Oct. 16, 1923. 1,470,908

J. CATANZARO

LIFE PRESERVER

Filed Feb. 13, 1923 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

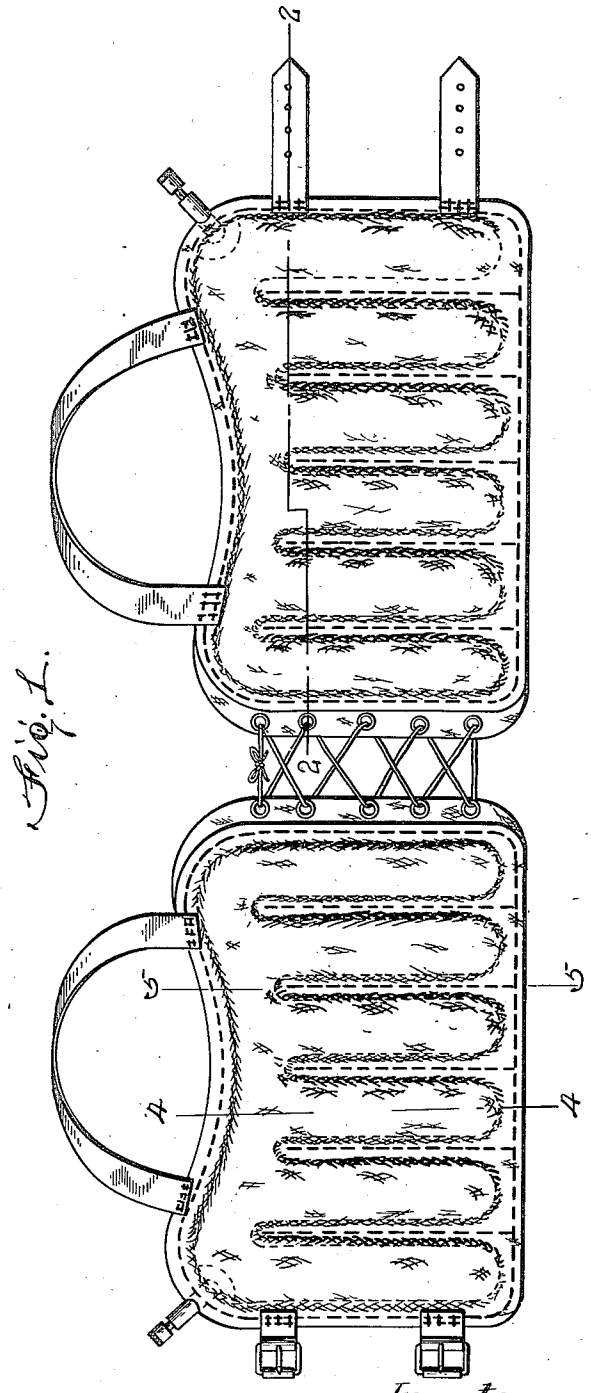

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

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Fig. 3.

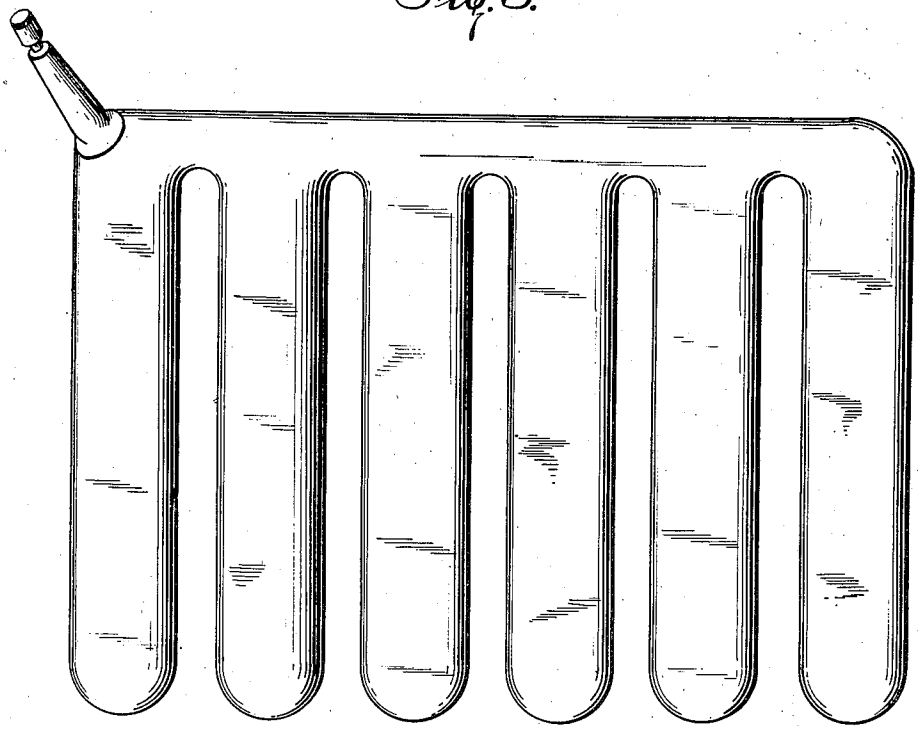


Fig. 4.

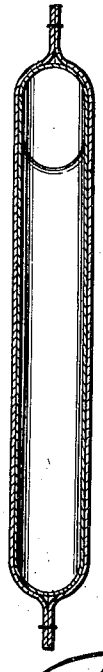
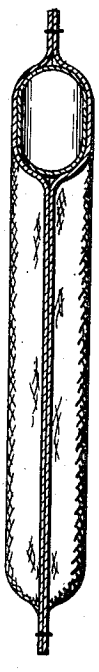


Fig. 5.



Inventor.

John Catanzaro

Patented Oct. 16, 1923. 1,470,908

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN CATANZARO, OF FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

LIFE PRESERVER.

Application filed February 13, 1923. Serial No. 618,841.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN CATANZARO, residing at Framingham, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Life Preservers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in life-preservers in garment form depending on inflation for buoyancy.

The object of this invention is to provide a life-preserver of attractive design in the form of a vest, readily conforming to the lines of the body, which can be worn under the outer clothing either inflated or deflated without discomfort or interference with the free movement of any part of the body of the wearer.

Another object of the invention is to provide a life-preserver that can be adjusted speedily over the outer clothing in case of emergency, with two independent buoyant units, each of which is sufficient for the support of the body of the wearer in water.

A further object of the invention is to provide a life-preserver with adjustable fastenings both at the front and rear, permitting adjustment quickly to the contour of the body and provided with shoulder straps as a further means of adjustment in proper position on the body of the wearer.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will appear from the following specification, reference being had to accompanying drawings forming a part thereof, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of my life-preserver, laid flat, ready for application to the body of the wearer.

Figure 2 is a horizontal sectional view on the lie 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of one of the inner tubes, with air valve and cap.

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a vertical sectional view on the line 5—5 of Figure 1.

In the accompanying drawings Figure 3 shows the inner rubber bladder composed of a series of vertical tubes with horizontal tube connecting the series of vertical tubes and protruding air valve attached for the purpose of providing means of inflation. The number of vertical air tubes will vary from five to ten, according to the size of garment, the minimum number being used in device intended for application to the body of child and the maximum number for use in device intended for application to the body of an adult of large proportions. The complete life-preserver is composed of two of these bladders or inner air chambers, forming two independent buoyant units. The life-preserver is constructed in two parts, each part being an independent buoyant unit capable of supporting any person in the water, the two units being adopted as an additional measure of safety in the event of mishap to either of the parts or to any part of one of the series of tubes.

Each of the bladders or series of pneumatic rubber tubes is encased in a canvas or stout cloth casing of excellent workmanship, which casing is securely stitched along the margins and with rows of stitching between each of the tubes in the series. Additional stitching is also placed at the opening through which the valve for inflation protrudes from the casing.

Each of the parts or units of the life-preserver is provided with a canvas or stout-cloth shoulder piece, stitched securely to the upper part of the casing, through which the arms are placed in adjusting the life-preserver to the body. These shoulder straps are intended to rest upon the shoulders of the wearer to serve as a means of keeping the life-preserver in place and as a measure of precaution to prevent the life-preserver from slipping down on the body.

The feature of adjustability by which device can be readily adjusted to persons of different sizes is accomplished through a medium of a combination of lacing and eyelets and straps and buckles. The method of connecting the two units of the life-preserver is acomplished by means of metal eyelets secured to the outer edge of the canvas or stout cloth casing, lacing being passed through the eyelets allowing adjustment by loosening or tightening as may be desired. One of the units of the life-preserver is provided with two buckles with short straps stitched to the canvas or stout cloth casing and the other unit is provided with two straps about six to eight inches in length perforated for use in connection with the buckles on the opposite unit, thereby providing another method of adjusting the device to the lines of the body and providing for securely fastening the appliance in position. If so desired, front adjustment may

also be obtained in the same manner as that arranged for back adjustment. If this arrangement is followed both sides of the device will be provided with metal eyelets secured to the outer end of casing and the front adjustment accomplished by means of lacing.

The appliance can also be utilized as a swimming device that will not interfere with progress in the water but will efficiently support a person in the water and permit rest at any time without difficulty.

What I claim is:

A combination in a life-preserver and swimming-device of two independent inflatable units each having a series of vertically parallel pneumatic rubber tubes with a horizontal tube extending the full length of the inflatable unit, said vertical finger tubes opening into a horizontal tube with an inflating valve connected with said horizontal tube, said inflatable units being encased in canvas coverings, having shoulder supports and provided with eyelets and lacing for back adjustment and straps and buckles for front adjustment.

Signed at Framingham, Massachusetts, this 3rd day of February, 1923.

JOHN CATANZARO.