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SUSPENDED SEATING ARRANGEMENT

Original Filed July 10, 1947

FIG. 1.

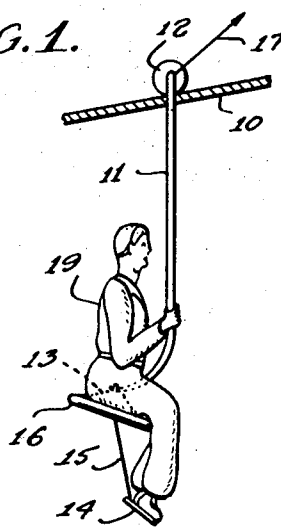


FIG. 2.

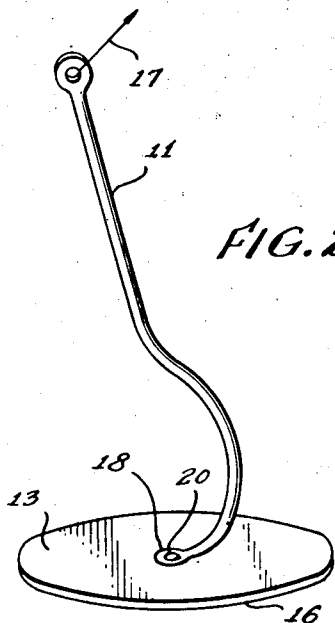


FIG. 3.

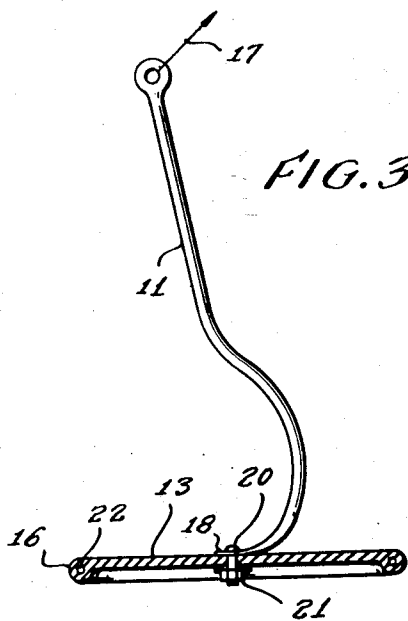
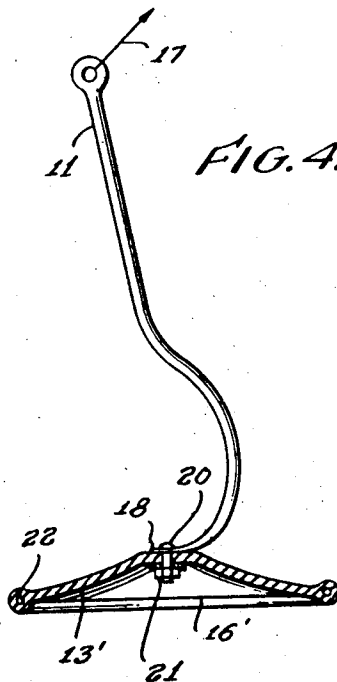


FIG. 4.



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Att.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## SUSPENDED SEATING ARRANGEMENT

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Donald F. Miller, Jr., South Orange, N. J.

Original application July 10, 1947, Serial No.  
759,980. Divided and this application August  
10, 1950, Serial No. 178,609. In France May 8,  
1945

Section 1, Public Law 690, August 8, 1946  
Patent expires May 8, 1965

3 Claims. (Cl. 155—5)

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This application is a division of my co-pending application Serial No. 759,980, filed July 10, 1947, and relates to the suspended seating arrangement for a person such as a pedestrian or a skier being hauled by a conveyor to be pulled up a slope, as for instance in a ski lift.

It is an object of my invention to provide a simple seating arrangement.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a seating arrangement that is comfortable and has a certain elasticity so that it will be adaptable to different users.

It is still another object of this invention to provide a simple and efficient suspension for this seat, which suspension does not inconvenience the person using the seat.

In a preferred embodiment of my invention, the seat for the person using the ski lift, or other hauling arrangement, is suspended from a conventional carrier cable or from the carrier cable described and claimed in my co-pending application Serial No. 759,980. A rope or rod, either straight or suitably shaped, may be used for suspending the seat. The seat proper is formed by an elastic central portion, such as a membrane, supported by a rigid frame. The seat proper is attached to the holding rod or rope approximately at the geometrical center of the seat.

A foot rest, also attached to the holding rod or rope, can also be provided for the comfort of the user. This foot rest is supported by an elastic member so that its position can be adjusted when in use.

The novel features which are considered as characteristic for the invention are set forth in particular in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its construction and its method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will be best understood from the following description of specific embodiments when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side view of a skier or pedestrian using the seating arrangement according to my invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a seating arrangement according to my invention;

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of a seating arrangement according to my invention; and

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 illustrating the deformation of the seating arrangement when in use.

Referring to Fig. 1, the seating arrangement is suspended from a carrier cable 10 by means of a rigid rod 11. The upper end of this rod rides

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on the shaft 12 of a pulley which transmits the desired movement or to another suitable device for this purpose.

The lower end of the rod 11 carries the seating arrangement proper. A rigid frame 16, Figs. 1, 2 and 3, supports an elastic or yieldable central portion 13, suspended, approximately at its center, from the rod 11. A foot rest 14, Fig. 1, is secured to the rod 11 by means of a yieldable member 15.

As illustrated in the Figs. 3 and 4, the rod 11 may be secured to the elastic portion 13 of the seat by means of a screw 20 passing through an opening in the rod and through the elastic member and engaging a nut 21.

The yieldable supporting member 15, shown in Fig. 1, for the foot rest 14 may also be secured to the rod 11 by a similar or the same screw or by any other suitable means.

The central portion 13 of the seating arrangement may be formed by an elastic membrane, for instance of rubber or other suitable material, or may be made of straps or springs arranged to give the desired shape.

In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 3, the supporting frame 16 consists of a rigid annular member 22 over which the yieldable seat portion 13 is stretched and held in place by any suitable means, such as by stitching, nailing or gluing, depending on the material of the seat portion 13 and, if secured thereto, of the annular member, 22.

The person 19, Fig. 1, using the seating arrangement sits on the yieldable seat portion 13, straddling the rod 11 and holding onto it with one or both hands to increase the feeling of security. The feet rest on the foot-rest 15 which, due to its adaptable suspension, will assume the position best suited to the person's need.

The traction indicated by the arrow 17 will exert a driving force on the seating arrangement carrying the person 19 to be transported. A high degree of stability is obtained by the positioning of the traction and pivotal point in front of the portion of the seat proper, 13, occupied by the person 19.

It will be apparent from the foregoing description that my invention provides comfortable, stable, and simple seating arrangements for moving persons as in a ski lift.

While I have illustrated and described one embodiment of the invention, I do not intend to be limited to the details shown, since various modifications and structural changes may be

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made without departing in any way from the spirit of my invention.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a ski lift having an aerial traction cable, a seating arrangement comprising in combination a yielding rubber-like member, suspension means for attachment to the traction cable, a rigid connection between said suspension means and the central portion of the rubber-like member, and a rigid frame secured to the peripheral portion of said member for stiffening the same and movable relative to the suspension means.

2. In an aerial cableway system for transporting persons, a seating arrangement comprising a rigid frame forming a loop, an elastic member engaged at its peripheral portion by the frame and forming therewith a seat, a rod for suspending said seat from the cableway, and a rigid connection between said rod and the seat approximately at the geometrical center of said seat, the section of the rod adjacent the seat being curved forwardly in the direction of seat travel.

3. In a ski lift having an aerial traction cable,

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a seating arrangement comprising in combination a circular rigid frame, elastic material having said frame embedded in its peripheral portion and forming a seat, and suspension means for supporting the seat from the cableway and rigidly secured to the elastic material approximately at the geometrical center of said seat.

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