

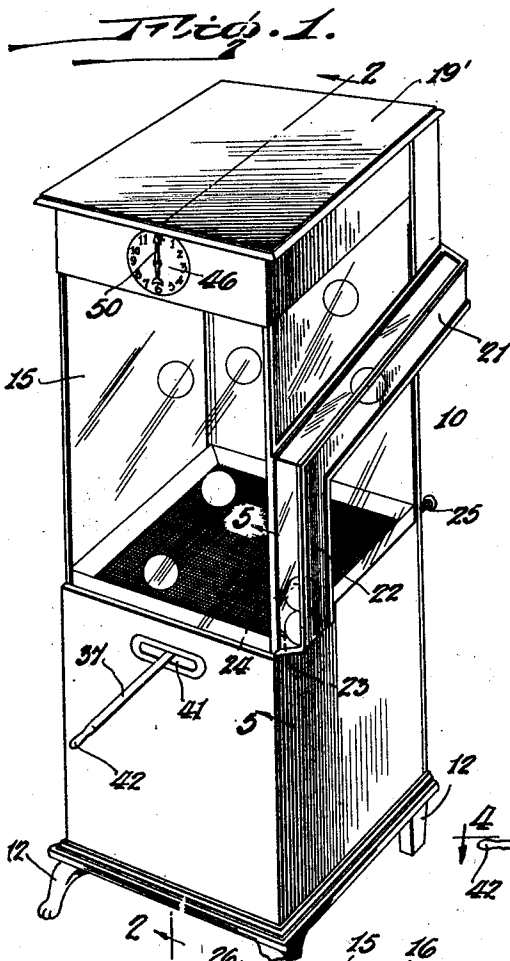
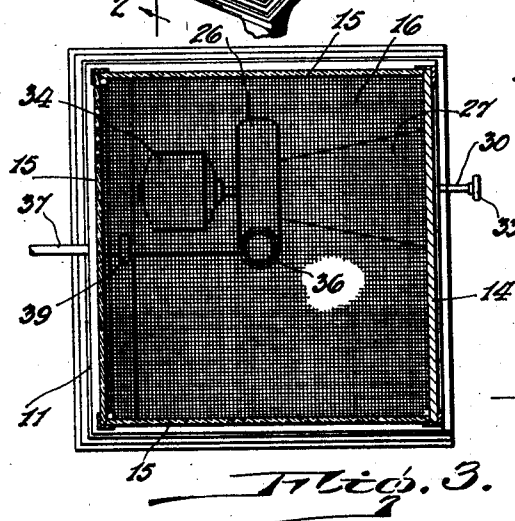
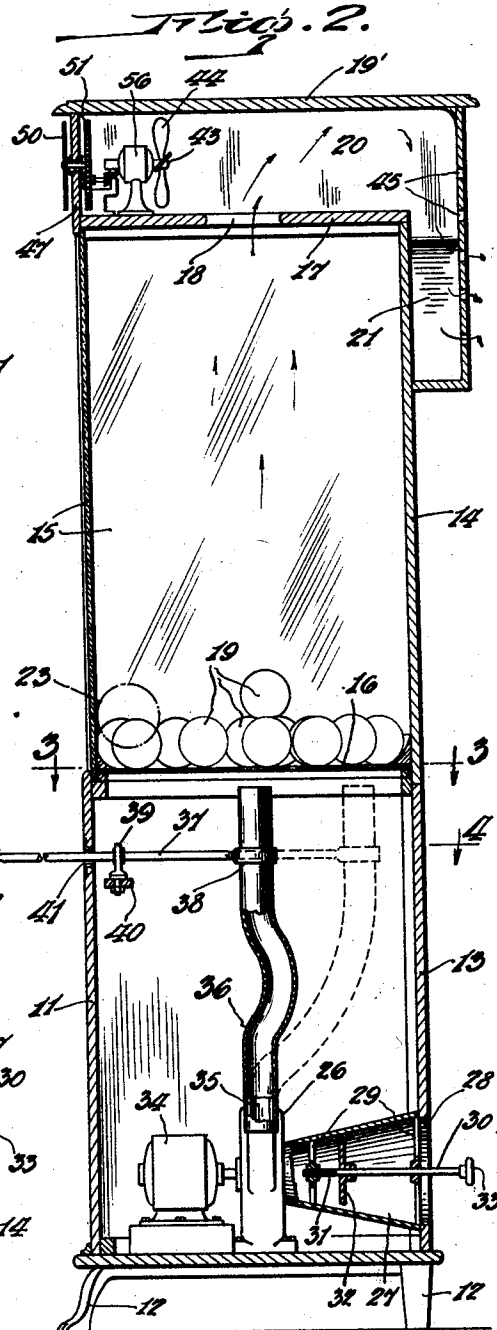
Sept. 16, 1930.

H. ROCHWARG
AMUSEMENT APPARATUS

1,776,196

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1



HARRY ROCHWARG

INVENTOR

BY *Victor J. Evans*

ATTORNEY

WITNESS: *Robert J. Luby*

Sept. 16, 1930.

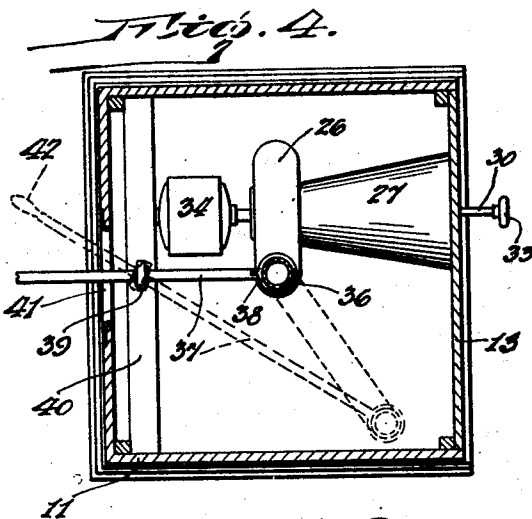
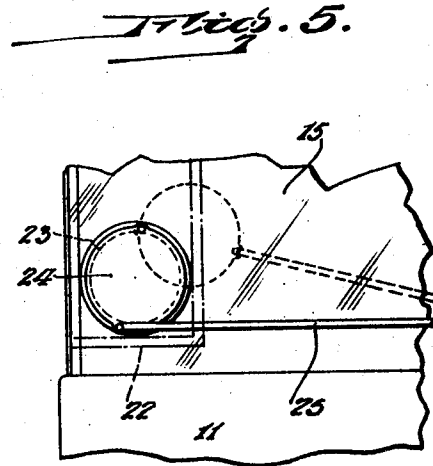
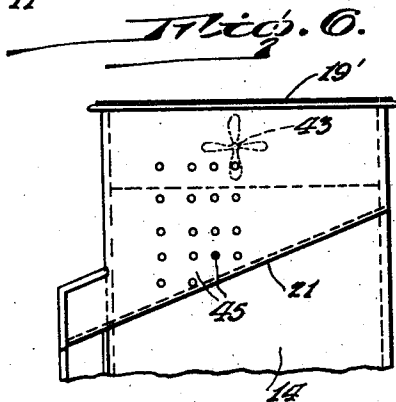
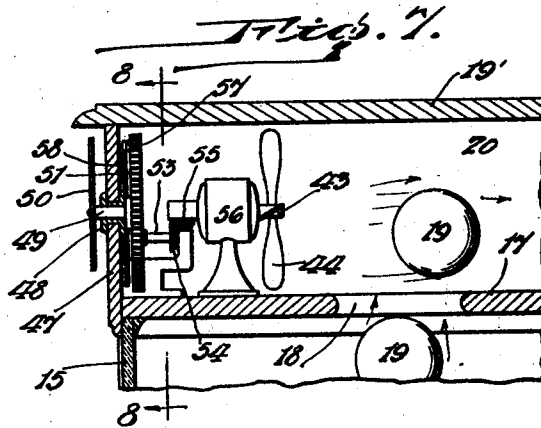
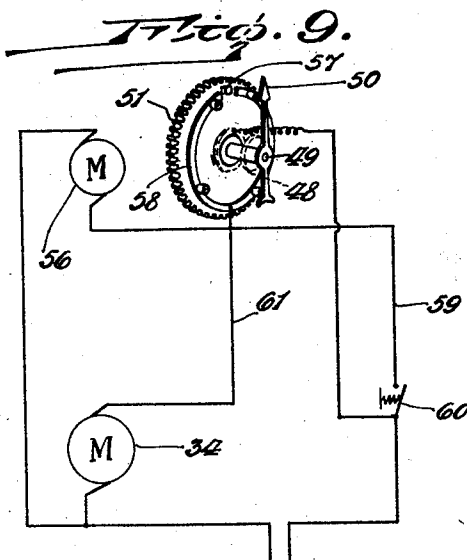
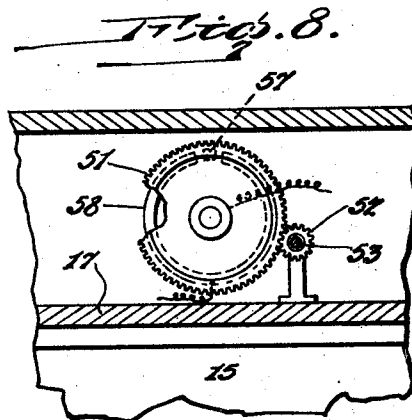
H. ROCHWARG

1,776,196

AMUSEMENT APPARATUS

Filed June 22, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



WITNESS: *Victor J. Evans*

HARRY ROCHWARG
INVENTOR
BY *Victor J. Evans*
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

HARRY ROCHWARG, OF BRONX, NEW YORK

AMUSEMENT APPARATUS

Application filed June 22, 1929. Serial No. 373,012.

This invention relates to improvements in amusement apparatus.

The primary object of the invention resides in an amusement apparatus for use in amusement parks and like places in which a number of contestants may try their skill in the operation of the same. The apparatus consists of a number of buoyant bodies, such as toy balloons arranged within a transparent compartment to be viewed by an operator, the top of the compartment being provided with an outlet, and an air hose in control of an operator for directing an air stream through the compartment with the purpose of blowing the buoyant bodies through the outlet. Automatic time control means is provided for the operation of the apparatus for a predetermined period of time, therefore the contestant succeeding in blowing the most number of buoyant bodies through the outlet in a given time may be termed the winner.

Another object of the invention is to provide a collector chute for the discharged buoyant bodies blown from the compartment, and for releasing the same to return to the compartment after each actuation of the apparatus.

A further object is the provision of an amusement apparatus of the above kind in which a motor driven blower is provided for producing an air stream through the manually controlled hose, and adjusting means for regulating the inlet of atmospheric air to the blower to control the air pressure discharged through said hose.

A still further object of the invention is to provide an amusement apparatus which requires skill on the part of an operator in the operation thereof, which is amusing and exciting to the spectators as well as the contestants, and in which each operation requires but a brief period of time.

With these and other objects in view, the invention resides in certain novel construction and combination and arrangement of parts, the essential features of which are hereinafter fully described, are particularly pointed out in the appended claims, and are illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my amusement apparatus.

Figure 2 is an enlarged vertical longitudinal sectional view on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a horizontal sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a horizontal sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a detail vertical transverse sectional view on the line 5—5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary rear elevation of the top end of the apparatus.

Figure 7 is an enlarged vertical sectional view through the front upper end of the apparatus.

Figure 8 is a vertical transverse sectional view on the line 8—8 of Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a diagrammatic view of the time control mechanism.

Referring to the drawings by reference characters, the numeral 10 designates my improved amusement apparatus in its entirety which includes a box-like base 11 supported upon legs 12 while closing the open rear side of the base is a removable panel or back wall 13. Supported upon the box-like base 11 and rising therefrom is a body or casing 14 having front and side transparent walls 15 which may be of glass or other like material. The casing 14 is provided with a perforated screen bottom 16 while the top wall 17 is provided with a restricted opening 18 which is of a size larger in diameter than the buoyant bodies 19 contained within the casing 14 and which buoyant bodies are in the nature of toy balloons. Spaced from the top 17 of the body 14 above the same is a roof 19', the space between the roof 19' and the top 17 constituting an outlet passage 20 which communicates at the rear with an inclined chute 21, the said chute extending downward along one of the side walls of the casing and terminating in a vertical leg 22 in which the discharge balloons collect as will be more fully explained. The lower end of the chute communicates with the interior of the casing through an opening 23 in its side wall and which opening is normally closed by a pivoted disk or door 24. An actuating rod 25 at one end is pivotally connected to the disk and

extends rearwardly beyond the rear wall of the casing whereby pull upon the rod will swing the door or disk 24 to an open position to allow the buoyant bodies or balloons to return to the casing.

Mounted on the bottom of the base section 11 is a rotary blower 26, the inlet of which connects with the restricted end of an air inlet funnel 27, the mouth of which opens to the atmosphere through an opening 28 in the removable panel 13. Spiders 29 are mounted within the funnel while a rotatable rod 30 is slidably mounted in the outer spider and has its free end threaded as at 31 for threaded engagement with the inner spider. Fixed to the rod 30 is a valve disk 32 which disk contacts with the interior walls of the funnel to regulate the inlet of air to the rotary blower. It will be appreciated that by grasping the knob 33 provided on the outer end of the rod 30 and imparting turning movement to the rod, the disk 32 may be moved longitudinally to either increase or decrease the amount of air to the inlet of the blower. The rotary blower is operated by an electric motor 34.

Connected to the outlet 35 of the blower is one end of a flexible hose or tube 36 which is vertically disposed so that the free end of the same terminates directly beneath the screen bottom 16 of the casing 14. The free outlet end of the hose is beneath the center of the screen as shown in Figure 2. A kink will appear therein which facilitates movement of the hose over the area of the foraminated bottom. For the purpose of manually actuating or controlling the movement of the hose, I provide an actuating lever 37, the inner end of which is pivotally connected to a ring or band 38 encircling the hose 36. The lever 37 is slidably mounted within a bearing 39, the said bearing being turnably mounted on a bar 40 extending between the side walls of the base. The outer end of the lever 37 extends through a horizontal slot 41 in the front wall of the base and terminates in a manipulating handle 42. It will be appreciated that by sliding the lever back and forth and turning the same, the outlet end of the hose may be moved or guided beneath the foraminated screen 16 whereby an operator may skillfully actuate the lever to cause the stream of air from the hose to act upon the balloons with the object of causing the same to be blown upward through the restricted opening 18 irrespective of where the balloons may rest upon the screen body 16. Mounted upon the top 17 forward of the opening 18 is an electric motor driven fan 43, the blades 44 of which face toward the rear and during operation of the fan, the current of air produced thereby is adapted to act upon any discharged balloon blown through the opening 18 to cause the balloon to enter the outlet passage 20 and cause the same to enter the inclined chute 21. For permitting the escape of air

produced by the fan 44 and the blower 26, I provide air outlet openings 45 in the rear wall of the chute.

For the purpose of controlling the operation of the blower 26 and the fan 43, I provide an automatic time mechanism whereby the motor 34 of the blower and the motor of the fan 43 will operate for a predetermined period of time, it being the purpose to limit each operation of the apparatus to a given period. Provided at the front and adjacent the roof of the apparatus is a graduated dial 46 and mounted in the front wall 47 is a bearing 48 in which is journaled a rotatable shaft 49, the outer end of which carries an indicating pointer 50 for traversing the dial 46. The inner end of the shaft 49 carries a gear 51, which constantly meshes with a smaller gear 52 fixed to one end of a journaled shaft 53, the other end of said shaft carrying a beveled gear 54 for constant meshing with a beveled gear 55 operatively connected to the armature shaft of the motor driven fan 43. It will be understood that during operation of the fan 43, power is transmitted at a relatively low speed to the shaft 49 to cause the indicating pointer 50 to travel once around the dial. For automatically controlling the operation of the motor 56 of the fan 43 and the motor 34 of the blower, I mount a contact or brush 57 on the inner face of the gear 51 and which brush during rotation of the gear rides over a split contact ring 58 fixedly mounted to the front wall 47. In Figure 9 of the drawing, I have shown a diagrammatic view of the electric circuit, which includes wiring 59, 61 and in which the motors 34 and 56, a source of electrical supply, and a switch or push button 60 are arranged. With the circuit closed at 60, on movement of the brush 57 into contact with one end of the ring 58, simultaneous with movement of the pointer 50 in the direction of the first graduation of the dial 46, the gear 51, carrying the said brush, will move to complete a single operation of the device, during which time the brush will travel around the ring 58 and back to the space between the ends of the said ring, thereby automatically breaking the circuit. While the brush is positioned opposite the space between the ends of the ring 58, the pointer 50 indicates zero on the dial, or the completion of an operation. The switch 60 is openable at the completion of each revolution of the gear 51 and its contact brush. The time that it takes for the indicating pointer 50 to traverse the dial may be of a predetermined period of time such as one minute, during which time an operator actuates the lever 37 to guide the air hose with the object of discharging from the casing 14 as many buoyant bodies or balloons as he can. In competition, the person or operator affecting the discharge of the greatest number of balloons may be termed the winner. It will

be appreciated that a certain amount of skill is required on the part of the operator in guiding the air hose to blow the balloons through the restricted outlet opening 18. By providing transparent front and side walls in the casing 14, the operator as well as any spectators may have an unobstructed view of the interior of the casing or enclosure 14. As shown in the drawing, the chute 21 extending along the side of the casing may also be enclosed by glass to reveal the number of balloons discharged.

While I have described what I deem to be the most desirable embodiment of my invention, it is obvious that many of the details may be varied without in any way departing from the spirit of my invention, and I therefore do not limit myself to the exact details of construction herein set forth nor to anything less than the whole of my invention limited only by the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is:—

1. An amusement apparatus including an enclosure having a foraminated bottom and a restricted opening in the top thereof, a plurality of buoyant bodies within said enclosure, a flexible air hose beneath said foraminated bottom, and manually operated means operatively connected to said air hose for guiding the same over the area of said foraminated bottom to blow said buoyant bodies upward with the object of causing them to pass through said restricted outlet, a collector chute communicating with said restricted opening for receiving the discharged buoyant bodies and extending downward along one of the sides of said enclosure and communicating at its lower end with the interior of said enclosure through an opening therein, and a manually operable door for closing said opening.

2. An amusement apparatus including an enclosure having a foraminated bottom and a restricted opening in the top thereof, a plurality of buoyant bodies within said enclosure, a flexible air hose beneath said foraminated bottom and manually operated means operatively connected to said air hose for guiding the same over the area of said foraminated bottom to blow said buoyant bodies upward with the object of causing them to pass through said restricted outlet, a collector chute communicating with said restricted opening for receiving the discharged buoyant bodies and extending downward along one of the sides of said enclosure and communicating at its lower end with the interior of said enclosure through an opening therein, and a manually operable door for closing said opening, and a fan mounted above said restricted opening for blowing the buoyant objects into said chute.

3. An amusement apparatus comprising a hollow base, a hollow body having transparent side walls rising from said base, a forami-

nated bottom in said body, the top wall of said body having a restricted outlet therein, a plurality of buoyant bodies within said hollow body, an electrically operated blower within said base, a vertically extending flexible hose connected to the outlet end of said blower, an actuating lever having one end connected to said hose and its other end extending outward through a slot in said base, and means for mounting said lever for horizontal swinging movements and for longitudinal sliding movement to enable an operator to move said flexible hose over the area of said foraminated bottom to direct the air from said hose against said buoyant bodies to cause the same to be blown upward through said restricted outlet.

4. In an amusement apparatus of the class described, an enclosed casing having a restricted opening therein, a plurality of buoyant bodies contained within said casing, a motor driven blower, a manipulatable hose connected to the outlet of said blower for blowing said buoyant bodies through said restricted opening, means for trapping the discharged buoyant bodies, said motor driven blower arranged in an electric circuit with a manually operable switch to initially close said circuit to start said motor driven blower in operation, and automatic means for maintaining said circuit in a closed condition for a predetermined period of time.

In testimony whereof I hereby affix my signature.

HARRY ROCHWARG.