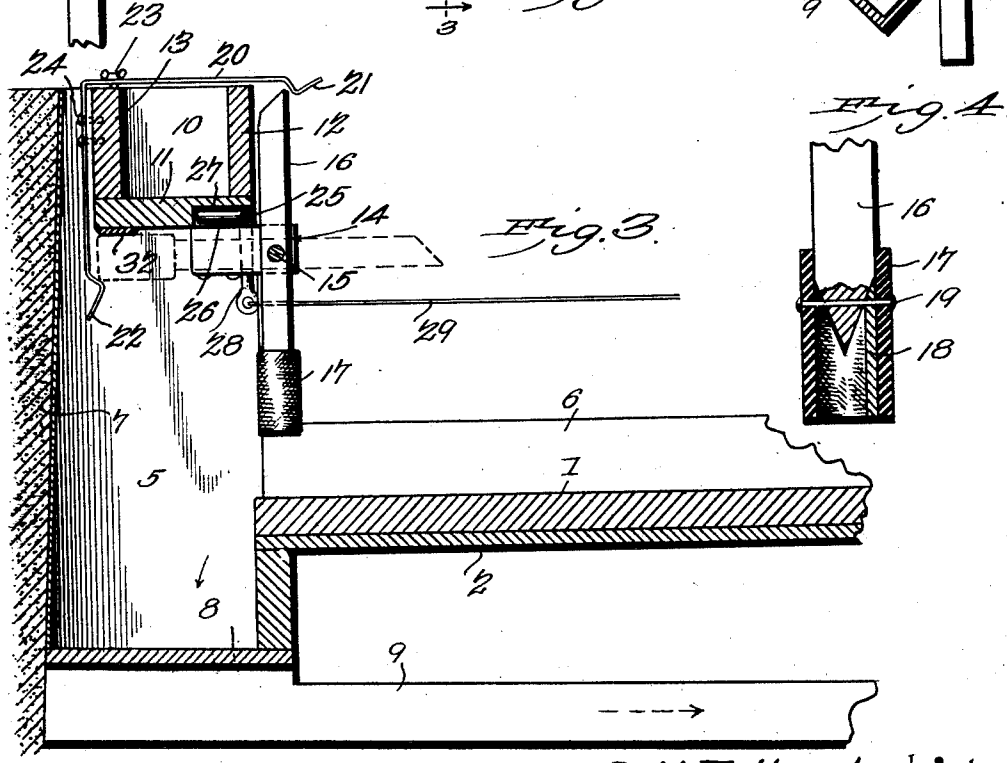


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Witnesses
E. F. Stewart
R. M. Elliott.

Inventor
D. H. Talbert,
by C. A. Snow & Co
Attorneys

No. 714,969. Patented Dec. 2, 1902.

D. H. TALBERT.

GAME APPARATUS.

(Application filed Feb. 6, 1902.)

(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

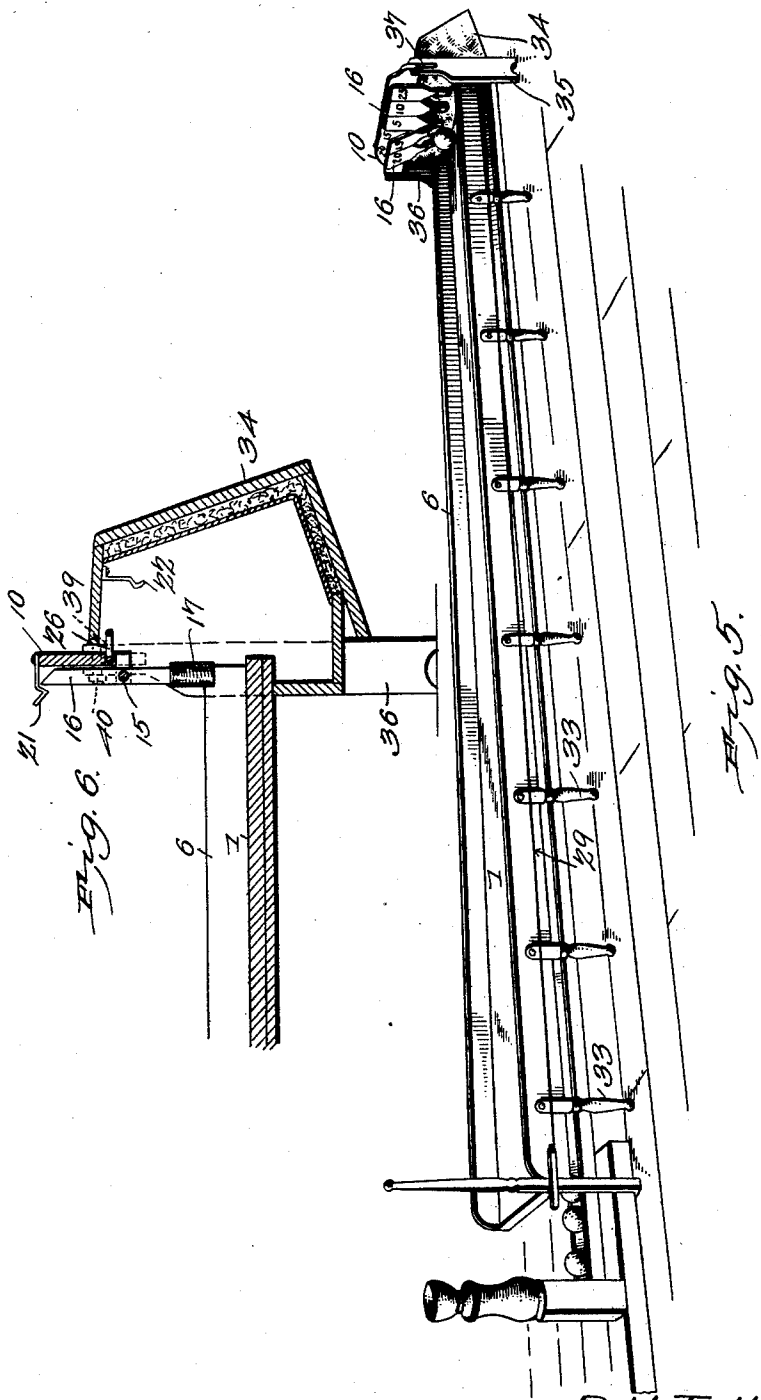


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

Witnesses.
E. J. Stewart
R. M. Elliott.

Inventor.
D. H. Talbert
by C. A. Snow & Co
Attorneys

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL H. TALBERT, OF GREENWOOD, INDIANA.

GAME APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 714,969, dated December 2, 1902.

Application filed February 6, 1902. Serial No. 92,852. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL H. TALBERT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Greenwood, in the county of Johnson and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates generally to game apparatus, and specifically to that class in which balls rolled by the hand are employed for knocking down objects located at the end of an alley or table after the manner of ordinary tenpins.

The object of the present invention is to provide a game apparatus of the above description which while partaking of the features of an ordinary tenpin-alley will differ therefrom in the manner of playing the game and in the character of the objects employed to be struck by the balls, the differences presented operating to give added interest to the game and requiring an exercise of additional skill in accomplishing the winning of a game.

A further object is to obviate the necessity of the employment of an attendant for setting up the objects to be struck or for returning the balls to the player.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts of a game apparatus, as will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and in which like numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts, there is illustrated a form of embodiment of the invention capable of carrying the same into practical operation, it being understood that the elements therein exhibited may be varied or changed as to shape, proportion, and exact manner of assemblage without departing from the spirit thereof.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a game apparatus constructed in accordance with the present invention. Fig. 2 is a view in transverse section, taken on the line 2 2, Fig. 1, and looking in the direction of the arrow thereon. Fig. 3 is a view in longitudinal section, taken on the line 3 3, Fig. 2, and looking in the direction of the arrow thereon. Fig. 4 is a detail view in section, showing the construction of the lower end of one of the paddles. Fig. 5 is a perspective detail view of a slightly-modified form of apparatus. Fig. 6 is a view in vertical longitudinal section, taken through the deck and the cushion-housing.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates the alley or table, constructed in the usual or any preferred manner and supported upon a base 2, the latter being secured in any suitable manner at the front end of the alley to posts 3 and at its rear end to similar posts 4 and 5, the table being of less width than the base to present two gutters, as usual, the balls being prevented from rolling off the gutters by vertical side pieces 6. The description thus generally given is of one form of alley adapted for use in connection with the present game; but it is to be understood that the same may be otherwise constructed and still be within the scope of the present invention. At the rear end of the alley is provided the usual cushion 7, which terminates at its lower end in a transversely-disposed chute 8, the bottom of which is inclined and merges into a race 9, leading to the front of the alley, the race and chute operating as an automatic means for returning the balls to the players, thereby obviating the necessity of the employment of an attendant for that purpose.

Supported at a suitable distance above the table at the rear end of the alley is a deck 10, comprising a bottom 11 and a front and back 12 and 13, respectively, the said deck being adjustably connected with the posts 4 and 5, as clearly shown in Fig. 2, for a reason that will presently appear. Depending from the bottom of the deck are two hangers 14, which support a transversely-disposed rod or bar 15, upon which are pivotally mounted in any preferred manner the paddles 16, constituting the objects to be struck, there being shown in this instance but five of the paddles; but it is to be understood that this number may be increased, if found necessary or desirable. The paddles are by preference constructed of wood and have their lower ends reduced in width in order that unless a ball strikes fairly between two of the paddles only one will be tripped, it being a desideratum and necessary to make a score that at least two of the paddles be tripped with one ball, for under the rules of the game unless all of the paddles are tripped the player does not score.

Under some conditions it might be desirable to have the lower ends of the paddles arranged at such distance above the alley as to render it possible only to trip one paddle, and this is effected by adjusting mechanism hereinafter described. To lessen the shock of the blow from the ball, the lower ends of the paddles are cushioned, in this instance by attaching thereto a length of rubber hose or tubing 17, which entirely surrounds the said portions of the paddles, and combined with the cushion at the front side thereof is a heavy piece of leather 18, which will operate to heighten the cushioning effect, the leather and tubing being held assembled with the paddle by a bolt or rivet 19 and operating as counterweights to cause the paddles normally to occupy a vertical position; but it is to be understood that, if preferred, only the front and side edges of the paddles may be cushioned and still be within the scope of the invention. The upper or broad portion of the paddles bear each a number, the highest numbers in this instance being borne by the two outside paddles and the lower numbers by the intermediate ones, the center paddle bearing the lowest, the reason for this arrangement being that it is easier to strike an intermediate paddle than a corner one, and thus the more expert a player is the higher will be his score.

As a means for holding the paddles in operative and in tripped positions a locking device 20 is combined with each paddle and comprises a spring adjustably connected with the back of the deck and extending forward over the front thereof and downward below the rear thereof, the extended portions being bent or crooked to form locking-latches 21 and 22, the former of which is adapted to engage the larger end of the paddle to hold it in the position shown in full lines in Fig. 3 and the latter to engage the cushioned end of the paddle to hold it in tripped position, as indicated by dotted lines in the same figure, the contact-faces of the locking-latches 21 and 22 being disposed at an angle to the respective ends of the paddle, thus to cause the latter readily to trip the same when brought into engagement therewith. In order to increase or diminish the tension of the members of the spring, as may be necessary, thumb-screws or ordinary screws 23 and 24 are associated with the spring, which by being moved in or out will regulate the tension thereof in a manner that will be readily understood.

To effect automatic return of the paddles to their normal position after having been tripped, a setting device is employed, comprising a shaft 25, carrying a plurality of rearwardly-extending arms 26, one for each paddle, the said arms being normally housed within recesses 27 in the under face of the bottom of the deck, and one end of this shaft is provided with an arm or lever 28, disposed at right angles to the arms 26 and to which is connected one end of a wire or cord 29, the other end of which is passed through a keeper 30, carried by one of the posts 3, and is provided with a handle 31, by which the wire or pull-cord may be operated. To lessen the jar between the cushioned ends of the paddles and the bottom of the deck when a paddle is tripped, a cushion 32 is secured to the said portion of the deck, as clearly shown in Fig. 3.

The front of the deck 12 is provided with figures corresponding with those on the paddles, as indicated in Fig. 2, wherein the center paddle is shown as tripped to exhibit the number "5" on the deck, this corresponding to the number on the tripped paddle, by which means the value of the latter paddle may be positively determined in case any dispute should arise on this point.

The form of apparatus so far described is one adapted for use in connection with an ordinary tenpin-alley by providing the same with the elevated table 1, with the race 9, and with the adjunctive paddle mechanism described. In other words, the structure defined is exhibited as a fixture within a building.

In the form of apparatus shown in Fig. 5 the same is disconnected from a wall or other support and is adapted to be transported and readily set up for use, say, at country fairs or other rural exhibitions, although it is equally well adapted to be placed within a hall. The table or alley 1 is supported upon legs 33, disposed at proper distances apart, and a cushion is arranged in a housing 34 at the rear of the alley and is provided with the transversely-disposed chute 8, communicating with the race 9 in the same manner as shown in Fig. 2, and as this will be well understood detailed illustration thereof is deemed unnecessary. There is also a change in the construction of the deck 10, which instead of being a trough-like structure, as shown in Figs. 1 to 3, is composed of a single length of board supported by uprights 35 and 36, corresponding to the posts 4 and 5 of the other figures. In this form of apparatus and also in the form described in the other figures adjusting mechanism is provided by which the deck may be raised or lowered to suit the size of a ball used, the point being to have the lower ends of the paddles at such height above the alley that a ball can trip two pins, although, if preferred, the deck may be so adjusted that it can only trip one pin by striking it square in the face; but inasmuch as in the playing of this game a score is only made when all of the pins are knocked down it is preferred that the pins or paddles will be adjusted so that a ball can hit two of them. The adjustment is effected by providing the posts or uprights 35 and 36, as also the posts 4 and 5, with vertical slots 37, in which the ends of the deck rest, the deck being provided with vertical slots 38, (indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 2,) through which pass bolts 39, carrying nuts 40, which by being turned tightly against the outer edges of

the supports will operate to hold the deck at any desired adjustment.

The forms of apparatus herein shown will be found thoroughly effective in accomplishing the objects sought; but it will be obvious in their construction that various changes in the different parts thereof may be resorted to, according to the tastes of the users, and for this reason it is to be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the precise mode of construction and manner of arrangement of the parts herein described and shown, as these may be widely departed from without changing the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

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

1. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, a deck arranged on a plane above the rear end thereof, a plurality of pins or paddles pivotally associated intermediate of their ends with the deck, and means carried by the deck and operating to hold the pins or paddles in normal or in tripped position, the pins being so arranged as to swing into vertical position by their own weight when released.

2. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, a deck arranged on a plane above the rear end thereof, pins or paddles pivotally associated intermediate of their ends with the deck, means carried by the deck and operating automatically to hold the pins or paddles in normal or in tripped position, and means operable from the front of the table or alley to reset the pins after having been tripped, the pins being so arranged as to swing into vertical position by their own weight when released.

3. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, a plurality of pins or paddles arranged adjacent to and supported above one end thereof, and cushioning devices, constituting counterweights, associated with the lower ends of the pins.

4. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, a deck arranged at the rear end thereof and having its front provided with numbers, pins or paddles pivotally supported by the deck and bearing numbers corresponding to those thereon, means operating automatically to hold the paddles in normal or in tripped position, and a paddle-setting device associated with the deck and operable from the front end of the alley.

5. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, and an adjustable deck arranged at the rear end thereof and supporting a plurality of pivoted pins or paddles.

6. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, a vertically-adjustable deck arranged at the rear end thereof, and a plurality of pins or paddles pivotally supported by the deck.

7. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, a deck arranged at the rear end thereof and including means for holding the same at any desired adjustment with relation to the alley, and a plurality of pins or paddles pivotally supported by the deck.

8. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, a deck arranged at the rear end thereof and bearing numbers and pins or paddles pivotally supported by the deck and bearing numbers corresponding to those thereon.

9. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, a deck arranged at the rear end thereof and bearing numbers, pins or paddles pivotally supported by the deck and bearing numbers corresponding to those thereon, and means operating automatically to return a ball from the rear to the front of the alley.

10. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, a deck arranged at the rear end thereof and having its front provided with numbers, pins or paddles pivotally supported by the deck and bearing numbers corresponding to those thereon, means operating automatically to hold the paddles in normal or in tripped position, means operating automatically to return a ball from the rear to the front of the alley after having tripped a pin, and a pin-setting device associated with the deck and operable from the front end of the alley.

11. A game apparatus comprising a table or alley, a deck arranged at the rear end thereof and bearing numbers, pins or paddles pivotally supported by the deck and bearing numbers corresponding to those thereon, a transversely-disposed inclined chute arranged below the deck, and a race communicating with the chute and leading to the front end of the alley.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

DANIEL H. TALBERT.

Witnesses:
JOHN H. VANDYKE,
JOHN A. SWAN.