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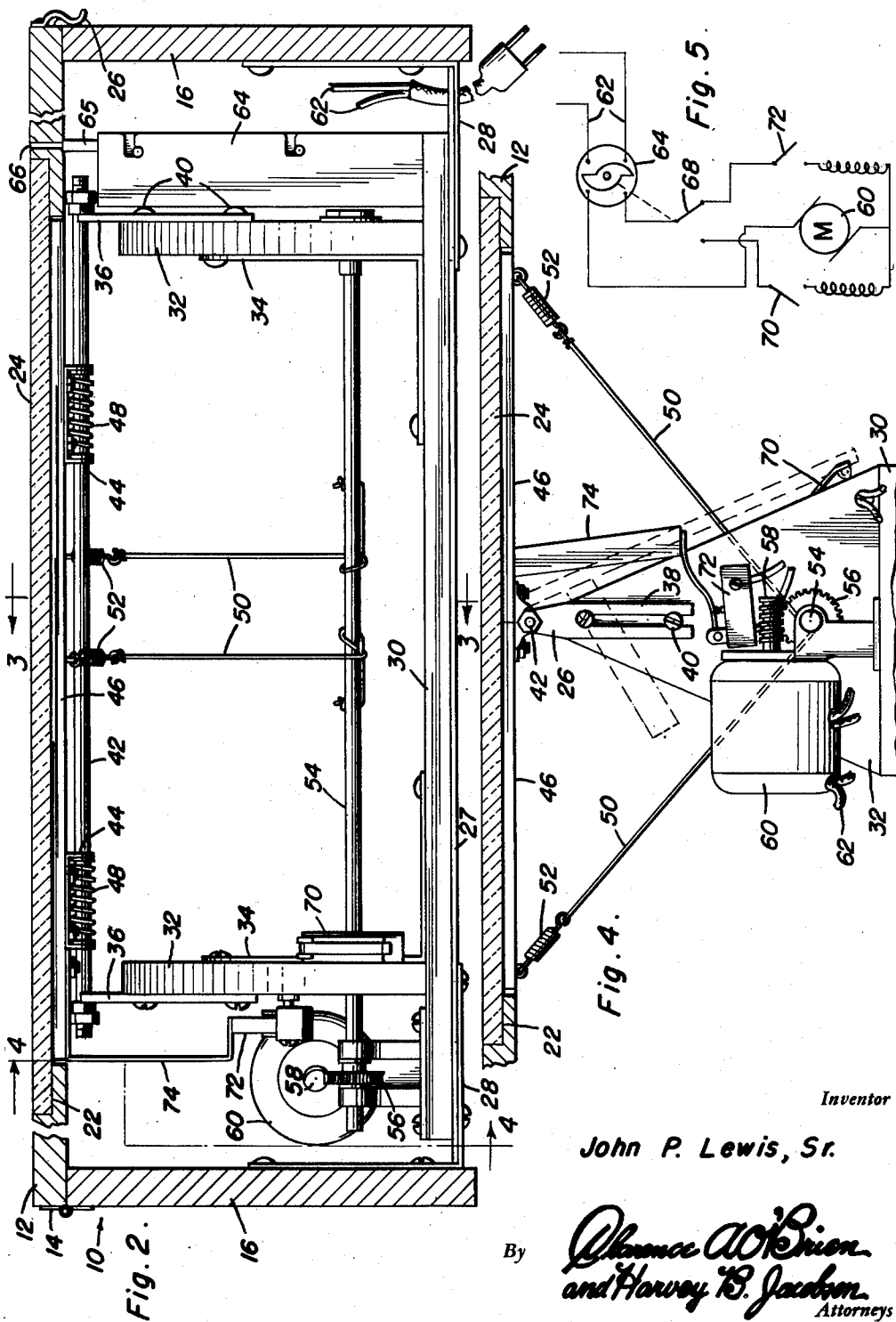
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COIN-OPERATED GAME BOARD AND TABLE

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2



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COIN-OPERATED GAME BOARD AND TABLE

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This invention relates generally to game apparatus and more particularly to a coin operated game board and combination of this game board with a table.

A primary object of this invention is to provide a game board such as those used for checkers and chess, the game board being made available for public use for a limited time when a coin is deposited in a timing apparatus operatively connected with the game board in such a manner that the same may be shifted into a position allowing such use, as by means of an electric motor connected with the timing apparatus.

Another object of this invention is to provide a game board which, as far as the mechanical elements thereof are concerned, is protected against tampering by unauthorized persons, the game board being displayed beneath a transparent panel upon which the pawns are moved, the game board markings being on that surface of the board adjacent to the transparent panel when the board is in what may be considered operative position.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a coin operated game board in combination with a flat topped table, so that the game board or the table per se may be selectively used, the use of the table being unimpeded by any structure thereon, since the transparent panel may be inset into the upper surface of the table.

The last object to be mentioned specifically is to provide a device of the character mentioned above which will be relatively inexpensive and practicable to manufacture, which is safe, simple and convenient to use, and which will give generally efficient and durable service.

With these objects definitely in view, this invention resides in certain novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of elements and portions as will be hereinafter described in detail in the specification, particularly pointed out in the appended claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings which form a material part of the application, and in which:

Figure 1 is a three dimensional view of the assembled device;

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view, taken substantially upon the line 2-2 in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken on the line 3-3 in Figure 2;

Figure 4 is another transverse vertical sectional view taken on the line 4-4 of Figure 2, showing the electric motor assembly and the limit switches, one part of the game board being shown in dash line in a second, or inoperative, position so as to open one of the limit switches, and being shown in full lines in the operative or playing position with the other of the limit switches opened; and,

Figure 5 is a diagrammatic view showing the

electrical connections including the coin operated timing mechanism and the switch operated thereby, the reversible electric motor and the limit switches for de-energizing the motor when the one part of the game board has reached operative and inoperative positions.

Similar characters of reference designate similar or identical elements and portions throughout the specification and throughout the different views in the drawings.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, this invention includes a table having a top generally indicated by the numeral 10 and including a hinged top panel 12 connected as by hinges 14 to one of the skirt panels 16. There are a pair of these skirt panels 16 each of which is downwardly extended at its center portion as clearly indicated in Figure 1, and another pair of skirt panels 18 is provided and a complement of legs 20 are used to support the table top preferably at a height so that the players may seat themselves at the sides of the table when playing the game. The hinged panel 12 is centrally apertured and provided with a seat 22 to allow a transparent panel 24 to be set into the hinged panel 12 so that the top surface of the table is flat. A latching device 26, preferably securable by lock and key, will be provided to hold the hinged panel 12 in closed position, that is, in a position closing the chamber within the table top defined by the skirt panels 16 and 18 and a layer of sheet material 27 extending over the under surface of the table top 10, so as to prevent unauthorized access to the mechanism hereinafter described.

A pair of brackets 28 are secured to the skirt panels 16 and support a cross beam 30. This cross beam, in turn, supports a pair of opposed uprights 32, which are braced by angle brackets 34 and which carry a pair of opposed brackets 36, the last mentioned brackets being bifurcated as indicated at 38 and vertically adjustably mounted on the uprights 32 by means of screws 40, as best indicated in Figure 4.

The brackets 36 terminally support the shaft 42, upon which are mounted pairs of attaching brackets 44 whereby the two complementary parts of a game board 46 are mounted for pivotal movement about the shaft 42, and it will be noted that springs 48 are arranged co-axially of the shaft 42 and connected to the parts 46 of the game board and the supporting brackets 44 so as to bias the parts 46 of the game board to pivot upwardly into contact with the under surface of the transparent panel 24 whereby the game markings 47 are brought into registry with the panel 24 to provide a playing field for cooperation with game pieces movable over the outer surface of the panel.

A pair of flexible cables 50, preferably including extensible spring link members 52 are oper-

actively mounted upon a reel 54 and points on the under surfaces of the parts 46 of the game board remote from the shaft 42, so that upon rotation of the reel 54 both parts 46 will be made to pivot downwardly against the action of the springs 43, or to pivot upwardly under the action of these springs, according to the direction in which the reel 54 is turned. The reel 54 is rotated by a spiral gear 56 and a worm 58 operated by the reversible electric motor 60 which is connected to a suitable source of power by the electric leads 62. The electric motor 60 and the parts connected directly therewith will be preferably mounted upon the cross bar 30.

A coin operated timing mechanism, generally indicated by the numeral 64, the specific character of which is immaterial in this application, is suitably mounted within the table top so that the coin chute 65 thereof will register with an aperture 66 in the hinged panel 12 of the table. The character of this coin operated timing mechanism 64 will be such as to control the actuation of a switch 68 which will ordinarily be incorporated in the timing mechanism according to conventional practice and the switch 68 will control the energization of the electric motor 60 to rotate the worm 58 in either direction, thus raising or lowering the parts 46 of the game board as mentioned above. A pair of limit switches 70 and 72 will be connected in the electrical circuit so as to de-energize the reversible electric motor 60 when the parts 46 of the game board reach the limits of their movement. In the embodiment of this invention represented in the drawings, these limit switches are operated by the angle arm 74 secured to the underside of one of the parts 46 of the game board and by direct contact of another portion of the same part 46, respectively, as will be clear from an inspection of Figure 4.

The operation of this invention will be clearly understood from a consideration of the foregoing description of the mechanical details thereof, taken in connection with the drawings and the above recited objects of this invention. In recapitulation, it may be noted that at the limit of the upward pivoting of the game board parts 46 the electric motor will be de-energized and the pawns may be manipulated on the upper surface of the transparent panel 24, the player viewing the game board through this panel. After a predetermined length of time has elapsed, the timing mechanism 64 will operate the switch 68 and the motor 60 will operate the reel 54 to pivot the parts 46 of the game board downwardly away from the transparent panel 24 and a further coin must be inserted through the slot 66 in the hinged panel 12 before the electric motor can again be reversed and the game board used.

Obviously minor variation from the embodiment described herein may be resorted to without departure from the spirit of this invention and the scope of the invention is to be determined by the subjoined claims.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A support having a transparent panel over which game pieces can be moved, a two-part game board having game markings thereon, at least one part of said board being pivotally mounted on said support said pivotally mounted part being shiftable into and out of contact and

registration with said panel allowing a game to be played on said game board as viewed through said panel during the time of contact and registration, a coin operated timing mechanism operable to shift said game board, said mechanism including a reel, a reversible motor connected in operative relation to said reel, and a cable operatively connecting said pivoted part of the game board with said reel.

2. A game apparatus comprising a top panel, a transparent panel set into said top panel and over which game pieces can be moved, means for supporting said top panel, a chamber below said top panel, a game board pivotally mounted in said chamber, said game board having game markings thereon, coin operated means for moving said board into contact and registry with the inner surface of said transparent panel, means for retracting said board from registry with said panel, and time responsive means for energizing said retracting means.

3. In a play table having a top surface and means for supporting said surface at a convenient height, game apparatus comprising a transparent panel over which game pieces can be moved set into said top surface, a chamber beneath said top surface, a shaft mounted in said chamber, a game board including complementary parts, each of said parts being independently pivotally mounted on said shaft in said chamber, means for moving said parts into contact and registry with said transparent surface to present a game playing field, means for retracting said parts out of contact with said panel.

4. In a playing table having a top surface and means for supporting said surface at a convenient height, game apparatus comprising a transparent panel over which game pieces can be manipulated set into said top surface, a chamber beneath said top surface, complementary parts of a game board each of which is independently pivotally mounted in said chamber adjacent said panel, resilient means urging said parts into contact and registry with said panel to present a game playing field, operating means for retracting said parts from contact with said panel, coin controlled time responsive means for energizing said operating means to present said playing field and to retract said parts.

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