Aug. 21, 1928.

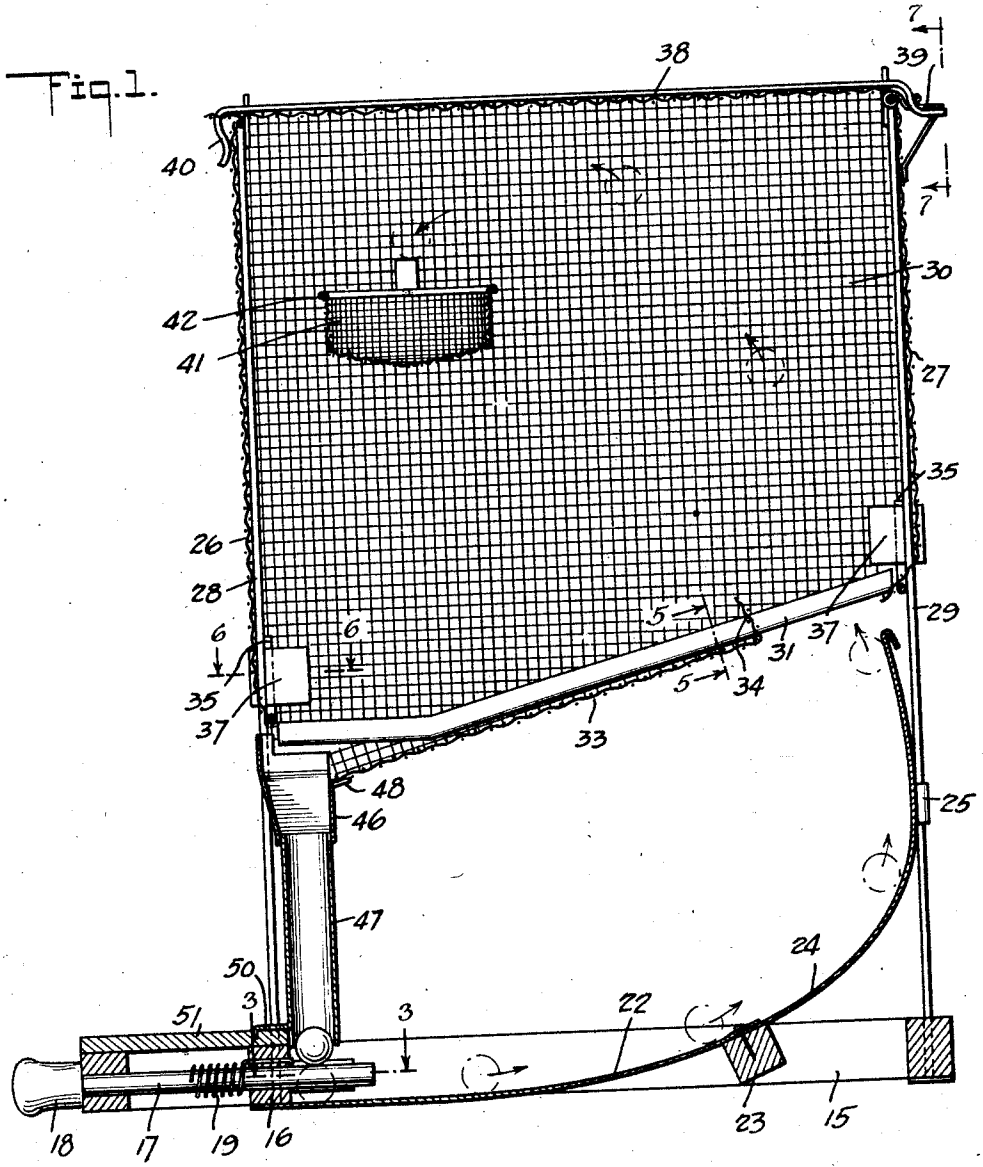
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L. S. McVEY

GAME

Filed Jan. 8, 1927 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.



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Fig. 2.

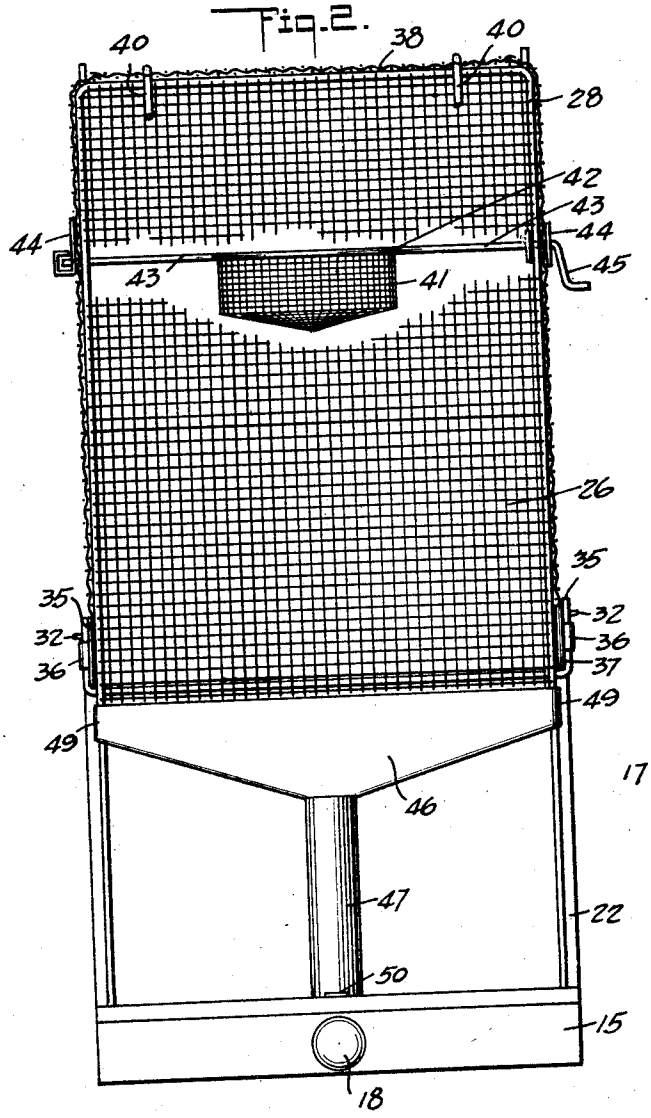


Fig. 3.

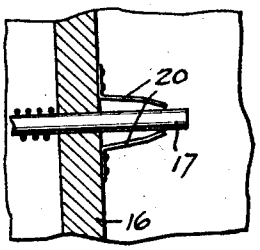


Fig. 4.

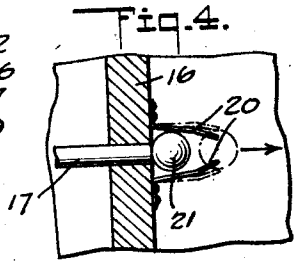


Fig. 7.

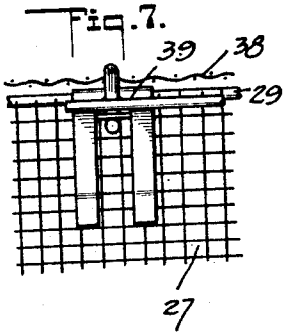


Fig. 5.

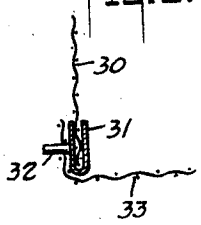
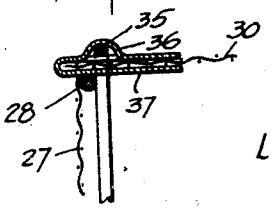


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LELAND S. McVEY, OF FONTANA, CALIFORNIA.

GAME.

Application filed January 8, 1927. Serial No. 159,958.

My invention relates to games, and it has for its purpose the provision of a game wherein balls can be projected upwardly into a cage, the object of the game being to project the balls into a basket contained in the cage to carry out the idea of a basket ball game, and the success of a player in the game depending entirely upon the skill exercised in manipulating a ball projector to control the speed and direction of the projected balls.

It is also a purpose of my invention to provide a game of the above described character in which the basket is movable to permit dumping of the balls therefrom and through the medium of a chute to convey the balls back to the projector so that they may again be projected upon actuation of the projector.

A further purpose of my invention is to provide a game of the above described character which is constructed to permit of its being readily assembled and disassembled, and when disassembled facilitating packing and shipping thereof.

I will describe only one form of game embodying my invention and will then point out the novel features thereof in claims.

In the accompanying drawings,

Figure 1 is a view showing in vertical section one form of game embodying my invention;

Figure 2 is a view showing the game in front elevation with a portion of the cage broken away to reveal the mounting of the basket;

Figures 3 and 4 are fragmentary sectional views taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1 and showing the two extreme positions which the plunger of the projector is capable of occupying;

Figures 5, 6 and 7 are views taken on the lines 5—5, 6—6 and 7—7, respectively, of Figure 1.

Referring specifically to the drawings, my invention in its present embodiment, comprises a base frame 15 of rectangular outline and preferably, although not necessarily, formed of wood. Adjacent one end of this frame is a cross bar 16 provided with an opening in which works a plunger 17 of such length as to be extended through a similar opening in one end of the frame 15 and with the outer end of the plunger provided with an operating handle 18. A spring 19 is connected to the plunger 17 and to the cross bar 16 to normally urge the plunger inwardly to the position shown in Figures 1 and 3 in which it is disposed between a pair of spring arms 20 secured to the cross bar 16 and functioning to hold a ball, indicated at 21, in proper position for projection upon actuation of the plunger. By pulling the plunger outwardly against the tension of the spring 19, its inner end is withdrawn from between the fingers 20 or to the position illustrated in Figure 4, in which the ball 21 above the plunger shown in Figure 1 can now pass downwardly between the fingers, as illustrated in Figure 4. By releasing the plunger the spring will function to project the ball forwardly, it being understood that during this movement the fingers 20 will yield, as illustrated by the dotted lines in Figure 4.

The projector just described when actuated will cause the ball to be projected forwardly and upwardly of a chute comprising a plate 22 of metal or other suitable material secured at one end of the under side of the cross bar 16 and curved upwardly to the other end where the latter is secured to a second cross bar 23. The chute also includes a second plate 24, the lower end of which is inserted between the adjacent end of the plate 22 and the cross bar 23, and by the provision of sleeves 25 it is held in such position as to constitute a continuation of the curvature of the plate 22 for directing balls passing upwardly thereof into a cage. The upper edge of the plate 24 is unattached so as to be movable forwardly or rearwardly and thus control the trajectory of the balls leaving such edge.

The cage is preferably constructed of wire screen, as illustrated, and comprises a front wall 26 and a rear wall 27, both of which are provided with U-shaped wire frames 28 and 29, respectively, having their free ends inserted into suitable openings formed in the base frame 15 in order to support the walls in upright position. In applying the frame 29 to the base, the parallel portions thereof are extended through the sleeves 25 of the chute plate 24. The walls are connected by side walls 30 having partly inclined lower edges reinforced by metallic strips 31. These strips carry pins 32 which function in part to secure a bottom wall 33 to the side walls 30 and in such manner that it occupies an inclined position. The upper end of the bottom wall 33 is provided with

an upstanding lip 34 which functions to prevent balls from passing upwardly beyond the bottom wall, it being noted that this upper end terminates short of the back wall 27, so as to provide an intervening opening through which balls are projected from the chute upwardly into the cage. The lower edge of the rear wall 27 is bent forwardly as indicated at 27ª to prevent balls from passing out behind the top edge of the plate 24.

The side walls 30 are detachably connected to the front and rear walls at their bottoms by pins 35 working in sleeves 36 on plates 37, all as clearly shown in Figure 6, and at their top by pins 35ª on the upper corners of front and rear walls engaging within the inturned upper edges of the side walls. The cage also includes a top wall 38 provided at one end with detachable hinge connections with the back wall 27, as indicated generally at 39, and the construction of each of which is clearly shown in Figure 7. The forward end of the top wall is provided with latch fingers 40 by which it is secured in closed position.

As clearly illustrated in Figure 2, the cage is interiorly provided with a basket 41 also formed of wire screen and including an annular frame 42 secured to a pair of rods 43 journaled in plates 44 and constituting a shaft for rotatably supporting the basket. One end of this shaft is bent to provide a crank 45 disposed exteriorly of the cage and adapted to be manually manipulated to effect a dumping of balls from the basket. This basket is so positioned within the cage that balls when projected by the actuation of the projector when exercising the proper skill as to speed and direction of travel of the balls it will be deposited into the basket, the course of the ball being clearly indicated by the dash lines and arrows in Figure 1. By tilting the basket through operation of the crank 45 balls contained therein will be discharged onto the inclined bottom 33 and from the latter into a mouth 46 of a conveying tube 47. The lower end of this tube 47 is disposed directly above and between the spring fingers 20 so that the plunger 17 normally serves to prevent balls gravitating into position between the fingers 20. However, when the plunger is retracted, the balls can then pass into position between the fingers, as has been described. The mouth 46 comprises a metal frame the length of which corresponds to the width of the bottom wall 33, and this frame is constructed to cause balls deposited therein to be delivered to the upper end of the tube 47. The frame is provided with a pair of lips 48 which serve to support the lower end of the bottom wall 33 and to thus operate in conjunction with the pins 32 in supporting the bottom wall in proper position. As shown in Figure 2, the ends of the frame are provided with sleeves 49 through which the parallel portions of the frame 28 are extended. The lower end of the tube 47 is provided with a finger 50 which engages within a suitable notch of a panel 51 secured to the frame 15 and to the cross bar 16. In this manner, the mouth and tube are rigidly supported in upright position to deliver balls to the projecting device.

An important feature of my invention is the similarity of the game with respect to basket ball, considerable skill being required in the manipulation of the plunger to project balls with the proper speed and accuracy to cause them to be deposited in the basket 41. Those balls which are not deposited into the basket will fall onto the bottom wall 33 and thus be delivered to the mouth 46 from whence they are returned to the projector, this allows the operator to shoot a succession of balls through the successive operation of the plunger. Those balls reposing in the basket can be returned to the projector by dumping the basket as has been described.

Another important feature of my invention is the collapsibility of the game, it being noted that the parts of the cage, the chute and the conveying tube are all detachably connected to each other in order that they may be readily disassembled to facilitate packing and shipping.

Although I have herein shown and described only one form of game embodying my invention, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention and the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A game comprising a cage having an opening in its bottom, a ball projecting device beneath the cage, a chute for directing projected balls upwardly through the bottom and into said cage, and a basket in the cage adapted to receive balls projected into the cage.

2. A game comprising a cage having an opening in its bottom, a ball projecting device beneath the cage, a chute for directing projected balls upwardly through the bottom and into said cage, a basket in the cage adapted to receive balls projected into the cage, means for mounting the basket to permit dumping of balls therefrom, and means by which balls discharged from the basket and balls projected into the cage and not deposited into the basket are returned to the projecting device.

3. A game comprising a cage having an opening in its bottom, a ball projecting device beneath the cage, a chute for directing projected balls upwardly through the bottom and into said cage, a basket in the

cage adapted to receive balls projected into the cage, means for mounting the basket to permit dumping of balls therefrom, and means by which balls discharged from the basket and balls projected into the cage and not deposited into the backet are returned to the projecting device, said means comprising an inclined bottom for the cage, a mouth at the lower end of the bottom, and a tube connected to the mouth for delivery of balls to the projecting device.

4. In a game of the character described, a cage having walls connected to each other and including a bottom wall supported in inclined position and terminating at one end short of the adjacent end wall of the cage to provide an opening in the bottom of the cage, a ball projecting device beneath the cage, and a chute for directing balls from the device upwardly through said opening.

5. In a game of the character described, a cage having walls detachably connected to each other and including a bottom wall supported in inclined position and terminating at one end short of the adjacent end wall of the cage to provide an opening in the bottom of the cage, a ball projecting device beneath the cage, and a chute for directing balls from the device upwardly through said opening, said chute comprising sections detachably connected to each other.

6. A game comprising a base frame, a ball projecting device on the frame, a cage supported on the frame and including wire frames detachably connected to the base frame, said cage being provided with an inclined bottom having an opening therein, a sectional chute for directing balls from the projecting device upwardly through said opening and into said cage, one of the sections of the chute being permanently secured to the base frame and another section detachably secured to one of the cage frames, a basket within the cage and supported to permit manual dumping thereof, and means associated with the bottom wall of the cage for directing balls back to the projecting device.

7. A game comprising a cage having an opening therein, a ball projecting device, means for directing balls projected by the device, upwardly and through said opening into the cage, a basket in the cage adapted to receive balls projected into the cage, and means for mounting the basket for movement to permit dumping of balls therefrom.

8. A game as embodied in claim 7 wherein said means comprises a shaft journaled in the walls of the cage and to which the basket is secured, and a crank on the shaft exteriorly of the cage by means of which the shaft is adapted to be rotated.

LELAND S. McVEY.