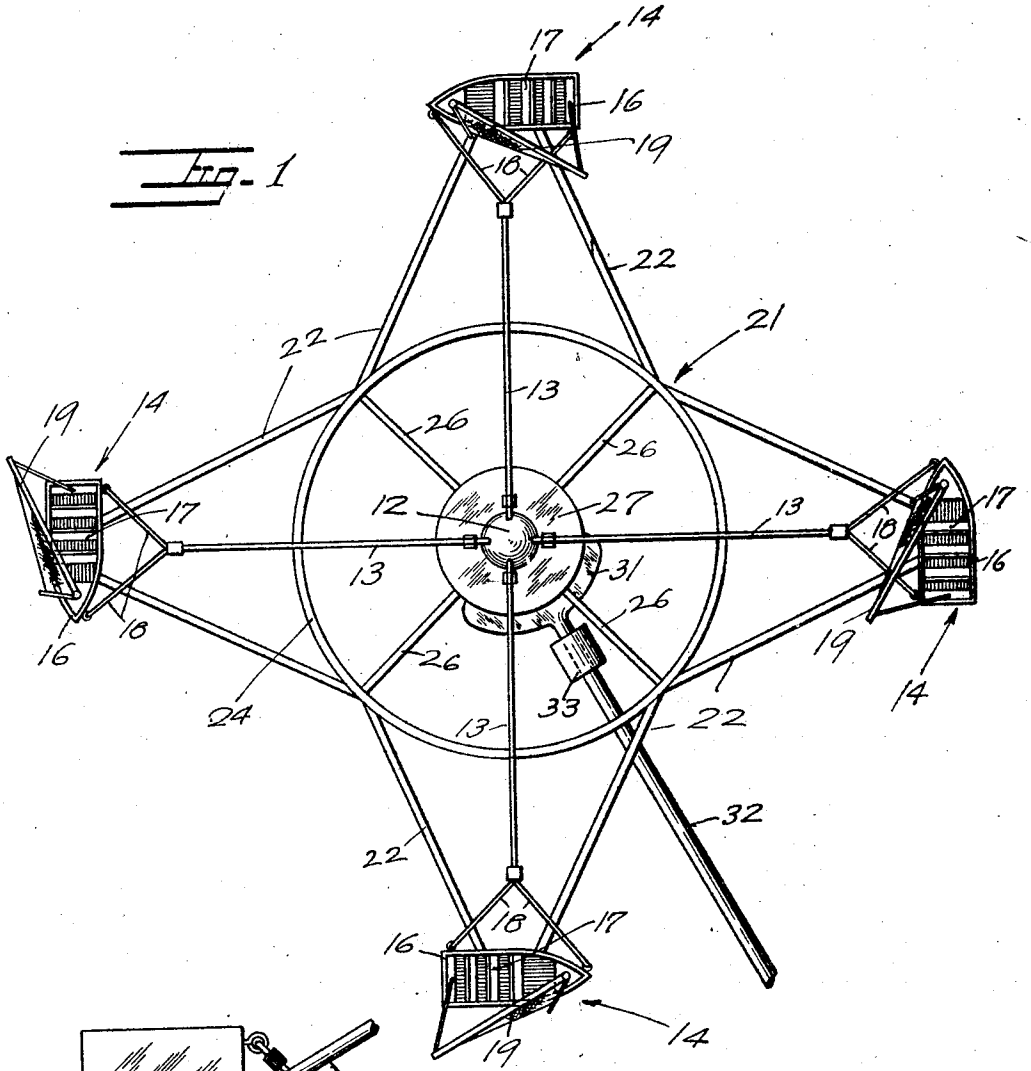
March 24, 1931. C. H. ADAMS 1,797,392

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Filed Sept. 18, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1



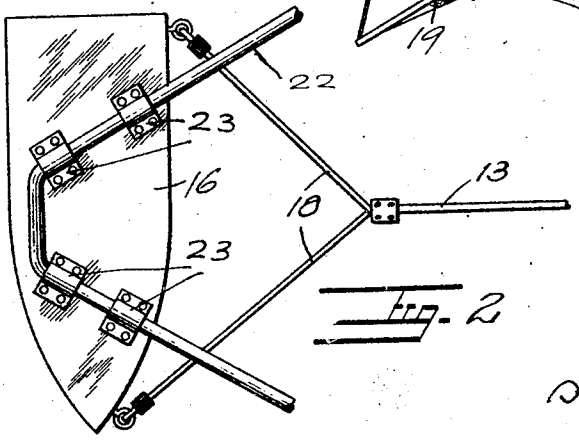


Fig. 2

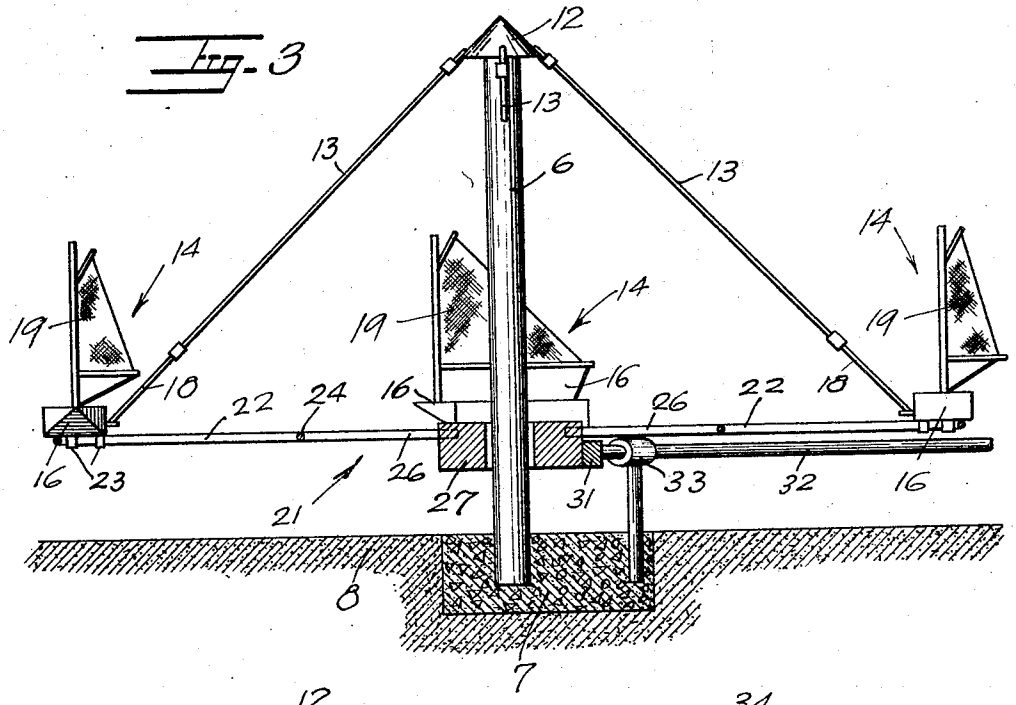
INVENTOR.
CORLIES H. ADAMS,
BY Harry C. Schroeder
ATTORNEY.

March 24, 1931. C. H. ADAMS 1,797,392

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Filed Sept. 18, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3



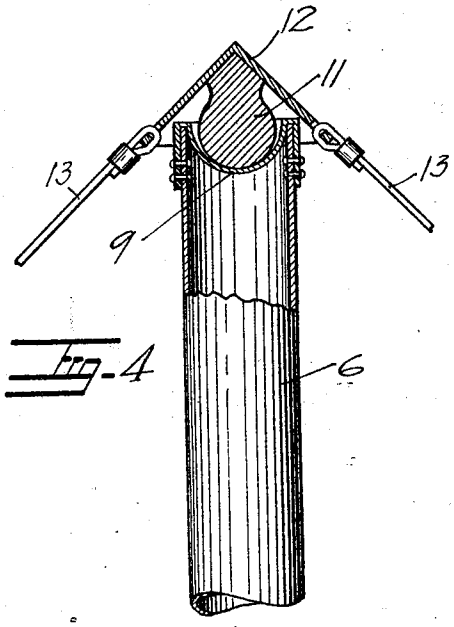


Fig. 4

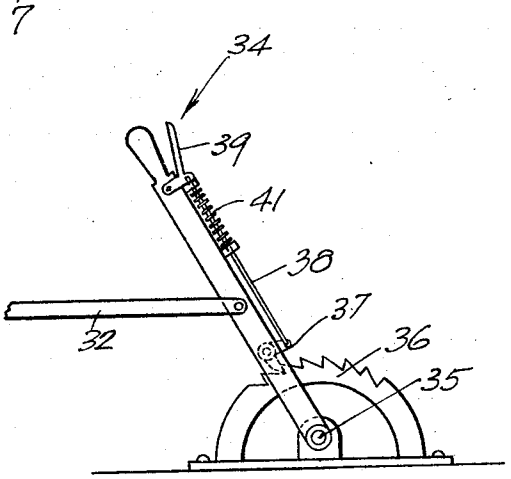


Fig. 5

INVENTOR.
CORLIES H. ADAMS.
BY
Harry C. Schroeder
ATTORNEY.

Patented Mar. 24, 1931 1,797,392

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CORLIES H. ADAMS, OF PISMO BEACH, CALIFORNIA

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Application filed September 18, 1928. Serial No. 306,645.

The subject matter of this application relates to amusement devices, and particularly to so-called merry-go-rounds.

The object of the invention is the provision of a merry-go-round which is propelled by the action of the wind and is adapted to carry passengers in its rotation around a central shaft, means being provided for controlling the speed rotation of the merry-go-round.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a merry-go-round in which a plurality of vessels, resembling sailing boats, are disposed equidistant from a central shaft, upon which they are rotatably supported, the action of the wind upon said sails causing the rotation of the merry-go-round, means being provided for controlling the speed of rotation thereof.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, my invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction, hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention, hereinafter disclosed, may be made within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the amusement device;

Figure 2 is a bottom plan view of one of the cars of the merry-go-round, showing the attachment of a frame and the supporting wire thereto;

Figure 3 is a side elevation, the lower part thereof being shown in section so as to show the means for securing the merry-go-round into the ground;

Figure 4 is a sectional detail view of the supporting bearing of the merry-go-round; and

Figure 5 is the hand brake lever and the holding means therefor.

Referring to the drawings, wherein similar reference characters designate similar parts thruout, my invention is carried out by providing a gin pole, denoted by the numeral 6, which is securely held in a concrete block 7, which latter is embedded into the ground 8. The gin pole 6 extends substantially vertically above the ground.

On the top of the pole 6 is formed a substantially semi-spherical socket 9, in which is rotatably supported a ball 11 of a conical supporting member 12. Adjacent to the lower edge of the conical supporting member 12 are secured, in the usual manner, stay wires 13, corresponding in number to the number of vessels to be employed in connection with the particular merry-go-round. Although any number of such vessels may be used, for the purposes of illustration, I show a merry-go-round provided with four carriers or vessels, each denoted in its entirety by the numeral 14. The body 16 of the vessels 14 is made in the form of a sailing boat and is provided with seats 17 on which the passengers may be accommodated. The lower end of the stay wire 13 is provided with branches 18 so formed as to engage the opposite ends of the body 16. It is to be understood that there may be two wires employed for supporting each vessel 14. Upon the body 16 of each sailing vessel 14 are disposed sails 19, secured on a mast and adapted to be lowered, hoisted, and turned in the manner customary in the case of sailing vessels or boats.

In order to maintain the vessels 14 in equidistant positions, spaced from the gin pole 6, I provide a frame, denoted in its entirety by the numeral 21. The frame comprises bent pipes 22. The branches of each bent pipe 22 are diverging from the bend thereof and the bend thereof is secured to the bottom of the vessel body 16 by means of brackets 23. The free ends of each bent pipe 22 are welded or otherwise fixedly secured to a circular frame member 24, which latter is provided with radial members 26, supporting a brake drum 27, said brake drum being rotatable on the gin pole 6.

To rotate my merry-go-round, the sails are hoisted in the usual manner in accordance with the direction and strength of the wind. The force of the wind upon the sails causes the movement of the vessels 14 in a circular path around the gin pole 6. As it is readily seen, if the sails are supported in the customary manner, the sails 19 turn around their

masts in such a way as to be disposed in a most advantageous position to be efficiently acted upon by the force of the wind.

In order to regulate the speed of the merry-go-round and also to enable the operator to stop the merry-go-round at will, I provide a brake shoe 31 conforming to a section of the outside periphery of the brake drum 27 and having a brake rod 32 extending therefrom. The brake rod 32 is guided by a bearing 33 which is supported in the concrete block 7 in the manner clearly shown in Figure 3. To move the brake rod 32 and the brake shoe 31 toward and away from the brake drum 27, the brake rod 32 is pivotally secured to a brake hand lever, denoted in its entirety by the numeral 34. Said hand lever is pivoted at 35 in operative relation to a quadrant ratchet 36, and it is held in any desired position by the engagement of the pawl 37 with the quadrant 36. The movement of the pawl 37 is effected by means of a pawl-actuating rod 38 and a lever 39 against or by the action of a torsion spring 41 in the usual manner.

Now the speed of the merry-go-round may be regulated by pressing the shoe 31 against the brake drum 27, thereby creating the friction for resisting the rotation of the merry-go-round, but the speed of the rotation may also be regulated by lowering the sails from a number of vessels and by hoisting the sails on every second or every third vessel on the merry-go-round in accordance with the velocity of the wind and the total number of vessels used.

It will be recognized that an efficient and safe amusement device, or merry-go-round, is provided, in which the moving parts are supported on the top of a gin pole by a ball and socket joint and being guided by a brake drum at the lower end thereof, so that the frictional resistance to the rotation of the device is greatly diminished. It will also be recognized that the speed of rotation and the starting and stopping of the device may be readily and positively accomplished. The device combines facility of operation and adjustment with a ruggedness of construction and minimum frictional resistance, especially adapting the device to be used for the purposes set forth.

I claim:

1. In an amusement device of the character described, a support; a frame; an anti-friction element rotatable on the support; means to suspend said frame on said anti-friction element; passenger compartments carried by the frame; sails on the compartments for propelling said frame by the force of the wind; a hub of said frame being disposed on said support for rotatably aligning the frame in a horizontal plane; and an adjustable friction brake for coacting with the hub so as to regulate the speed of rotation of the frame.

2. In an amusement device, a gin pole fixedly supported on the ground; a semi-spherical socket formed in the top of the pole; a ball rotatably supported in said socket; a conical member secured to the ball; a horizontal frame; stay wires suspending said frame from said conical member; a drum forming the hub of the frame and being rotatably positioned on said pole; passenger compartments on said frame, said compartments being shaped to simulate sailing boats; sails on the compartments so that the action of the wind on said sails imparts rotary motion to said frame; a brake element in coacting relation with said drum; and means for so actuating said brake element as to regulate the speed of rotation of said device by the friction between said drum and said element.

3. A merry-go-round comprising a gin pole having a socket formed in its upper end, a rotatable supporting member for rotation within the socket, a supporting ring surrounding the gin pole intermediate its ends, a drum rotatable around the gin pole, bracing members intermediate the supporting ring and the drum, supporting cables attached at one of their ends to the rotatable member within the socket and boats attached at their respective ends to the other ends of the supporting cables and supporting brackets supported by the supporting ring, said brackets being rigidly secured to the bottoms of the boats.

4. A merry-go-round comprising a gin pole having a socket formed in its upper end, a rotatable supporting member for rotation within the socket, a supporting ring surrounding the gin pole intermediate its ends, a drum rotatable around the gin pole, bracing members intermediate the supporting ring and the drum, supporting cables attached at one of their ends to the rotatable member within the socket and boats attached at their respective ends to the other ends of the supporting cables, supporting brackets supported by the supporting ring, said brackets being rigidly secured to the bottoms of the boats and a brake for contacting with the drum for controlling the rotation thereof.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CORLIES H. ADAMS.