

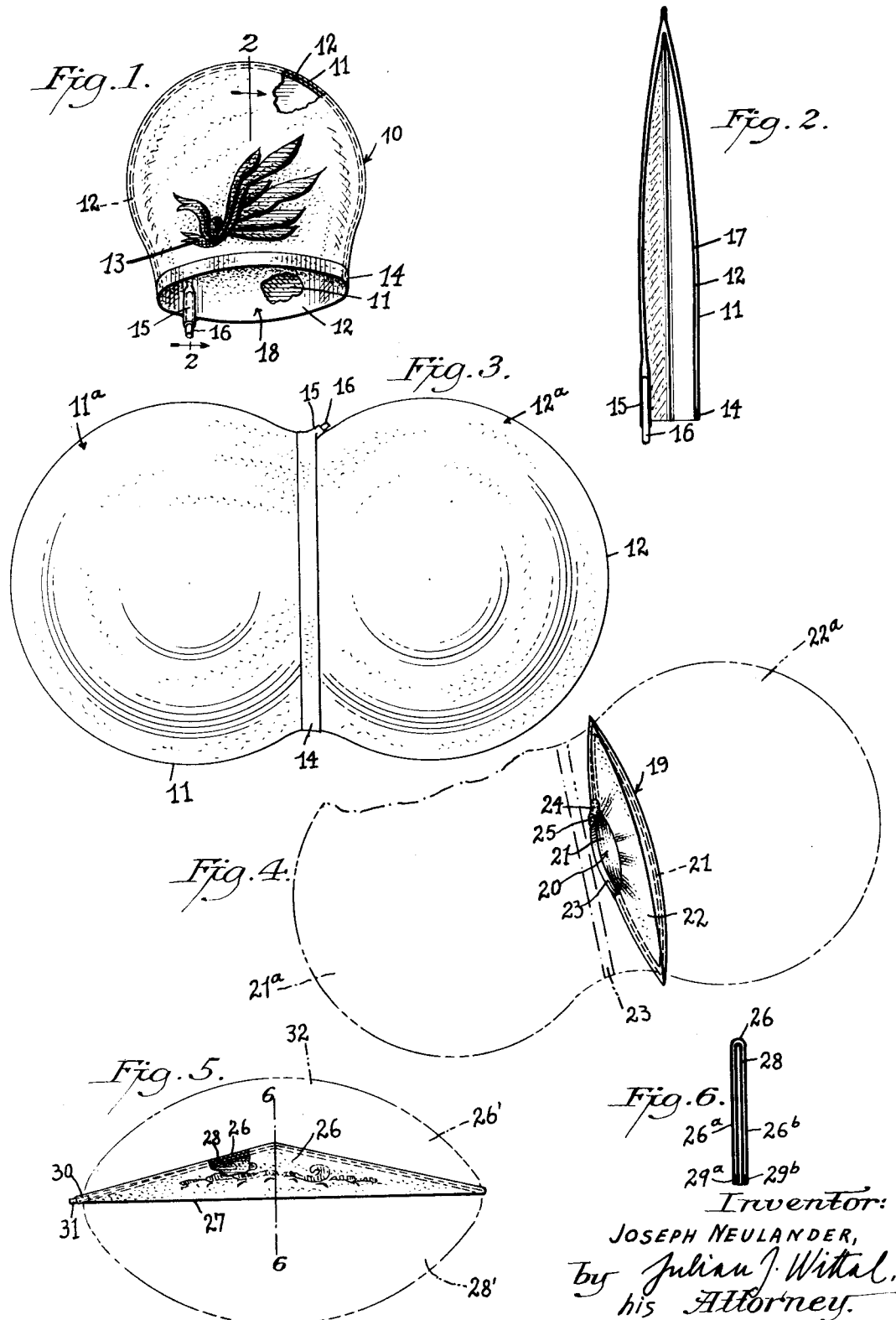
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INFLATABLE ELASTIC GARMENT AND THE LIKE

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INFLATABLE ELASTIC GARMENT AND THE LIKE

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This invention relates to inflatable, elastic containers, and has for its main object to provide an elastic container which normally may be kept in a flat condition, but which
 5 may be inflated by air or other gas being blown thereinto in an easy and efficient manner, and in such a way that its size will be greatly enlarged in an inflated condition compared to its size when in a deflated and
 10 flat condition.

My invention, however, particularly aims to provide garment members which are at the same time containers of the character described hereinbefore and which may be in-
 15 flated and so turned into pillows or the like.

A very important object of my invention is to provide bathing caps made of rubber or similar elastic material showing the characteristics hereinbefore mentioned, having an
 20 inner elastic rubber lining and having means whereby the bathing cap may be inflated by air being blown between its outer wall and its lining, said lining finally turning out-
 25 wardly under the pressure of the air and transforming the bathing cap into a pillow or cushion shaped inflated container having approximately double the size which would result from the inflation of a container hav-
 30 ing the size of the bathing cap, but without its lining.

Other objects of this invention will be apparent as the specification of the same proceeds.

In the drawing;

35 Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a bathing cap made according to my invention, being shown in a deflated, flat condition, adapted to be worn as a bathing cap, and parts of the same being broken away to show the inside
 40 construction thereof;

Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation of the bathing cap shown in Fig. 1, on a somewhat enlarged scale, the section being taken on about the broken line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

45 Fig. 3 shows the cap of Fig. 1 in a fully inflated condition;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of another form of a rubber bathing cap, the approximate size and shape thereof when fully inflated being indicated by the dot and dash lines, part of
 50 which is shown as being broken away;

Fig. 5 is a view of a scarf-like rubber garment on a small scale, also constructed accord-
 55 ing to my invention, the approximate shape

and size thereof when fully inflated being indicated by the dot and dash lines, while

Fig. 6 is a sectional elevation of the garment shown in Fig. 5, the section being taken on the line 6—6 thereof.

Referring now to the drawing more closely, by characters of reference, in Fig. 1 I show a bathing cap of one of the usual designs and types, made of waterproof and practically
 60 airproof resilient material, like rubber, and generally being indicated by the numeral 10. Said cap has an outer wall 11 of thin, light, sheet rubber material, and in my invention it is also provided with a lining 12, closely fol-
 65 lowing the outlines of the outer wall 11, and being made of a material of similar qualities. For improved artistic effect, the lining may be of different color than the outer wall of the cap, while appropriate designs and orna-
 70 ments, 13, may be applied on the outer surface of the cap, as is usual in this art. A suitable seam, 14, may be provided in which the outer wall and the lining of the cap are se-
 75 cured together by any appropriate means, as by cementing, etc.

At the portion indicated by the numeral 15, said seam and the adjacent material of the outer wall and the lining are formed into a small rubber tube, adapted to establish con-
 80 nection between the outside and the space between the outer wall and the lining of my rubber cap, and normally said tube is tightly closed by any appropriate means, as by the plug 16.

Normally the cap is in a flat, deflated condition and may be used and worn as any other bathing cap, as will be obvious from the drawing. When, however, it is desired to use said cap as a pillow, the plug 16 will be removed and air blown into the space 17, be-
 85 tween the outer wall 11 and the lining 12, and as the amount and pressure of the air increases, both the outer wall 11 and the lining 12, will yield to said pressure and will stretch, while the lining 12 will gradually be forced
 90 outwardly from inside of the outer wall 11, to the outside thereof, through the opening 18 of the cap, said lining finally turning entirely outwardly, as indicated in Fig. 3, whereupon
 95 both the outer wall 11 and the lining 12 will finally be blown into similar shapes of inflated bodies 11a and 12a, the two being connected by the seam 14. At this phase of the operation, the blowing of the air will be dis-
 100 105 110

continued and the tube 15 again closed, as by the plug 16.

It will be obvious that in the manner described, my bathing cap may be turned into a pillow-like inflated body of comparatively large volume and size, by an easy, efficient and quick method.

In its inflated condition the bathing cap may be used as a pillow or cushion to sit on or to rest the user's head thereon when lying, on the sand of a beach, or the like, or it may be used for floating with it in water, and possibly for many other purposes. When it is desired to change said inflated body back into a bathing cap, plug 16 will be removed and the air expelled therefrom, whereupon the lining 12 may be returned into its normal place.

In Fig. 4 I show another type of bathing cap, usually called a sailor cap and generally indicated by the numeral 19, in which the cap itself is of a comparatively large diameter having the opening 20 whereby it can be pulled over the head of the wearer. A lining 21 is provided for this cap in a similar manner as described hereinbefore and the outer wall 22 of the cap and the lining 21 are secured together in the seam 23. An inflating tube 24 is arranged at an appropriate place in the seam 23, normally closed by the plug 25. The operation of inflation of this cap is exactly identical to the one described in connection with the cap of Fig. 1, and when a suitable amount of air is blown into the space between the outer wall 22 and the lining 21, said lining in this case also will automatically be forced outwardly through the opening 20, and the cap finally will take up the shape and size shown by the dot and dash lines, the cap proper being inflated into the body 22a and the lining into the body 21a.

One of my objects is to provide other garments of similar construction and such a scarf is shown in Fig. 5. Said scarf, will be made of substantially airtight material, preferably of light rubber sheets. The scarf proper is of the flat, elongated, triangle shape shown, as is usual, but it has the double walls 26a and 26b, as shown in the section of Fig. 6, and is open along the side 27. A similar lining 28 may be employed within said scarf closely following the outer walls 26, being also open along the side 27, and being secured to the outer wall along said side by the two seams 29a and 29b. It will be seen that a scarf is produced in this manner, which, in the principles of its construction is similar to the construction of my improved, novel, bathing cap. A small inflating rubber tube may be arranged at an appropriate place, as at 30, to provide communication between the atmosphere and the space between the outer walls 26 and the lining 28, said tube normally being closed as by

a plug 31 and used in case of necessity in the same manner as has been described hereinbefore. Upon blowing air into the space between the outer walls and the lining, said lining will finally turn outwardly and the ultimate shape of the scarf when inflated is indicated by the dot and dash lines 32, the portion 26' resulting from the outer wall and the portion 28', from the lining thereof. The garment member illustrated in Fig. 5 may be used as a scarf around the shoulders of the wearer or it may be formed into a turban or head covering for bathing purposes, and of course, it may be inflated and used to rest thereon or to float therewith.

Other garment members may be imagined constructed according to my invention, as well as plain pillows or normally flat containers, to be inflated into pillows or floating bodies may be constructed according to my invention, having an outer similar body, folded as a lining within it being secured to its outer walls along a seam and adapted to be turned outwardly under air pressure and so double the size and capacity of the ultimate inflated body.

I also want it to be understood that changes and variations may be made in the details of construction and in the combination of parts of my invention, and I desire to reserve my rights to any such changes which are within the spirit of my invention and the scope of the claims appended hereto.

What I claim as new is:

1. A garment member of substantially air-proof, flexible, sheet material, having a doubled outer wall folded upon itself, closed all around except one side thereof, where it is open; a similar doubled lining within said outer wall, having an open portion in exact registering relation to the open portion in said outer wall; means to secure the marginal edges of said outer wall and said inner lining along and around said open portion, so as to provide a completely closed space between said outer wall and said inner lining; a transverse tube formed in the wall of said marginal edges communicating with said space and with the outside, respectively, and a removable plug for said tube.

2. A bathing cap of substantially water and air tight, flexible, elastic sheet material, comprising an outer wall; a lining therein of similar material, said outer wall and said lining being secured to one another along the marginal edges of the opening of the cap; a transverse tube formed in the wall of said secured marginal edge, adapted to cause the space between said outer wall and said lining to communicate with the outside, and a removable plug for said tube.

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