United States Patent

[11] **3,599,980**

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[54] **CONCENTRATED GOLF GAME**
5 Claims, 10 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **273/176 A,** 273/201
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 67/02**
[50] **Field of Search** 273/176, 201

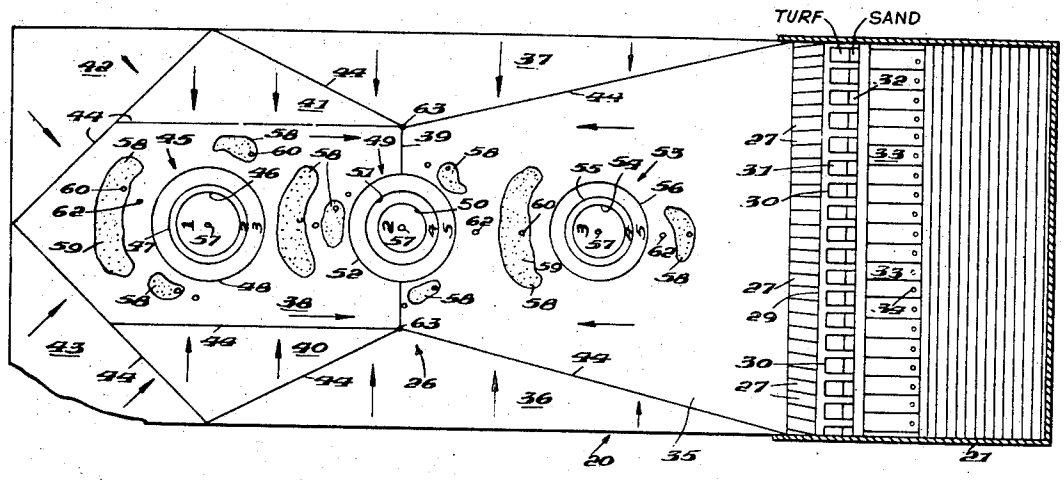
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Attorney—Kimmel, Crowell & Weaver

ABSTRACT: A golf course including an enclosed area at one end of an elongated fairway. The enclosed area includes driving tees, ball dispensers, turf for chipping shots, sand traps, putting greens and bleachers for spectators. The fairway is generally dish-shaped and includes a plurality of target greens. Balls are returned to the dispensers at the tees by a pneumatic system connected to the cups in the putting greens, the cups in the target greens and an opening at a low point of the dished fairway. Electrical indicators are provided to indicate when a hole-in-one is scored.



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SHEET 1 OF 5

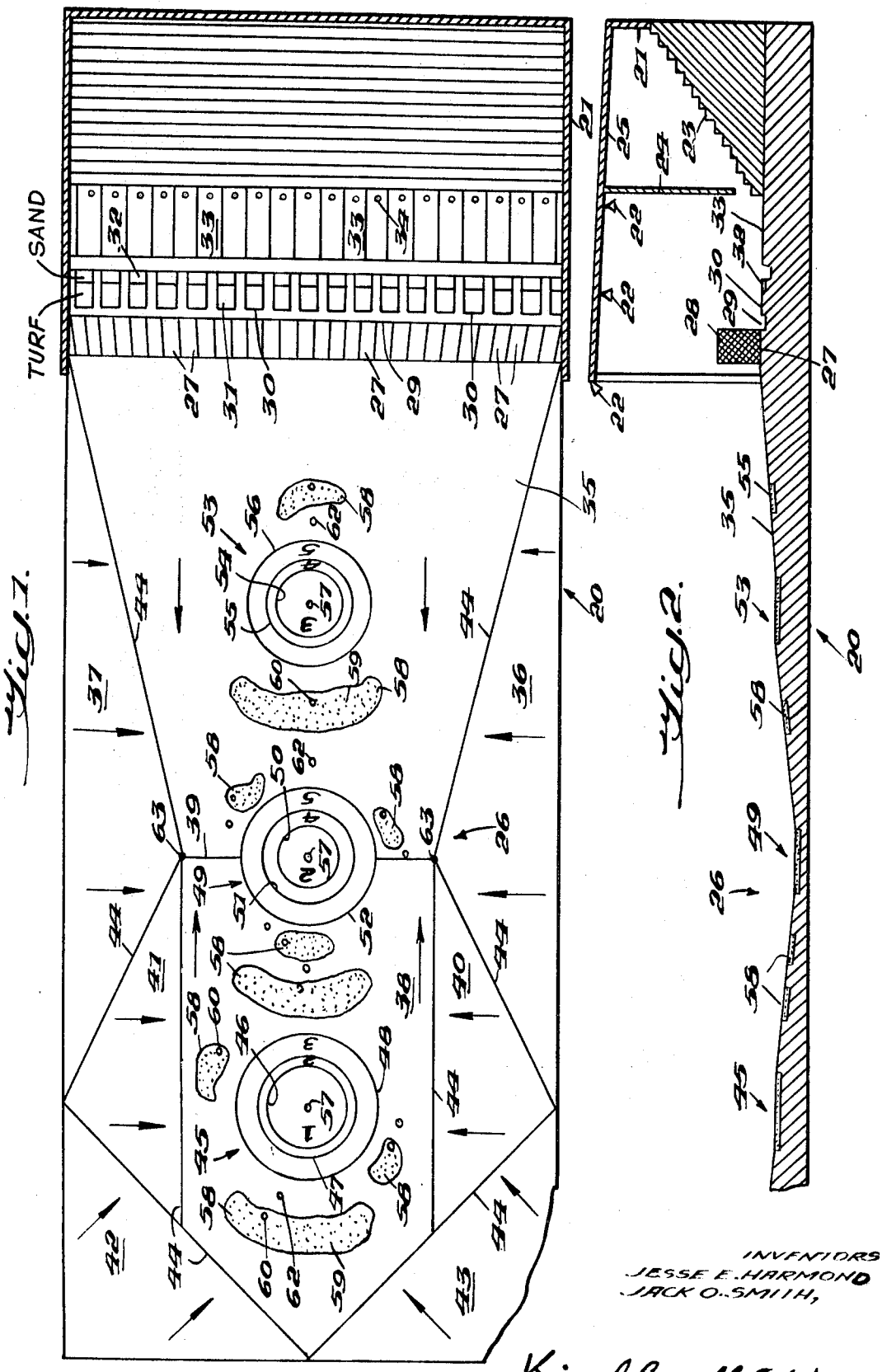


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

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Fig. 3.

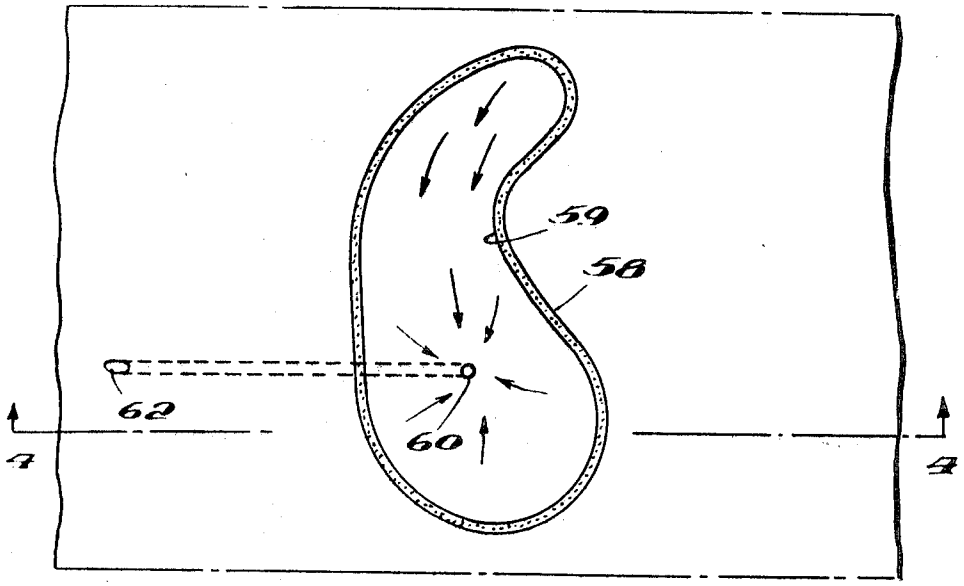


Fig. 4.

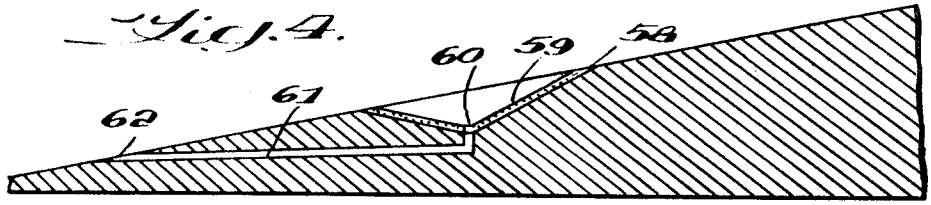
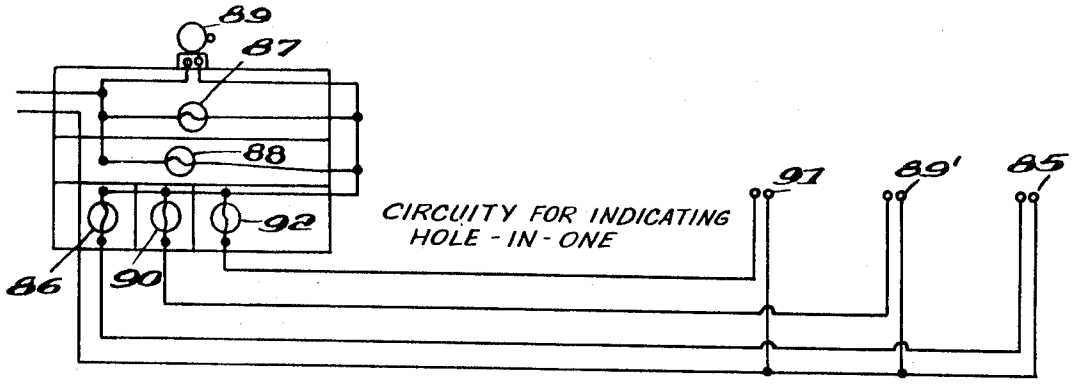


Fig. 5.

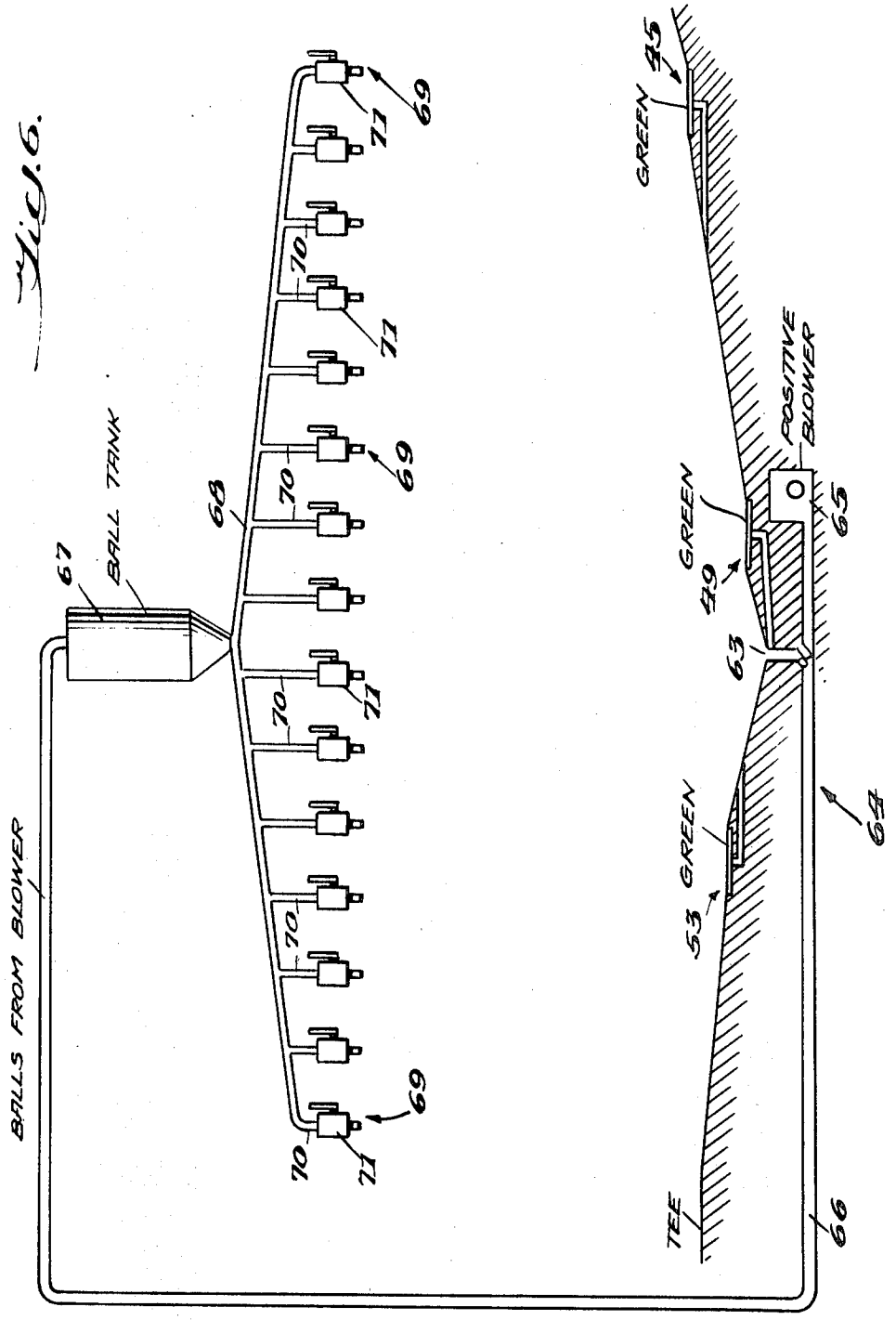


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Fig. 6.



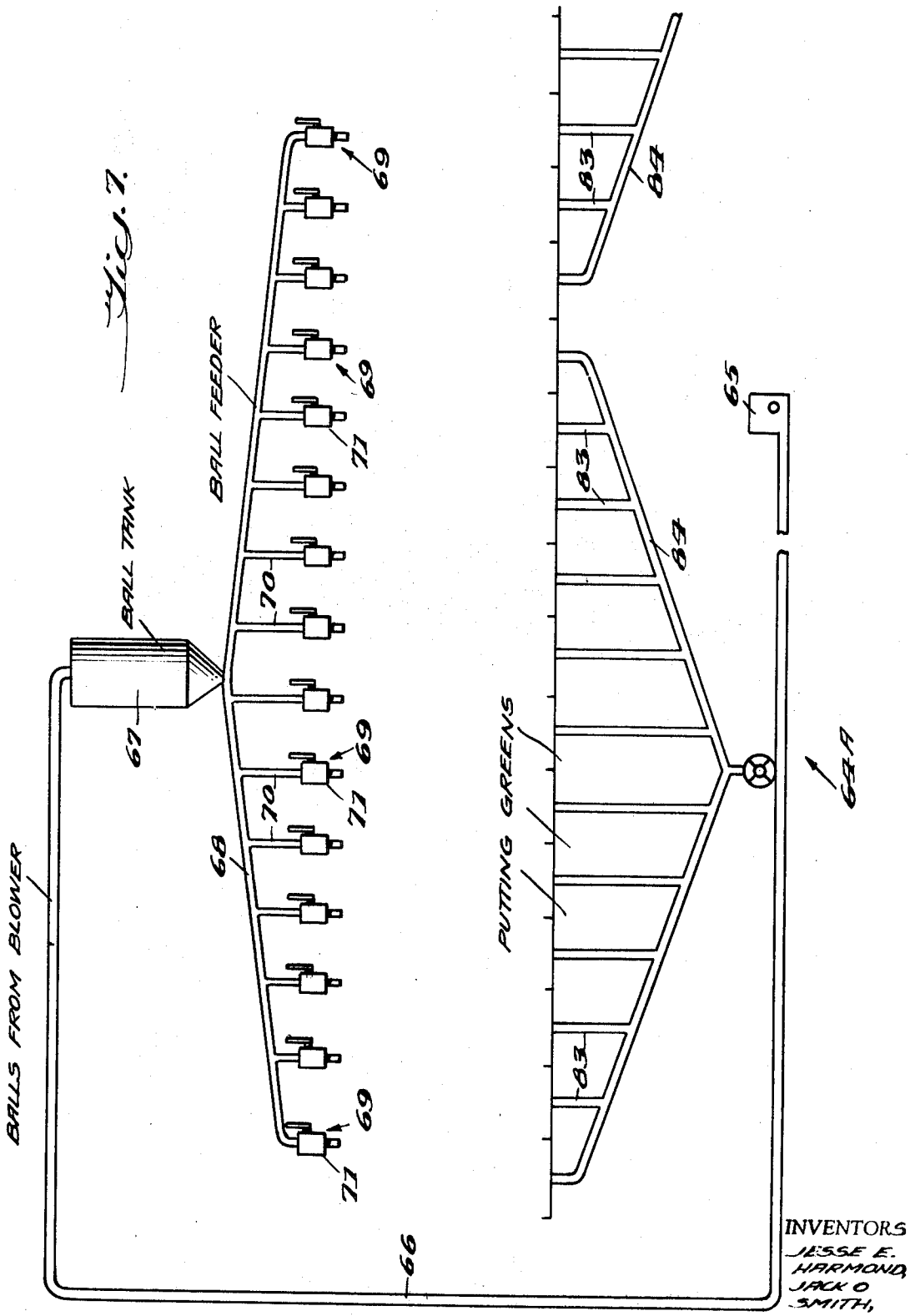
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Fig. 7.



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Fig. 10.

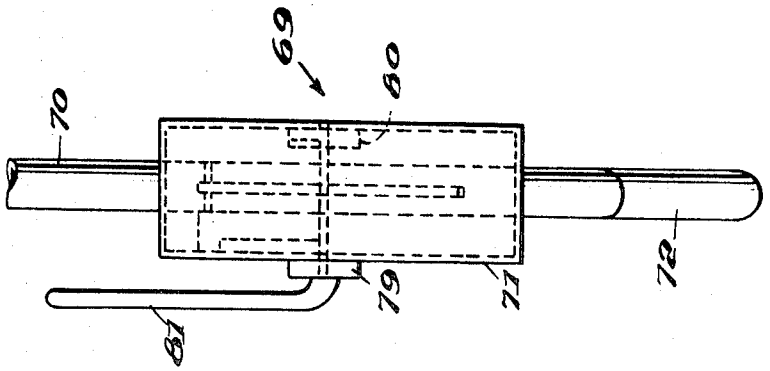


Fig. 9.

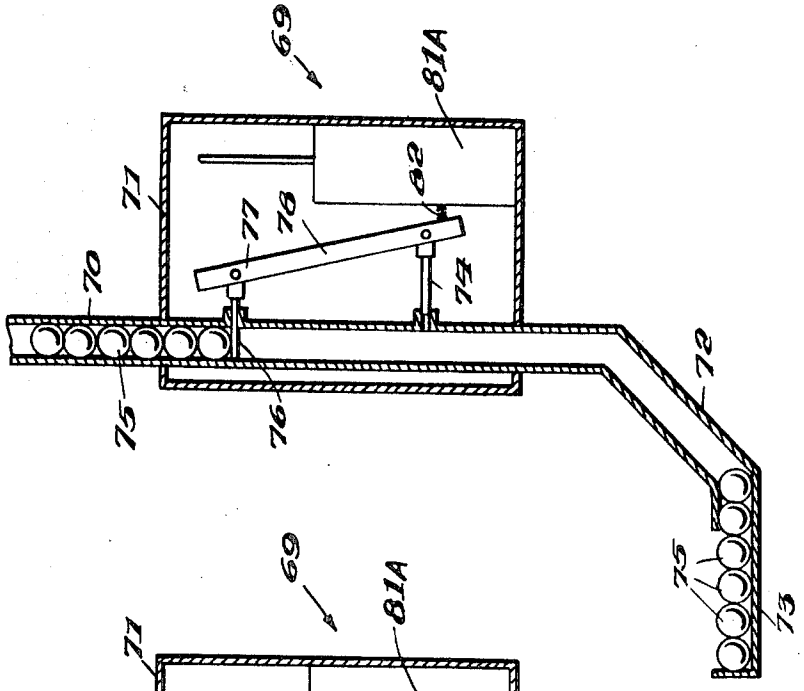
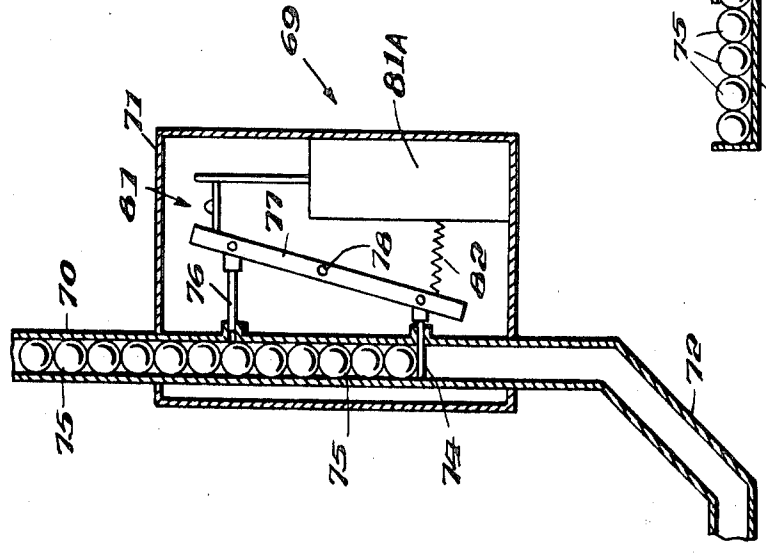


Fig. 8.



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CONCENTRATED GOLF GAME

The present invention relates to an all-weather concentrated golf game which uses conventional golf clubs and golf balls and presents all of the normal hazards to be overcome by the golfer while simultaneously eliminating most of the walking normally required in a game of golf.

The protected area in which the game is played has thermostatically controlled heat for player comfort The fairway is illuminated so that the game may be played at night. This combination facilitates year-round day or night play, rather than being limited to daytime fair-weather play, as is the case in normal golf courses.

Prior art golf games have failed to provide all of the hazards of the normal game and have not been so arranged as to virtually eliminate the walking normally associated with a round of golf.

In general, the present invention consists of a course having three spaced apart greens arranged at varying distances from the tee and has a plurality of tee positions to drive toward the greens. A ball-return system is provided for returning the balls from the course to the tees without the necessity of individual retrieval of the balls. A series of putting greens in the protected area are related to the tees for putting out each of the holes played. A series of sandtraps are also provided along with a series of roughs so that all types of hazards may be encountered and overcome in the playing of the game.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a concentrated golf game which is usable year-round, day and night, which requires all of the skill required to play a normal golf course and has all of the hazards normally encountered in the game.

Another object of the invention is to provide a golf game of the class described above which is partially indoors and is so arranged to eliminate most of the walking associated with ordinary games of golf.

A further object of the invention is to provide a golf game of the class described above which is substantially less expensive to build and play than a normal golf course and which can be located in more congested areas than a normal golf course.

A still further object of the invention is to accelerate play and accommodate more players at one time.

Another object is to increase the safety of the players by eliminating the necessity of players being on the fairways where they could be hit with a driven ball and protection between the tees, turf, sandtraps, and putting green in the sheltered area so that stray chipped balls cannot strike players in other areas.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent in the following specification when considered in light of the attached drawings.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of the golf course with the shelter roof removed for convenience of illustration;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation of the golf course shown partially in section for convenience of illustration;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of one of the sandtraps on the course;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along the line 4–4 of FIG. 3 looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIG. 5 is a circuit diagram of the hole-in-one indicator;

FIG. 6 is a semidiagrammatic view of the ball-return system from the playing area;

FIG. 7 is a semidiagrammatic view of the ball-return system from the putting greens;

FIG. 8 is a vertical sectional view of the golf ball feed mechanism;

FIG. 9 is a view similar to FIG. 8 with a group of balls positioned for delivery; and

FIG. 10 is an elevational view of the structures illustrated in FIGS. 8 and 9.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings in detail wherein like reference characters indicate like parts throughout the several figures, the reference numeral **20** indicates generally a concentrated golf game constructed in accordance with the invention.

The golf game **20** is positioned partly in a building **21** provided with a plurality of roof-supported lights **22** to illuminate the game for night play. A bleacher **23** is positioned at one end of the building to permit observation of the game by spectators. A loose netting **24** is suspended from the roof **25** of the building **21** and protects the spectators in the bleachers **23** from being struck by golf balls. The golf course, generally indicated at **26**, includes at one end a plurality of tees **27** arranged in side-by-side relation and separated by a metal screen **28** from adjacent tees to prevent one player from injuring a player at an adjacent tee with a stray ball. A walkway **29** extends along the rear of the tees **27** for easy access to the tee position. A plurality of playing areas **30** are positioned rearwardly of the tees **27** and walkway **29** and include a turf area **31** covered with heavy synthetic simulated grass material having central mats of thick long-bristled nylon having its upper surface flush with the simulated grass material so iron and wood clubs will not meet with resistance when striking the ball. The playing area **30** also includes a sandtrap **32** filled with regular river-run sand. A plurality of greens **33** are positioned rearwardly of the playing areas **30** and each is provided with a cup **34** to permit the putting out at any hole in the course.

The golf course **26** has a fairway including a downwardly and outwardly sloping fairway section **35** bounded on opposite sides by downwardly and inwardly sloping sections **36, 37**. A generally rectangular section **38** extends longitudinally from the section **35** and slopes upwardly from the junction line **39** therewith. A pair of downwardly and inwardly sloping sections **40, 41** join the fairway section **38** on opposite sides thereof, and a pair of triangular sections **42, 43** complete the golf course **26** and slope upwardly and outwardly from the section **38** and the sections **40, 41**. The sections are delineated by lines **44** which are formed of plastic or fiberglass material and are golden yellow in color for easy and clear visibility. The lines **44** and the line **39** are convex in shape to lay flush with the simulated grass covering each of the sections, so as not to impede the roll of the ball. A generally circular green **45** is formed centrally of the section **38** and has a central circular area delineated by a line **46**. The numeral 1 is formed of plastic material golden yellow in color and is on the circular green within the line **46**. A concentric circle **47** surrounds the line **46** spaced outwardly therefrom and a second concentric circle **48** surrounds the circle **47** and is spaced outwardly therefrom. The space between the line **46** and the line **47** has the numeral 2 therein formed of plastic and golden yellow in color. The space between the line **47** and the line **48** has the plastic numeral 3 positioned therein, also golden yellow in color. The lines **46, 47** and **48** are formed of plastic or fiberglass with a convex upper surface so as to lie flush with the grass so as not to impede the roll of the ball. The lines **46, 47** and **48** are each golden yellow in color for contrast. A generally circular green **49** is positioned generally midway of the golf course **26** and is intersected by the juncture line **39**. The green **49** has a central circular area delineated by a line **50** and has a plastic numeral 2 formed of plastic or fiberglass and golden yellow in color embedded therein. A line **51** concentric with the line **50** surrounds the line **50** in outwardly spaced relation thereto. A line **52** concentric to the line **51** surrounds the line **51** in outwardly spaced relation thereto. The space between the line **50** and line **51** has a numeral 4 therein formed of plastic or fiberglass and golden yellow in color. The space between the line **51** and the line **52** has the numeral 5 therein also formed of plastic or fiberglass and golden yellow in color. The lines **50, 51**, and **52** are each convex in cross section formed of plastic or fiberglass and are golden

yellow in color for contrast with the simulated grass. The circular green **53** is positioned generally centrally of the section **35** and has a circular central green portion delineated by a line **54**. A line **55** concentric to the line **54** is arranged in outwardly spaced relation with respect thereto and a line **56** is concentric with the line **55** and arranged in outwardly spaced relation thereto. The space between the lines **54** and **55** has a numeral 4 mounted therein formed of plastic or fiberglass and golden yellow in color for contrast. The space between the lines **55** and **56** has the numeral 5 mounted therein formed of plastic or fiberglass and golden yellow in color for contrast. Each of the greens **45, 49,** and **53** are provided with cups **57** generally centrally thereof. The central portion of the green **49** has the numeral 2 mounted therein formed of plastic or fiberglass and golden yellow in color, and the green **53** has the numeral 3 mounted therein formed of plastic or fiberglass and golden yellow in color. A plurality of simulated sandtraps **58** are distributed throughout the course **26** and are lined with fiberglass **59** in order that the action of a sandtrap can thus be simulated. Each of the sandtraps **58** have a hole **60** opening through the low point thereof and connected by a conduit **61** to an outlet **62** on the course **26**.

The low points of the course **26** are provided with outlet holes **63** and the greens have their cups connected so as to feed the ball downwardly to the lowermost outlets **63** and into a pneumatic conveyor system generally indicated at **64**. The pneumatic conveyor system includes a blower **65**, a conduit **66**, and a ball tank **67** where the golf balls are collected and distributed through a manifold pipe **68** to a plurality of individual dispensers generally indicated at **69**.

The individual dispensers **69** each include a conduit **70** extending from the manifold **68** into a box **71** as can best be seen in FIGS. **8, 9** and **10**. The conduit **70** has a lower extension **72** projecting below the box **71** terminating in an upwardly open delivery segment **73**, as seen in FIG. **9**. A bar **74** is arranged to slide into and out of the conduit **70** within the box **71** to retard the passage of golf balls **75** through the conduit **70**. A second bar **76** is arranged to also slide into and out of the conduit **70** to retard the passage of golf balls **75** therethrough at a point spaced well above the bar **74**. A link **77** is connected to each of the bars **74, 76** and is arranged to swing on a shaft **78** to withdraw one of the bars **74, 76** while moving the other of the bars **74, 76** into golf ball obstructing position within the conduit **70**. The shaft **78** is journaled in the box **71** from journals **79, 80**, and is rigidly connected to a hand lever **81** which can be actuated to move the link **77** in the desired direction to dispense golf balls **75** as desired. A conventional coin-operated mechanism generally indicated at **81A** can be used to control the use of the dispenser **69**. A coil spring **82** normally urges the link into a position wherein the bar **74** is in golf-ball-obstructing position and bar **76** is in retracted position As can be readily seen in FIGS. **8, 9,** and **10**, the movement of the hand lever **81** in a direction to move the bar **76** into the conduit **70** will also retract the bar **74** from the conduit **70** and permit six golf balls to drop into position for delivery while the bar **76** prevents the remaining golf balls **75** from dropping to the dispensing area. As soon as the lever **81** is returned to its regular position, the bar **76** is retracted and the bar **74** is projected into the conduit **70** and the golf balls are permitted to drop down into engagement with the bar **74** ready for the next dispensing action.

A second pneumatic conveyor system **64A** is identical in every respect to the pneumatic conveyor **64** except that it is fed from the putting greens through conduits **83** leading to manifolds **84** wherein the balls are moved by air from a blower **65** through a conduit **66** to a ball tank **67** leading to a plurality of individual dispensers **69** fed by a manifold **68** as described for the pneumatic conveyor system **64**. The pneumatic conveyor **64** retrieves balls driven to the main portion of the course while the pneumatic conveyor **64A** retrieves balls that are holed out in the putting greens.

In FIG. **5**, a hole-in-one circuit system is illustrated which signals the player that he has made a hole-in-one. A contact switch **85** is positioned in hole 1 to be contacted by the ball as it rolls into the hole closing a circuit which includes a signal bulb **86**, a pair of signal bulbs **87, 88,** and a bell **89**. The signal bulb **86** is behind a panel which, when illuminated, indicates the numeral "1" and the signal bulbs **87, 88** are behind panels which indicate, when illuminated, "hole-in-one". A contact switch **89'** is arranged in green 2 to cooperate with a bulb **90** as well as signal bulbs **87, 88,** and bell **89**. The bulb **90** is arranged behind a panel which, when illuminated, indicates numeral "2". A contact switch **91** is arranged in the hole of green 3 and cooperates with a signal bulb **92**, signal bulbs **87, 88,** and bell **89**. The signal bulb **92** is behind a panel which, when illuminated indicates "3". As can be seen whenever the ball rolls into the cup, there is on the control panel an indication of which cup the ball has rolled into and with the other lights and bell, the hole-in-one is fully indicated to all golfers.

It can be clearly seen from the above description that we have provided a novel golf course for playing a game of golf which requires very little walking on the art of the participants as compared to the conventional game of golf when played on a regular course. With this golf course, it is possible for players to form teams and organize into various leagues depending on their playing ability with the game being played more speedily, eliminating the waste prevalent on regular golf courses. With this present golf course, an instructor from a centrally located position can, by a sound system, easily instruct and direct large groups of beginners in all phases of golf. Another feature of the game is that it can be played from tees that are arranged so that a player can experience, each time that they start a new game, different distances and different angles from which to drive a ball to the fairway greens. The angle tee positions will somewhat simulate a dogleg shot.

In the use and operation of the invention, a player chooses one of the tee positions **27** and starts his first round of golf by driving the ball to the number 1 or far green. If the ball lands on this green and rolls into the cup, the player scores a hole-in-one and starts the second round of golf by driving the ball to the number 2 or middle green. If the ball goes into the cup on this shot, the player again marks a hole-in-one on his score card and starts the third round of golf by driving the ball to a ball to a number 3 or near green. Again, if a hole-in-one is made, the player starts a fourth round of golf by driving the ball to the number 1 or far green again. The play is alternated between the greens in this fashion until the complete round of golf to the desired number of holes is played.

If, when starting the first round of golf, the ball stops on the green, the player will go back to the putting surface **33** and drop his next ball at the approximate distance from the cup that the ball stopped from the cup on the fairway green, then putt out. After totaling the number of strokes it took to hole out the ball, the player returns to his assigned tee and starts the second round of golf by playing the ball to the number 2 or middle green.

If, in the first round of golf, the ball stops in a circled area surrounding the number 1 green, the player will drop his next ball onto the heavy turf **31** and chip to the cup on the adjacent putting surface, then putt out as before.

If, at anytime, a ball lands in a simulated sandtrap **58**, the player will drop his next ball into the sandtrap **32** and chip or blast out to the adjacent putting surface, then putt out as before.

If, in the first round of golf, the ball hooks or slices into areas **40, 41**, the next ball is played from the tee to the number 2 or middle green. If first ball is over or short of the green and stops in area **35** the next ball is played from the tee to the number 3 green. When playing ball to the number 1 hole, ball must stop beyond horizontal line **39** and beyond the circled areas of the number 2 green or player must take a one-stroke penalty and play next ball with the number 1 green.

After player holes out on the first round of golf and scores his strokes, he returns to the tee and starts second round of golf playing ball with the number 2 or middle green. This ball must stop beyond the number 3 or near green and the circle

surrounding same or player takes a one-stroke penalty and plays the next ball to the number 2 green. When playing the second round of golf same rules on following strokes applies on the first round of golf as well as penalties.

After ball is putted out on the second round player returns to tee and starts third round of golf playing ball to number 3 or near green. Again same rules apply until ball is putted out after which player returns to tee and starts fourth round of golf playing ball to the number 1 or far green. All subsequent rounds of golf are played in the same sequence, whether it be nine, eighteen, or more rounds of golf.

Par for the number 1 green is 5; for the number 2 green is 4; for the number 3 green, is 3; so that par for nine holes of golf is 36, and 18 holes is 72.

Penalty stokes are assessed when ball stops outside of the course in areas **36**, **37**, **42** and **43**; when ball fails to go beyond horizontal line **39** that adjoins the middle green or beyond the circle area of this green when ball is being played to the number 1 or far green; when ball, being played to the number 2 or center green, stops upon the number 3 or near green or within the circle areas of the same green; when ball hits the protective hanging net above the putting surface, no hole-in-one is scored unless ball goes into cup of green to which player is playing a first ball to.

Having thus described the preferred embodiment of the invention, it should be understood that numerous structural modifications and adaptations may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention.

We claim:

1. A golf game comprising:

a building having a plurality of side-by-side golf tee areas at one end thereof and bleacher seats at an opposed end, said tee areas and said bleacher seats being spaced from one another;

a turf area and a putting green area for each tee area, said turf areas being adjacent to, respectively, its associated tee area, each of said putting green areas being adjacent

said bleacher seats and spaced from its associated turf area;

a first golf ball cup for each putting green area;

roofing means extending across said tee areas, turf areas, putting green areas and said bleacher seats;

said golf game further including an elongated golf course fairway extending longitudinally away from said one end of said building and being formed of a plurality of sections of which one section slopes downwardly away from said one end of said building to join one end of a second section sloping upwardly and away from said one end of said building, third and fourth sections sloping downwardly and inwardly towards said first and second sections from the remotely disposed sides thereof, and downwardly and inwardly sloping fifth and sixth sections connecting with the remotely disposed end of said second section;

golf green areas on said fist and second sections;

second golf ball cups for each, respectively, golf green area;

golf-ball-dispensing means at each tee area; and

means including pneumatic means connected with all of said cups and an opening at the low point defined by the intersection of said first and second sections for collecting and delivering golf balls entering in said cups and said low point to said dispensing means.

2. A golf game as defined in claim **1** and:

a walkway extending between said tee and turf areas to provide access to selected ones of said tee areas.

3. A golf game as defined in claim **2** and:

a sand trap area extending between said turf and putting green areas.

4. A golf game as defined in claim **3** and:

spectator protective screen means depending from said roof means and being positioned between said bleachers and said putting areas.

5. A golf game as defined in claim **4** and:

electrical means connected with each of said second cups to indicate a hole-in-one.