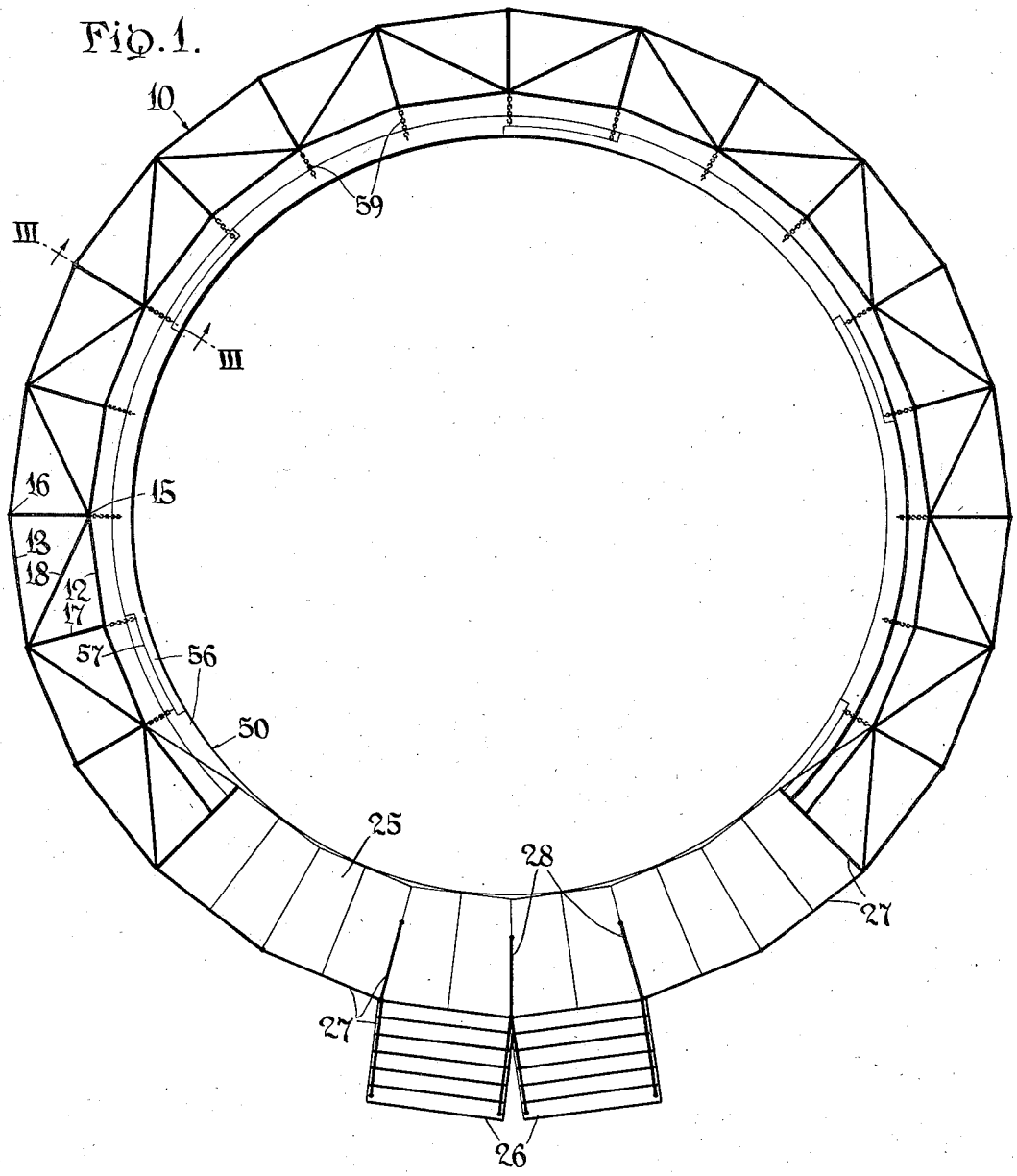
Nov. 12, 1935. H. F. MAYNES 2,021,074

AMUSEMENT DEVICE

Filed Feb. 11, 1935 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.



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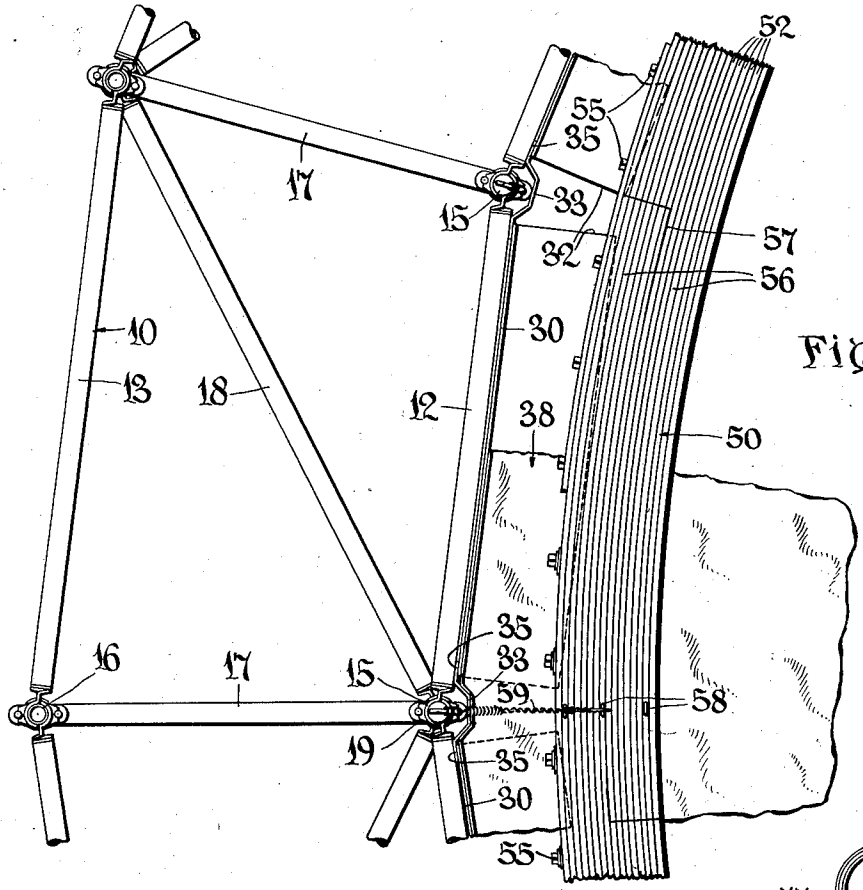

Fig. 2.

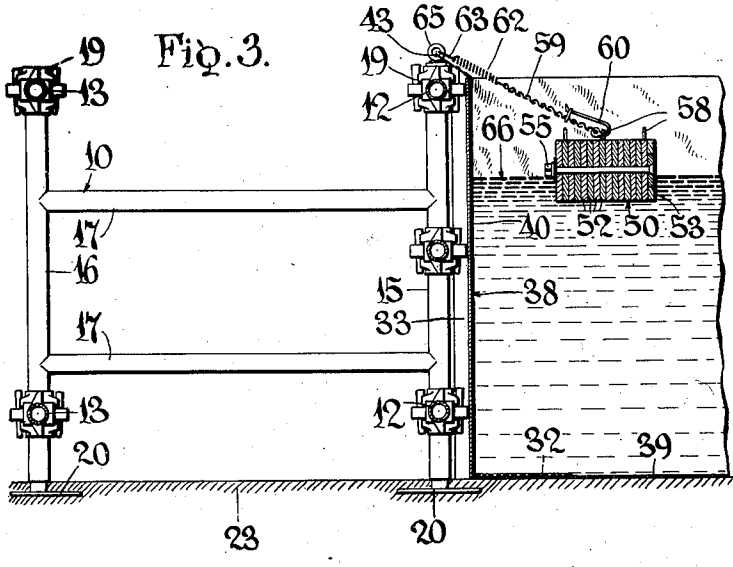

Fig. 3.

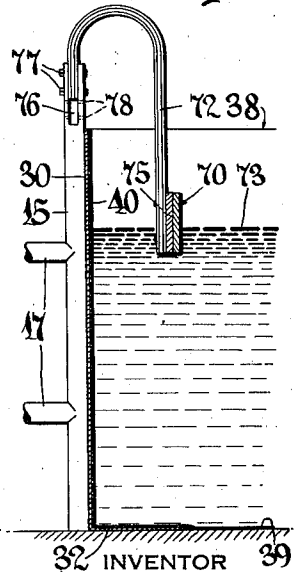

Fig. 4.

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2,021,074

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,021,074

AMUSEMENT DEVICE

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Application February 11, 1935, Serial No. 6,122

11 Claims. (Cl. 272—1)

This invention relates to portable amusement devices, and it has particular relation to knock-down structure to provide a tank or pool suitable for aquatic sports, such as boating, swimming or the like.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved amusement device particularly suitable for simple and rapid assembly and disassembly of parts and capable of being transported with minimum inconvenience.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved amusement device adapted to be employed as a pool or tank in which small motor boats can be safely operated by children without injury to the water containing portions of the structure.

Another object of the invention is to provide an amusement device in which an improved combination of elements is provided for containing a body of water in a knock-down structure.

Another object of the invention is to provide a buffer operable to provide safety for boats in the body of water and to prevent the boats from striking or injuring the water containing portions of the structure.

A knock-down structure designed according to this invention is adapted to be transported from place to place and can be assembled in a playground, park, fairgrounds, or wherever suitable space and conditions prevail. It is particularly adapted as an amusement device for children. In certain localities where lakes or other bodies of water are available, small motor boats have been provided with low speed engines and can be navigated by children through endless courses from which the boats cannot go astray. However, in many localities, access to suitable bodies of water is inconvenient or impractical, and hence, many children are denied the amusement afforded by this kind of sport.

On the other hand, the amusement device according to this invention can be erected in any place so long as sufficient water is available to fill the tank, and hence, the children benefit by an attractive amusement that they would not otherwise be able to enjoy.

In the drawings

Fig. 1 is a plan of an amusement device constructed according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary plan, on a larger scale, of one section of the superstructure of the device;

Fig. 3 is a section taken substantially along the line III—III of Fig. 1 and including illustration of one type of buffer; and

Fig. 4 is a section similar to Fig. 3 and including illustration of another form of buffer.

In practicing the invention there is provided a knock-down superstructure 10 which comprises inner and outer frame members 12 and 13 having their ends connected to inner and outer posts 15 and 16, respectively. Radial frame braces 17, and also diagonal frame braces 18 are connected at their opposite ends to the inner and outer posts. This superstructure is substantially annular in form, although the inner and outer frame members constitute sides of coaxial polygons.

The braces 17 and 18 are connected to the inner and outer members 12 and 13, as well as to the inner and outer posts 15 and 16 by means of knock-down joints 19 which are adapted to be disassembled or assembled with respect to the frame members in substantially the same manner as the structure disclosed in my prior Patent No. 1,674,734, dated June 26, 1928. Suitable bases 20 of sufficient area to insure proper anchoring of the superstructure upon a support 23, which is in the form of ordinary ground or a floor of a building, are provided rigidly upon the lower ends of the posts 15 and 16.

One side of the superstructure 10 is provided with a platform 25 which serves as a loading and unloading station and is accessible by means of two stairs or series of steps 26, one of which can be used for entrance to, and the other for exit from, the platform. Suitable railings 27 are provided along the outer and end portions of the platform, and transverse or radial railings 28 define the platform approaches to the steps upon exit from the platform.

A series of upright plates 30, which can be of metal or other suitable material, are formed with horizontal base flanges 32 which are adapted to rest upon the support 23 for the superstructure and project inwardly only a short distance. These plates are disposed against the inner frame members 15 between the several inner posts 15 and terminate slightly short of the latter in lateral directions. Supplemental plates 33 slightly channelled in form have opposite upright flanges 35 which overlap the opposite vertical marginal portions of the plates 30. These supplemental plates need not necessarily be provided with inwardly turned lower supporting flanges, corresponding to the flanges 32, but they can be so provided if desired.

All of these plates 30 and 33 constitute supporting walls for a tank or container 38 of flexible, water proof material, such as canvas, which is provided with a bottom wall 39 lying flat upon

the support 23, and with upright tank walls 40 lying against the supporting plate walls 30 and 33. A series of cords 43 secured to the upper marginal portions of the canvas walls are drawn around the adjacent posts 15 and tied in order to maintain the proper position of the tank in the frame structure.

An annular floating buffer 50 which has a diameter materially less than the diameter of the tank 38 is composed of wood, or other material which will float, and is shown to be in laminated form wherein a plurality of flat pieces 52 faced with an inner piece 53 are superposed and are clamped together by means of bolts 55 extending horizontally therethrough.

As best shown in Fig. 1, the buffer 50 is composed of a plurality of segments 56 which are spliced, as indicated at 57, in order that the segments can be disassembled and loaded upon vehicles for transport when the entire device is disassembled.

A series of rows of loops or hooks 58 are secured at intervals upon the upper portion of the buffer 50 and a series of buffer supporting chains 59, or other flexible members, are secured to a plurality of the loops 58 by means of releasable clasp fasteners 60 provided upon end portions of the chains. The other end portions of the chains are provided with springs 62, having fasteners 63 that are adapted to be secured in rings 65 provided upon the upper portions of the posts 15. The cords 43 can also be secured to these rings.

In the structure shown in Fig. 3, the water level 66 in the tank is such that the floating buffer 50 presents the intermediate loops 58 for connection to the clasp fasteners 60 for properly centering the buffer in the tank. If the water level is changed the fasteners can be secured in either the inner or the outer loops 58, depending upon whether the water level is higher or lower than that shown. The springs 62 of the chains 59 provide for cushioning action in addition to the buffer action of the inner surface of the buffer when a motor boat floating upon the body of water strikes it. Since the buffer is always floating in spaced relation to the upper edge portion of the canvas, the latter is protected from contact with the boat in the tank and hence cannot be damaged.

In the form of buffer 70 shown in Fig. 4, the posts 15, or as many of them as are necessary, are provided with resilient metal arms 72 which can be laminated and extend inwardly and downwardly to the water level 73 where they are provided with a sectional buffer annulus 75 similar in shape to the buffer 50. Suitable recesses or slots 76 formed in the upper ends of the posts 15 receive the outer ends of the resilient arms 72 in adjustable relation.

Conventional bolts 77 extending through the upper slotted ends of the posts 15 and through the inner ends of the arms 72 are interchangeably engageable in openings 78 formed transversely of the slots 76 and provide upward and downward adjustment of the arms. Thus the buffer annulus 75 is resiliently and adjustably held in proper position with respect to the water level and always protects the water containing tank from contact with any of the boats or other objects on the surface of the body of water.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that a very sturdy and safe amusement device is provided which can be assembled in any location having convenient area whether indoors or outdoors, and the water containing portion of the device is amply protected from the boats or other objects which float upon the surface of the body of water confined by the structure. The use of the structure of course is not limited to use by children, or to use of motor boats therein.

Although only two forms of structure have been shown with respect to the invention, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the invention is not so limited but that various changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention, or from the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a knock-down amusement device having a frame enclosure and provided with a loading and unloading platform, a series of wall sections having their adjacent marginal portions encompassing the inner periphery of the enclosure and arranged in overlapping relation, the lower portion of a plurality of the walls having inwardly extending flanges, a flexible water container disposed in the frame enclosure and having a lower portion resting upon said flanges and its lateral portions lying against the walls whereby water in the container presses the wall section and frame in firmly assembled relation, and means for connecting the upper portion of the container to the frame enclosure.

2. In a knock-down amusement device having a frame enclosure and provided with a loading and unloading platform, a series of laterally spaced wall sections resting against the inner surrounding frame enclosure, a second series of wall sections of channel form having lateral flanges overlapping the marginal portions of the first series of wall sections to provide a substantially continuous wall, a flexible container disposed in the frame enclosure and having lateral walls resting against said sections and normally bearing thereagainst when the container is filled with water, and means for securing the upper portion of the container to the frame enclosure.

3. In a knock-down amusement device for receiving small boats operable therein, a frame enclosure provided with a loading and unloading platform, a flexible tank-like container disposed in the frame enclosure for receiving a body of water, means for supporting the walls of the container against the frame closure, means for securing the upper portion of the container along the frame enclosure, a buffer spaced from the upper portion of the container and frame to protect the latter from contact with objects floating in the container, and means for supporting the buffer on the frame enclosure in its spaced relation to the container.

4. In a knock-down amusement device for receiving motor boats operable therein, a frame enclosure provided with a loading and unloading platform, a flexible tank-like container disposed in the frame for receiving a body of water, means for supporting the walls of the container against the surrounding frame enclosure, a buffer extending substantially about the inner periphery of the frame enclosure in spaced relation to the container carried therein and protecting the upper portions of the container from contact with objects floating upon the body of water, and means for maintaining the buffer at the water level in the container.

5. In a knock-down amusement device having a loading and unloading platform, a flexible tank-like container disposed in the frame enclosure for receiving a body of water at variable levels, means

for supporting the walls of the container against the surrounding frame enclosure, a buffer extending substantially around the inner portion of the frame enclosure in spaced relation to the container carried therein and protecting the upper portion of the container wall from contact with objects in the container, and means for gauging the buffer to the water level in the container regardless of the variation of water level within predetermined limits.

6. In a knock-down amusement device having a frame enclosure provided with a loading and unloading platform, a tank-like container disposed in the frame enclosure for receiving a body of water at variable levels, means for supporting the walls of the container against the surrounding frame enclosure, a floating buffer extending substantially around the inner portion of the frame enclosure in spaced relation to the container carried therein and protecting the upper portion of the container walls from contact with objects floating upon the body of water, means connecting the buffer to the frame enclosure and maintaining the buffer spaced therefrom while providing for upward and downward shifting within limits of predetermined water levels.

7. In a knock-down amusement device having a frame enclosure provided with a loading and unloading platform, a tank-like container disposed in the frame enclosure for receiving a body of water, means for supporting the walls of the container against the surrounding frame enclosure, a substantially annular sectional buffer extending about the inner portion of the frame enclosure in spaced relation to the container carried therein, resilient means suspending the buffer upon the body of water from the frame enclosure and being movable with the water level as the latter changes to maintain the buffer in spaced relation to the frame enclosure.

8. In a knock-down amusement device having a frame enclosure, a series of removable wall sections lying against the inner portion of the frame enclosure, a flexible container having walls supported against the wall sections for receiving a body of water, a series of arms extending from the frame enclosure into the container and having their outer ends disposed in spaced relation to the walls of the container, and buffer means connected to the arms and protecting the container walls from contact with objects floating upon the body of water.

9. In a knock-down amusement device having a frame enclosure, a flexible tank like container disposed in the frame enclosure for receiving a body of water, means for supporting the walls of the container adjacent the surrounding frame enclosure, a series of resilient arms extending from the frame enclosure and having their outer ends disposed in spaced relation to the upper walls of the container, means for vertically adjusting the arms upon the frame enclosure, and a buffer secured to the outer ends of the arms at the water level and extending about the frame enclosure in spaced relation thereto to protect the container from contact with floating objects in the body of water.

10. In a knock-down amusement device having a frame enclosure and provided with a loading and unloading platform, a plurality of removable plate wall sections loosely installed with respect to the frame enclosure and resting against the inner surrounding frame enclosure, and a flexible container disposed in the frame enclosure inside the series of wall sections and adapted to receive a body of liquid whereby the weight of the liquid maintains the wall sections against the frame enclosure.

11. In a knock-down amusement device having a frame enclosure and provided with a loading and unloading platform, a plurality of upright members included in the frame enclosure and providing inwardly offset frame portions, a series of wall sections encompassing the inner periphery of the enclosure and having their adjacent marginal portions arranged in overlapping relation, certain of the wall sections having channeled portions contiguous with the upright members to insure close fitting of the wall sections against the frame enclosure, a flexible water container disposed in the frame enclosure and having its lateral upright walls resting against said wall sections, whereby water in the container presses the wall sections and frame in firmly assembled relation, and means for connecting the upper portion of the container to the frame enclosure.

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