Nov. 26, 1957 L. M. RUHLAND 2,814,520

GOLF BALL RETRIEVER

Filed Aug. 2, 1954

Fig. 1

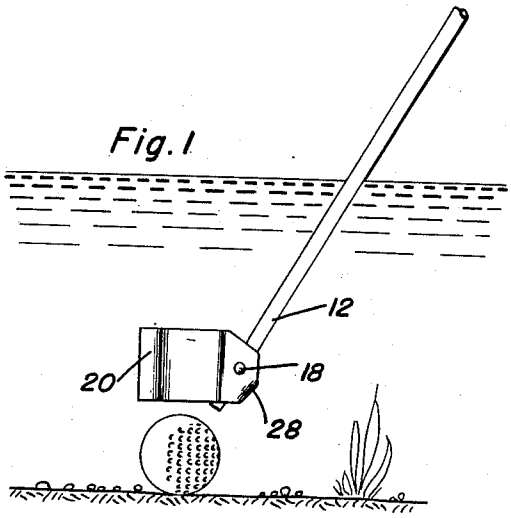


Fig. 2

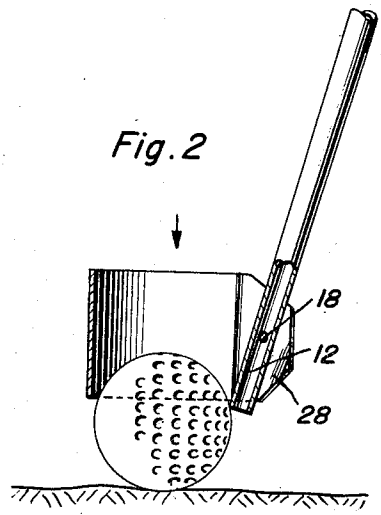


Fig. 3

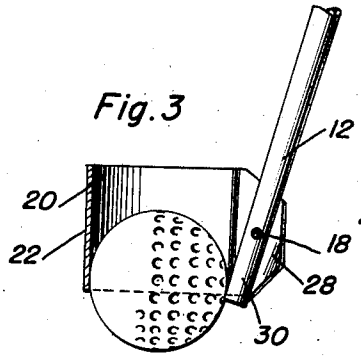


Fig. 4

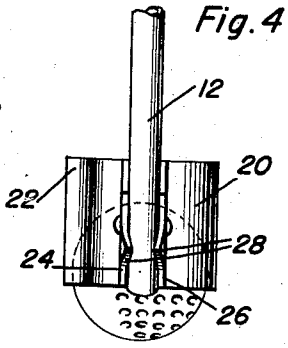


Fig. 5

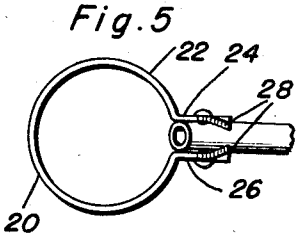
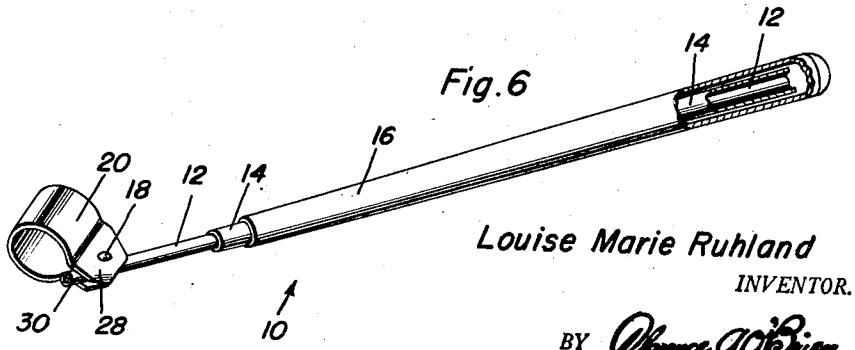


Fig. 6



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GOLF BALL RETRIEVER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 294—19)

This invention relates to golfing equipment, and more particularly to a novel golf ball retriever.

The primary object of the present invention resides in the provision of a golf ball retriever which will eliminate the necessity of stooping to recover a golf ball while also providing means for retrieving golf balls from ponds or the like having soft bottoms without causing the ball to be hidden in a roil of stirred mud and sediment and without pressing the ball into the mud and out of sight and reach should the golf ball retriever be unsuccessful in retrieving the golf ball.

The construction of this invention features novel means which employs gravitational phenomenon for securely holding a golf ball after the ring comprising one of the elements of the retriever has been positioned over the golf ball. The ring is pivotally attached to the handle at a distance approximately equivalent to the radius of the ring from the center of the ring, and therefore, due to its own weight, the ring will pivot relative to a handle to engage the golf ball between the ring and handle.

Still further objects and features of this invention reside in the provision of a golf ball retriever that is strong and durable, simple in construction, easy to use, which can be readily carried in a conventional golf bag, and which is inexpensive to produce, thereby permitting wide distribution and utilization.

These, together with the various ancillary objects and features of the invention which will become apparent as the following description proceeds, are attained by this golf ball retriever, a preferred embodiment of which has been illustrated in the accompanying drawings, by way of example only, wherein:

Figure 1 is an elevational view illustrating the manner in which the golf ball retriever is positioned over a golf ball which may be submerged in water and resting on a muddy bottom or the like;

Figure 2 is a sectional view further illustrating the manner in which the golf ball is received in the golf ball receiving ring;

Figure 3 is a sectional detail view illustrating the manner in which the ball is held in the ring by the handle after being retrieved;

Figure 4 is an end elevational view of the invention illustrating the ball retained in the ring;

Figure 5 is a partial bottom plan view of the invention; and

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the invention with parts thereof being broken away to show the telescoping construction of the handle which may be utilized as desired.

With continuing reference to the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numerals designate similar parts throughout the various views, reference numeral **10** is used to generally indicate the golf ball retriever comprising the present invention. Many times, golf balls land in ponds or other bodies of water wherein the bottom is soft and perhaps muddy. Usually, attempts to remove

the ball from the pond will stir the muddy bottom so as to cover and obscure the golf ball. However, utilizing the golf ball retriever **10**, it is possible to recover the golf ball without disturbing the bottom and further, if the initial attempt to recover the golf ball is not successful, the bottom will not be disturbed to the extent that the golf ball will be obscured and thus further attempts to retrieve the golf ball foiled.

The golf ball retriever **10** includes a handle **12** which may be formed in a plurality of telescoping sections, as at **14** and **16**, if such is desired, with each of these sections being frictionally held in an extended or telescoped position, as may be desired, or the handle **12** may be formed of a single elongated member.

Pivotally attached to the handle **12**, as by means of a pin **18**, or by any other suitable means, is a golf ball receiving ring **20**. The golf ball receiving ring **20** is substantially cylindrical in configuration with the cylindrical walls **22** terminating at a point where the walls are spaced from each other in ears **24** and **26** through which the pin **18** extends. As can be seen best in Figures 4 and 5, the lower portions of the ears **24** and **26** are crimped, as at **28**, so as to limit the extent of rotation of the handle **12** relative to the golf ball receiving ring **20**.

The golf ball receiving ring **20** is of a height substantially equal to that of the diameter of a golf ball and when positioned over a golf ball, the golf ball will readily go snugly therein. As soon as the ring **20** has been lowered completely over the golf ball, the handle **12** may be readily raised. This will cause the ring **20**, due to the action of gravity, to pivot relative to the handle **12**, thus locking the golf ball against the lower portion **30** of the handle which extends below the ring **20** and the pivot pin **18**. The golf ball will then be securely held in place until such can be raised, where the free hand of the golfer can free the ball from the ring **20** from either the top or bottom thereof.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A golf ball retriever comprising, in combination, a handle, a cylindrical golf ball encircling, trapping and lifting ring of an inside diameter slightly greater than the outside diameter of the golf ball which is to be temporarily encompassed by and trapped in said ring, said ring being split on one side, the terminal end portions of the ring being spaced apart and provided with a pair of radial outstanding spaced parallel ears, said handle having a straight lower end portion located between said ears, the free extremity of said lower end portion being adapted to project into the bore of the ring and to, in this manner, contact the surface of an encompassed golf ball in a manner to temporarily trap it within the inner peripheral limits of the ring, a pivot and connecting pin passing through said ears and said lower end portion, the length of said lower portion of the handle below the pivot pin being greater than the distance between the pivot point and golf ball being held in said ring.

2. The structure defined in claim 1 and wherein the length of the lower portion of the handle below said pivot pin is also such that the free lower extremity projects to a position below the lower edge portions of the ring and ears, and the lower half portions of said ears being situated below said pivot pin and having their lower corner por-

tions crimped, the crimps thus provided projecting into the space between said ears and defining limiting stops, said stops being situated outwardly of the position of the pivot pin and above said free extremity and serving to limit the outward swing of said lower portion of the handle and consequently the upward swing of said ring in respect to the lengthwise axis of said lower portion.

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