E. R. ERNST.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 26, 1913.

1,073,970.

Patented Sept. 23, 1913.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

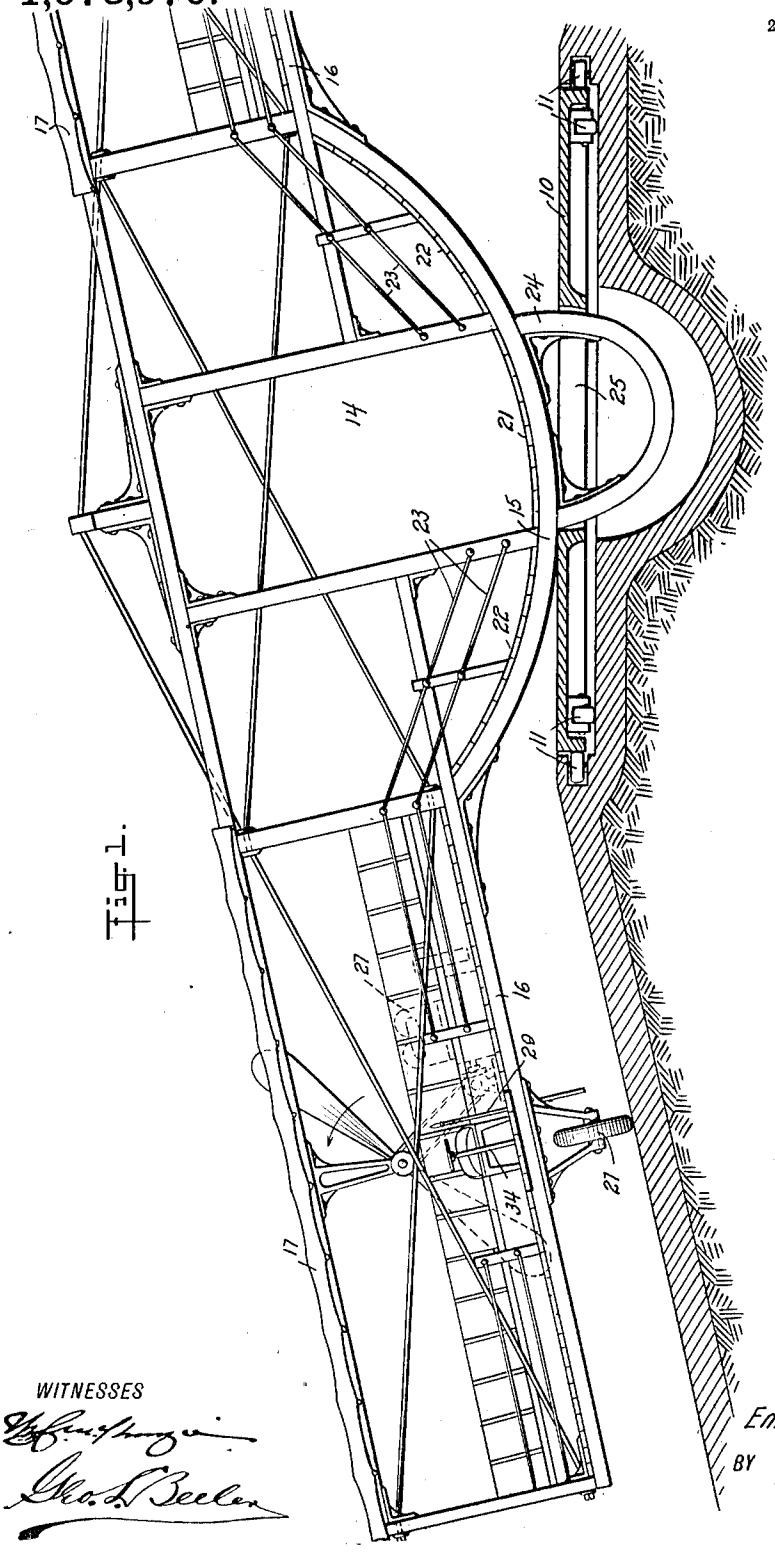

Fig. 1.

WITNESSES

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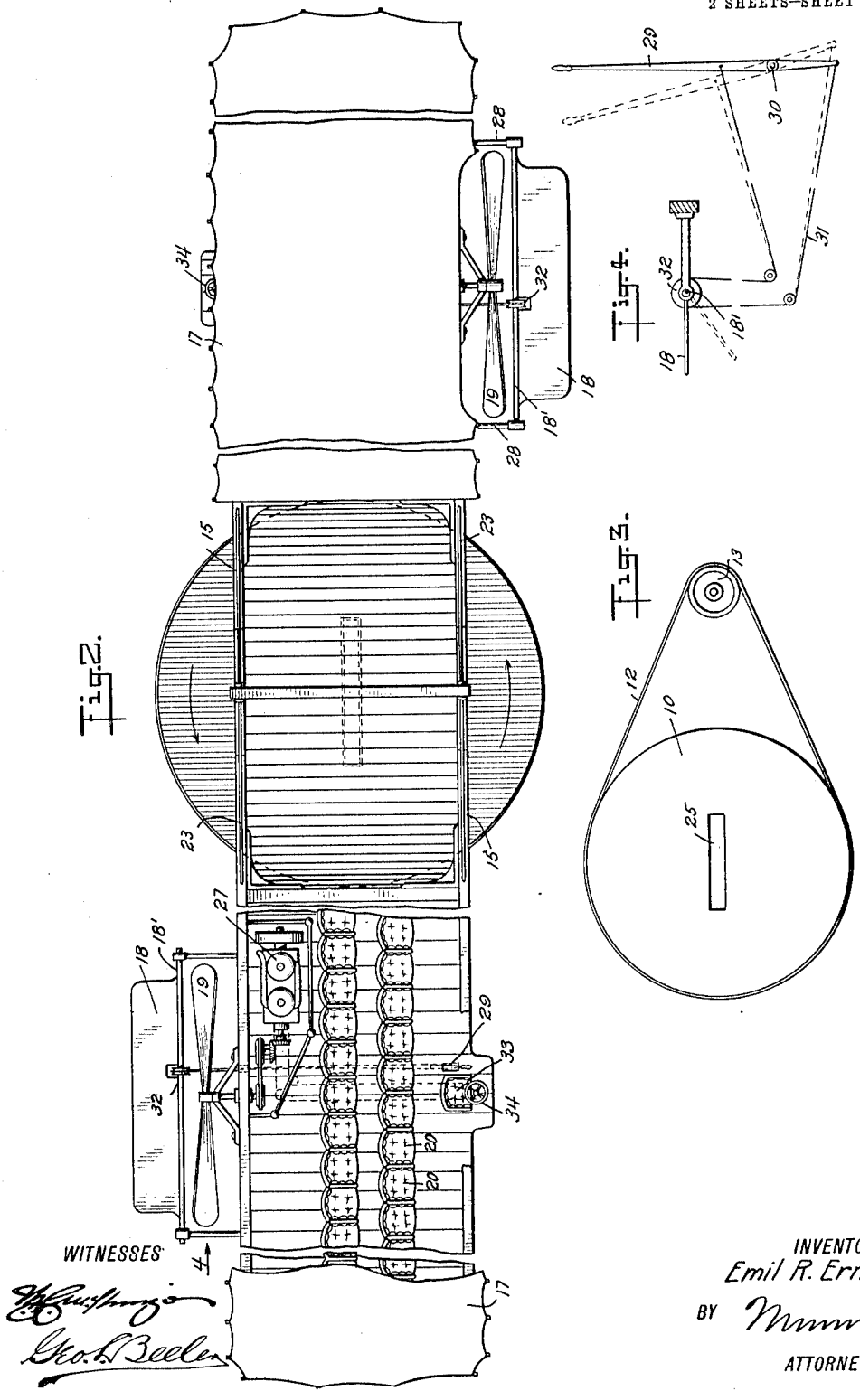

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMIL R. ERNST, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

1,073,970. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 23, 1913.

Application filed March 26, 1913. Serial No. 756,877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMIL R. ERNST, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Amusement Device, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to pleasure devices, and has particular reference to merry-go-rounds or roundabouts and which have a combination of movements whereby the degree of excitement and pleasure is increased.

Among the objects of this invention is to provide a construction which is intended to simulate one or more aeroplanes in motion, but the same being connected to a rotary framework and so formed as to remain upon the ground and rotate upon a turntable around a fixed vertical axis.

A further object of the invention is to devise a machine or device of the character indicated which will be perfectly safe and reliable in operation and into which the passengers may freely pass from or near the ground level.

The foregoing and other objects of the invention will hereinafter be more fully described and claimed and illustrated in the drawings forming a part of this specification in which like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a preferred embodiment of this invention, one end being broken away and the turntable being in section showing the relation of the framework thereto and to the ground when tilted in one direction; Fig. 2 is a plan view, parts being broken away to save space; Fig. 3 is a diagram indicating the proposition to positively rotate the turntable by motor if desired; and Fig. 4 is a detail of the means for controlling the position of the elevating plane, as viewed from the direction of the arrow 4 on Fig. 2.

The several parts of this device may be made of any suitable materials and the relative sizes and proportions thereof, as well as the general design of the framework and other parts may be varied to a considerable extent without departing from the spirit of the invention hereinafter more fully described and specifically claimed.

At 10 I show a turntable of substantially disk-like formation adapted to rotate in a horizontal plane with its top substantially flush with the ground line. Said turntable may have any desired arrangement or number of antifriction supports 11, the same, however, being secluded below the surface in any suitable manner. If desired, the turntable may be driven by an endless belt 12 operated from a motor or power wheel 13, although under ordinary conditions the turntable will not be directly driven for rotation. Supported upon the turntable is a tiltable or rocking frame 14, the same comprising a pair of spaced rockers 15 through which the frame 14 is adapted to rock or oscillate upon the turntable within a substantially fixed vertical plane extending diametrically across the turntable. An extension 16 from each end of the middle portion of the frame 14 is formed in the nature of an aeroplane including one or more planes 17, an elevating plane 18, and a propeller 19. Each aeroplane extension has provision in the nature of seats 20 for any suitable number of passengers, and said seats are arranged in any suitable manner or position. The passengers have access to this portion of the machine by entering through an archway 21 above the exposed portion of the turntable and passing thence outwardly from the center of the device along the curved bottom 22 of the frame into either of the extensions 16. Any suitable number or arrangement of guards or hand rails 23 may be provided.

Extending downwardly from the central part of the bottom of the main frame is a tongue 24 occupying or lying within the vertical plane above referred to and through a slot 25 in or at the center of the turntable and whereby the rocking frame is prevented from bodily displacement from the turntable, although leaving it free to rock thereon as above set forth. The rocking movement of the device may be limited by any suitable means, the same being illustrated, for instance, as a wheel 26 under the extension 16 and adapted to engage the surface of the ground or other base support for the construction.

Either or both of the propellers 19 may be driven by a suitable motor 27 whereby the resemblance to an aeroplane is very much increased adding to the attractiveness of the device for amusement purposes. Any

suitable gearing may be connected to the propeller shaft for rotation thereof from the engine. The elevating plane 18 may be located at any desired place and is supported on a horizontal axis 18′ journaled in supports 28 extending preferably rearwardly from the aeroplane extension. The position of the plane 18 may be controlled by any suitable lever devices, the same being herein shown as including a substantially vertical hand lever pivoted at 30 and having a flexible connection 31 connected thereto with its ends on opposite sides of the pivot 30, and the loop of the connection being mounted over a wheel 32 on the shaft 18′. The lever 29 is within easy reach of the supposed aviator or conductor of the machine who may be seated at 33 in either of the extensions 16.

The operation of the machine may be briefly described as follows: With the device stationary and occupying any position with respect to tilting upon the turntable, pleasure seekers may mount the same by passing through the passageway 21, thence into either extension 16, filling the seats 20. When the signal is given to start, the operator seated at 33 may start the motor 27 by any suitable means as through a switch 34, starting the rotation of the propeller or propellers. When the desired speed is reached, the force of the propellers will cause rotation of the machine and the turntable in the direction indicated by the arrows on Fig. 2, and while underway the rocking or tilting of the machine upon the turntable may be controlled by manipulation of the elevating planes 18, whereby great excitement and amusement should result, but there being no possibility of accident occurring to the passengers by reason of the fact that the device remains in close contact with terra firma.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:—

1. The herein described amusement device comprising a turntable movable around a fixed axis, a main frame supported and tiltable upon said turntable, means to maintain the frame in substantially fixed relation to the turntable with respect to a vertical plane extending diametrically across the turntable, means to rotate the main frame and turntable in unison, and means to tilt the frame.

2. The herein described amusement device including a turntable having a central slot extending therethrough, a frame adapted to carry a number of passengers supported and tiltable upon said turntable, means connected to the frame and extending through said slot to maintain the frame in a definite vertical plane with respect to the turntable, means to rotate the frame and turntable in unison, and means to cause the main frame to rock or tilt upon the turntable within said plane independently of the means for rotating the device.

3. The herein described amusement device comprising a tiltable main frame, means to support the same substantially close to the ground line, each end of the main frame simulating an aeroplane and adapted to accommodate a number of passengers, there being provided a passageway for the passengers to and from the device adjacent the center of the main frame, means to rotate the frame including a motor pertinent to each aeroplane, and means under the control of the operator in each aeroplane extension for governing the elevation of either end of the device independently of the rotation thereof.

4. The herein described amusement device including a tiltable frame having diametrically opposite end extensions simulating aeroplanes, each extension having accommodation for a number of passengers, a propeller for each extension whereby the main frame is caused to rotate in a given direction around a fixed axis, an elevating plane extending from each aeroplane extension, a controller station, and devices operable from the controller station for manipulating the elevating plane of each aeroplane whereby the tilting operation of the main frame may be varied and controlled simultaneously with the rotation thereof, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EMIL R. ERNST.

Witnesses:
GEO. L. BEELER,
PHILIP D. ROLLHAUS.