Nov. 9, 1926. 1,605,975

G. R. O'NEAL

ROCKER

Filed July 3, 1925

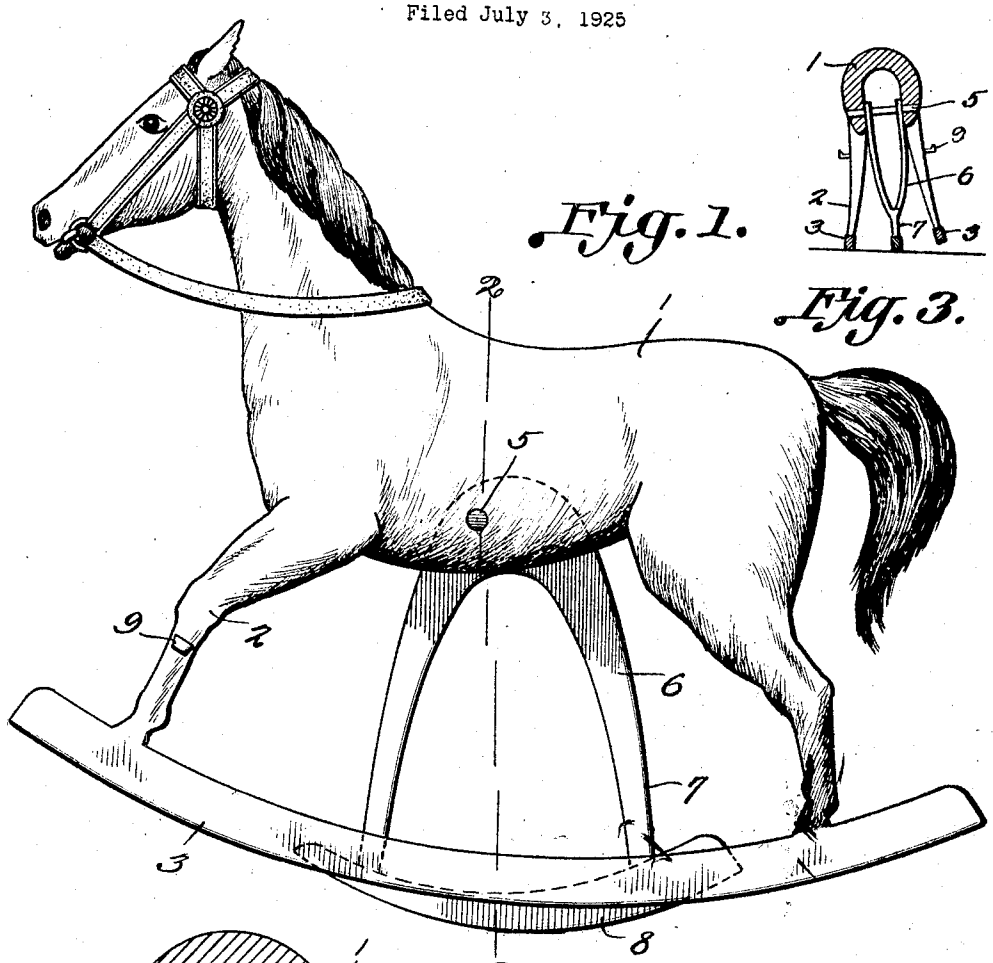


Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

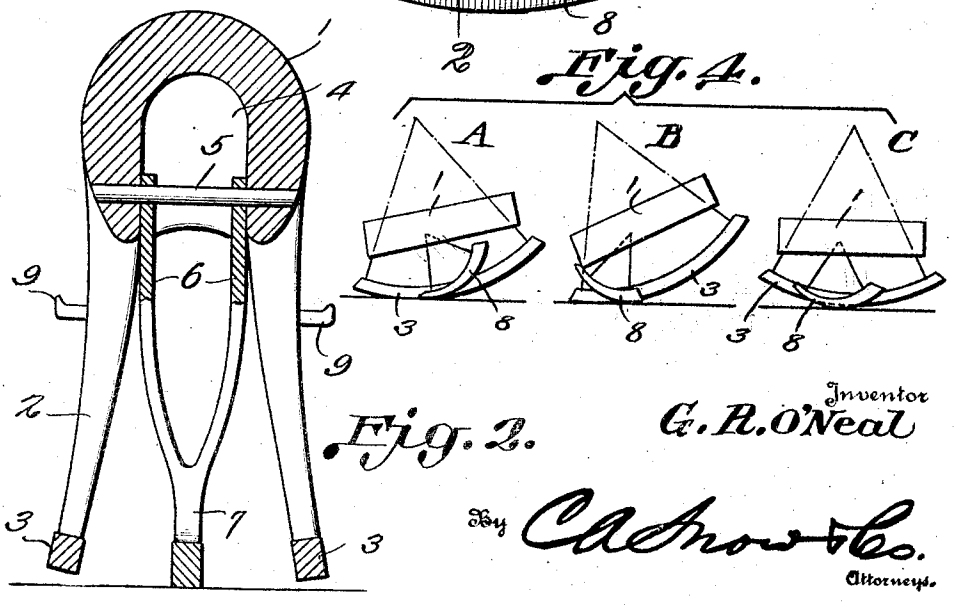


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE ROBERT O'NEAL, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

ROCKER.

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This invention relates to a rocker designed primarily for amusement purposes, one of the objects of the invention being to provide a body simulating an animal or any other suitable object, the said body being mounted on rockers and having combined therewith a means cooperating with the rockers whereby back and forth rocking movement of the structure will result in an intermittent forward or gliding motion of the entire device.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which can be guided simply by leaning toward the side to which the structure is to be turned, the continued rocking of the device serving to cause the same to travel toward the right or toward the left, according to the wishes of the rider.

A still further object is to provide a structure of this character which can be used not only to support and convey a rider during the rocking motion mentioned but can also be used as a means for pulling a load.

Another object is to provide a rocker of this type which is simple and compact in construction and does not require the use of springs or other parts likely to get out of order.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the 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 herein disclosed may be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings the preferred form of the invention has been shown.

In said drawings,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the rocker.

Figure 2 is a section on line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a similar view, on a reduced scale, showing how the device can be tilted laterally for the purpose of guiding it toward one side.

Figure 4 is a view showing, in diagram, some of the positions of the parts during the operation of the rocker.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference 1 designates the seat portion of the rocker. In the present instance this constitutes a simulation of a horse although it is to be understood that the seat portion can simulate any other kind of animal or can be in the form of a chair or other object. The legs of the seat, in the present instance simulate the legs of a horse and have been indicated at 2. These legs are mounted on and suitably connected to rockers 3.

A recess 4 is formed in the bottom portion of the seat 1 and is provided with a transverse pivot pin 5. Upwardly diverging inverted yokes or supports 6 are mounted to swing on the pin 5 and these yokes or supports merge, at their lower ends, into arms 7 which are secured to a short rocker 8 located equi-distant from the rockers 3. The pin 5 is eccentrically disposed relative to the rocker 8 and the rear portion of the rocker is preferably heavier than the front portion so as to constitute a weight as hereinafter explained. Rocker 8 tends to extend below the rockers 3 as shown in Figure 1 and when these rockers 3 are in contact with the ground or other supporting surface as shown, for example, in position A of Figure 4, the rocker 8 is thrust either backwardly or forwardly from its normal position.

The rockers 3 are adapted to rest on the supporting surface and under these conditions supplemental rocker 8 is swung either backwardly or forwardly relative to the pin 5. The user assumes a position on the seat 1 and proceeds to rock back and forth. If rocker 8 is back of its normal position it will swing forward about its pivot 5 as the rockers 3 are rocked forward. This forward movement of the rocker 8 results from the fact that the pivot 5 is moved forwardly beyond the center of gravity and the thick or weighted end of rocker 8 accelerates the forward swing or rocker 8, its arms 7 and the yokes 6. When the rockers 3 reach the forward limit of their movement they will start their return movement but as rocker 8 remains in firm engagement with the supporting surface it will tend to receive the weight of the load so that the entire structure will move forward on the forwardly rolling rocker 8 until said rocker 8 is lifted out of contact with the supporting surface by the rockers 3 on approaching the rear limit of their movement. As the rockers 3 now start forward once more the weighted end of rocker 8 will cause said rocker to come into contact with the supporting surface and again take up the load so that the device will be moved forward by the forward roll-

ing action of rocker 8 until rockers 3 again assume the load during the completion of their forward movement. The operation is then repeated as heretofore explained. To facilitate the rocking of the device foot rests 9 can be placed on the front legs 2 or, if desired, a saddle can be arranged on the structure with stirrups so arranged that the rider can cause the device to rock back and forth at will.

In Figure 4 some of the positions of the rockers have been shown during a portion of the operation of the device. In position A the rockers 3 are shown approaching the forward limit of their movement with the rocker 8 trailing. In position B the rocker 8 has been shown in a position assumed thereby when it gravitates forwardly as the rockers 3 complete their forward movement. In position C the rocker 8 is shown in an intermediate position assumed thereby during the backward rocking of the structure from position B. When rocker 8 thus takes the load the rockers 3 are caused to glide forwardly.

When it is desired to guide the device to the left or to the right it is only necessary for the rider to bend toward the right or toward the left so that during the period in which the load is being assumed by rocker 8 the device will be caused to tilt as shown in Figure 3. Thus said device can be caused to turn toward one side or the other.

While the structure is especially useful for supporting a rider, it can also be used to draw a wagon or the like connected to the structure, it being necessary of course for a person to be seated on and to actuate the device in order to cause it to travel forwardly and to pull the trailing structure.

What is claimed is:

1. The combination with rockers and a seat structure supported thereby, of means pivotally mounted above the rockers and suspended beside the rockers for imparting a forward gliding movement to the rockers during a portion of each forward movement and a portion of each rearward movement of the rockers, said means including a supplemental rocker of greater curvature than the first named rockers, a structure thereon, and a pivotal connection for said structure fixed relative to the first named rockers, said connection being disposed forwardly of the center of gravity of the supplemental rocker and the structure thereon.

2. The combination with rockers and a seat structure supported thereby, of means pivotally connected to the seat portion and suspended between the rockers for imparting a forward gliding movement to the rockers during a portion of each forward movement and a portion of each rearward movement of the rockers, said means including a supplemental rocker of greater curvature than the first named rockers, a structure thereon, and a pivotal connection between said structure and the seat portion, said connection being disposed forwardly of the center of gravity of the supplemental rocker and the structure thereon.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature.

GEORGE ROBERT O'NEAL.