

Y. FISHBACK.
AMUSEMENT APPARATUS.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 5, 1911.

1,017,526.

Patented Feb. 13, 1912.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

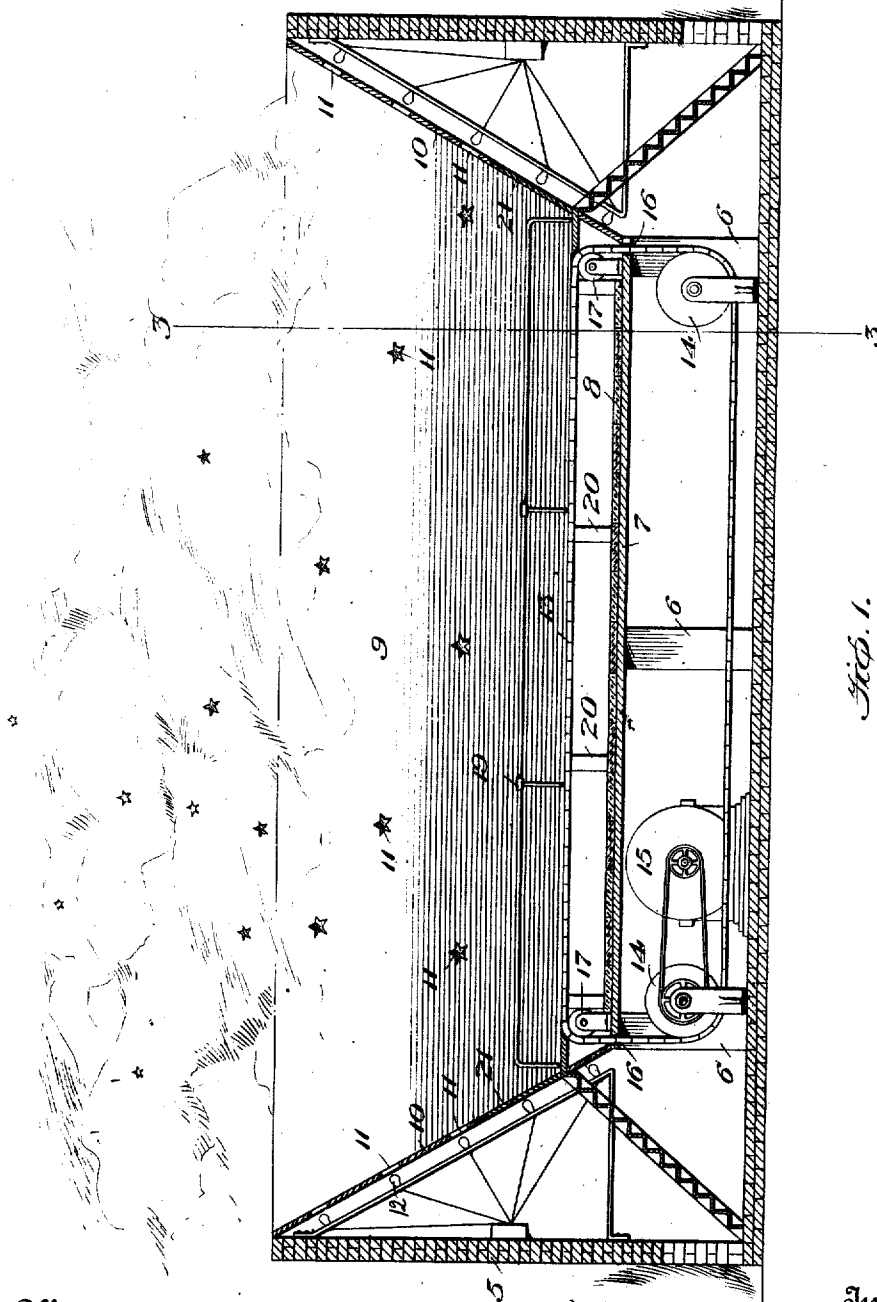


Fig. 1.

Witnesses
[Signature]
G. B. Norton.

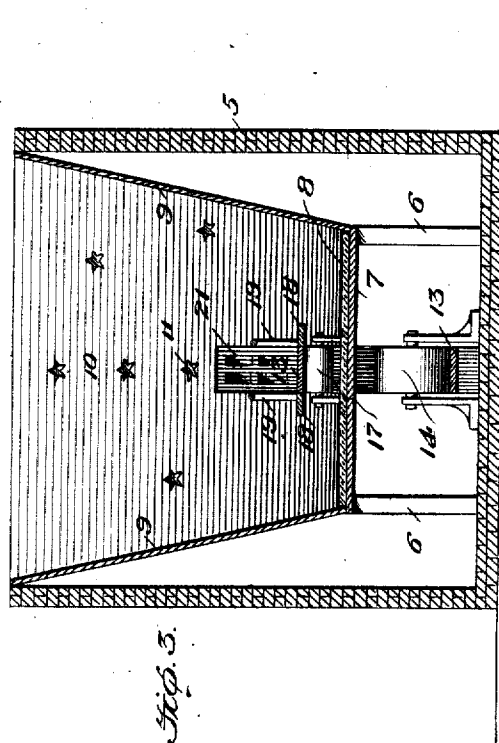
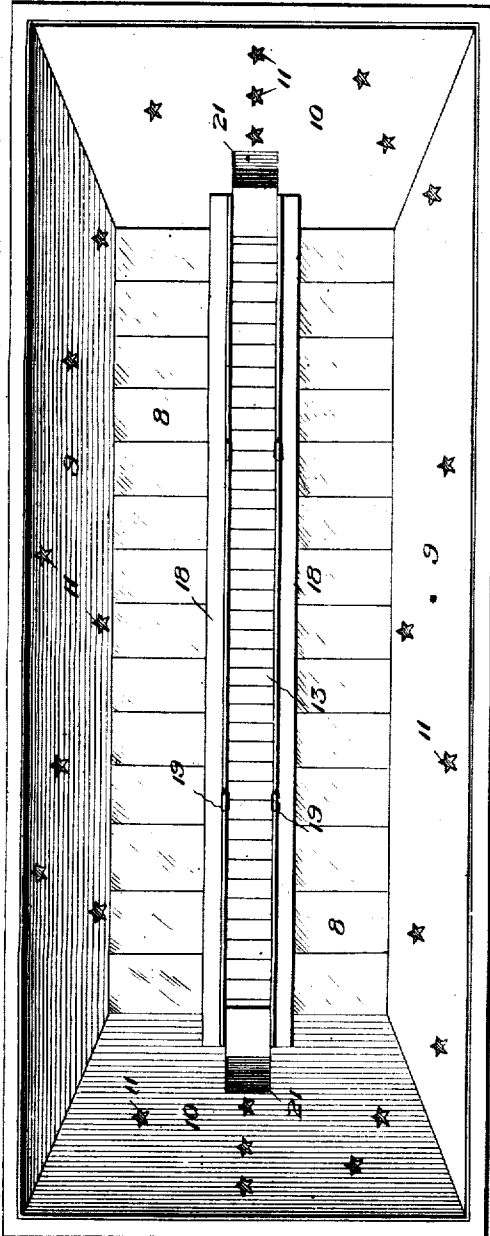
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Attorney

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Witnesses
G. B. Norton.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

YATES FISHBACK, OF WHITE HALL, ILLINOIS.

AMUSEMENT APPARATUS.

1,017,526.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, YATES FISHBACK, a citizen of the United States, residing at White Hall, in the county of Greene and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Amusement Apparatus, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to amusement apparatus and has for its object to provide means whereby one may experience the sensation of being suspended in the air or floating through space, such as would be experienced if the person were the occupant of a flying machine.

Another object of the invention resides in the provision of a simple and inexpensive amusement structure of the above described character, whereby the above described sensations are produced upon the patron to a very high degree, and another important object of the invention is to provide a device which will be extremely attractive and entertaining and one which may be operated at very small expense.

With these and other objects in view, this invention consists in the novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter referred to and more particularly pointed out in the specification and claims.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application, Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of an amusement device constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a top plan view, and, Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3, of Fig. 1.

The present invention is based upon the theory that if a person is positioned out of sight of the earth so that the only thing within the range of vision is the sky, the same sensations will be experienced as if the person were actually in the air above the earth, as in a balloon or flying machine. I aim to produce such sensations by arranging within an inclosure, a flexible movable platform, whereon one or more persons may be stationed. At the sides and ends of the inclosure and within the same, inclined walls are arranged which extend above the line of horizon so that a person within the inclosure is shut off from all view of the earth.

It is understood, of course, that the structure is erected at an isolated point remote from all buildings or tall trees so that nothing whatever except the sky can be seen above the upper edges of said inclined walls. These walls, themselves, are painted to represent the sky and are so inclined that they will appear to blend into the sky so that their upper edges cannot be distinguished.

With the above explanation of the vital characteristics of my improved amusement structure, attention is now directed to the drawings wherein—

5 designates a building wall which is built upon any suitable foundation or base and is preferably, though not necessarily, of rectangular form and plan. This building wall may be of any desired dimensions. No roof or cover is provided for the structure, the top thereof being entirely open, as shown in Fig. 1. Within the building wall, a horizontal platform 7 is mounted upon suitable supports or pedestals 6 which are arranged at intervals between the platform and the floor or base of the building. The entire upper surface of this platform is covered with panels or plates of mirror glass, indicated at 8. To the sides and ends of the platform 7, the lower ends of the outwardly and upwardly inclined or flaring side and end walls 9 and 10, respectively, are secured in any suitable manner. These walls are provided with a plurality of apertures 11 which are arranged promiscuously therein, and behind said walls in line with the apertures, the electric light bulbs 12 are disposed. These bulbs may be mounted or supported in any desired manner and are wired to a source of current supply, the electric circuit including a switch whereby the current may be readily controlled and the lights extinguished. The inner surfaces of the walls 9 and 10 are painted sky blue and the openings 11 are cut in the shape of stars so that the walls will appear to be a continuation of the sky, said walls being disposed at such an inclination that the dividing line between the upper edges of the walls and the sky cannot be easily distinguished.

A flexible platform 13 is arranged for movement around the rollers 14 which are arranged beneath the platform 7 and at opposite ends thereof. One of these rollers is

connected by suitable power transmission means with the shaft of a motor 15 which is arranged beneath the platform. This flexible platform 13 is of the ordinary slat construction and extends through openings 16 adjacent the ends of the platform 7, the upper stretch of the movable platform 13 being disposed in parallel spaced relation to the mirrored surface of the platform 7 and 10 supported and guided by means of a plurality of rollers 17 which are mounted beneath the longitudinal parallel bars 18 upon which the hand rails 19 are arranged. The bars 18 are of sufficient width to eliminate 15 the possibility of a person standing upon the movable platform 13 between the rails 19 seeing his or her reflection in the mirrored surface 8 of the stationary platform 7. The boards or bars 18 are suitably supported by 20 means of a plurality of vertical posts or beams 20 arising from the platform 7.

The outer wall 5 of the structure is provided in each end with a door and the inclined end walls 10 are also provided with 25 doors 21 at their lower ends to which a series of steps lead from the walls 5, so that the passengers or patrons may readily ascend and pass through one of the walls 10 upon the moving platform or make their 30 exit from said platform.

In the operation of the device, the motor 15 is started so as to continuously move the flexible platform 13, said motor being so geared or connected to the roller 14 as to 35 move the platform very slowly. A person entering through the door in one of the end walls 10 takes his or her position upon the platform 13 and is carried the entire length of the structure between the walls 10. The 40 movable platform moves at such slow speed that at least ten minutes is required to make the entire trip from end to end of the structure. While the patron or passenger is standing upon the platform and between 45 the rails 19, there is nothing within the range of vision except the actual sky which may be seen above the open top of the structure and the artificial sky which the walls 9 and 10 are prepared to represent. No 50 earth, trees or buildings being visible, the person will experience the aforesaid sensation of floating slowly in the air, which sensation is entirely agreeable and to most persons unique. The mirrored surface 8 of the 55 base or platform 7 reflects the walls 9 and 10 and also the actual sky, so that there appears to be nothing whatever within the range of vision except the sky and the constellations therein.

60 From the foregoing, it will be seen that I have devised an amusement structure which is comparatively simple and at the same time will be strongly attractive to the amusement desiring public, in that it provides 65 means for experiencing those sensations

which otherwise could only be experienced by an actual aeroplane flight. The structure may also be erected at very small cost and the expense of operation and maintenance is comparatively insignificant. 70

While I have specified a moving platform, it will be understood that I also anticipate the use of a stationary platform. The invention is also susceptible of a great many 75 minor modifications in the form, proportion and arrangement of various parts without departing from the essential feature or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

What I claim is:-- 80

1. An amusement structure of the character described, comprising a base, upwardly and outwardly inclined walls arranged upon the edges of said base and having their 85 inner surfaces prepared to represent the sky, said base having a reflective upper surface, and a platform extending above said base in parallel relation thereto.

2. An amusement structure of the character described comprising a base and inclosing 90 wall therefor extending above the horizon line, said base having a reflective upper surface, sky simulating means arranged within said wall, and a platform arranged 95 above said base.

3. An amusement structure of the character described, comprising a base, upwardly and outwardly inclined walls arranged upon the edges of the base and extending above 100 the horizon line, said walls being prepared upon their inner surfaces to symbolize the sky and to provide what appears to be a continuation thereof, and a platform movable between the end walls and disposed 105 above the base in parallel relation thereto.

4. An amusement structure of the character described, comprising a base having a mirrored surface, upwardly and outwardly 110 inclined side and end walls arranged upon the edges of the base having their inner surfaces prepared to represent the sky, a movable platform extending above said base in parallel relation thereto, and means for preventing a person stationed on said platform 115 from observing his reflection in the mirrored surface of the base.

5. An amusement structure of the character described, comprising a base having a mirrored surface, upwardly and outwardly 120 inclined side and end walls arranged upon the edges of the base and provided with a plurality of star-shaped openings, the inner surfaces of said walls being prepared to represent the sky and form what appears to be a continuation thereof, said walls extending 125 above the line of the horizon, electric light bulbs arranged behind the openings in said walls, a movable platform extending over said base in spaced relation thereto, said platform extending from one 130

end wall to the other, means arranged adjacent to the edges of the platform to prevent a person stationed thereon from seeing his reflection in the mirrored surface of the base, and rails arranged at opposite sides of the platform.

6. An amusement structure of the character described entirely open at its top and comprising a base and inclosing wall therefor, said base having a reflective upper surface, sky simulating means arranged within said wall to be reflected in the base surface and produce what appears to be a continuation of the real sky, and a platform arranged above said base.

7. An amusement structure of the character described entirely open at its top and comprising a base and an inclosing wall therefor extending above the horizon line, sky simulating means arranged within said wall to produce what appears to be a con-

tinuation of the real sky, and a platform arranged above said base.

8. An amusement structure of the character described entirely open at its top and comprising a base and upwardly and outwardly inclined walls inclosing said base and extending above the horizon line, the inner surfaces of said walls being prepared to represent the sky and provide what appears to be a continuation thereof, said walls and the real sky being reflected in the base surface, and means movable over said base surface and in spaced relation thereto to carry a passenger across said base between the inclosing walls.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

YATES FISHBACK.

Witnesses:

ERNEST H. HALBERT,
CHAS. H. DAVIS.