

No. 740,206.

PATENTED SEPT. 29, 1903.

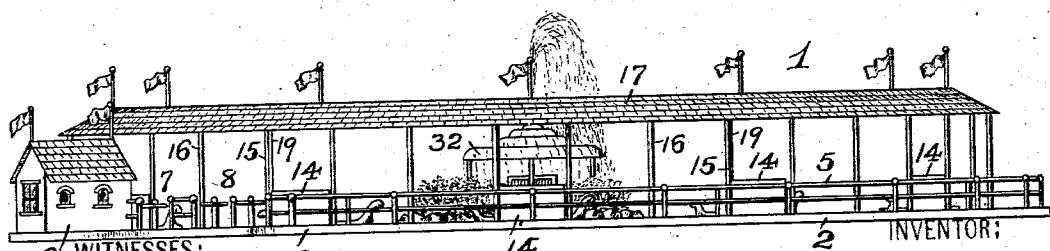
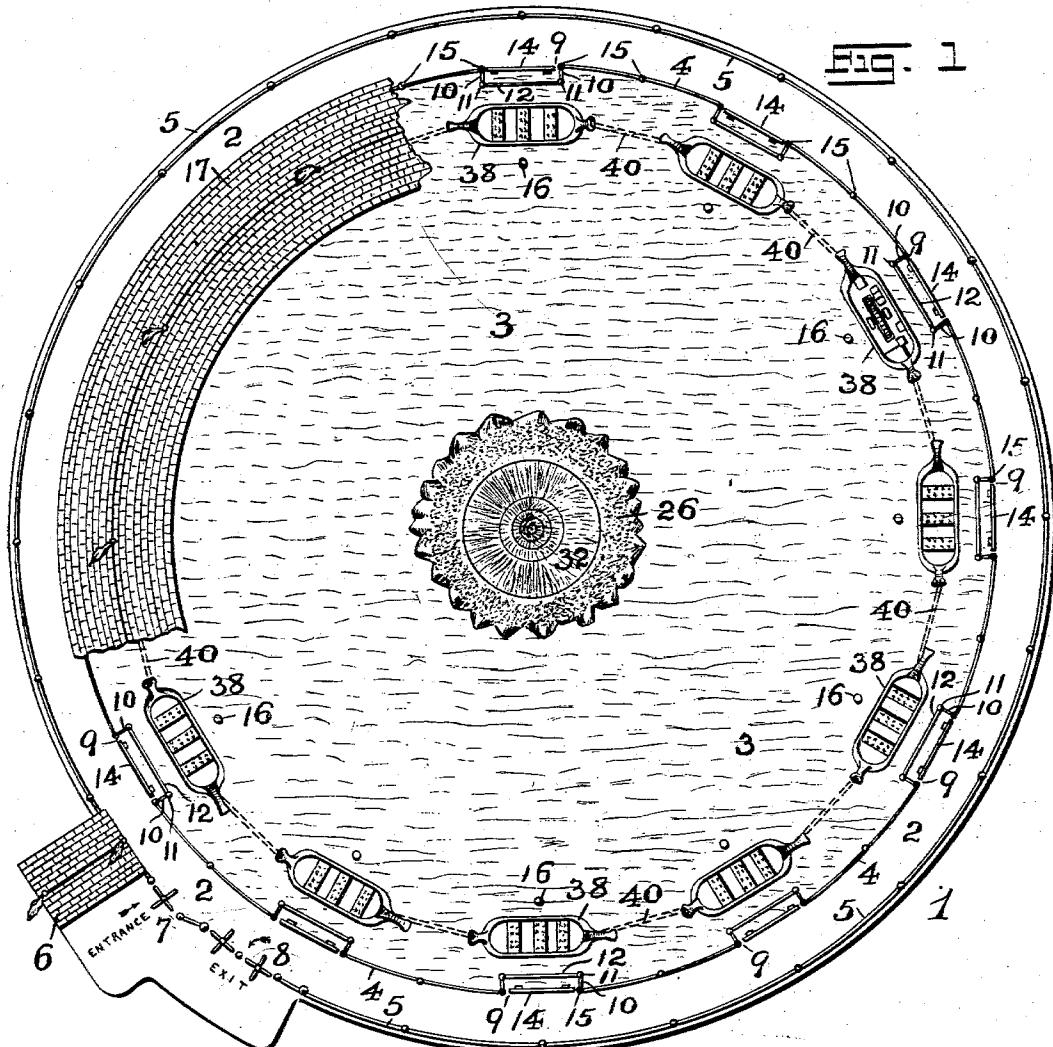
J. P. VORIS.

PLEASURE SEEKING OR MERRymaking DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 8, 1902.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

NO MODEL.



6 WITNESSES:
Geo. S. Richards
Geo. Douglass.

FIG. 2

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BY
Fred C. Fraentzel,
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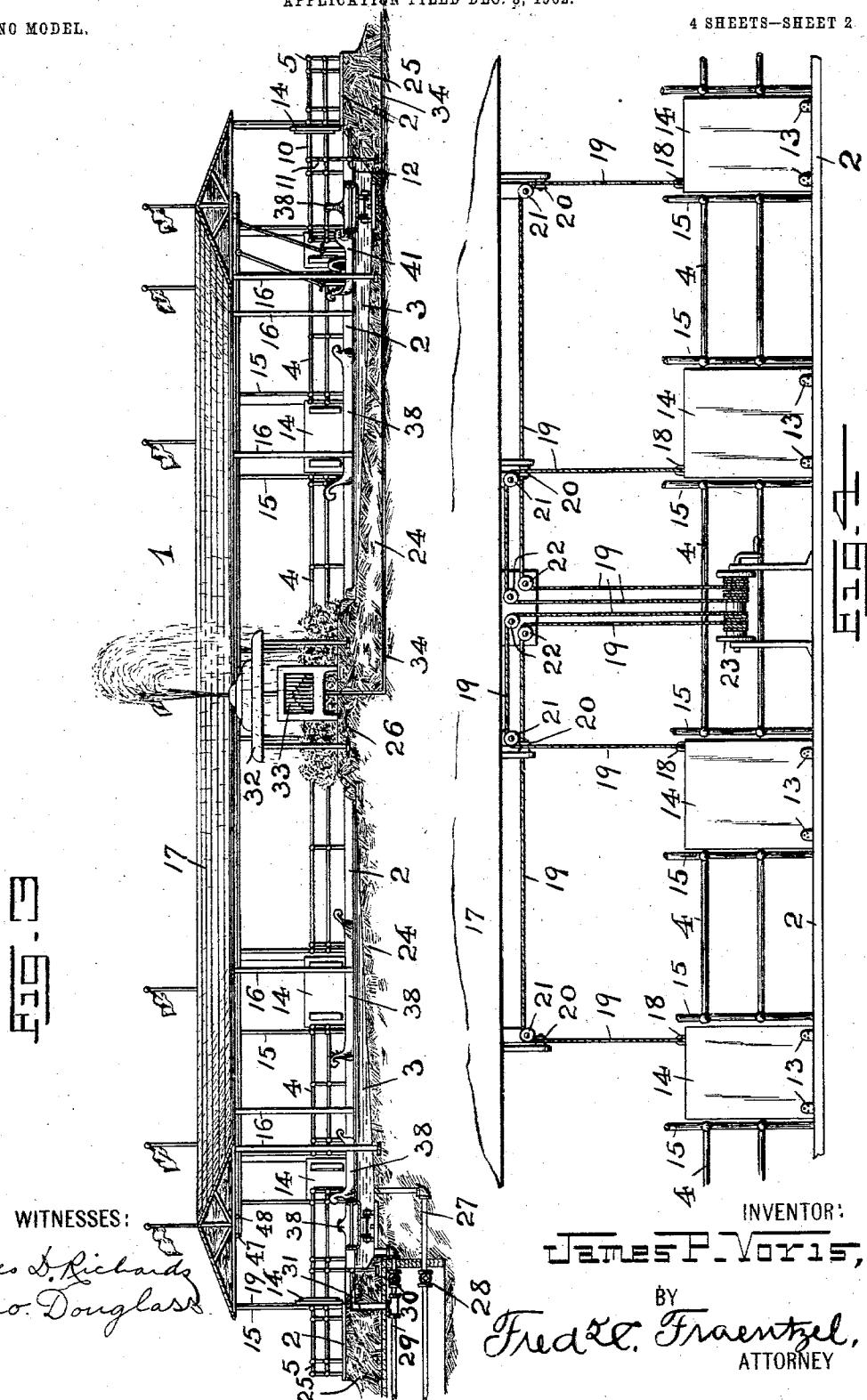
J. P. VORIS.

PLEASURE SEEKING OR MERRymaking DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 3, 1902.

NO MODEL.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



WITNESSES:

Ges. D. Richards
Geo. Douglass

INVENTOR:

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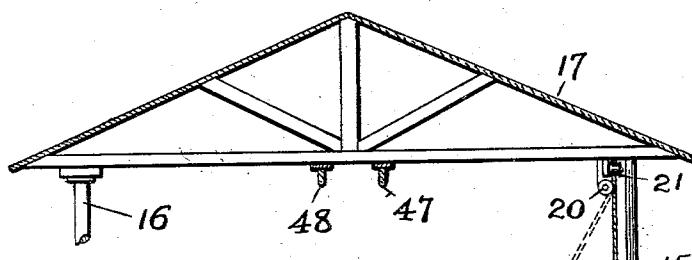
J. P. VORIS,

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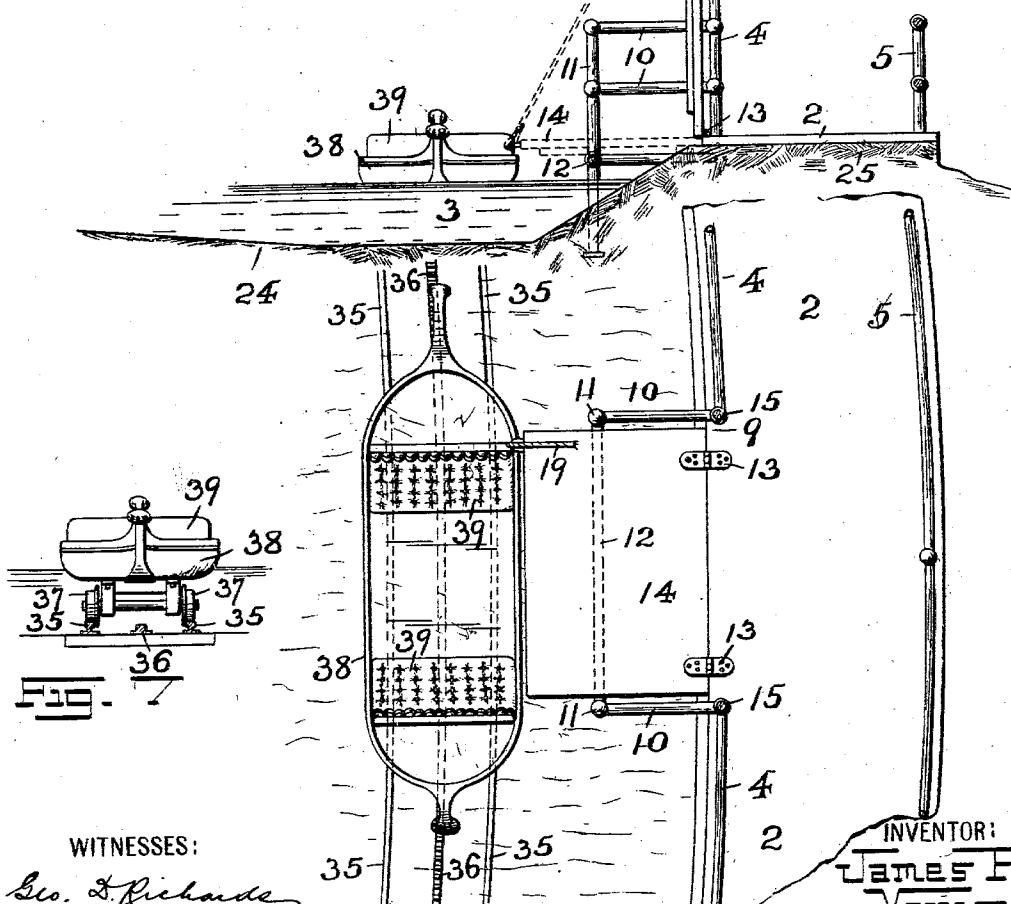
APPLICATION FILED DEO. 3, 1902.

NO MODEL.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



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WITNESSES:

INVENTOR:

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No. 740,206.

PATENTED SEPT. 29, 1903.

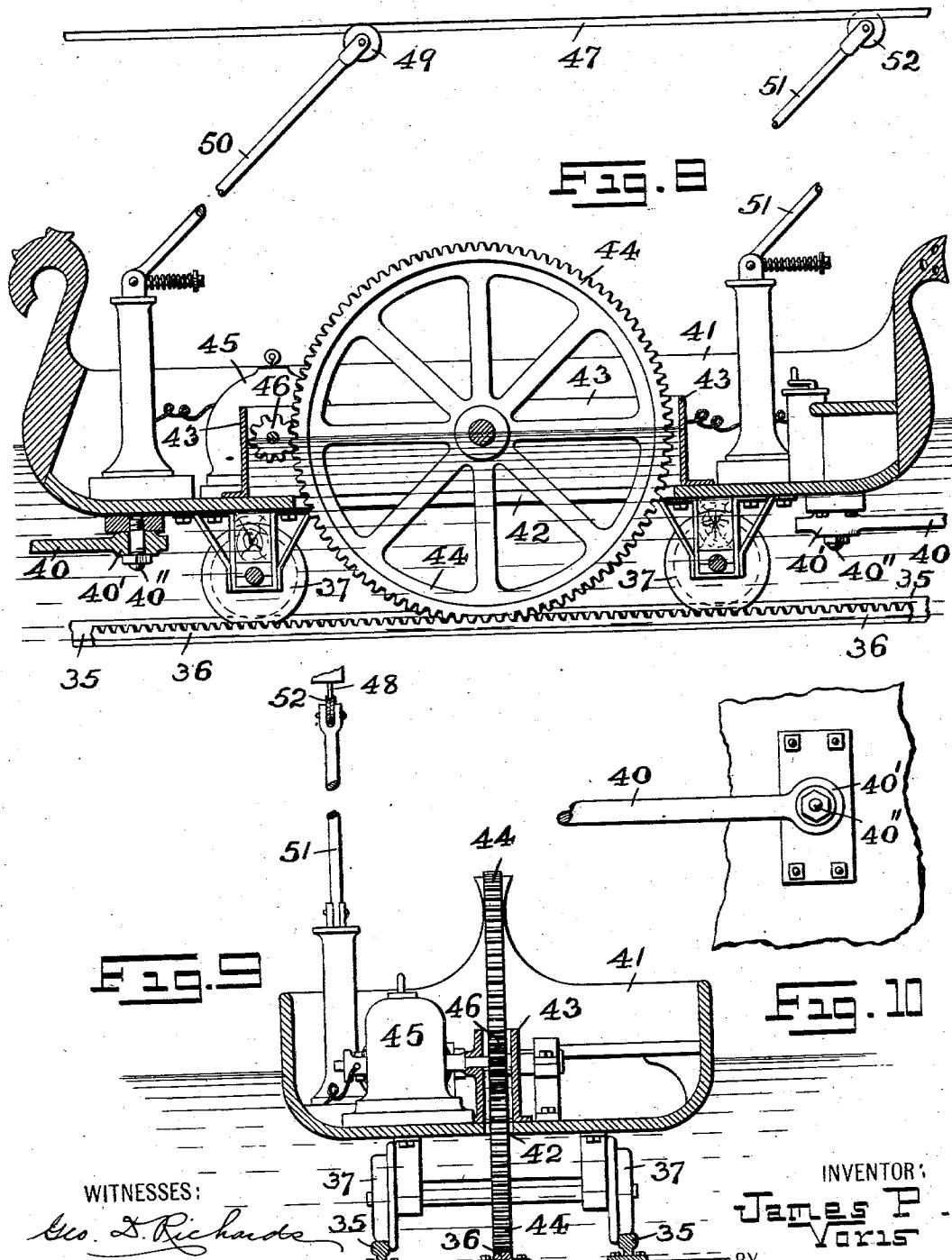
J. P. VORIS.

PLEASURE SEEKING OR MERRymaking DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 3, 1902.

NO MODEL.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.



WITNESSES:

Gos. D. Richards

Geo. Douglass.

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INVENTOR
James P.
Vaux

— 8 —

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES P. VORIS, OF ASTORIA, NEW YORK.

PLEASURE-SEEKING OR MERRYSKATING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 740,206, dated September 29, 1903.

Application filed December 3, 1902. Serial No. 133,655. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES P. VORIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Astoria, Long Island, in the county of Queens and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Pleasure-Seeking or Merrymaking Devices; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to numerals of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The present invention has reference to a novel arrangement and construction of pleasure-seeking or merrymaking device in the form of a marine "merry-go-round," comprising a tank containing water in representation of a lake, a railway-track on which run a series of trucks provided with bodies in the form of boats or other floating objects, the said trucks and the bodies supported thereon being propelled or drawn through the water by means of a motor car or cars.

The invention has for its principal objects to provide a novel pleasure-seeking or merrymaking device of the character hereinafter more particularly set forth; and this invention has for its further object to provide a novel marine merry-go-round in which the floats or boats adapted to carry passengers are safely supported upon railway-trucks, and although the floats or boats to all appearances are floating upon the surface of the water there is no possible danger of upsetting and throwing the passengers into the water.

Other objects of the present invention will be clearly evident from the following detailed description of my invention.

With the various objects of this invention in view the invention consists, primarily, in the novel pleasure-seeking or merrymaking device hereinafter set forth; and, furthermore, the present invention consists in the novel arrangement of devices and in the novel arrangements and combinations of parts, as well as in the details of the construction thereof, all of which will be fully described in the following specification and

then finally embodied in the clauses of the claim which form a part of and are appended to the present specification.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a pleasure-seeking or merrymaking device embodying the principles of the present invention, and Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section taken centrally through the said device, the said section being made on an enlarged scale. Fig. 4 is a detail view of a portion of a platform and a number of gang-planks pivotally connected with said platform, the said view illustrating in connection therewith one form of mechanism for raising and lowering at one and the same time a number of the said gang-planks. Fig. 5 is a detail transverse vertical section of a portion of the said platform and an end view of the body of one of the passenger-cars, illustrating the gang-plank in its raised position, but said view also representing in dotted outline the gang-plank in its lowered position. Fig. 6 is a plan view of the various parts and devices represented in said Fig. 5, the gang-plank being shown in its lowered position; and Fig. 7 is an end view of one of the trucks and the body supported on said truck. Fig. 8 is a longitudinal vertical section of one form of motor-car employed with the present invention, and Fig. 9 is a transverse vertical section of the said motor-car. Fig. 10 is a detail view of one end of a link connection between two cars.

Similar characters of reference are employed in all of the said hereinabove-described views to indicate corresponding parts.

In the said drawings the reference character 1 indicates the complete pleasure-seeking or merrymaking device, the same comprising a platform 2, preferably circular in configuration, as herein shown, the said platform surrounding an artificial lake 3 and being provided with an inner railing 4 and an outer railing 5, both railings being of any desired construction and of any desirable heights. The said device 1 may be provided with a suitably-constructed ticket-selling station 6, and in the railing 5 there may be an entrance 7 and an exit 8. At suitable intervals the in-

ner railing 4 is provided with openings, as 9, side rails 10 extending from the railing 4 directly above the surface of the water, said rails 10 being connected with vertical posts 11, as illustrated more particularly in Figs. 5 and 6, and each pair of posts 11 being connected by means of a supporting rail or rod 12. Pivotally connected with the inner edge of the platform 2 by means of suitable hinges 13 or any other known pivotal connection and at each opening 9 is a suitably-constructed gang-plank 14. When the said gang-planks are lowered in the manner indicated in Figs. 5 and 6, then each gang-plank rests directly upon the properly-placed supporting rail or rod 12, as illustrated. Suitable posts 15 and 16 may also be provided, these posts carrying a roof or other covering 17. In order that all the gang-planks 14 may be raised at the same time to cause them to stand in their vertical positions, whereby the openings 9 in the inner railing 4 are closed, or to simultaneously lower all the gang-planks, each gang-plank may be provided with an eye 18 and a flexible connection 19, which passes over suitably-arranged grooved wheels 20, 21, and 22, suitably secured to the framework of the roof 17 and around a windlass 23, substantially as illustrated in Fig. 4. Thus by producing an unwinding action of said windlass all of the said gang-planks or any number of them, according to the number of windlasses employed, can be lowered, and by operating the windlass or windlasses in the opposite manner the gang-planks can be raised, as will be clearly evident. Of course it will be understood that the system of grooved wheels and flexible connections illustrated in said Fig. 4 is merely one arrangement of mechanism for operating the gang-planks, and any other system and arrangement of such devices or other mechanism may be employed which will serve the same purpose. Referring now to Figs. 3 and 5 of the drawings, it will be clearly seen that the lake 3 is formed by means of a concrete or other suitably-constructed foundation 24, having an outer raised portion 25, on which the platform 2 is placed, and being preferably provided with a centrally-disposed raised portion 26. The cross-section of the said foundation 24 is preferably that represented in Fig. 3 of the drawings, and the depression formed is very shallow, so that the water will not be very deep, thereby avoiding against any possible accident from drowning; but the said depression may be of suitable cross-section, as will be clearly evident. The depression in the said foundation 24 is filled with the water which forms the lake 3 from a suitable supply-pipe 27, having a shut-off valve 28, and 29 is a waste-pipe, which is provided with a shut-off 30 for drawing off the water when necessary. An overflow 31, connected with the said waste-pipe 29, maintains a constant level of the water. The centrally-arranged raised portion 26 may be provided with a pavilion

32 and an organ 33, and a water-pipe 34 may lead to the roof of the pavilion to provide a fountain, as illustrated in said Fig. 3, all of which greatly enhances the beauty of the device and adds to the pleasure of the passengers in the cars. Within said depression of the foundation 24 and at any desired distance from the inner marginal edge of the raised portion 25 and the platform 2 thereon are railway-rails 35 and an intermediately-placed toothed rail 36, substantially as illustrated. Suitably-constructed trucks or cars 37 are placed upon these rails 35, each truck being provided with a suitably-constructed and ornamental body 38 in the form of a boat or other shape provided with seats 39. The said trucks 37 are coupled together by means of links 40, as indicated in the dotted outline in Fig. 1, each link having an eye portion 40', by means of which it is pivotally connected with a pin or bolt 40" to the bottom of each car-body, as more particularly illustrated in Figs. 8 and 10 of the drawings. One of the said trucks 37, as will be seen from an inspection of Figs. 8 and 9, is provided with a body 41, having an opening 42 and a surrounding box-like device 43, in which is rotatively arranged a gear 44. This gear 44 extends down through the said opening 42 in said body 41, and its gear-teeth are in mesh with the teeth of the said rail 36, as shown. A prime mover 45, provided with a pinion 46, in mesh with the said gear 44, is placed in said body 41 for causing a rotary movement of said gear 44 and by this means the propulsion of all the trucks or cars 37 upon the rails 35, whereby all the bodies 38 and the body 41 have the appearance of floats riding upon the surface of the water. The prime mover in the present case is an electric motor; but any other motive power may be used, if desired. When an electric motor is to be used, as in the present instance, then a pair of electrical conductors 47 and 48 are arranged upon the framework of the roof 17, as indicated in Figs. 3 and 5, the electric current being taken from one conductor, as 47, by means of a trolley 49 and pole 50, and thereby fed to the motor and then returned through a second pole 51 and a trolley 52 into the other conductor 48, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 8 of the drawings. From an inspection of Fig. 1 it will be seen that the number of trucks and their bodies, whether for passengers or for one or more motor-cars, correspond to the number of openings 9 in the inner railing 4 and the movement of the motor-car in stopping can be easily controlled, so that when the trucks and their bodies are not in motion each truck and its body will remain directly in front of an opening 9. The gang-planks then being lowered in the manner hereinabove set forth passengers can safely pass into or from the said float-like bodies, as will be understood. When the gang-planks have been raised and the trucks and their bodies have been set in

motion, then all the openings 9 in the railing 4 are closed to prevent accidents by falling from the platform 2 into the water, and the cars being a sufficient distance from the posts 5 11 and their bars 12 and from the posts 16 there are no obstacles in such close proximity to the said bodies of the trucks or cars with which the passengers could come in contact, and thereby injure themselves.

10 From the above description of my invention it will be seen that I have produced a simple and effective contrivance for providing pleasure to both old and young, and each body which is adapted to carry passengers 15 being securely connected with its truck or car there will be no danger of upsetting the passengers into the water, and to all intents and purposes the pleasures of sailing or floating upon the water are obtained. The cars 20 may be variously ornamented and decorated and may be variously formed to represent different classes of boats or other objects.

I am fully aware that many changes may be made in the general arrangement of the 25 devices and in the combinations of their parts, as well as in the details of the construction thereof, without departing from the scope of the present invention. Hence I do not limit my invention to the exact arrangements 30 of the devices and the combinations of the parts as described in the foregoing specification and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, nor do I confine myself to the exact details of the construction of any 35 of the said parts.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a pleasure-seeking and merry-making device, a foundation adapted to contain water 40 to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each opening connected with the platform so that said openings in the railing may be opened and closed, railway-rails beneath the water, 45 trucks on said rails, and a float-like body on each truck having the appearance of floating upon the surface of the water, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

50 2. In a pleasure-seeking and merry-making device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each 55 opening connected with the platform so that said openings in the railing may be opened and closed, railway-rails beneath the water, trucks on said rails, a float-like body on each truck having the appearance of floating upon 60 the surface of the water, a link connection between the said trucks and their bodies, and a motor-car for propelling said trucks, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

65 3. In a pleasure-seeking and merry-making device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform

provided with openings, a gang-plank at each opening connected with the platform so that said openings in the railing may be opened 70 and closed, railway-rails beneath the water, and a motor-car running on said rails, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. In a pleasure-seeking and merry-making device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each opening connected with the platform so that said openings in the railing may be opened 80 and closed, railway-rails beneath the water, a motor-car running on said rails, and other cars on said rails, all drawn by the said motor-car, said cars being provided with float-like bodies having the appearance of floating 85 upon the surface of the water, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

5. In a pleasure-seeking and merry-making device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each opening connected with the platform so that said openings in the railing may be opened 90 and closed, railway-rails beneath the water, and an intermediately-placed toothed rail between said other rails, a motor-car running on said rails, a motor in said car, and a gear-wheel in said car driven from said motor, said gear-wheel being in mesh with the teeth of 95 said toothed rail, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

6. In a pleasure-seeking and merry-making device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each opening connected with the platform so that said openings in the railing may be opened 105 and closed, railway-rails beneath the water, an intermediately-placed toothed rail between 110 said other rails, a motor-car running on said rails, a motor in said car, and a gear-wheel in said car driven from said motor, said gear-wheel being in mesh with the teeth of 115 said toothed rail, and other cars running on said rails, said cars being provided with float-like bodies having the appearance of floating upon 120 the surface of the water, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

7. In a pleasure-seeking and merry-making device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each 125 opening pivotally connected with said platform, means for simultaneously raising and lowering all of the said gang-planks to simultaneously close and open all the openings in said railing, railway-rails beneath the water, trucks on said rails, and a float-like body on each truck having the appearance of floating 130 upon the surface of the water, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

8. In a pleasure-seeking and merrymaking device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each opening pivotally connected with said platform, means for simultaneously raising and lowering all of the said gang-planks to simultaneously close and open all the openings in said railing, railway-rails beneath the water, trucks on said rails, a float-like body on each truck having the appearance of floating upon the surface of the water, a link connection between the said trucks and their bodies, and a motor-car for propelling said trucks and their bodies, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

9. In a pleasure-seeking and merrymaking device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each opening pivotally connected with said platform, means for simultaneously raising and lowering all of the said gang-planks to simultaneously close and open all the openings in said railing, railway-rails beneath the water, and a motor-car running on said rails, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

10. In a pleasure-seeking and merrymaking device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each opening pivotally connected with said platform, means for simultaneously raising and lowering all of the said gang-planks to simultaneously close and open all the openings in said railing, railway-rails beneath the water, a motor-car running on said rails, and other cars on said rails, all drawn by the said motor-car, said cars being provided with float-like bodies having the appearance of floating upon the surface of the water, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

11. In a pleasure-seeking and merrymaking device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each opening pivotally connected with said platform, means for simultaneously raising and lowering all the said gang-planks to simultaneously close and open all the openings in said railing, railway-rails beneath the water, and an intermediately-placed toothed rail between said other rails, a motor-car running on said rails, a motor in said car, and a gear-wheel in said car driven from said motor, said gear-wheel being in mesh with the teeth of

said toothed rail, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

12. In a pleasure-seeking and merrymaking device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with openings, a gang-plank at each opening pivotally connected with said platform, means for simultaneously raising and lowering all the said gang-planks to simultaneously close and open all the openings in said railing, railway-rails beneath the water, an intermediately-placed toothed rail between said other rails, a motor-car running on said rails, a motor in said car, and a gear-wheel in said car driven from said motor, said gear-wheel being in mesh with the teeth of said toothed rail, and other cars running on said rails, said cars being provided with float-like bodies having the appearance of floating upon the surface of the water, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

13. In a pleasure-seeking and merrymaking device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a circular platform surrounding the said lake, and a railing on said platform provided with a series of openings, and a gang-plank at each opening and each gang-plank being pivotally connected with the platform, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

14. In a pleasure-seeking and merrymaking device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a circular platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with a series of openings, a gang-plank at each opening and each gang-plank being pivotally connected with the platform, and means for simultaneously operating all the said gang-planks at one time, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

15. In a pleasure-seeking and merrymaking device, a foundation adapted to contain water to represent a lake, a circular platform surrounding the said lake, a railing on said platform provided with a series of openings, side rails 10 at each opening, posts 11 with which said rails 10 are connected, a supporting-rail between said posts 11, and a gang-plank at each opening pivotally connected with the platform and adapted to rest upon said supporting-rail, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the invention set forth above I have hereunto set my hand this 29th day of November, 1902.

JAMES P. VORIS.

Witnesses:

CHARLES G. DAVIS,
JAMES KILLOCH.