The game apparatus which constitutes the present invention, has its genesis in the Scotch game of "curling," modified and adapted to be played upon land, and especially in small parks or other sport centers, created and set aside for this purpose.

Curling, as played in Scotland, is a winter sport, and involves the use of a sheet of ice, as upon a stream or lake, upon which the T's are inscribed within a boardhead or large circle, of which there are two, one at each end of the rink which is usually about 11/4 feet in length. In alignment with the T's, a central line is drawn to a point 4 yards back from each T. At this point, foot scores 18 inches long are drawn at right angles thereto and on each of these lines at about 6 inches from the central line, the heel of an iron plate or crampit is placed, and upon which the players stand to deliver the stone. A line called a hog-score is usually drawn across the rink at a point some distance in front of the T's and provides a point of elimination for plays, for all stones played must cross this line or be eliminated from the rink, subject to certain exceptions, rules and regulations.

The game as played in Scotland or other places using Scotch procedure, rules and regulations, comprises 4 persons on a team, operating under a captain. And without going into minute detail, each person on a team and in rotational order, takes his stand on the crampit and plays his stone or stones in such manner as to cause the same to slide upon the heel thereof to the T, or as nearly so as possible, but which stones must cross the aforementioned hog-line, or generally speaking be removed from the ring, and in scoring, each stone of a side or team that lies nearer the T than any of the stones of the opposing side, counts a point, so that a possible score of 8 points can be had for one team or side in one inning.

With the preceding historical matter in mind, it is a prime object of the present invention to provide a manufactured field upon which the game may be played, the playing field being in the form of a smooth and hard rectangular area of sheet steel, having scoring areas placed adjacent opposite ends thereof, and including chutes along the longitudinal edges thereof which are adapted to and do receive gliders which move out of bounds during a play.

A further object of the invention is to provide a glideway construction which affords a smooth hard surface formed of sheet steel plates made rigid and monolithic by angle-irons placed transversely thereof, the whole of which, including chutes along the longitudinal edges thereof, being supported upon a concrete base in such manner as to be susceptible of control whereby the playing surface may be brought into a true horizontal plane or may be inclined from a horizontal plane, the support being concurrently adapted to prevent creepage or other movement thereof.

A still further object of the invention is to provide facilities with which the game may be played, which is extremely novel, a game which holds the interest of the player, and which is promotional of development of a high degree of skill therein.

A still further object of the invention is to provide facilities with which the game may be played, which is promotional of health, educational and cultural values.

A still further object of the invention is to provide facilities with which the game may be played, which is promotional of community values in affording an attractive, novel, and pleasant activity for young people, and for all those who enjoy an activity which is diversionary and interesting.

Other objects, features and advantages of the game may be apparent from the accompanying drawing, the specification, and subjoined claims.

In the drawing, of which there are 6 sheets:

Figure 1 is an idealistic view showing a number of gliding areas grouped together in the form of a sport-center arranged in a harmonious environment whereby those qualities which make for pleasure and relaxation are best attainable.

Figure 2 is a plan view showing three of the playing fields grouped together, showing the scoring areas, the chute along the sides of the fields, and in general, those pertinent things related thereto which are visible in a top-plan view.

Figure 3 is a view taken along line 3-3, in Figure 2, showing construction of two of the playing fields in transverse sectional elevation.

Figure 4 is a plan view showing the concrete mat with anchoring bolts in place upon which the member forming the playing surface is fixedly secured; and

Figure 4a is a side-elevational view thereof.

Figure 5 is a front elevational view taken along lines 5-5, in Figure 4 showing the concrete mat upon which the members are adapted to be fixedly secured by means of anchor bolts, the view also shows means to drain the soil of excess water whereby the whole of the foundation area may be kept firm.

Figure 6 is a view which is analogous to Figure 5, excepting that in this figure the sheet steel member, with a chute appended thereto, are in functional position.
Figure 7 is a detail of construction showing angle-irons in transverse section, the same being adapted to stiffen the play surface, the view being taken substantially along line 7—1, Figure 4, excepting that in this latter figure the sheet steel surfacing of the play surface is not present. Figure 8 is a fragmental view showing detail of construction of the end of the bed as viewed substantially along line 8—3, Figure 2.

Figure 9 is a further detail of construction showing a stiffener employed transversely of the bed to render the same more rigid.

Figure 10 is a view taken approximately along line 10—10 in Figure 2 showing detailed construction of the chute along the longitudinal edges or sides of the playing area.

Figure 11 is a view of a playing field in transverse sectional elevation showing pressure means operable in conjunction with the anchor bolts whereby the metal member forming the playing area may be drawn to or inclined from a horizontal plane upon the felt or other resilient cushion interposed between the metal member and the concrete foundation used to support the same.

Figure 12 is a plan view of a single member showing the various areas of the playing surface, the chute, and a glider indicated in full and dotted lines advancing toward and to a scoring place upon a spot.

Figure 13 is a longitudinal section of the bed taken along line 13—13, Figure 12.

As shown in Figure 1, a plurality of play fields 20 are grouped together in parallel relationship, with intervening strips 22 of flooring therebetween, whereby the fields are defined and set-off to pleasant advantage.

The fields 20 are formed by sheets of steel 22, spot-welded or riveted to transversely positioned stiffeners 26 formed of rectangular strip stock and having angle-irons 26 whereby the whole of the assembly is made firm and tight.

Filler strips 28 are spot-welded or otherwise secured as at 32 along the outer edges of the sheet material 24, thereby not only stiffening the outer edges of the material 24, but also providing an offset spacing on the chutes 34 which are fixedly secured along each of the sides of the playing field. The chutes 34, as shown, are formed of sheet metal having an intermediate portion 36 which is flat and horizontal and parallel with the plane of the plates 24, although as above stated, are offset with respect thereto by reason of the filler strips 30, while an upturned flange 31 is formed in the outer edge portion thereof, while a downwardly turned flange 33 is formed in the inner edge portion thereof, and as shown in Figure 10, the chute is spot welded or otherwise secured at points 32 whereby it is fixedly secured to the plates 24 and filler strips 30.

Knee braces 40, formed of sheet metal having a length not in excess of the width of the chutes 34, are welded to the underside of the chutes and to the outer face of the flange 33, thus rigidly supporting the chutes in functional position as shown in Figures 3 and 10. The number of knee braces 40 used per playing field and installation may vary within limits, depending upon the gauge of the metal used and as to opinion in the matter of degree of rigidity required, however, it is my preference to make the area 51 feet long, and in such length I install 10 knee braces upon each of the sides of the field 20, and find that this number is sufficient to rigidly support the chutes in their functional relationship to the fields.

The foundation upon which the fields 20 are located is that of concrete strips 44 resting upon a like area of broken stone 46 in a shallow excavation 48 in the earth, in the medial longitudinal center of which I preferably place drain tile 50 to facilitate drainage of excess water whereby the whole of the foundation may be kept firm and dry within imposed tolerances, while interposed between the concrete strips 44 and the metal sheet 24 of the field 20 I place a matting 45 of felt or other material adapted to cushion and deaden sound resulting from movement of the gliders 47 over the surface of the field, and which material also serves the useful purpose of providing a cushion adapted to receive and support the metallic sheets 25 when being drawn down upon the bolts 52 for the purpose of moving the playing surface to or from a horizontal plane.

At spaced intervals along the sides of the concrete strips 44 I place L-shaped bolts 52 which are adapted to extend through angle clips 54 which are spot-welded or riveted in like spaced intervals to the face 55 of the flange 33 of the chute 34 thus providing a simple yet positive means to hold the glideway upon its foundation.

After completion of the aforesaid assembly, lines 60 and 66a are deducted to establish the location of the playing areas and the area between these lines constitutes the area 62, upon which the gliders are intended to remain, while outwardly from the line 90 in the direction of the arrow "A," a line 94 is drawn across the area and the area between the lines 90 and 96 constitutes the area 66, upon which the player stands and the area between the line 64 and the end 66 of the playing area constitutes a field 70.

It is to be noted that the end "B" of the area is treated in like manner, and in which the numerals 64a, 66a, 68a, and 70a designate corresponding lines and defined areas whereby the game may be played from either end of the field and/or by changing ends after a play has been had from one of the ends thereof as will be more fully set forth in the description of the play. Circles 12 are marked within the fields 66 and 66a and constitute exact points of differentiated values in the play.

As a general premise, the object of the game is to place a glider in scoring position at the end of the playing area opposite from which the play is had upon one of the areas 12 of which there are five and/or within the area concerned therewith.

Of the circular areas 12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d, area 12a is given an arbitrary value of 25 points, while areas 12b and 12c are each given a value of 15 points, and areas 12c and 12d are each given an arbitrary value of 10 points each, while glider within either of the fields 66 or 66a but not wholly within one of the circular areas is given the arbitrary value of 5 points. "Areas 12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d" are of like value, and in like manner a glider within the field 66a is valued at 5 points, and it follows that each player's score is tallied, and the person having the highest score at the end of the game of which there may be any predetermined number of innings, is the winner.

I claim:

1. In a bed-for-a-game apparatus movable objects are adapted to be guided: providing an elongate horizontal base portion; and a pair of elongated members each having a horizontal base portion as well as a pair of oppositely directed flanges at each side of said base, one of said flanges extending upwardly of said base: means for mounting each of said members adjacent each edge of said base, said upwardly extending flange of each member being spaced
laterally from said surface, said mounting means including a spacing member, said base portion partly underlyng said surface and spaced therefrom by said spacing means; said upwardly extending flange limiting the lateral movement of said glided objects; a foundation for supporting said playing surface means; and said sound deadening material between said foundation and playing surface means.

2. In a game apparatus: an elongate sheet metal member having an upper playing surface thereon; a foundation below said member; sound deadening material between said sheet metal member and foundation; and means for clamping said member to said foundation, including bolts having a portion embedded in said foundation, a clip for each bolt secured to said sheet metal member, said clip having an aperture through which said bolt extends, resilient spring means surrounding said bolt, and having one end abutting said clip, and threaded means cooperating with said bolt and contacting the other end of said resilient spring means for adjusting the force exerted by said spring means.

3. In a game apparatus: an elongate sheet metal member having an upper playing surface thereon; a foundation below said member; sound deadening material between said sheet metal member and foundation; spring means for urging said member downwardly toward said foundation to clamp said material therebetween; and means adjusting the forces exerted by said spring, including a bolt embedded in said foundation and a nut movable with respect to said bolt and abutting said spring means.

4. In a bed for a game apparatus on which movable objects are adapted to be glided: an elongated horizontally extending foundation; a member disposed over said foundation; filler strips disposed under and along the marginal portions of said member; a pair of elongate side members each having a base portion partly disposed under said strips and partly extending laterally outward from said member; said side members each having an elongated flange extending upwardly from said base portion and located at that edge of said base portion laterally displaced from said sheet metal member, said flange limiting the lateral movement of said glided objects; means for securing said member, strips and side members to each other; and means resiliently urging said side members and said member toward said foundation.

5. In a bed for a game apparatus on which movable objects are adapted to be glided: an elongated horizontally extending foundation; a sheet metal member disposed over said foundation; sound deadening material between said member and foundation; filler strips disposed under and along the marginal portions of said member; a pair of elongate side members each having a base portion partly disposed under said strips and partly extending laterally outward from said member; said side members each having an elongated flange extending upwardly from said base portion and located at that edge of said base portion laterally displaced from said sheet metal member, said flange limiting the lateral movement of said glided objects; means for securing said member, strips and side members to each other; and means resiliently urging said side members and said member toward said foundation.

6. In a bed for a game apparatus on which movable objects are adapted to be glided: an elongated horizontally extending concrete foundation; bolts embedded in said foundation; a sheet metal member disposed over said foundation; a sheet of sound deadening material between said member and foundation; filler strips disposed under and along the longitudinal marginal portions of said member; a pair of elongate side members each having a base portion partly disposed under said strips and partly extending laterally outward from said member, each side member having an upwardly projecting flange at that edge of said base laterally displaced from said sheet metal member, said flange limiting the lateral movement of said glided objects; means for securing said member, strips and side members to each other; and spring means between said bolts and side members for clamping said sheet metal member and sound deadening sheet to said concrete foundation.

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