March 23 , 1926. 1,577,959

T. J. DUNNE

GAME APPARATUS

Filed May 21, 1923 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

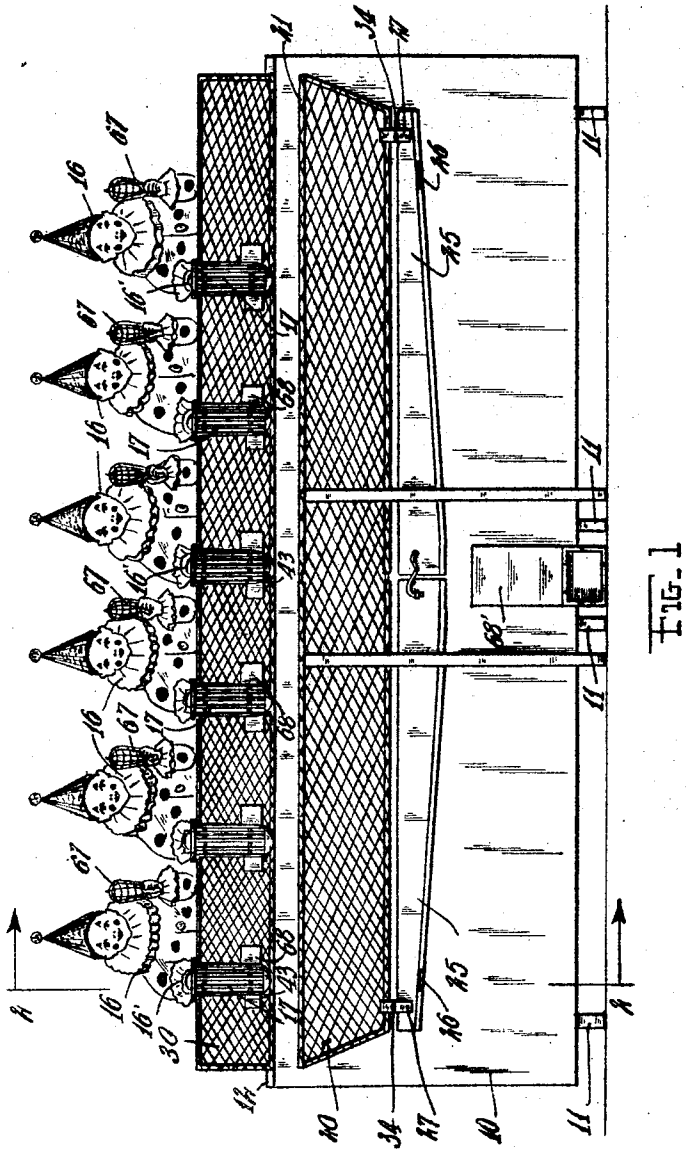

FIG. 1

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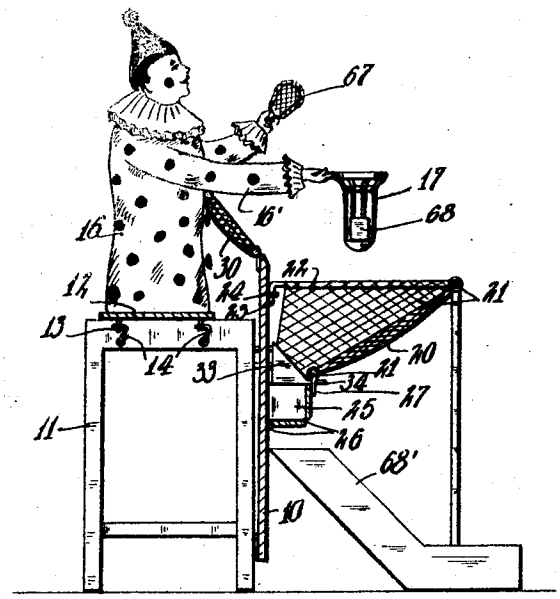
FIG. 2



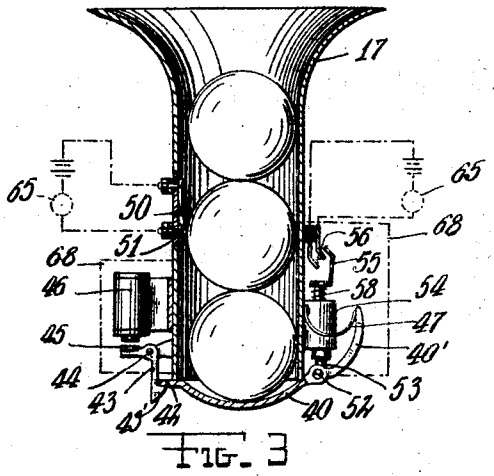


FIG. 3

Inventor

Timothy J. Dunne

By Solton & Polachek

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Patented Mar. 23, 1926. 1,577,959

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

TIMOTHY J. DUNNE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

GAME APPARATUS.

Application filed May 21, 1923. Serial No. 640,301.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, TIMOTHY J. DUNNE, a citizen of Ireland, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates generally to games, having more particular reference to games of the type in which the players test their skill in throwing balls or like objects, the invention having for an object the provision of a novel game of this sort, and further to embody the same in an apparatus which can be readily taken apart and assembled.

For further comprehension of the invention and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

Fig. 1 of the drawings is a face view of my improved game apparatus.

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a detail vertical sectional view of the receptacle for the thrown balls.

As here embodied my improved game apparatus comprises a knock-down frame on which are supported a number of figures, each holding a cup-like receptacle into which the player endeavors to throw a number of balls, means being provided whereby the balls are returned to the throwing position without the operator or players being required to individually remove the balls from the said receptacle.

As here shown the frame comprises a main front board or panel 10 to which are hinged a number of rectangular leg forming elements 11 which extend backwardly from the said panel. Extending parallel to the panel 10, along the tops of these elements 11, is a platform 12 in the form of a removable board which sits on the said elements and which may have eyes 13 projecting therefrom and engaged by hooks 14 on the said elements whereby the board is secured to the latter and they are maintained against swinging movement.

A number of figures or manikins 16 here shown as each representing a clown, are removably set on the board 12 and may be rigidly secured thereto by any suitable readily removable means. Each of these figures has one arm 16′ extended forwardly over the top edge of the panel and carrying a cup like receptacle 17 having an outwardly flared top, further reference to this receptacle being presently made.

To collect the thrown balls which fail to fall into the receptacle 17 I provide an inclined net 20 which is stretched over a suitable frame element 21 in front of the panel board. The frame element includes horizontal rods extending parallel to the panel 10 and united at their ends by inclined rods, arms such as 22 being hinged at one end to the upper of the said horizontal members and having hooks 23 at their rear ends engaged with eyes 24 on the panel 10, to support the frame in position.

The balls falling onto the net 20 roll into a chute 25 in front of the panel whose bottom and front wall are formed by boards hinged as indicated at 26 so as to be readily swung downward along the front of the panel, the bottom longitudinal member of the net frame 20 being hinged to the front board of the chute by means of members 27. To prevent thrown balls from falling behind the panel a net 30 is stretched on a suitable frame hinged as at 31 to the top of said panel, the net in clinging upwardly and rearwardly and resting at its upper edge against the breasts of the figures 16. The chute 25 is supported in normal position by means of triangular members 33 hinged to the panel 10 and having fingers 34 on their free ends engaging in suitable openings in the members 27.

The receptacle or cup 17 is of a capacity to receive three balls, which are preferably ordinary baseballs, the inner diameter of the body of the cup being slightly greater than that of the balls. Each cup is closed at the bottom by a downwardly swinging cap 40 which is hinged to one side of the cup as will be presently set forth. Formed on the opposite side of the cap is a projecting lip 42 which engages over the hooked lower end 43′ of one arm of a bell crank lever 43 hinged as at 44 to the side of the cup 17,

the other arm of this lever carrying the armature 45 of an electro-magnet 46 which is suitably supported on the side of the cup. Projecting from the hinge element of the cover 40 is a tailpiece 40′ against which a spring 47 bears. This spring is fixed at one end to the cup, and is of sufficient strength only to close the cover when the balls have been discharged but not of sufficient strength to hinder the discharge by gravity of the balls when the latch 43′ is withdrawn.

In order to give a signal when two balls have been thrown into the cup a spring contact 50 is fixed at one end in said cup in position to be engaged by the second ball resting in the cup and moved against a fixed contact 51 in the side of the cup. As will be understood the first ball thrown into the cup will close these contacts only momentarily. I have also provided a means for giving a signal when a third ball enters the cup. To this end the cap 40 is hinged as at 52 to the plunger 53 of a dash pot 54 on the side of the cup, the top end of the plunger carrying a curved finger 55 which projects adjacent a pair of contacts 56 which are suitably carried by the cup, a spring 58 surrounding the plunger and urging the latter upward.

The strength of the spring 58 is sufficient to hold the plunger 53 against movement to close the contacts 56 while only one or two balls are in the cup, but not sufficient to hold the said plunger against the weight of three balls. The dash-pot 54 will act, as will be understood, to prevent the plunger 53 moving under the impact of the balls dropping into the cup. The signals employed may be lamps as indicated at 65, or bells if desired. To permit of the cups being more easily seen at night the other arm of each figure may carry an electric lamp 67 covered by a wire cage to prevent its being damaged by thrown balls. Likewise housings 68 may cover the magnet 46 and dash-pot 54.

In the use of the apparatus the player stands at a selected distance in front of the same and is given three balls which he endeavors to throw into the cup, different signals being given when two or three balls enter the cup. By pressing a switch suitable wired to all the magnets 46 the caps 40 can be released and the balls discharged, falling into the net 20 and from there passing to the chute 25 which communicates at its lower end with another chute 68 leading forward to a desired point. I have here indicated the apparatus as arranged in right and left hand sections, the chute 25 of each section leading downward toward one another to communicate with a common centrally placed return chute 68′.

With the construction of parts as above set forth the apparatus can be readily dismantled, or knocked down as it is sometimes termed, and re-assembled. When the figures 16 are removed from the board 12 the latter is taken off the leg-elements 11 and these are swung to lie along side the panel 10. The hooks 23 are then lifted from the eyes 24 and the net 20 swung forward to free the members 27 from the fingers 34, after which the net and the chute are folded against the panel, the top net 30 likewise folding down at the rear of the panel.

While I have illustrated and described a preferred embodiment of my invention it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise construction herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications might be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent of the United States is as follows:

1. In a game apparatus, a frame, a ball receiving device thereon, a ball chute comprising a bottom member hinged to the frame and a side member hinged to said bottom member, and a net located under the said ball receiving device and hinged at one side to the said side member of the chute.

2. In a game apparatus, a frame, a ball receiving device thereon, a ball chute comprising a bottom member hinged to the frame and a side member hinged to said bottom member, and a net located under the said ball receiving device and hinged at one side to the said side member of the chute, and arms hinged to the said net at one end and removably engaged with said frame at their other ends for holding the net in operative position.

3. In a game apparatus, a receptacle adapted to receive a number of balls, an electrical contact member located in the receptacle in position to have another than the first ball entering the receptacle rest thereagainst, and a signal element connected to said contact member to be operated when a ball rests against the latter.

4. In a game apparatus, a receptacle adapted to receive a plurality of balls, a cap closing the lower end of the receptacle and connected at one side to said receptacle to have both swinging movement between open and closed positions and bodily movement in a vertical direction, a spring urging said cap in an upward direction and means for giving a signal when a selected number of balls have entered the receptacle, said means including a pair of contact members adapted to be closed by downward movement of the said cap, and a signal element connected to said contact members.

5. In a game apparatus, a receptacle adapted to receive a number of balls, a dash-pot mounted on the side of said receptacle

with its plunger depending vertically therefrom, a cap for closing the lower end of said receptacle hinged to said plunger, a spring urging said plunger and cap upward a signal element, and a contact member carried by said plunger and adapted to close a circuit through said signal element when a sufficient number of balls have entered the receptacle to overcome the said spring by pressure on the said cap.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

TIMOTHY J. DUNNE.