No. 895,951. PATENTED AUG. 11, 1908.

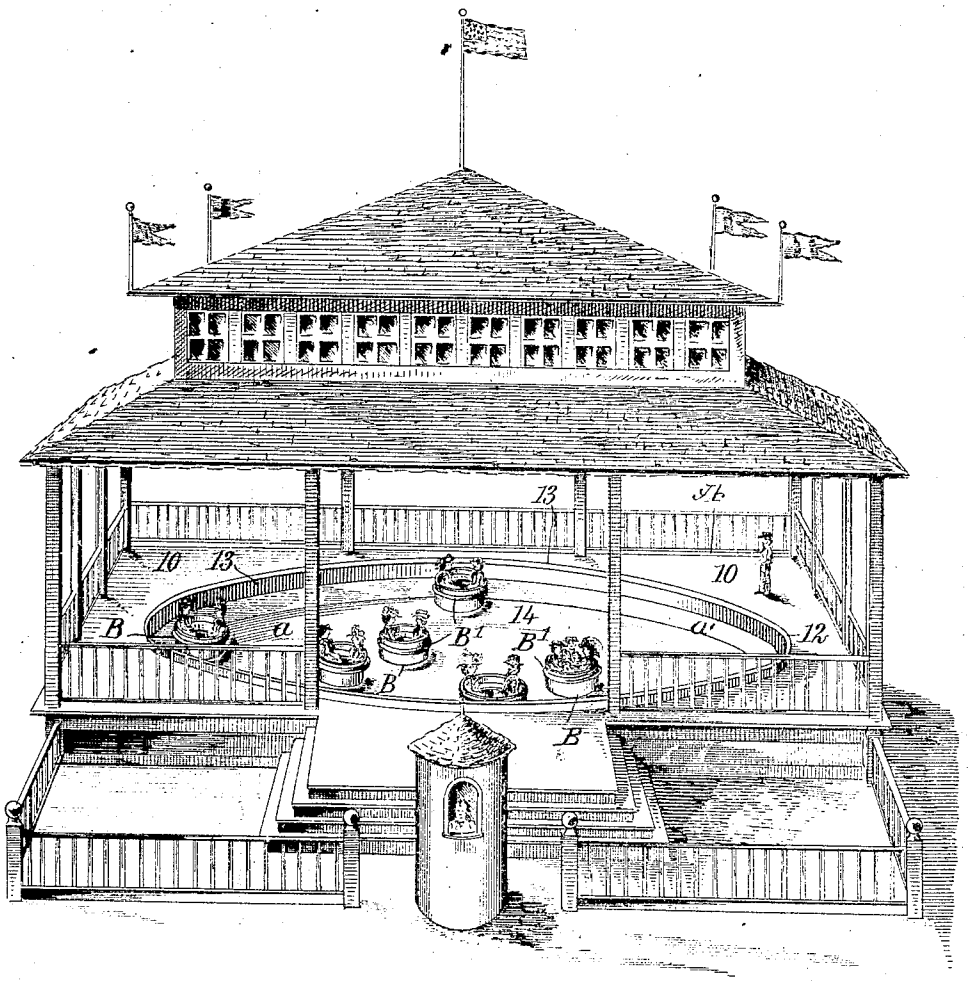
H. A. BRADWELL.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 2, 1907.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

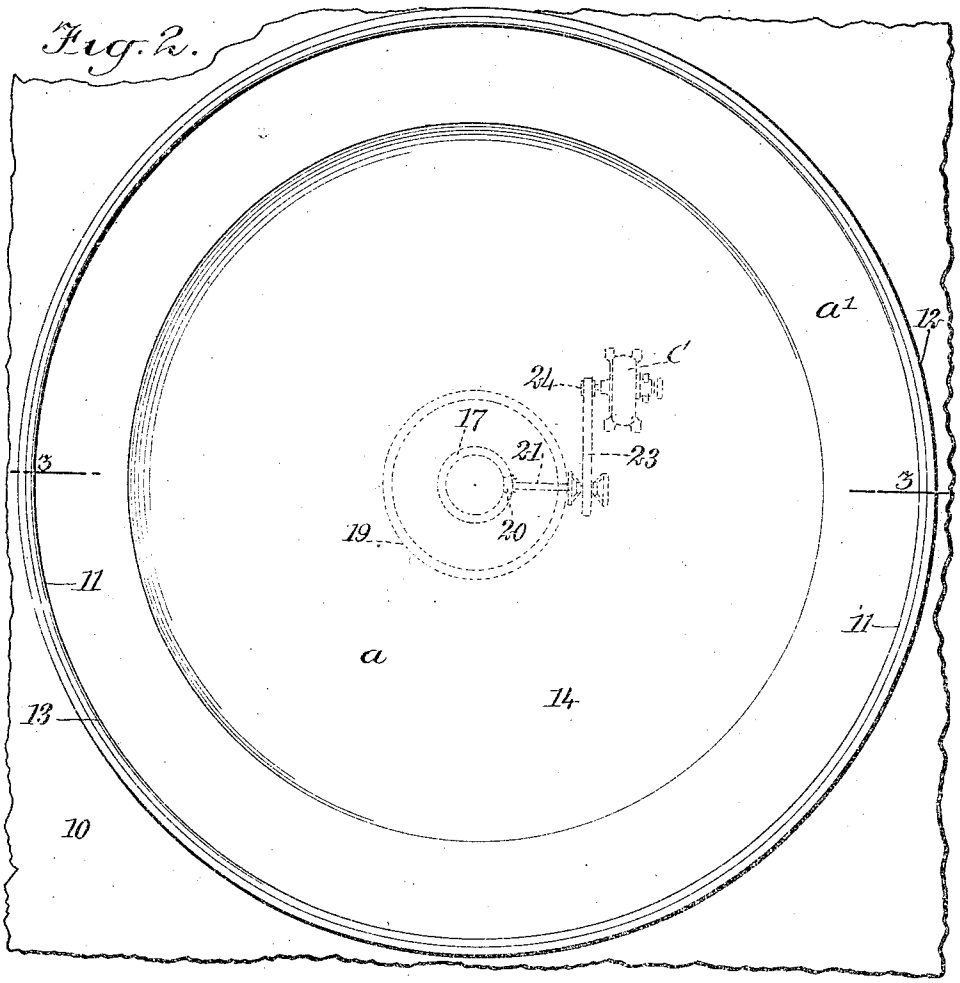
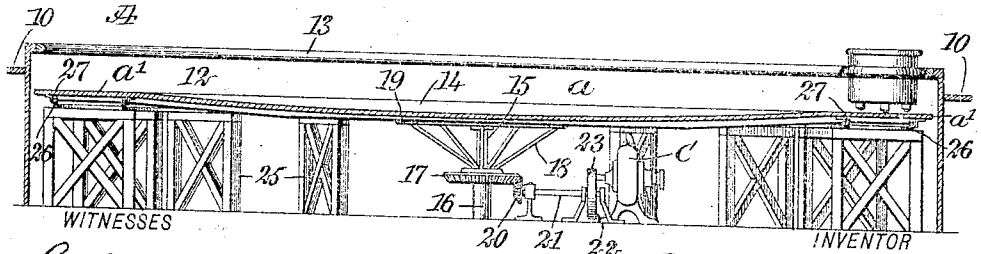


Fig. 3.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 4.

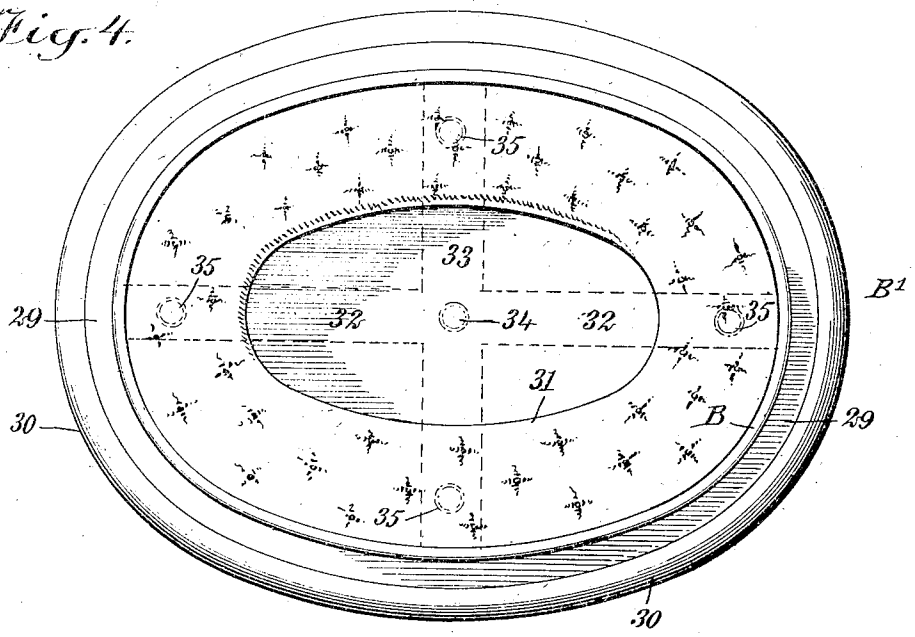
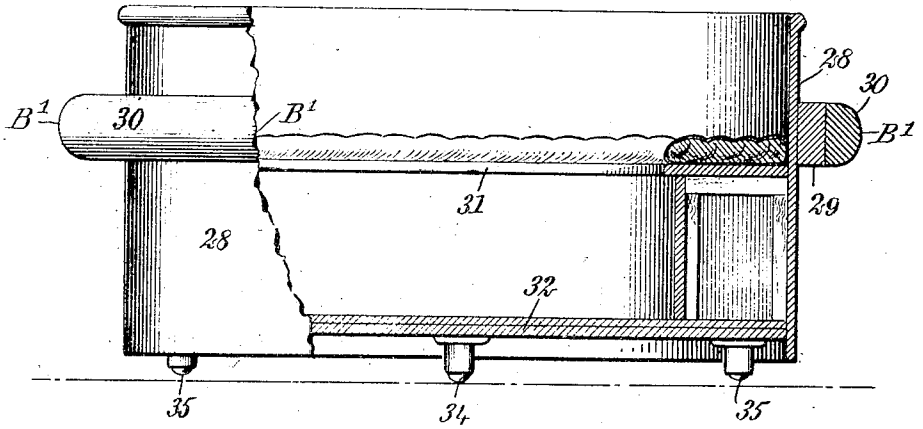


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERBERT A. BRADWELL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

No. 895,951. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 11, 1908.

Application filed August 2, 1907. Serial No. 386,745.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERBERT A. BRADWELL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Amusement Devices, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The purpose of the invention is to provide an amusement device so constructed that a platform or table is caused to revolve within an inclosure having cushioning or buffer sections, and wherein receptacles for passengers have independent movement on said platform, said receptacles also having cushioning sections adapted for engagement with each other and the rebounding sections of the inclosure.

It is also a purpose of the invention to provide roller supports for the passenger receptacles, having such relation thereto that as the receptacles are made to travel over the revolving platform by centrifugal action they will have an independent rocking motion, and to so construct the device in general that the passenger receptacles, as the platform revolves, will be made to independently move with a circular rocking motion around the center of the platform to its periphery, being interrupted in their course by contact with each other, and wherein when reaching the surrounding portion of the inclosure they will engage with its cushioning or buffer section or surface and be again directed toward the center of the platform.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts as will be hereinafter fully set forth and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device set up; Fig. 2 is a plan view of a portion of the inclosure including the revoluble platform therefor; Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken practically on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a plan view of one of the cars or passenger receptacles; and Fig. 5 is a sectional side elevation of the same, partly broken away.

A represents an inclosure which comprises a floor section 10 having a circular opening therein, and a side section 12 at the said opening that extends usually to the ground, the said floor section being supported in any suitable or approved manner. The inner side portion 12 of the floor section is provided with a buffer 13 constituting a cushioning section, since it is made of rubber or equivalent resilient material, and usually this cushioning section 13 of the inclosure is located adjacent the upper edge of the floor section 10, as is illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2. This cushioning section 13 is shown continuous, or it may be interrupted if so desired. In completing the inclosure A a platform 14 is mounted to revolve at the opening 11 in the said floor section, and the peripheral edge of this platform is brought quite close to the side member 12 of the floor section 10, and preferably the platform 14 or table, as it may be called, is below the cushioning section 13 of the floor section 10, as is illustrated particularly in Fig. 1.

The platform 14 may be flat throughout, but by preference the upper face of the platform is dished from the center to a point near its periphery, as is shown at *a* in Fig. 3, while its periphery *a'* is made flat, as is shown in the same figure. A shaft 15 is secured in any desired manner to the lower central portion of the platform 14; this shaft may be mounted in any suitable way, in the drawings it is shown turning at its lower end in a fixed sleeve or casing 16, and the shaft 15 is provided with an attached bevel gear 17, and from the hub of said gear braces 18 radiate in an upward direction, being secured at their upper end, usually to a reinforcing ring 19 secured to the central bottom portion of said platform, as is shown in positive lines in Fig. 3, and in dotted lines in Fig. 2. The bevel gear 17 is made to mesh with a bevel pinion 20, and this pinion 20 is on a driving shaft 21 suitably supported, and the driving shaft carries a pulley 22 connected by a belt 23 with a driving pulley 24 of a motor C, but I desire it to be understood that I do not confine myself to any particular form of driving mechanism.

The peripheral section *a'* of the platform may be supported in any desired way, but preferably it receives support in the manner illustrated, wherein a trestle 25 is erected beneath the platform, which trestle may be continuous, or in sections, as shown, and the said trestle is adapted to support tracks 26 that are continuous, and these tracks receive grooved pulleys or friction wheels 27 carried

at the under face of the aforesaid peripheral section *a'* of the platform, as is illustrated in Fig. 3.

In connection with the revolving platform or table 14, any desired number of passenger receptacles or cars B are employed. These cars are of elliptical or oval formation, and each comprises a shell 28 of the shape above mentioned, that is encircled at its outside by a continuous beam 29, and the said beam 29 has attached thereto a continuous ring 30 of rubber or like resilient material, forming thereby for each car a bumper B', and preferably the outer face of the yielding section 30 of the bumper is segmental, as is likewise the outer face of the bumper or cushioning section 13 for the body portion of the inclosure A.

Usually each car is provided with a seat 31 that partakes of the formation of the car, as is shown in Fig. 4, but I desire it to be understood that I do not limit myself to the particular construction of seat or seats. In order to strengthen the car as much as possible, its bottom portion is provided with a longitudinal sill 32 and a transverse sill 33 shown best in dotted lines in Fig. 4, and each car is supported usually by caster wheels, five in number, namely a center caster wheel 34 located where the sills cross, and a caster wheel 35 at the outer end portion of each sill, the casters for the wheels 35 being of the same length, while the caster for the central caster wheel 34 is substantially longer, as is shown in Fig. 5. Therefore as a receptacle B is moved along the platform 14, or other support provided for it, it will rest upon three caster wheels in addition to the central one, with one caster wheel removed from the support, and in this manner as the position of a car is changed in traveling over the support it will have a rocking motion, either in direction of its ends or in direction of its sides.

In the operation of this amusement device the receptacles or cars B are placed in any suitable number at the central portion of the platform 14. The platform is then revolved as rapidly as may be desired and the receptacles will by reason of centrifugal force be propelled in direction of the periphery of the platform, and at the same time will be given a rotary movement and as stated, by reason of the caster wheels will also have rocking movement. In the passage of the cars or receptacles toward or from the center of the said platform, many of them will be brought into contact and under such circumstances their buffers B' will strike one against the other, and the cars will be caused to rebound in one direction or the other, and thus be more or less retarded in their outward movement. Upon reaching the peripheral portion of the revolving platform 10, the buffers B' of the cars will strike the buffer or section 13 at the side of the floor section 10, and will cause the cars thus striking to be again thrown in direction of the center of the platform. After repeated movements back and forth, should a car reach the flat section *a* of the platform and its force have diminished so that the car or receptacle will remain stationary, it will simply be carried around with the platform and will not have movement thereon other than a rocking movement.

The device is very simple in its character and is amusing and attractive.

By giving an elliptical or oval formation to the passenger receptacles they will more effectually repel each other when they come in contact, and will be more effectually repelled when they engage the buffer on the inclosure, since the tendency of circular objects having free movement upon a revolving bottom is to revolve one around the other when they bunch, and particularly when round receptacles reach the periphery of the revolving bottom and there is an inclosure for the bottom, said receptacles are inclined to hug the wall of the inclosure during the rotation of the bottom, whereas when the receptacles are of elliptical or oval shape, such tendency is overcome since when an oval or elliptical shaped receptacle strikes an object it is positively repelled and travels away from it, possibly to return at an angle to its first course to strike any other object in its path. When an elliptical or oval shaped receptacle engages the wall of the inclosure for the bottom on which it travels, it moves inward from the point of contact and under the centrifugal action due to the revolving bottom, returns to engage the wall of the inclosure at any point, thus a greater variety of movements is obtained by the employment of the oval form of receptacle than can be obtained when a circular form is employed, and furthermore repeated circular movements are avoided, since they can strike a glancing blow and yet rebound, thus giving variety to their movements, and further owing to the elongated shape of the passenger receptacles when occupied, and in action, they have a tendency to swing around with greater velocity and with greater ease than when of circular shape.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent,—

1. In an amusement device, an inclosure, the bottom whereof is mounted to revolve, upon a vertical axis and has its upper marginal surface substantially flat, the remainder of said upper surface being more or less dished, and receptacles for passengers having free rotatable movement upon said bottom.

2. An amusement device comprising an inclosure, the bottom whereof is mounted to revolve upon a vertical axis and is provided with a marginal flat section at a greater elevation than its central portion, a buffer lo-

cated upon said inclosure above and adjacent to said marginal section, receptacles for passengers capable of independent sliding movement upon the revoluble bottom, and elastic buffers exteriorly placed upon said receptacles and adapted for engagement with the buffer of the inclosure when the receptacles reach the margin of said bottom.

3. An amusement device comprising an inclosure, the bottom whereof is mounted to revolve upon a vertical axis, which bottom has a dished center and a flat upper portion at its periphery, an elastic buffer provided for the inclosure and located adjacent to the outer edge of said bottom, receptacles for passengers having independent sliding movement on said bottom, and buffers on the receptacles, the buffer of one receptacle being capable of contact with the buffers on the other receptacles and the buffers of all of the receptacles being adapted for engagement with the buffer of the inclosure.

4. An amusement device comprising an inclosure, the bottom whereof is mounted to revolve upon a vertical axis, which bottom has a dished center and a flat upper portion at its periphery, an elastic buffer provided for the inclosure and located adjacent the outer edge of said bottom, receptacles for passengers having independent sliding movement on said bottom, buffers on the receptacles, the buffer of one receptacle being capable of contact with the buffer of the other receptacle, and the buffers of all the receptacles being adapted for engagement with the buffer of the inclosure, and means carried by the receptacles for permitting a rocking movement thereof independent of their sliding movement.

5. In an amusement device, an inclosure, the bottom whereof is mounted to revolve upon a vertical axis, which bottom has its upper marginal face flat and the remaining portion of its upper face dished, and receptacles for passengers adapted for movement on the said upper face of said bottom within said inclosure.

6. In an amusement device, the combination with an inclosure, the bottom whereof is mounted to revolve upon a vertical axis, and has its upper marginal face flat, and the remaining portion of said upper face dished, of receptacles for passengers, said receptacles being adapted for movement on said upper face of the bottom within said inclosure, an elastic buffer carried by the inclosure, and elastic buffers exteriorly located upon the passenger receptacles.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HERBERT A. BRADWELL.

Witnesses:
CHAS. L. HAVENS,
LILLIAN M. POWERS.