

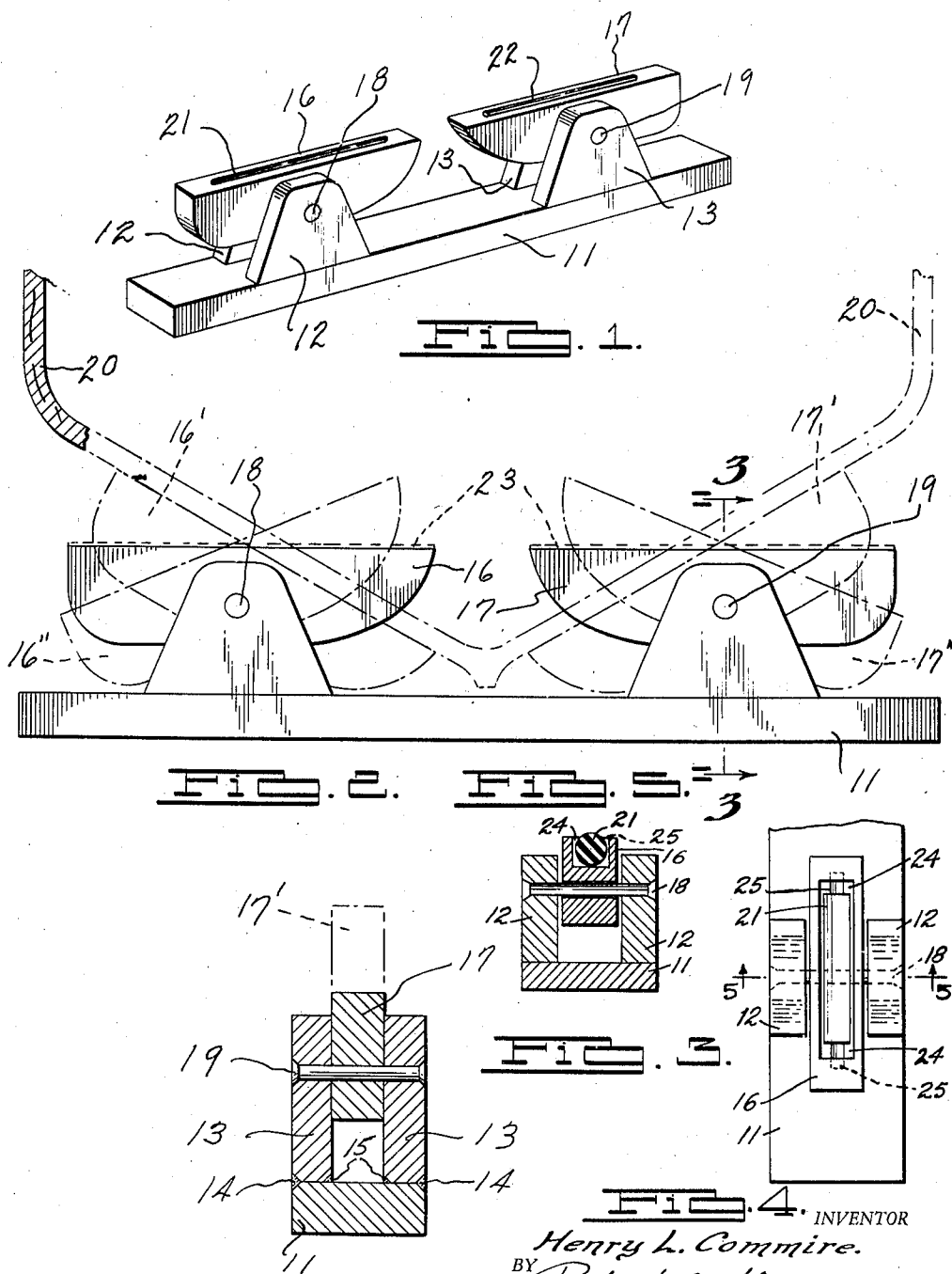
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SELF-ADJUSTABLE CRADLE FOR BOAT TRAILERS

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SELF-ADJUSTABLE CRADLE FOR BOAT TRAILERS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 280—143)

This invention relates to a self-adjustable cradle for a boat trailer; and more particularly to a cradle mechanism attachable to the usual boat trailer which consists of a single axle for two wheels, with a centrally disposed tongue extending at right angles to said axle for supporting the front end of the boat to be carried, and also with suitable attaching means on the end of said tongue for removable attachment to a vehicle. The cradle mechanism is supported longitudinally upon the axle of the trailer, and is adapted as a support for the bottom surface of the boat, at a point substantially intermediate the bow and stern.

Heretofore a different cradle was required for each boat carried that differed in shape in its bottom surface. This was expensive and required the unshackling of one cradle and its removal and the attaching in its place of a different shaped cradle for the particular shape of boat proposed to be carried.

It is the object of this invention to provide a substantially simplified boat cradle of this class which may be permanently secured to the boat trailer.

It is the further object of this invention to provide a cradle mechanism which is self-adjustable to present suitable bearing surfaces to support boat bottoms of any shape.

It is the still further object of this invention to provide a boat cradle with pivoted means for supporting angularly adjustable bearing surfaces, whereby said surfaces readily assume any angle of inclination to coincide with the angularity of the boat bottom sought to be transported.

It is the still further object of this invention to provide pivotal rocker supports for a boat, with suitable friction minimizing means such as rollers, or any other covering, therefore to facilitate sliding the boat upon the cradle and for cushioning the bottom surface of the boat.

This invention relates to the various combinations of elements hereinafter described in connection with the appended drawing of which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the boat cradle.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view thereof.

Figure 3 is a sectioned view on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary top plan view of the boat cradle showing the roller construction.

Fig. 5 is a section on line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

It will be understood that the above drawing is not intended as a limitation of the invention,

but is merely a preferable embodiment thereof, for a better understanding of which reference should now be had to the following detailed description.

In the drawing the self-adjustable boat cradle consists of a substantially rectangular base member 11 adapted for attachment above and to the axle of a boat trailer of the type above mentioned. It will be understood that various other types of boat trailers may be employed, for instance providing a plurality of cradles of the type hereinafter described.

Members 12 and 13 are suitably secured or joined to the base 11, as by welding along the bottom edges thereof at points 14 and 15. Bifurcated supports are thereby provided with the members 12 and 13 disposed in spaced relation to slidably receive the rocker members 16 and 17.

These rockers are pivotally supported centrally by the pivot pins 18 and 19, and are thereby adapted to rotate within the supports 12 and 13, to any position such as shown by the dotted line illustrations 16', 16'' and 17', 17'', of Figure 2.

A boat 20 is fragmentarily shown disposed between the pivotal rockers 16 and 17 with rockers 16' and 17' shown in dotted lines coinciding with the particular angular inclination of the bottom of boat 20.

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Figure 2, wherein the rocker 17 is also shown in tilted position by the dotted line illustration 17'. Thus it is seen that the rocker members 16 and 17 pivoted at 18 and 19 are self-adjustable to coincide with the shape of the bottom of any boat sought to be carried thereby.

Rollers 21 and 22 made of rubber or any other suitable material are longitudinally disposed within the top surface of rockers 16 and 17 and thereby provide a resilient support for the boat 20, and also provide means facilitating the drawing of the boat up over the cradle.

As illustrated in Fig. 4 rockers 16 and 17 are recessed longitudinally at 24 for receiving the longitudinally disposed rollers 21 which are rotatably journaled therein at their ends by means of the shafts 25 suitably supported within the rockers 16 and 17. Said rollers, as shown in Fig. 5, extend above the top surface of rockers 16 and 17 providing a suitable rotatable rest or support for the boat bottom adapted to be drawn thereover and supported thereon.

However these rollers may be omitted. Or, on the other hand the top surfaces of rockers

16 and 17 may be covered entirely with leather or other resilient material as at 23.

Having described my invention reference should now be had to the claims which follow for determining the scope thereof.

I claim:

1. A self-adjustable cradle comprised of a base member adapted for attachment to the axle of a boat traller, upright bifurcated supporting members secured in spaced relation upon said base, rocker members pivotally supported within said bifurcated members in spaced relation to said base, adapted to angularly coincide with the inclination of a boat bottom for supporting the same, and friction minimizing rollers made of resilient material longitudinally disposed and journaled within said rockers to provide a resilient bearing surface.

2. A self-adjustable cradle for boats comprised of a base member, upright bifurcated supporting members secured in spaced relation upon said base, rocker members pivotally supported within

said bifurcated members in spaced relation to said base, adapted to angularly coincide with the inclination of a boat bottom for supporting the same, said rocker members being longitudinally recessed on their top surfaces, and rollers made of resilient material longitudinally disposed and journaled within said recesses, with a portion of their surfaces extending above the surface of said rocker member to provide a resilient bearing surface.

3. A self-adjustable cradle comprised of a base member adapted for attachment to the axle of a boat traller, upright bifurcated supporting members secured in spaced relation upon said base, rocker members pivotally supported within said bifurcated members, adapted to angularly coincide with the inclination of a boat bottom for supporting the same, and rollers longitudinally disposed and journaled within said rockers to provide a bearing surface.

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