

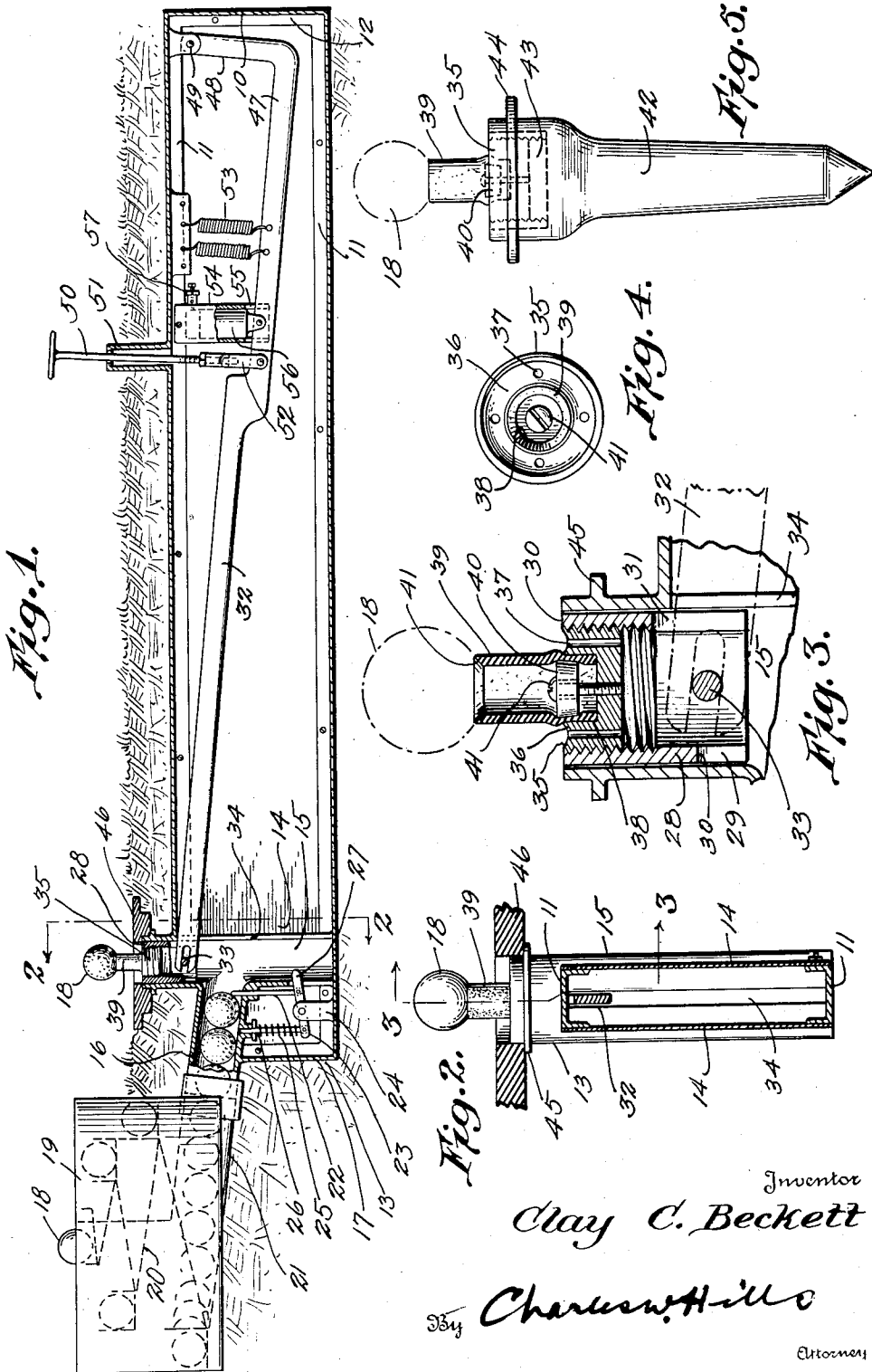
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GOLF BALL TEEING DEVICE

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## GOLF BALL TEEING DEVICE

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## 1 Claim. (Cl. 273—33)

The present invention relates to an improved golf ball teeing device adapted to be buried in the ground at a teeing position.

It is an object of this invention to provide a teeing device adapted to be accommodated in a very shallow and very narrow slot in the ground so that it may be placed in the ground and removed therefrom with the minimum of labor and expense.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a teeing device of marked simplicity in the arrangement of parts so that it is economical to make and maintain.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a teeing device with an adjustable tee so that the height of the tee may be adjusted to suit the user of the machine.

It is an important object of this invention to provide means to securely clamp a flexible tee to a support to make certain of its being held against dislodgment from the support when it is struck by a golf club.

It is also an object of this invention to provide an adjustable tee which includes a housing or support which may be carried by a golfer over a golf course for ready insertion in or removal from the ground.

Other and further objects of this invention will be apparent from the disclosures in the specification and the accompanying drawing:

On the drawing:

Figure 1 is a side view of the machine with parts in section and parts in elevation.

Figure 2 is an end view of a portion of the machine, along the line II—II, and with parts broken, parts in section and parts in elevation.

Figure 3 is a side view of a portion, along the line III—III, with parts broken, parts in section, and parts in elevation.

Figure 4 is a top view of a detail of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a side view of a tee-housing with parts in elevation and parts shown in dotted lines.

The golf-teeing machine comprises an elongated, shallow, and narrow casing indicated generally by the numerals 10. The casing 10 is made up of top and bottom channel members 11 integrally connected to a vertical channel member 12 at the rear end, and welded or otherwise secured to a casting 13, at the forward end which contains the golf ball receiving and delivering mechanism. The sides of the casing are formed of sheet metal plates 14 which are bolted, or otherwise secured to the channel members 11, and make a snug fit about a portion of the cast-

ing 13 so that the casing is substantially tight against dirt.

The forwardly positioned casting 13 comprises a vertically extending tube 15, open at its upper end and closed at its lower end, a tubular neck or chute 16 and an L-shaped frame 17 of channel section, which is provided with sheet iron sides and forms a housing for a gate mechanism referred to hereinafter, and described in Patent 1,952,113 issued to me on March 27, 1934.

A bucket of golf balls 18 may be emptied into a receiver or reservoir 19 to roll down a helical runway 20 formed on what is substantially a stepped dome of progressively decreasing diameter upwardly and into a delivery chute 21, of the receiver, which is connected by a slip joint to the intake tube 16 of the teeing machine. The balls are stopped in their downward travel by a rod 22 which projects upwardly into the tube 16.

The rod 22 is pivotally connected to one end of an oscillable lever 23 which is pivoted on a standard 24 and is normally urged to the stop position by a spring 25 coiled about another rod 26 which is pivotally connected to the other end of the lever 23. As the rod 25 is being lowered to permit a ball to enter the vertical tube 15, the rod 26 rises to enter the intake tube 16 to block movement of the succeeding ball in the intake, and so that only one ball can be delivered to an elevator movable in tube 15 when the rod 25 is lowered.

As is shown in Figure 1, the rear end 27 of the lever 23 projects through a slot into the vertical tube 15 so that when an elevator, indicated generally by the numeral 28, descends within the tube 15 to receive a ball, the end 27 will enter a slot 29 in the elevator and be pushed downwardly by an abutment 30 defined at the upper end of the slot 29.

The elevator 28 comprises a tube 30, vertically slidable in the tube 15 and provided with a narrow slot 31 in which is entered a flat operating lever 32 with a forked end engaging a pin 33 provided within the tube 30. The lever 32 also projects through a slot 34 provided in a side of the tube 15 for guided movement therein.

A plug 35 is threaded in the tube 30 and this plug is provided with an annular depression or trough 36 so that water and dust may be guided to holes 37 which open into the trough and extended downwardly through the plug, and so discourage the accumulation of mud about the upper end of the tube 15 where it may get between the plug and the inner face of the tube wall and cause jamming of the plug in the tube.

The plug 35 is provided with a central recess 38 to receive a rubber tube 39, and the tube is firmly secured to the plug 35 by a tapered plug 40 which is entered within the tube and is so arranged that when it is drawn down by the turning of a screw 41, turnable therein and threaded in the plug 35, it will squeeze the wall of the rubber tube between it and the wall of the recessed portion, as is best shown in Figure 3.

The portion of the rubber tube 39 which extends above the ground is liable to be struck by the club of a golfer in the use of the tee, and it has been found in the actual use of the machine that the tube-clamping means just described holds the tube in place under the severest conditions.

The upper end of the rubber tube 39 is suitably shaped, as at 41, to provide a seat for the golf ball.

The plug 35 with the tube 39 and its fastening means, may be removed as a unit from the tube 30, and may be inserted in a stationary tee 42, shown in Figure 5, which is provided with a suitable recess 43 into which the plug 35 may be threaded and adjusted in height to suit the golfer. The stationary tee is a metal body with a pointed lower end so that it may be readily inserted in the ground at a desired point until an annular flange 44 rests on the surface of the green.

A plurality of bodies 42 may be positioned in the ground at desired spaced apart positions on the golf course, and their plugs 35 will fit any of them and the teeing machine.

As shown in Figure 1, the tube 15 of the teeing machine is provided with an annular flange 45 upon which there rests a mat 46 of rubber, and the tube or tee 39 projects upwardly through a hole in the mat.

The lever 32 is a flat bar provided with a bent portion 47 and a rear arm 48 which extends upwardly and is hinged at its end to the frame of the casing 10, as at 49. A foot pedal rod 50 extends through an aperture in the top channel member 11 and through a tubular member 51, welded to the channel member, and is adjustably secured to a clevis 52 which is pivotally connected to the bent portion 47 of the lever 32. The lever 32 is urged upwardly by tension springs 53 connected to the lever and the frame. A dash pot comprises a cylinder 54 pivotally secured at

one end to the frame and having a slot 55 in which the lever 32 has guided movement. A piston 56 is slidable in the cylinder and is pivotally connected to the lever 32. An adjustable air valve 57 is provided on the cylinder 54 to determine the speed of the return movement of the lever 32 to the teeing position when urged by the tension springs 53.

The distance between the foot pedal 50 and the rubber tee 39 is such that the pedal is not in the line of vision of the golfer and does not interfere with his play.

The frame, without the receiver 19, can be placed in a slot in the ground approximately one and a half inches wide, and about seven and a half inches deep, so it lends itself to easy insertion in, or removal from the ground. The receiver 19 may be partially buried in the ground, and since the helical runway terminates in the side chute 21 as a part of the runway the receiver is out of the line of drive.

The dimensions of the frame are not stated by way of limitation, but to emphasize the fact that the combination of elements disclosed makes possible a machine which may be put into an operative position in the ground with the minimum of labor and expense and the minimum of disturbance of the ground. At the end of the golfing season it may be readily removed from the ground, and its shape makes it convenient to store out of the way.

The device obviously lends itself to golf practice in the back-yards of homes because of its portability and the ease with which it may be inserted in and removed from the ground.

What is claimed is:—

A golf ball reservoir for cooperation with a tee and means to deliver balls from the reservoir to the tee in a teeing machine, said reservoir comprising a vertical and substantially cylindrical casing, means in said casing defining a helical runway for balls formed on a support presenting a continuous runway with the convolutions thereof progressively approaching closer to the central vertical axis of the support as the runway ascends, whereby the space between the vertical wall of the casing and the runway increases progressively upwards, and a delivery chute connected to said casing.

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