Nov. 28, 1933. J. E. BUMANN 1,936,571

PLAYHOUSE

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FIG. 1.

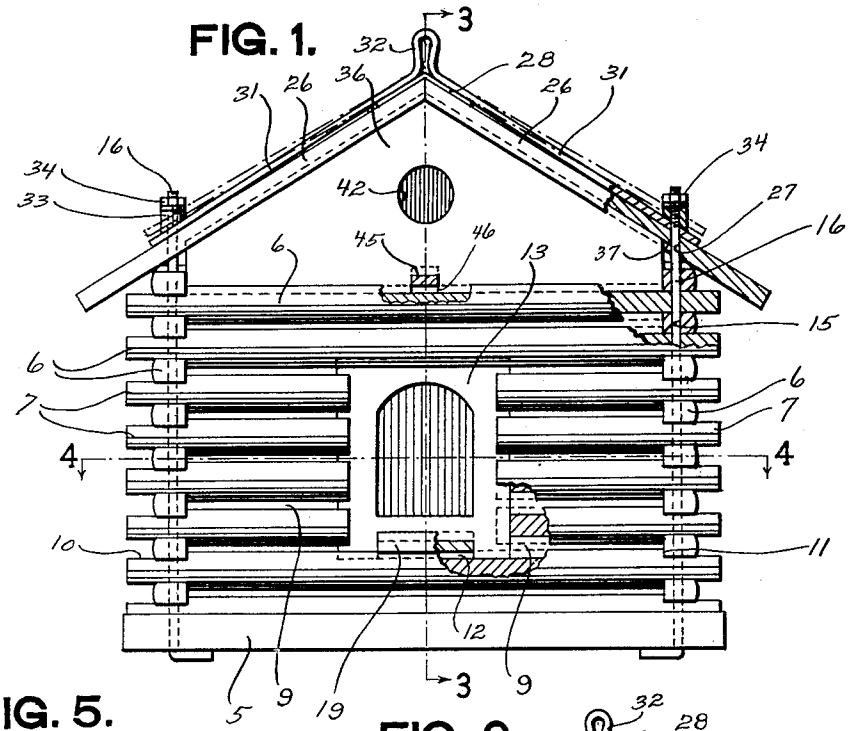


FIG. 5.

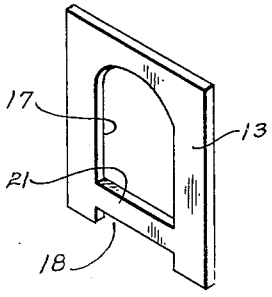


FIG. 2.

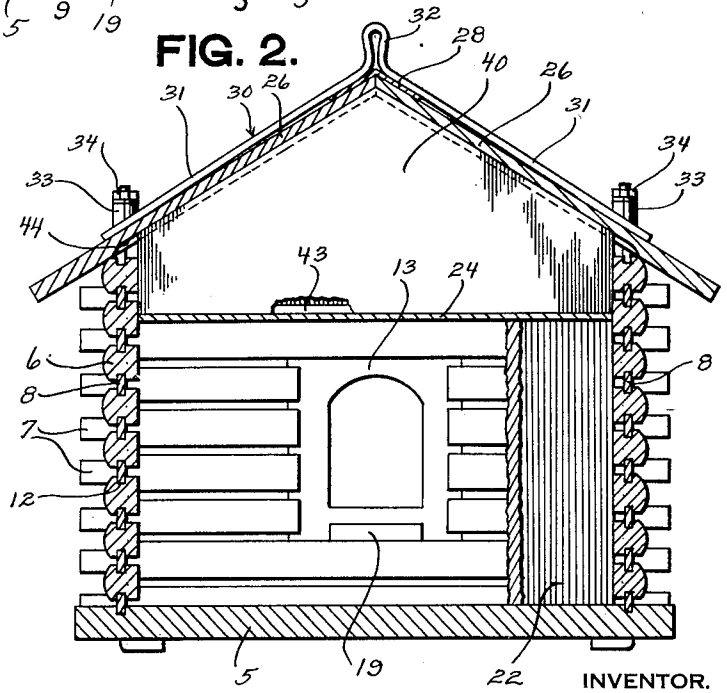


FIG. 6.

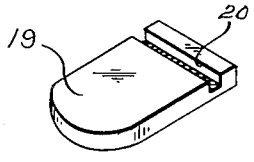
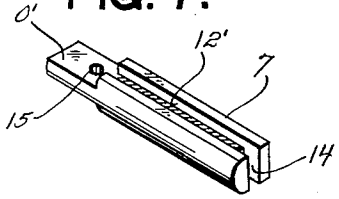


FIG. 7.



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FIG. 3.

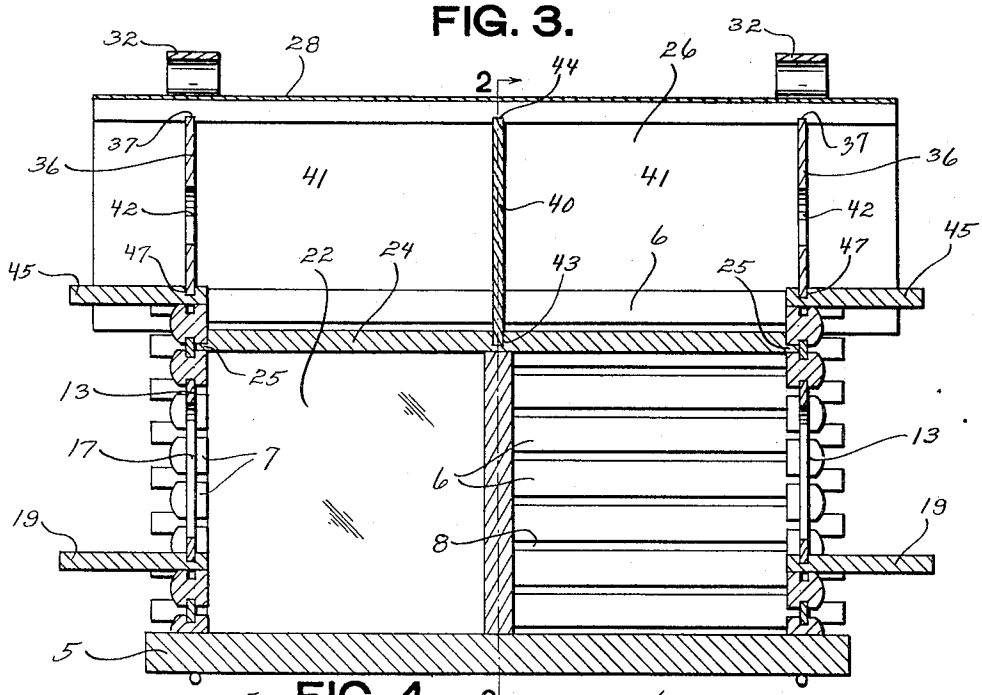
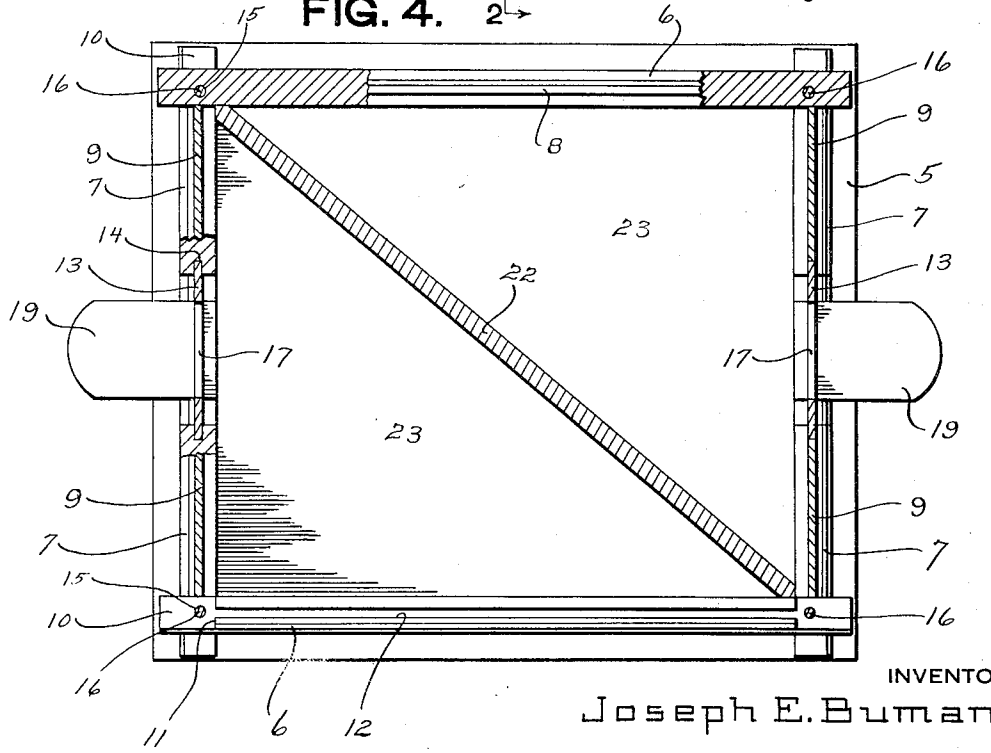


FIG. 4.



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PLAYHOUSE

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15 Claims. (Cl. 46—35)

The present invention relates to bird or toy play houses and the primary object of the invention is to provide a toy or miniature house of this character simulating a log cabin in appearance and which may be used either as a bird house for a number of birds or as a child's toy play house of a construction which may be readily assembled or taken apart.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bird or toy house of knockdown construction and wherein the building units are of such novel interlocking relation as to be retained in rigid assembled formation by means of four fastening elements extended through certain of the building units.

A further object is to provide a sectional bird house having a novel arrangement for securing the roof in leak proof relation over the wall portion and which arrangement may also serve to suspend the house if so desired.

A further object is to provide a bird house of this character embodying a novel partitioning arrangement providing a number of separate rooms or compartments of different sizes and each having an entrance opening, together with a novel arrangement for retaining a perch in place at each of the entrance openings by an interlocking joint.

A further object resides in the specific construction of the interlocking wall forming units providing a structure having a realistic appearance of a log cabin with filler pieces simulating plaster between the spaced log simulating members.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following detailed description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification and in which drawings:—

Figure 1 is an end view of the house showing fragmentary portions broken for illustrating certain details of construction.

Figure 2 is a vertical section substantially on the line 2—2 of Figure 3.

Figure 3 is a vertical longitudinal section on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a horizontal section on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of one of the door or entrance opening panels for positioning in the end walls of the house.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the door step for association with each of the door panels.

Figure 7 is a perspective view of one of the short log simulating members for use in constructing the end walls of the house.

Referring to the drawings in detail, and wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, the bird or play house comprises a rectangular-shaped base or lower floor 5 upon which the house proper is assembled and rigidly attached by means of four corner fastening elements which aside from securing the walls in assembled relation also serve to retain the roof portion assembled over the walls. The side and end walls of the house are constructed from a plurality of long wall units 6 and short wall units 7, and long and short filler pieces or strips 8 and 9 respectively. The wall units or building blocks 6 and 7 provide logs simulating units and preferably have their outer faces rounded, and have flat upper and lower and inner faces as shown.

The long wall units or logs 6 are tenoned at each end as at 10 by cutting away both the upper and lower edges of the logs and provide terminally facing shoulders 11 at the upper and lower sides of the logs. These tenons 10 are of a thickness slightly greater than one-half the thickness of the logs and are adapted to overlap in cross formation at the corners of the house so that narrow spaces or interstices are formed between the superposed logs. The logs 6 are provided in their upper and lower faces with channels or grooves 12 formed substantially midway the inner and outer edges of the logs and of a depth to have the base of the grooves flush with the faces of the tenons 10. In assembling the logs into wall formation, the inner surfaces of the tenons 10 abut the shoulders 11 and extend across the ends of the grooves 12.

The short wall units or logs 7 are of like cross sectional configuration as that of the long logs 6 and provide means whereby door or entrance opening panels 13 may be provided in the walls of the house. The logs 7 as shown in Figure 7 have the tenons 10' formed at their outer ends only and are longitudinally grooved at their upper and lower edges as at 12' in a corresponding manner as that of the logs 6. The grooves 12' at the inner ends of the logs 7 are connected by an end groove 14 adapted to receive the side edges of the panels 13.

The long filler pieces or strips 8 are intended to close the spacing between the long logs 6, while the short filler pieces or strips 9 are intended to close the narrow spaces between the short logs 7. The long filler pieces 8 are of a height less than that of the logs and of a length equal

to the length of the grooves 12 whereby the ends of the strips abut the inner faces of the tenons. The short filler pieces 9 for use between the short logs 7 have their inner ends abutting the side edges of the panels 13 as shown in Figure 4.

The tenons or reduced ends of the logs 6 and 7 are formed with circular openings 15 which are adapted to vertically align for receiving therethrough, corner fastening pins or rods 16 suitably secured at their lower ends to each corner portion of the base floor 5 and which have threaded upper ends as shown in Figure 1. These corner fastening rods 16 as will also be apparent in Figure 1 have their upper ends projecting above the uppermost logs of the walls of the house. It may here be well to state that no filler pieces or strips are placed in the upper grooves of the uppermost logs of the walls.

The panels 13 and one of which is intended to be arranged in each end wall of the house, are of a thickness equal to the width of the grooves formed in the wall units 6 and 7. Each panel 13 is formed with a relatively large opening 17 and has its lower edge notched out as at 18 to receive a flat step or rest 19. The step 19 is of a width equal to the length of the notch 18 and is provided adjacent its inner end and at its upper side with a channel 20 adapted to snugly receive the web 21 with the side portions of the panel beyond the notch 18 projecting below the under surface of the step. In assembling one of the panels 13 and step 19 in an end wall of the house, the step is first positioned in the notch 18 and the panel placed in the upper groove of one of the long end wall logs 6 with the step 19 resting upon the upper surface of the log. The short logs 7 and short filler pieces 9 may then be built up along the side edges of the panel with the side edges of the panel received in the end grooves 14 of the short logs. In this manner the panel and step will be firmly locked in position without requiring any fastening elements. The upper edge of the panel is received in the lower groove of one of the long end wall logs.

Arranged to extend between two diagonally disposed corners of the house is a vertical partition 22 dividing the lower portion of the house into two separate rooms or compartments 23 each having an entrance opening 17. This diagonally arranged partition 22 is beveled at each end and slidably fits between the walls with its lower edge resting upon the base floor 5.

Arranged above the partition 22 is an upper or attic floor 24 for dividing the house into upper and lower compartments. This floor 24 is rabbeted along two parallel edges, and in the example shown along its two end edges as at 25 and these reduced or rabbeted end edges are adapted to fit into the spaces formed between two adjacent end wall logs at a location above the panels 13. This interfitting of the ends of the attic floor 24 in between the log simulating wall units provides a support for the floor and also prevents upward movement thereof. The lower side of the floor 24 rests upon the diagonally disposed partition 22 and forms a closure for the upper sides of the compartments 23. The side edges of the attic floor 24 will abut against the flat inner sides of the long logs of the side walls.

The house is formed with a ridge roof provided from a pair of roof plates or sections 26 of rectangular shape and having their upper or ridge edges beveled to provide a neat joint. These roof sections are of such length and width as to project beyond the end and side walls of the house. The roof sections are provided adjacent their lower or eave forming edges with openings 27 adapted to receive the upper ends of the corner fastening rods 16. As will be noted in Figures 1 and 2, the logs forming the side walls extend for one layer above the logs forming the end walls and that the outer or lower edges of the roof sections rest upon the uppermost logs of the side walls.

Extended along the ridge of the roof is an angle-shaped ridge cap or piece 28 preferably formed of metal and serving to seal the joint of the roof sections 26.

Arranged adjacent each end of the roof is a strap metal securing strip 30 preferably of a spring nature and embodying the strap portions 31 adapted to overlie the roof sections 26 and joined at their upper ends by an open spring loop 32 tending to normally spread the strap portions as shown by the dotted line showing in Figure 1. The upper ends of these strap portions 31 have a transverse bearing engagement upon the angular portions of the ridge cap 28, and have their outer or lower ends apertured to receive the upper ends of the corner fastening rods 16. The ends of the corner fastening rods 16 which project above the strap portions 31 are provided with beveled washers 33 and a nut 34 threaded thereagainst. When the nuts 34 are turned down upon the rods 16, the building units will be firmly clamped together and the upper ends of the strap portions 31 so clamped upon the ridge cap 28 as to securely retain the cap against displacement. If so desired, the open spring loops 32 may serve to suspend the house.

Arranged above each end wall of the house is a triangular-shaped end piece or gable 36 which are adapted to fit at their lower edges in the upper grooves of the topmost logs of the end walls. The ends of the gable pieces are cut off to fit between the uppermost logs of the side walls. The upper angular edges of the end pieces or gables 36 fit into grooves 37 provided in the under sides of the roof sections 26. It will here be noted that the nuts 34 are turned on the rods 16 that the end pieces or gables 36 are firmly held against displacement.

Arranged midway between the gable pieces 36 and parallel thereto is a transverse partition 40 dividing the attic into separate compartments 41 each having an entrance opening 42 provided in the gable pieces 36. The lower edge of this substantially triangular-shaped partition 40 fits in a groove 43 provided in the upper side of the upper or attic floor 24, while the upper angular edges of the partition fit into grooves 44 provided in the under side of the roof sections 26.

A perch 45 is provided directly below each of the openings 42 and these perches fit into notches 46 provided in the lower ends of the gable pieces 36. The inner ends of the perches 45 are transversely notched at their upper sides as at 47 and these grooves 47 interlock with the gable pieces as shown in Figure 3 with the perches resting upon the upper surface of the topmost end wall logs. Thus the perches 45 are locked in position without requiring any fastening elements.

It will be noted that the building units are so keyed together as to cause the units to be firmly interlocked one with another against all directions of movement by means of the four corner fastening rods.

While the house has been shown and described as primarily intended as a bird house, it will be readily apparent that the house may

be easily altered for use as a play house by substituting different types of entrance opening panels to provide doors and windows for the house. By having the filler pieces or strips 8 and 9 colored white, presents the appearance of plaster between the spaced log simulating units. These filler strips aside from presenting a realistic appearance of a log cabin, also form solid walls for the house by filling the interstices between the slightly spaced log members. The house when used as a play house will afford considerable amusement to children in assembling the house.

Changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be made to the form of invention herein shown and described, without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A toy house of the class described comprising a base floor, walls on the base floor formed of a series of elongated wall units and keying units between the wall units, a roof covering the walls, fastening rods carried by the base floor and extending upwardly through the walls at the corners of the house, and a nut threaded upon the upper end of each rod for clamping the roof and wall elements in assembled relation upon the base floor.

2. In a toy house of the class described, walls formed of a plurality of building logs having openings at their ends, filler pieces arranged between superposed logs of each wall, and fastening rods extending through said openings to retain the logs and filler pieces in assembled wall formation.

3. In a toy house of the class described, a base floor, end and side walls comprising building logs and filler pieces between the logs, said logs having their ends in crossed superjacent relation and having openings in each end, a roof covering the walls and having openings aligning with the openings in the logs, and fastening rods secured to the base floor and extending upwardly through the aligning openings in the logs and roof.

4. In a toy house of the class described, a base floor, sectional end and side walls comprising building logs having openings at their ends and filler pieces between superposed logs, said side walls being extended for one log above the end walls, a gable interfitting with the top logs of the end walls, a ridge roof embodying roof sections engaging the gables and the top logs of the side walls, fastening rods secured to the base floor and extending upwardly through the openings in the building logs and through the roof sections, and clamping nuts threaded upon the upper ends of the rods.

5. In a toy house of the class described, walls formed of a plurality of building logs having grooves formed longitudinally in their upper and lower faces, and filler pieces arranged in the grooves between adjacent logs for spacing the logs and filling the spacing therebetween.

6. In a toy house of the class described, walls formed of a series of building logs having a longitudinally formed groove provided in their upper and lower sides and terminating short of the ends of the logs, and a filler strip fitting in the confronting grooves between the logs and serving to slightly space the logs apart for exposing a narrow portion of strip between adjacent logs.

7. In a toy house of the class described, end and side walls comprising building logs having tenons formed at their ends for crossed contacting engagement at the corners of the house, said tenons having a thickness slightly greater than one-half the height of the logs, a groove formed in the upper and the lower face of each log between the tenons, and a filler strip fitting in the grooves between adjacent building logs.

8. In a toy house of the class described, walls formed of a series of building logs spaced one above the other, filler pieces interfitting with the logs and closing the space therebtween, and entrance opening panels slidably interlocked with the logs.

9. In a toy house of the class described, walls formed of a series of grooved building logs and filler pieces interfitting in confronting grooves between the logs, said walls having openings to which certain of said grooves open, and a panel provided with an opening, slidably fitting in the grooves about said openings and held against displacement by the building logs.

10. In a house of the class described, a base floor, an upper structure comprising end and side walls, a diagonal partition between the walls providing separate compartments, said walls having entrance openings into the compartments, an upper floor engaging upon the diagonal partition and transversely grooved at its upper side, a ridge roof, gables above the end walls interlocking with the roof and each having an entrance opening, a transverse partition between the gables with its lower edge held in said groove by the roof and providing separate compartments above the upper floor, and means for retaining the upper structure in assembled relation and upon the base floor.

11. In a house of the class described, a base floor, sectional end and side walls on the base floor embodying vertical interfitting units, a diagonal partition between the walls, an attic floor above the partition and interfitting between units of the walls, a gable vertically interfitting with the top of each end wall, a ridge roof having vertical interfitting engagement with the gables, a partition between the gables, and retaining rods carried by the base floor and projecting upwardly through the roof for securing the assembled structure to the base floor.

12. In a knock down house of the class described, a base floor, end and side walls embodying wall units longitudinally grooved at their upper and lower sides and filler strips fitting in the grooves between the wall units, an upper floor having rabbeted ends fitting between upper wall units of the end walls, a gable fitting in the groove at the upper side of the top wall unit of each end wall, a ridge roof embodying roof sections grooved at their under sides to receive the upper angular edges of the gables, fastening rods carried by the base floor and extending upwardly through the corner portions of the walls and through the roof sections, and a retaining nut threaded upon the upper end of each rod.

13. In a toy house of the class described, a base floor, end and side walls on the base floor, a ridge roof covering the walls, a ridge cap for the roof, securing straps traversing the ridge cap and providing strap portions extending downwardly from each side of the ridge cap, fastening rods carried by the base floor and having threaded upper ends projecting upwardly through the lower end portion of each strap portion, and a nut threaded upon the upper end of each rod for drawing the

securing straps into binding engagement with the ridge cap.

14. In a house of the class described embodying side and end walls, a ridge roof covering the walls and providing angular roof sections, an angled ridge cap along the ridge of the roof, and retaining means for the ridge cap comprising a strap metal strip extending transversely of the ridge cap embodying strap portions overlying the roof sections and joined by a spring loop straddling the apex of the ridge cap, and means for drawing the ends of the strap portions against the roof sections for holding the ridge cap against displacement.

15. In a knock down toy house of the class described, a wall comprising a series of long and short log members longitudinally grooved along their upper and lower sides, said short log members defining an opening and having end grooves confronting the opening, filler pieces in the longitudinal grooves between the log members, and an entrance opening panel in the opening in the end wall, said panel at its side edges engaging in the end grooves of the short log members and having its upper and lower edges engaging in the longitudinal grooves in the long log members above and below the end wall opening.

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