

March 29, 1932.

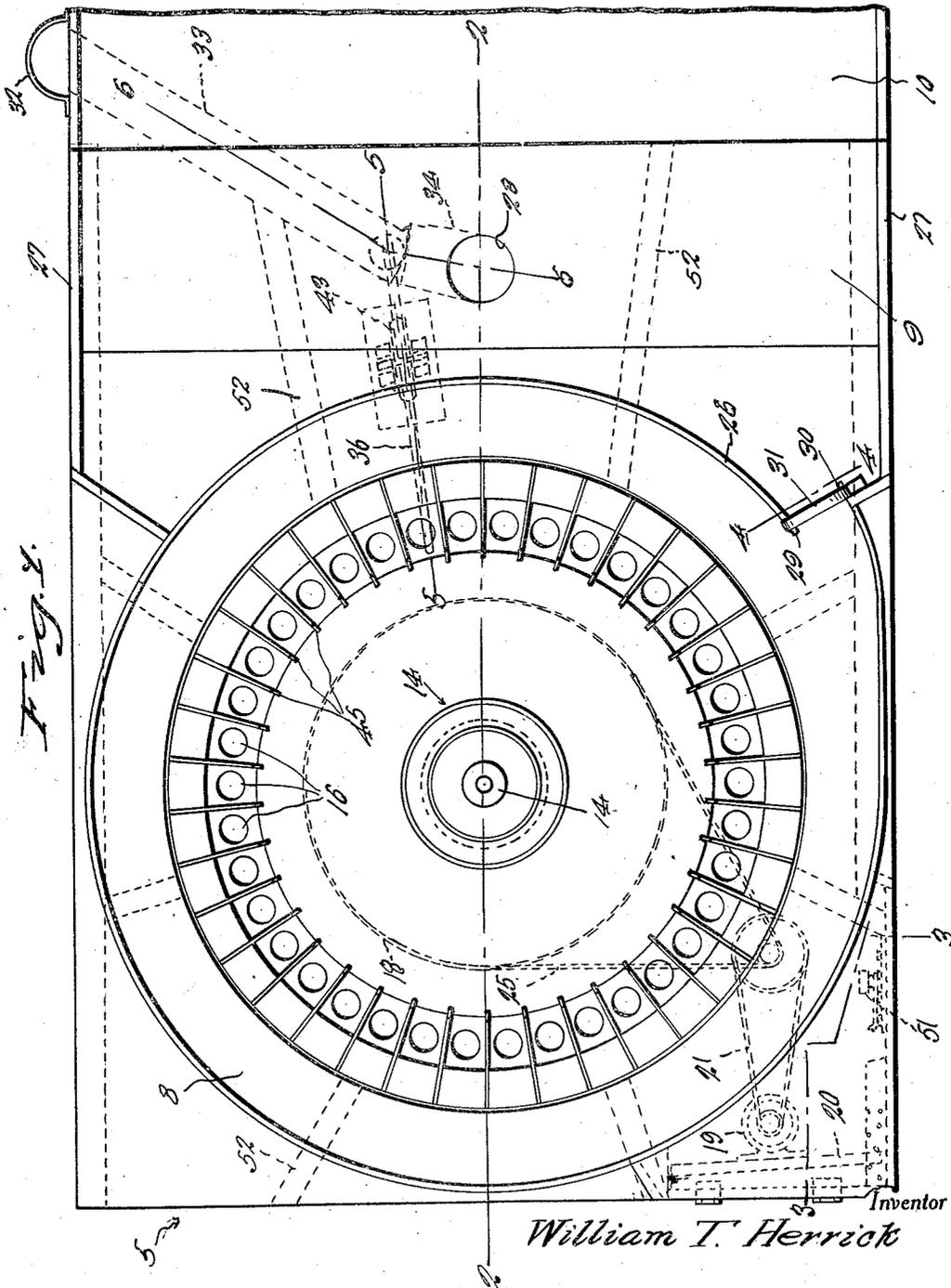
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1,851,628

ROULETTE GOLF

Filed June 24, 1931

4 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 9.

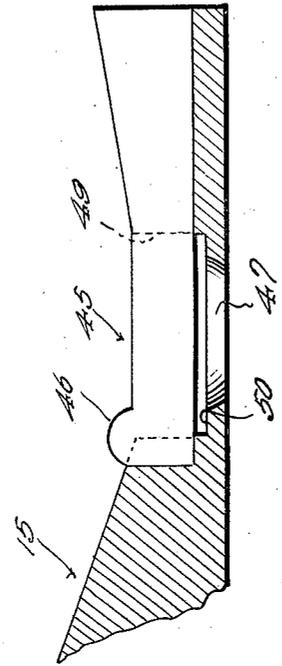


Fig. 2.

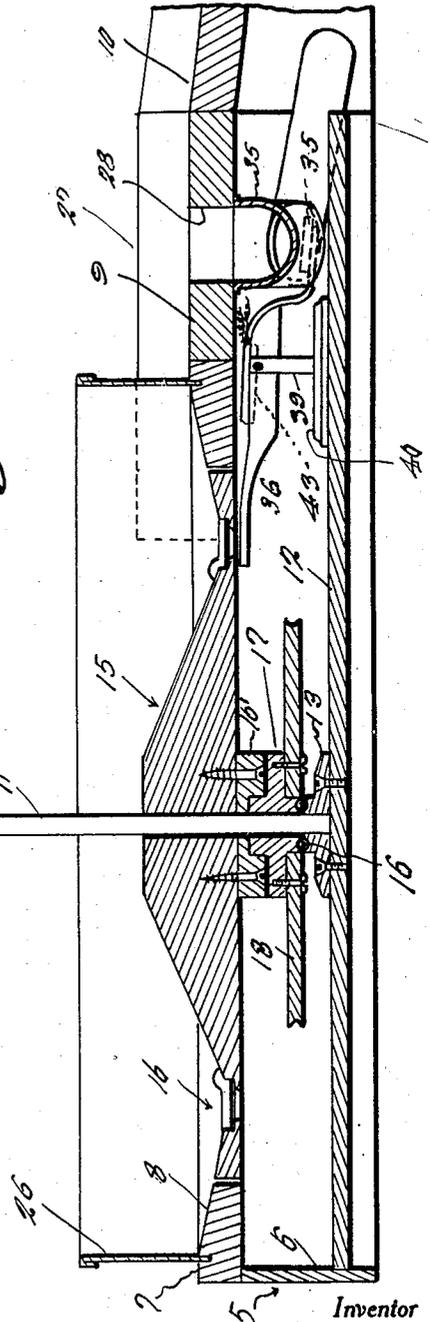
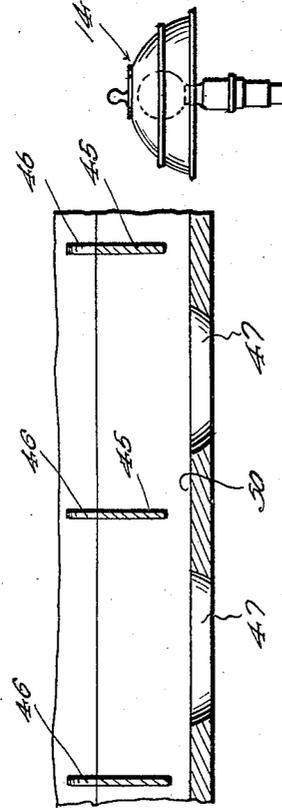


Fig. 8.



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Fig. 2

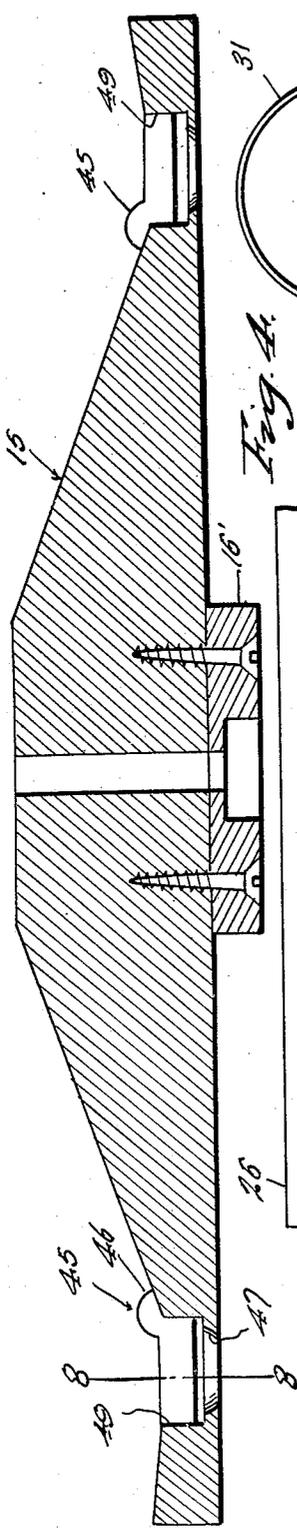


Fig. A.

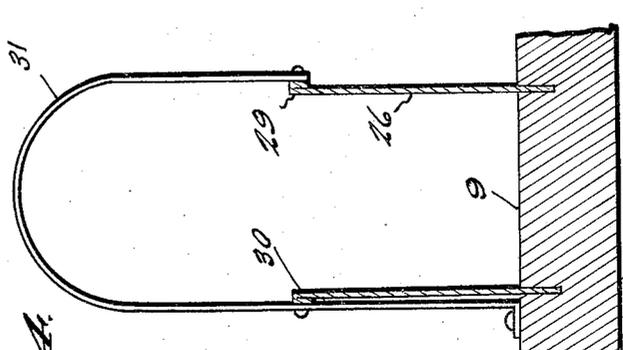
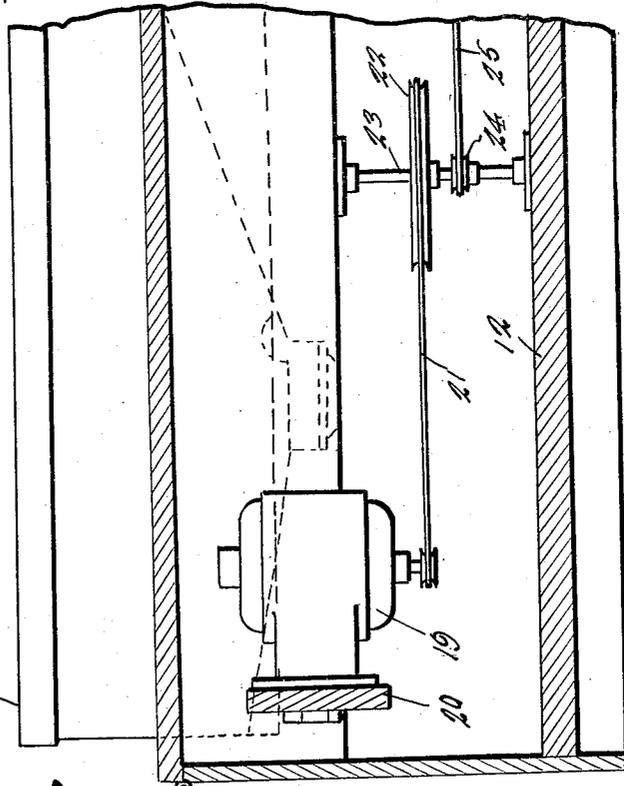


Fig. 3.



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ROULETTE GOLF

Application filed June 24, 1931. Serial No. 546,634.

This invention relates to a new and novel game and apparatus for playing the same, which is in the nature of a fixture for miniature golf courses or similar apparatus and which is adapted to be used as an individual unit for either indoor or outdoor use.

It is an important object of my invention to provide a roulette wheel device incorporated in a supporting structure, the roulette wheel being adapted to be set into motion upon certain movements of a ball, such as a golf ball, which has been propelled into a cup or hole.

It is another object of this invention to provide a new and novel apparatus of the type described, which is entirely automatic in its operation, which is simple and easy and inexpensive to construct and install, and which has the other features of novelty and advantage which will be better understood as the description proceeds below.

These and other objects of the invention, its nature, and its composition and arrangement and combination of parts will be readily understood by any one acquainted with the art to which this invention relates upon consulting the following descriptions of the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a general top plan view of the device of the invention showing certain portions thereof in dotted lines.

Figure 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view taken approximately on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a partial sectional view taken approximately on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view taken approximately on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figures 5 and 6 are sectional views taken approximately on the lines 5—5 and 6—6 of Figure 1.

Figure 7 is an enlarged cross sectional view through the roulette wheel.

Figure 8 is a sectional view taken approximately on the line 8—8 of Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a sectional view taken approximately at right angles to Figure 8.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the numeral 5 refers generally to a casing composed of the side walls 6, the circular annular

top member 7 provided with the inwardly slanting surface 8, the platform 9, and the ramp 10 leading from the platform 9 to the golf course or fair way. A column 11 is supported in the middle of the floor 12 by the bearing support 13, and the column 11 has on its upper end a lamp structure 14 for illuminating the roulette wheel, generally designated 15, which is of conventional structure except for the pockets generally referred to by the numeral 16 which will be subsequently described. The wheel 15 is centrally apertured so as to clear the sides of the column 11 about which it rotates, being supported by a block 16 which, in turn, rests upon a bearing block 17 which forms a raceway with the support 13 for the ball bearing 15. A large pulley 18 is secured to the under side of the bearing block 17. A suitable motor 19 is secured on a hinged bracket 20, which bracket is adapted to be adjusted in a horizontal plane for adjusting a belt 21 connected with a pulley 22 on a shaft 23, which shaft has a reducing pulley 24 which is connected by a belt 25 to the large pulley 18, to drive the roulette wheel 15 at a suitable speed. Surrounding the annular member 7 is a wall 26 to properly confine a ball run upon the roulette wheel and the slanting surface 8. Similarly a wall 27 on each side of the platform 9 and the ramp 10 serves to confine a ball propelled toward the hole 28 in the platform, upon the platform 9. It should be stated that the wall 26 is not completely circular, but it is broken at 29, and the end 30 is outwardly deflected to form a gate over which a U-shaped member 31 forms an arch. At one side of the ramp at 32 is provided a cup or receptacle to which is connected a runway or chute 33 open at its upper end adjacent to the hole 28. The hole 28 is provided with an elbow chute 34 whose lower end opens upon a plate 35 on one end of a lever generally designated 36. The open upper end of the chute 33 is adapted to receive a ball projected into the hole 28, as the ball leaves the plate 35 after striking the same.

The lever 36 consists of a main portion 37 which has one end 38 under the circumferential line of the cups 16 of the roulette wheel,

and it is rockably supported by a standard 39 on a base 40 with spring means generally designated 41 for maintaining it normally in a position in which the S-shaped portion 42 carrying the plate 35 is depressed. A mercury contact structure 43 is supported on the upper part of the main portion 37 of the lever 36 and suitable conduits 44 lead from the mercury circuit closer to the motor 19.

The cups of the roulette wheel are formed by adjacent pairs of metallic separators 45 having the projection 46, and reference to Figures 5, 7, 8 and 9 will give a clear idea of the structure of the cups which have flared holes 47 in the bottoms for permitting a ball 48 to partly drop therethrough so as to contact the end 38 of the lever 36 for a purpose to be described. An annular channel 49 runs around the wheel within the outer periphery thereof and forms with the separators 45 and the holes 47 the cups of the wheel, which may be numbered or designated in any desired manner. It will be observed that the separators 45 have their lower edges slightly above the bottom 50 of the channel 49.

The operation of the device is as follows: A golf ball or the like is propelled up the ramp 10 on to the platform 9 and into the hole 28. As the ball travels through the hole 28 into the chute 34 it is positioned during its travel to strike and depress the plate 35 on the lever 36 and cause the overbalancing of the lever so that the mercury in the circuit closer 43 flows to the end of the mercury tube corresponding to the position of the plate 35 on the lever 36, and closes the circuit through the motor 19 which thereupon rotates the roulette wheel 15. The ball 48 continues through the chute 33 after striking the plate 35 and is to be recovered in the receptacle 32. The next move is to place the ball 28 upon the platform 9 and propel the same through the gate under the arch 31. As the ball travels through the gate, depending upon its speed and momentum it will travel around the slanting surface 8 until the momentum dies down and the slanting surface 8 conveys the ball upon the roulette wheel 15. Finally the ball 28 will come to rest in one of the pockets or cups 16, and the roulette wheel carries the ball around until the ball protruding through the opening 47 in which it rests will strike the end 38 of the lever 36 and cause the depression thereof, so as to permit the mercury in the circuit breaker to flow to the end of the tube corresponding to the end of the lever 38, whereupon the circuit through the motor is broken, and the rotation of the roulette wheel comes to an end. During the swinging of the lever 36 the spring detent 41 snaps from one side to the other of the spring projected element 41a which works to maintain the lever 36 depressed at either end according to its actuation.

It is obvious the device of the invention

may be made in any size, and the roulette wheel may be made of any kind of wood or metal. The walls of the pockets 16 are preferably made of bronze plates. A suitable rheostat 51 may be placed to control the device. The platform 9 is preferably made removable so as to permit access to the circuit breaker of the lever for adjustment purposes. Radially arranged elongated blocks 52 are deemed a valuable feature of the construction, as they properly support the roulette wheel and the casing 5.

It is to be definitely understood that I do not desire to limit the application of this invention to the particular modification set out herein to illustrate the principles thereof, and any change or changes may be made consistent with the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A golf apparatus of the type described comprising a casing including a ramp, a platform, a playing hole in the platform, and a walled annular area having an inwardly slanting surface, a roulette wheel within the annular area, pockets in the roulette wheel for receiving a ball propelled upon the said area and onto said wheel so as to permit the ball to come to rest projecting partially below the under surface of the wheel, a motor, and an operative connection between the motor and the roulette wheel for rotating the wheel, and switch means for automatically starting the motor when a ball is played into said hole, and means for stopping the motor and permitting said wheel to lose momentum and stop when a ball has come to rest in one of said pockets.

2. A golf apparatus of the type described comprising a casing including a ramp, a platform, a playing hole in the platform, and a walled annular area having an inwardly slanting surface, a roulette wheel within the annular area, pockets in the roulette wheel for receiving a ball propelled upon the said area and onto said wheel so as to permit the ball to come to rest projecting partially below the under surface of the wheel, a motor, and an operative connection between the motor and the roulette wheel for rotating the wheel, and switch means for automatically starting the motor when a ball is played into said hole, and means for stopping the motor and permitting said wheel to lose momentum and stop when a ball has come to rest in one of said pockets, said switch means comprising a lever mounted rockably under said hole and said pockets, whereby to be operated by a ball in said hole or pockets, and a gravity operated circuit closing means on the lever for closing and opening a circuit to the motor.

3. A golf apparatus of the type described comprising a casing including a ramp, a platform, a playing hole in the platform, and a walled annular area having an inwardly slant-

ing surface, a roulette wheel within the annular area, pockets in the roulette wheel within the annular area, pockets in the roulette wheel for receiving a ball propelled upon the said area and onto said wheel so as to permit the ball to come to rest projecting partially below the under surface of the wheel, a motor, and an operative connection between the motor and the roulette wheel for rotating the wheel, and switch means for automatically starting the motor when a ball is played into said hole, and means for stopping the motor and permitting said wheel to lose momentum and stop when a ball has come to rest in one of said pockets, said switch means comprising a lever mounted rockably under said hole and said pockets, whereby to be operated by a ball in said hole or pockets, and a gravity operated circuit closing means on the lever for closing and opening a circuit to the motor, and a stationary lamp support on the casing extended through said roulette wheel for illuminating the wheel, platform and ramp.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM T. HERRICK.

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