July 4, 1961 A. E. HALE 2,991,076

AQUATIC AMUSEMENT DEVICE

Filed July 10, 1958

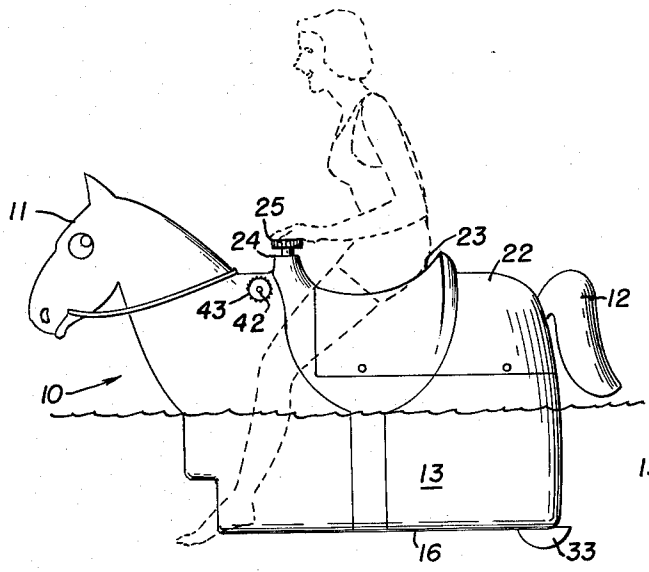


FIG. 1.

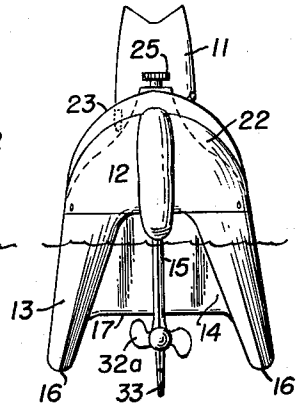


FIG. 2.

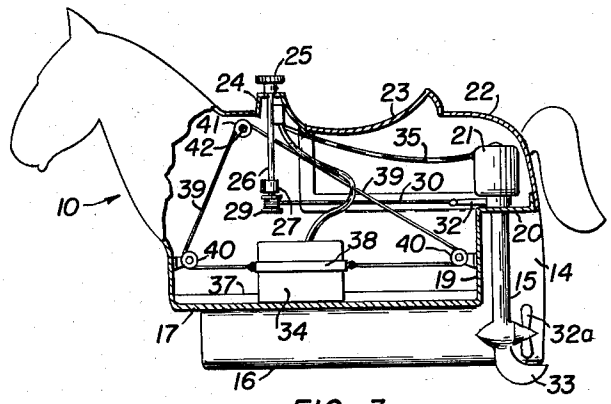


FIG. 3.

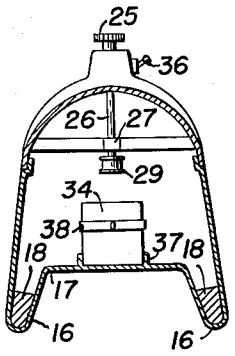


FIG. 4.

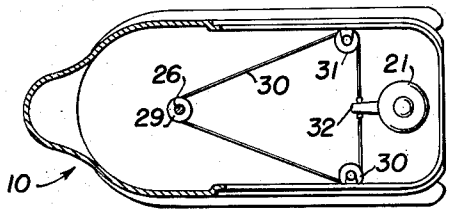


FIG. 5.

ALEX E. HALE

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AQUATIC AMUSEMENT DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 272—1)

This invention relates to amusement devices and has reference to a motorized aquatic vehicle on which swimmers may ride. Generally, the invention is directed to a motorized buoyant body which simulates an animal, such as a horse, but it is to be understood that the device may be made in other forms simulating various animals and birds. Heretofore, such amusement devices had a fixed center of gravity and since the rider straddles the device there has been a problem of establishing a desired balance with reference to the rider's weight and position on the device.

An object of the invention is to provide a motorized aquatic amusement device wherein the center of gravity may be selectively shifted to suit the rider's requirements.

Another object of the invention is to provide a motorized aquatic device which has a simplified steering mechanism.

A further object of the invention is to provide an aquatic device of the described class wherein the center of gravity may be shifted by the rider while the device is in motion.

These and other objects will become apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings, wherein;

FIGURE 1 is a side elevation of a motorized aquatic device in accordance with the invention, a rider being shown thereon by means of dotted lines.

FIGURE 2 is a rear view of the device shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a broken section and elevational view similar to FIGURE 1, but showing means for shifting the center of gravity and means for steering the device.

FIGURE 4 is a transverse section with weight shifting and steering cables removed.

FIGURE 5 is a longitudinal sectional view looking down showing the steering apparatus relative to the pivoted motor.

The illustrated form of the invention includes a hollow buoyant body **10** having a head **11**, a tail **12** and simulated legs **13** at the rear of the body to provide a cavity **14** to accommodate an exposed housed propeller shaft **15**. The sides of the body depend, as at **16**, below the bottom **17**, and which depending sides are filled with weights **18** for ballast. The bottom **17** extends toward the propeller shaft **15** where it extends upwardly to provide a vertical wall **19**, and thence extends horizontally and rearwardly to provide a support **20** for a motor **21** rotatably mounted thereon. The propeller shaft extends through the horizontal support **20** and is provided with a seal therearound, not shown.

The upper rear portion of the body **10** is removable and thus provides a cover **22** and whereby access to the inner parts of the body may be made when required. The forward portion of the cover **22** may be formed to provide a saddle **23** and the forward end, or horn **24**, is provided with a small steering wheel **25** on the upper end of a vertical steering shaft **26**. As shown in FIGURES 3 and 4,

the steering shaft **26** is provided with a bearing **27** near its lower end, and which bearing is mounted on a transverse bearing support. The lower end of the shaft **26** has a pulley **29** thereon, and which pulley has a cable **30** engaged thereon and extending to guide pulleys **31** on the sides of the body **10** opposite the motor tiller **32** to which the cable is attached. It will be noted that the lower end of the housed propeller shaft **15**, rotated by the tiller **32**, has a rearwardly extending propeller **32***a* and a rudder **33** therebeneath.

A feature of the invention has to do with a longitudinally shiftable weight **34** slidably mounted on the bottom **17** of the body **10**. In the present form of the invention the weight **34** is a battery for energizing the motor **21**. As shown in FIGURE 3, the battery (weight **34**) is connected with the motor **21** by means of an electric cable **35**, and which cable includes a switch **36** conveniently located on one side of the saddle horn **24**. Longitudinal guides **37** on the body bottom **17** prevent the weight **34** from shifting laterally, yet accommodate longitudinal slidable movement. Selective movement of the weight **34** is carried out by means of a bracket **38** around the weight **34**, and the ends of the bracket are connected with a cable **39** extending over forward and rear guide pulleys **40** in horizontal alignment therewith and over an actuating pulley **41** mounted on a transverse shaft **42** extending laterally from the body **10** just forwardly of the horn **24**. The extending end of the shaft **42** is provided with a hand knob **43** and whereby the rider may conveniently shift the weight **34** forwardly and aft while positioned in the saddle **23**.

While the present illustrative form of the invention shows an electric motor **21** and battery **34**, it is to be understood that other types of motivating power may be employed. For example, the motor **21** may be a gasoline engine and the weight **34** may be a gasoline tank.

The invention is not limited to the exemplary construction herein shown and described, but may be made in various ways within the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

An aquatic amusement device comprising a hollow buoyant body in the form of a simulated animal having depending legs, ballast in said legs, an electric motor having a housing rotatably mounted in said body, a propeller having a shaft housing outwardly of said body and connected with said electric motor, means selectively rotating the motor housing and propeller shaft housing about a vertical axis, parallel horizontal forwardly and rearwardly extending guides within said body, a rectilinearly movable battery between said guides and adapted to slide between said guides, means electrically connecting said battery with said motor, and cable means extending outwardly of said body selectively moving said battery forwardly and rearwardly between said guides.

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