May 10, 1966 E. A. BROWN 3,250,532

OSCILLATING POLE RECREATION DEVICE

Filed June 19, 1963 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

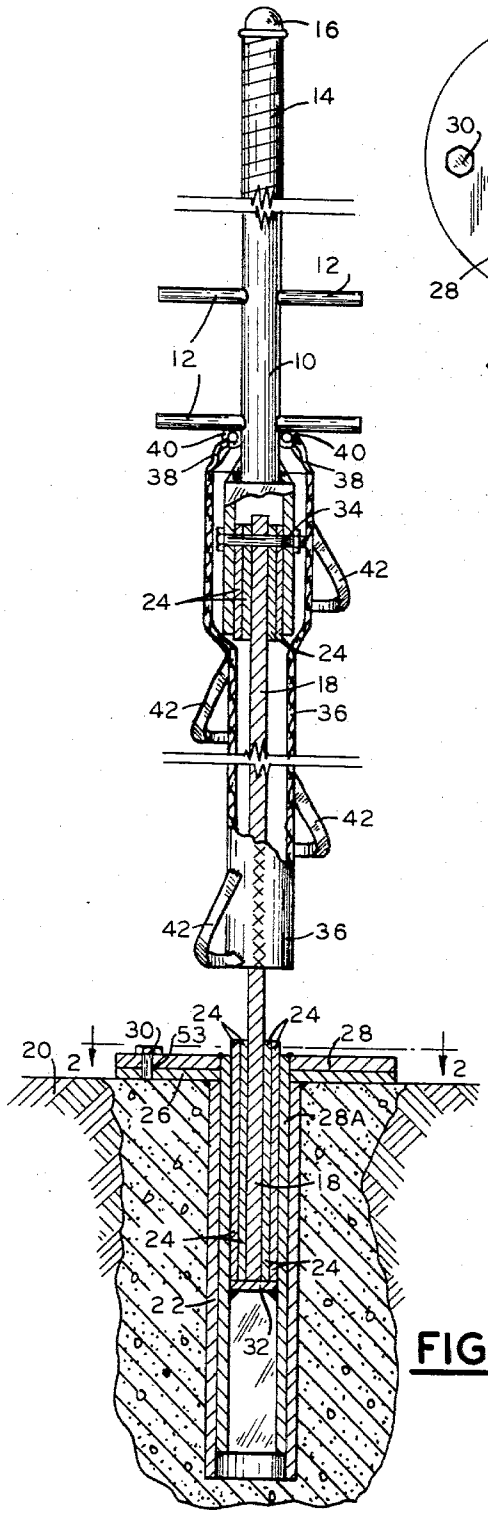


FIG. 1

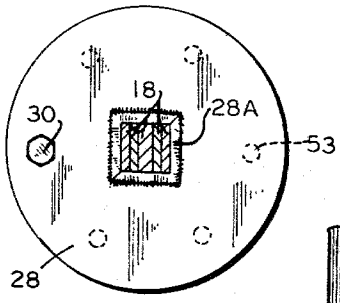


FIG. 4

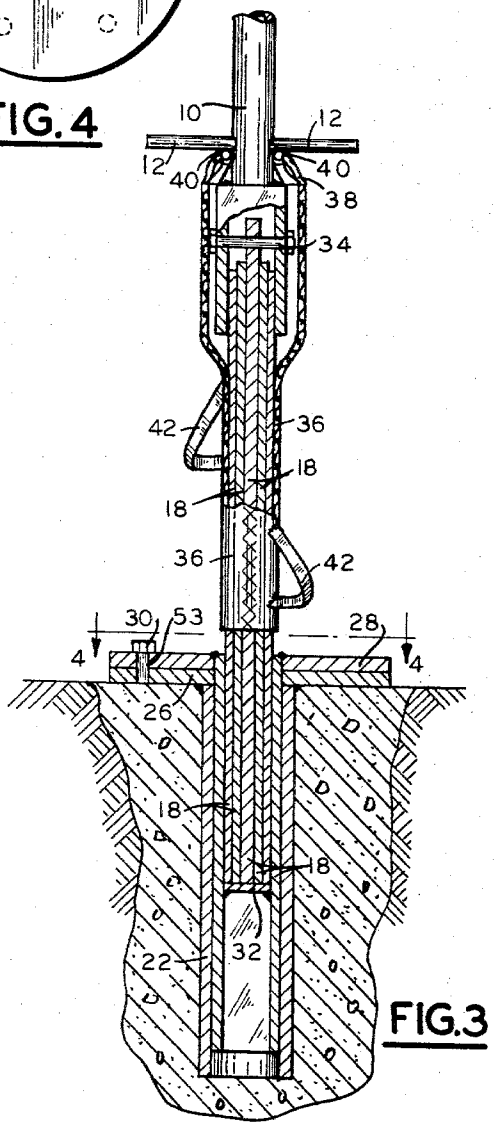


FIG. 3

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OSCILLATING POLE RECREATION DEVICE

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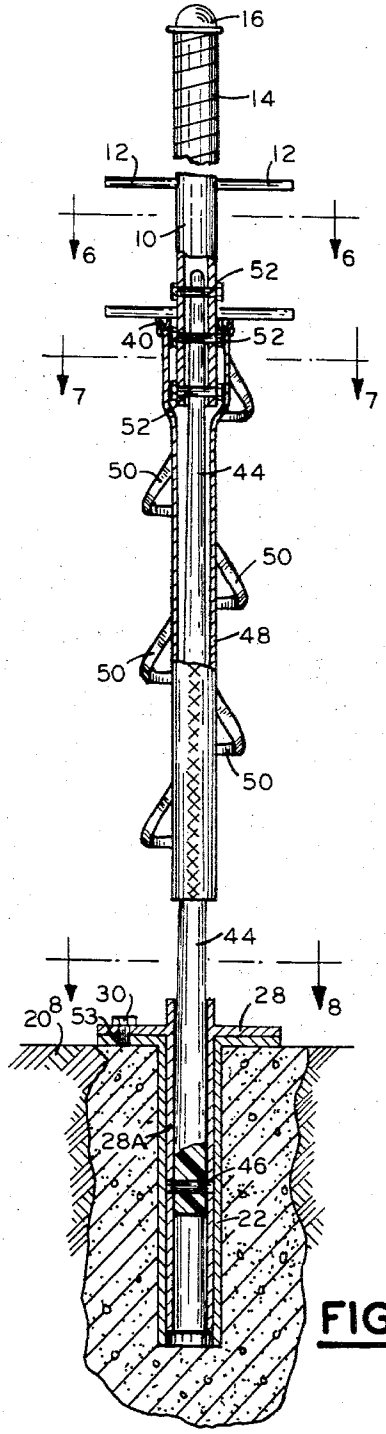


FIG. 5

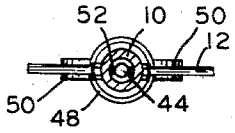


FIG. 6

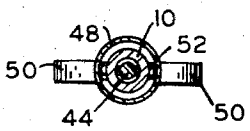


FIG. 7

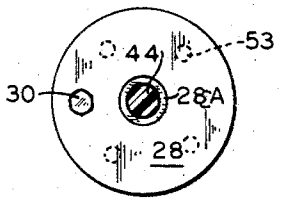


FIG. 8

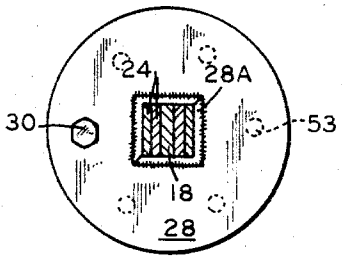


FIG. 2

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3,250,532

OSCILLATING POLE RECREATION DEVICE

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Filed June 19, 1963, Ser. No. 288,936
3 Claims. (Cl. 272—60)

This invention relates to a recreation and amusement device. More particularly, the invention relates to improvements in a vertically standing flexible pole functioning as a recreation and amusement device adaptable to be ridden in a swaying or oscillatory motion by the user.

An object of this invention is to provide a recreation and amusement device providing a unique type of physical activity for the user.

Another object of this invention is to provide a new type of recreational and amusement device comprising an upstanding flexible member and including unique means for ascending and riding the device.

Another object of this invention is to provide a recreation and amusement device comprising an upstanding flexible pole and including unique mounting means whereby the pole may rotate a full 360 degrees while in use.

Another object of this invention is to provide an amusement and recreation device consisting basically of an upstanding flexible pole and including an attachment member affixed to the pole whereby the user thereof may more easily support himself to the pole and including improved means of ascending and descending the pole.

These and other objects and a better understanding of the invention may be had by referring to the following description and claims taken in conjunction with the attached drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a side view, shown partially in cross-section of one embodiment of the recreation and amusement device of this invention.

FIGURE 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary side view shown partially in cross-section showing an alternate embodiment of the device of this invention.

FIGURE 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 5 is a side view of an additional alternate embodiment of the invention showing the use of a flexible tapered pole.

FIGURE 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 6—6 of FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 7 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 7—7 of FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 8 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 8—8 of FIGURE 5.

This invention may be described as a recreation and amusement device. More particularly, but not by way of limitation, the invention may be described as a recreation and amusement device for use by a rider comprising a tapered flexible pole adapted to be supoprted substantially vertically, said pole flexible within the elastic limit thereof under the weight of said rider, removable pliable strap means supported to said pole at the upper end thereof and extending downwardly therefrom, an a multiplicity of stirrup means affixed to and extending from said strap means at spaced intervals.

Referring now to the drawings and first to FIGURE 1 an embodiment of the recreation and amusement device of this invention is shown in side view and partially in cross-section. Basically, the device consists of an elongated substantially stiff body member **10** may, and preferably is, of tubular construction. Extending from the body member **10**, such as by welding, are a multiplicity of metallic hand-hold members **12**. The hand-hold members **12** extending substantially perpendicularly from the body member **10** and in a spaced relationship in the nature of a ladder. The upper end of the body member **10** may be provided with a non-slip surface **14** such as by winding tape thereon. A cap **16** is placed at the upper end end of the body member **10**.

Supporting body member **10** is a spring member **18**. In the embodiment shown in FIGURE 1 the spring member **18** is a single leaf spring which is supported in the earth **20** in an earth socket member **22**. The earth socket member **22** is of a hollow construction to receive the lower end portion of spring **18**. The earth socket member **22** may be tubular or of square cross-sectional configuration or any other geometrically desirable configuration. Spacers **24** may be provided to either side of the lower portion of spring **18** to fill the interior of socket member **22**.

A base or earth flange **26** is provided at the upper end of socket member **22** extending parallel to the surface of the earth. A mating flange **28** is provided to secure the upper end of a spring socket member **28A**. Mating flange **28** may be held in place against flange **26** such as by means of a bolt **30**. A horizontal bottom member **32** supports the lower end of spring **18** at the proper elevation. Earth socket member **22** as previously indicated, may be cylindrical so as to receive either a square, rectangular or cylindrical spring socket member **28A**. In this manner, flange **28**, with the spring socket member **28A** affixed thereto, may be rotated on flange **26** to permit the device to oscillate in any selected plane (in a manner to be described subsequently).

The upper end of spring **18** is supported to the lower end of body member **10** such as by means of a bolt **34**. Spacers **24** may likewise be provided to insure a snug fit of the upper end of spring member **18** within the lower end of the body member **10**.

Supported to the lower end of body member **10** and downwardly extending therefrom is a flexible strap member **36**. This may be supported by means of hooks **38** fastened in eyelets **40** which have been welded to the body member **10** or to the lower surface of the lowest hand-hold members **12**. Fixed to the strap member **36** are a series of staggered stirrups **42** preferably made of some flexible material such as cotton webbing, plastic or the like.

The strap member **36** may be composed of two separate lengths of straps of some flexible material such as cotton webbing, leather, plastic, or so forth. The preferred arrangement as shown includes the provision wherein the strap member **36** consists of a singular tubular member of some flexible material or plastic which surrounds the spring member **18** and which may be fastened around the spring member **18** by means of a zipper, buttons, hooks, or such member may be completely sewed in place (as shown).

In use, the device of this invention provides a swaying, oscillatory motion which is beneficial both from the standpoint of providing exercise and amusement and recreation. Although the device may be utilized by humans of any age it is especially attractive to children. When a child plays on the device he may mount it by means of the stirrups **42** and hand-hold members **12** to the height he desires. When astride the body member **10** with his hands either on the taped portion **14** or holding to one or more of the hand-hold members **12** the rider initiates the oscillatory motion of the device by swaying his body back and forth. The action of spring **18** permits the body member **10** to sway through a substantial arc and reproduces a form of recreation known to the older generation as a "willow whip," that is, the swaying action children have formerly amused themselves with by riding a

slender willow tree back and forth in an oscillatory manner.

The provision of the strap member **36** has several advantages. First, such strap member supports the strrup members **42** to enable the user to easily climb upon the device. Metallic elements are not easily affixed to spring member **18** since welding to spring material normally destroys the spring-like characteristic of the material. In addition, the fabrics or plastic material making up the strap member **36** protects the users from being injured by the lower metallic portions of the device. This is especially true when the strap member **36** is composed of a tubular fabric portion completely surrounding the spring **18**, as shown.

The provision of spacers **24** permit additional spring leaves **18** to be added to the device. When heavier riders utilize the device it may be necessary to add one or more additional spring members **18**. These can easily be substituted in place of the spacers **24**.

The invention as shown in FIGURE 1 is mounted in the earth **20**. This is the method in which it is used outdoors. It is to be understood that it would equally be useful in a gymnasium, and especially important application includes mounting the device in the bottom of a swimming pool to provide a swaying motion above the water of the pool.

FIGURE 2 shows the embodiment wherein the spring socket member **28A** is of a square cross-sectional configuration and shows the provision of spacers **24** snuggly holding the spring member **18**, flange **28** functions as a reinforcing member to prevent the spring socket member from being split out by stress to one side and another as the device is reciprocated in use. Bolt **30** holds socket member **28** in a preselected position. The device can be easily removed by removing bolt **30** and lifting it out of place leaving only the flange **26** barely protruding unobtrusively above the earth.

With the provision of a multiplicity of threaded openings **53** in flange **26** (only one of which is shown in FIGURE 1) flange **28** may be rotated to a variety of positions to permit the device to oscillate in different planes.

FIGURE 3 shows an alternate arrangement of the invention. In this embodiment a relatively short spring section **18** is utilized requiring the use of a longer body member **10** (only the lowest portion of which is shown in the drawing). In the embodiment of FIGURE 3 the utilization of a multi-leaf spring **18** is shown. In this embodiment only a relatively short strap member **36** is shown and the use of this is optional. Stirrups **42** would normally be utilized only by the smallest riders in this embodiment.

FIGURE 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line **4**—**4** of FIGURE 3 showing the use of a multi-leaf spring member **18**.

Another embodiment of the invention is shown in FIGURE 5. This embodiment utilizes a long tapered flexible pole member **44**. Although the pole member **44** may be fabricated of a variety of materials, the ideal material is fiber glass. The pole is supported in a tubular earth socket member **22**. In one embodiment the pole member **44** is vertically supported in the socket member **22** permitting the pole member **44** to be freely rotated while in use. In the embodiment shown a flange **28** and pole socket **28A** is provided secured to the pole member **44** with a pin **46**. Pole flange **28A** may be fastened to earth flange **26** by bolt **30** as described with reference to FIGURE 1 to serve the same function.

In its simplest embodiment the invention consists of a flexible tapered pole member **44** supported to a playing surface, such as the earth **20**, including the provision of a removable pliable strap or fabric member **48** supported to the top of the pole, the strap member **48** having affixed thereto at alternate spaced intervals a series of stirrups **59**. As previously described the strap member **48** may consist of two separate strips of flexible or pliable material, but in the preferred arrangement, and as shown in FIGURE 5, strap member **48** is a unitary tubular member fixed to the upper portion of pole **44**, such as by being sewn in position.

In an alternate embodiment, and as shown in FIGURE 5, the upper end of the flexible pole member **44** is provided with a short metallic, preferably tubular, body member **10** having the hand-holds **12** as previously described. Body member **10** is affixed to the upper end of pole **44** by means of bolts **52**. The provision of the relatively short tubular body member **12** provides a means whereby the user of the device may hold to it and in addition provides means for supporting the downwardly extending strap member **48**.

The cross-sectional views of FIGURES 6, 7 and 8 show the arrangement of various portions of the embodiment of FIGURE 5. FIGURE 6 shows means whereby bolts **52** support the upper tubular body portion **10** to the upper end of rod **44**.

FIGURE 7 shows the fabric or strap member **48** supported about the lower end of the tubular body **10** and shows the provision of the extending stirrup members **50**.

FIGURE 8 shows means whereby pole **44** extends from the pole flange **28**.

Although the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction in the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure.

What is claimed:

1. An oscillating pole recreation device for use by a rider, comprising:

a tubular vertically mounted socket member open at the top thereof;

a tapered flexible pole rotatably received at the lower end in said tubular socket whereby said pole is substantially vertically supported, said pole flexible within the elastic limits thereof under the weight of a rider, the upper end of said tubular socket member terminating in a base flange;

a tubular rod flange receiving and supporting said rod at the lower end thereof, said rod flange contiguously supported on said base flange as the lower end of said rod is received by said tubular socket;

means at the top of said pole providing a hand hold for the rider thereof; and

step means supported to said rod along at least the lower length thereof providing means whereby the said rider may climb upwardly on said pole.

2. An oscillating pole recreation device according to claim **1**, including a metallic tubular member fitted over a portion of the upper end of said pole and including at least one short cylindrical metallic member affixed to and extending substantially perpendicular from said tubular member, said metallic member serving as said hand hold providing means.

3. An oscillating pole recreation device according to claim **1**, including downwardly extending flexible strap means affixed to said tubular member; and

stirrup means affixed to and extending from said strap means at spaced intervals.

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