Sept. 20, 1949. S. J. PODVINECZ ET AL 2,482,637

PLAYGROUND SLIDE

Filed Jan. 17, 1946 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

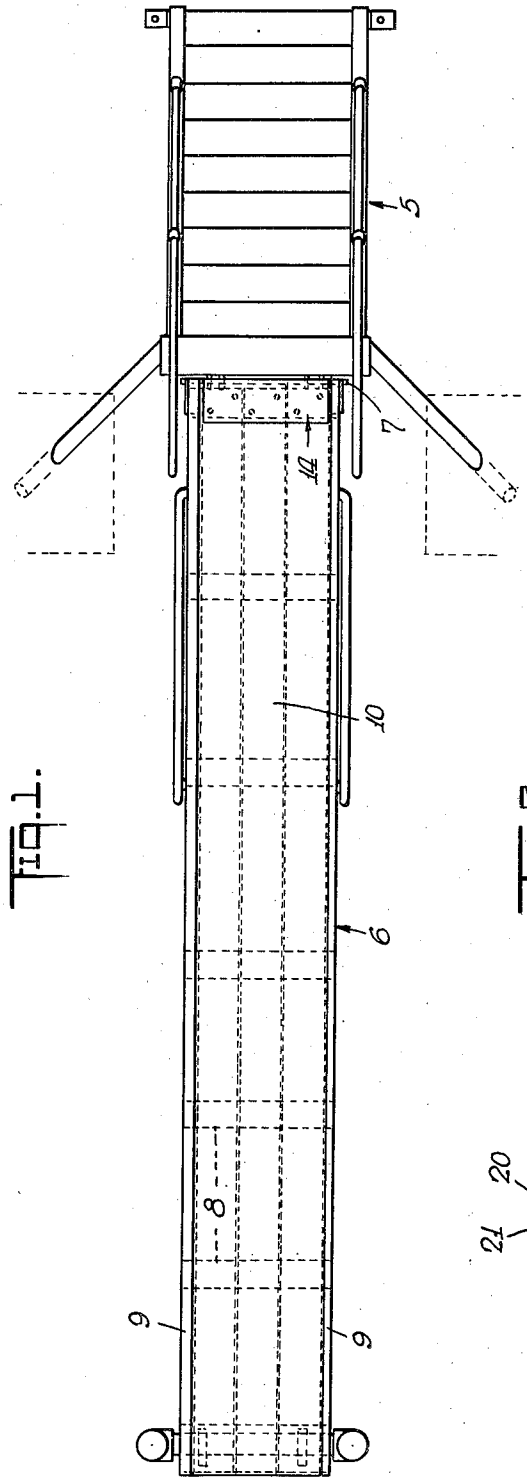



Fig. 1.

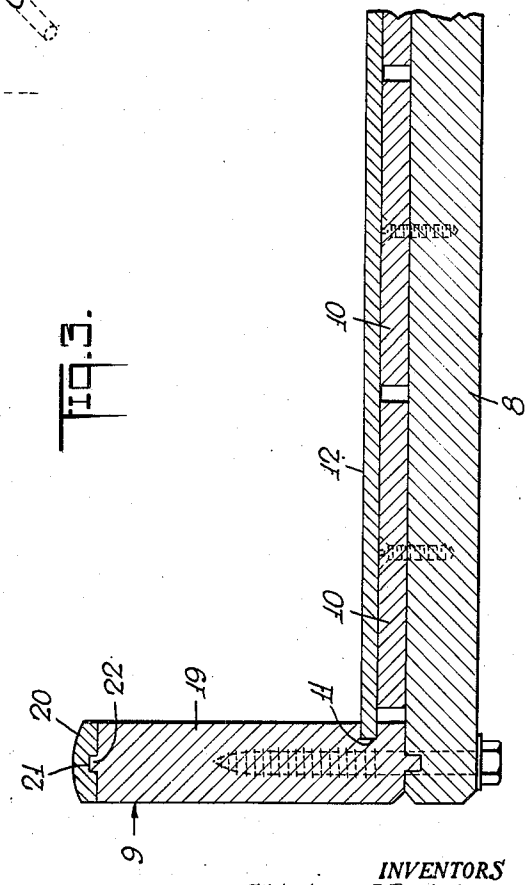



Fig. 3.

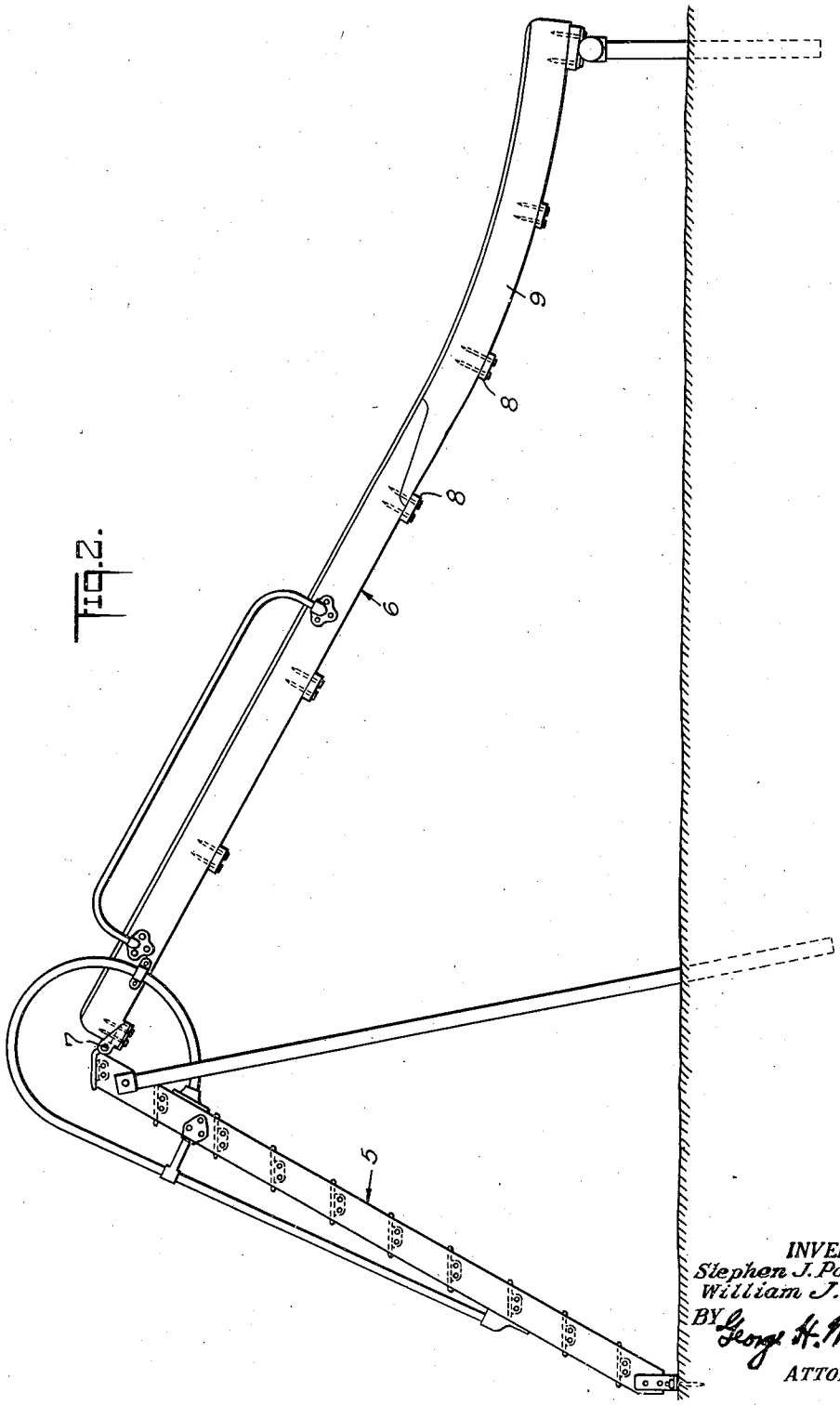
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Filed Jan. 17, 1946 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 2.




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Filed Jan. 17, 1946 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

FIG. 4.

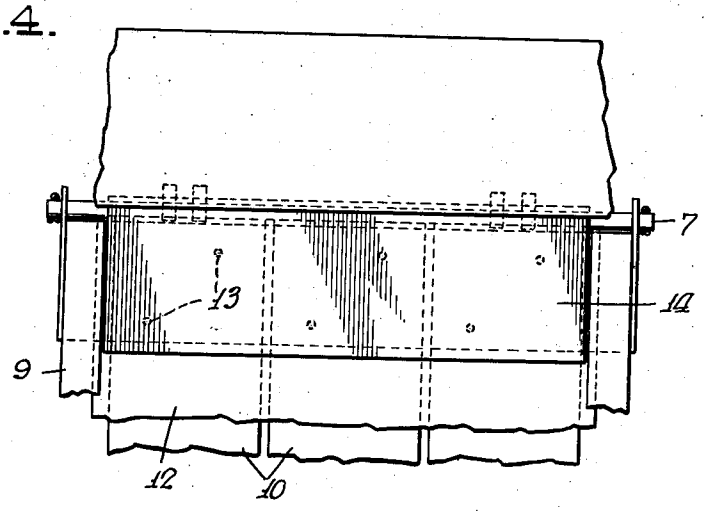
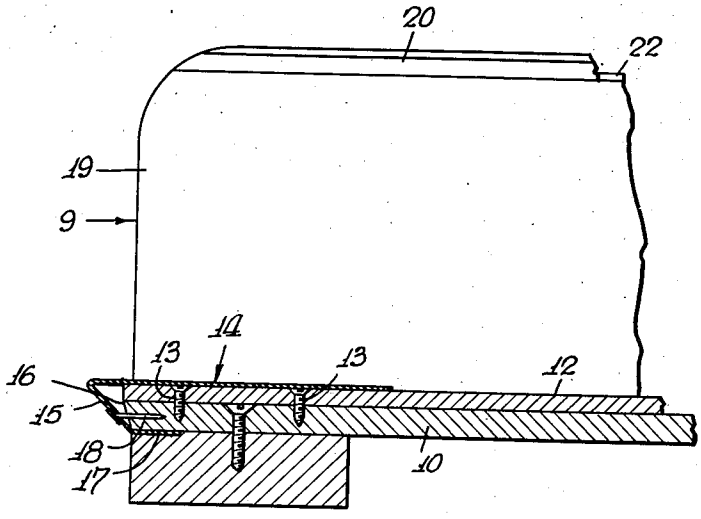



FIG. 5.




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## PLAYGROUND SLIDE

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Application January 17, 1946, Serial No. 641,680

1 Claim. (Cl. 272—56.5)

1

Our invention relates to slides for recreational purposes and in particular to the type of device commonly installed in playgrounds and kindergarten areas.

Recreational slides include in general a ladder portion and a slide portion. The slide portion is trough shaped and comprises a floor with generally parallel upstanding side pieces. Usually, the latter structure is made of non-splinterable wood such as maple, and in some cases metal sheeting is employed. Ordinarily, a satisfactory surface such as that provided by maple may be objectional for the short life this lumber leads when exposed to weather; metal is also objectional because of the burns it can cause. Thus, the preferred wooden structure has always required substantial and frequent maintenance. Furthermore, the recent scarcity and increased cost of materials have indicated the need for improving recreational slides so as to reduce maintenance cost from the viewpoint of both material and labor.

Accordingly, it is an object of the invention to provide an improved form of recreational slide.

It is another object to provide a recreational slide requiring less frequent maintenance than conventional slides.

It is also an object to provide a recreational slide on which repair and maintenance operations may be readily performed.

Another object is to provide a recreational slide offering safety features over more conventional arrangements.

Briefly stated, our invention contemplates a slide in which the upstanding side pieces have grooves in their opposed surfaces to accommodate the floor material employed. Thus, installation of the floor surfaces may be made by inserting a sheet of floor material in both grooves at one end of the slide and by sliding this piece into position. The floor sheeting is preferably held at the top end of the slide, and a flashing may conceal the means employed to secure the floor surface to the frame of the slide. In complete form, the invention includes means for securing the flashing to a surface other than the sliding surface.

In the drawings which show, for illustrative purposes only, a preferred form of the invention:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a complete recreational slide incorporating features of our invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the slide of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a partial transverse section of the slide portion of our improved arrangement;

Fig. 4 is a partially broken-away plan view

2

of details pertaining to means for securing floor-surfacing material to our slide and for installing a flashing; and

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary side elevation of features shown in Fig. 4.

The slide comprises generally a ladder 5 and a slide 6. These members are rigidly interconnected in the form shown, and a locking pin 7 is employed for this purpose. In the preferred form illustrated, the slide portion is built on a framework comprising a series of cleats 8 and a pair of upstanding side pieces 9 rigidly secured thereto. A smooth bed is provided by longitudinally extending slat members 10 secured to cleats 8 and preferably spaced slightly from each other to allow for dimensional changes due to varying weather conditions. Side pieces 9 are provided with grooves 11 extending the full length of the slide and contiguous to slats 10. Grooves 11 are so cut as to accommodate floor-surfacing means 12 having a non-splinterable exposed surface. Preferably, floor-surfacing means 12 comprises a single sheet of processed material, such as "Tempered Presdwood," plastic, or the like. Thus, it is clear that the floor-surfacing member may be installed quickly merely by entering the sheet 12 into one end of grooves 11 and by sliding it the full length of the slide between the grooves.

Frequently, recreational slides are formed with a curved surface near the lower end, as illustrated by the side elevation of Fig. 2. For such slides we recommend that the single sheet which comprises floor-surfacing means 12 be relatively flexible. When materials having this property are employed, it will be clear that installation, or removal and replacement, of a floor surface can be an extremely simple operation. If relatively inflexible material is employed, there may be severe binding of sheeting 12 with grooves 11 at the curved part of the slide. Of course, the relatively frictionless surface of sheet 12 will help to reduce this binding action, but, as indicated, we prefer that the floor material be sufficiently flexible to conform readily to the contour of the slide.

Another feature of our invention appears from the relatively simple manner in which the floor surface 12 is securely held in its installed position. In the form illustrated, this securing is accomplished by means of screws 13 extending through the floor 12 to slats 10 at only one end of the slide, that is, at the upper end (see Figs. 4 and 5). Even though securing means 13 are shown as flat-head screws, we prefer to offer greater safety to the user of our slide by providing

a simple flashing to overstand the securing means 13. In the form shown, this flashing is a single piece 14 of sheet metal extending substantially the full width of the slide and having at its upper end a portion bent back so as to overlap the upper end of slats 10. The bent-back portion comprises two relatively flat surfaces. The first of these surfaces 15 forms a more acute angle with the floor surface than does the essentially normal (shown partially beveled) upper end 16 of slats 10, and the second of these surfaces 17 extends generally parallel with the main surface of flashing 14.

Flashing 14 is secured to the slide by means 18 urging surface 15 into binding relation with slats 10. It will be clear that the more sharply acute angle between surface 15 and the main surface of flashing 14 provides in cooperation with securing means 18 an effective means for inherently urging the main surface of the flashing into constant close relation with the floor surface 12. The tighter one makes securing means 18 the more the main body of the flashing tends to rotate (clockwise, in the sense shown in Fig. 5) about the intersection of surfaces 15 and 17 and, hence, the more intimately the main surface of the flashing is forced into contact with floor surface 12.

Further to provide for simple maintenance of a recreational slide we propose that side pieces 9 be constructed of two materials. The lower or main-body portion 19 would be more permanently installed and of a material to withstand prolonged exposure to severe weather conditions. The material selected should be relatively non-splinterable; but, since relatively slight contact is made by the user with this portion of the slide, non-splinterability is not considered to be a major factor in choice of material. However, the user frequently relies primarily on the upper or rail edge of side piece 9 for his own stability. For this reason, we prefer to employ a piece of relatively non-splinterable material 20 fitted on this edge along substantially the entire length of the slide. Since it is realized that some non-splinterable woods and other materials may not have substantial life in comparison with that of the main frame of the slide (particularly in view of the exposed location of these pieces), we have made provision for installing the members 20 for ready removal. In the form shown member 20 is



provided with a groove 21 to fit in upstanding tongue 22 formed on side piece 19. Members 20 and 19 may be secured as by countersunk screws (not shown).

It will be seen that we have provided a simple form of slide which provides members that may very readily be removed for servicing or for replacement. The arrangement shown provides safety to the individual user in that there is no chance to snag clothing on recessed screws or nails or on splinterable material. Our slide has been described particularly with reference to a floor material of the pressed-wood variety, but it will be understood that other sheet floor material could alternatively be employed.

While we have described our invention in considerable detail and have illustrated a preferred form, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

We claim:

A recreational apparatus, comprising longitudinally and vertically extending side members, said side members being provided with parallel, open-ended, longitudinally extending inner grooves near their lower edges, said grooves extending continuously for the full length of said side members, a supporting framework carried by and connecting said side members, and a slide of flexible material positioned on said framework and extending for the full length of the apparatus and having its outer edges positioned in said grooves in the side members, whereby said slide is insertable in or removable from said grooves through said open ends thereof, without any disassembly of said side members.

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