March 13, 1928. 1,662,317

G. R. LIVINGSTON

BASEBALL GAME APPARATUS

Filed Dec. 29, 1926 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

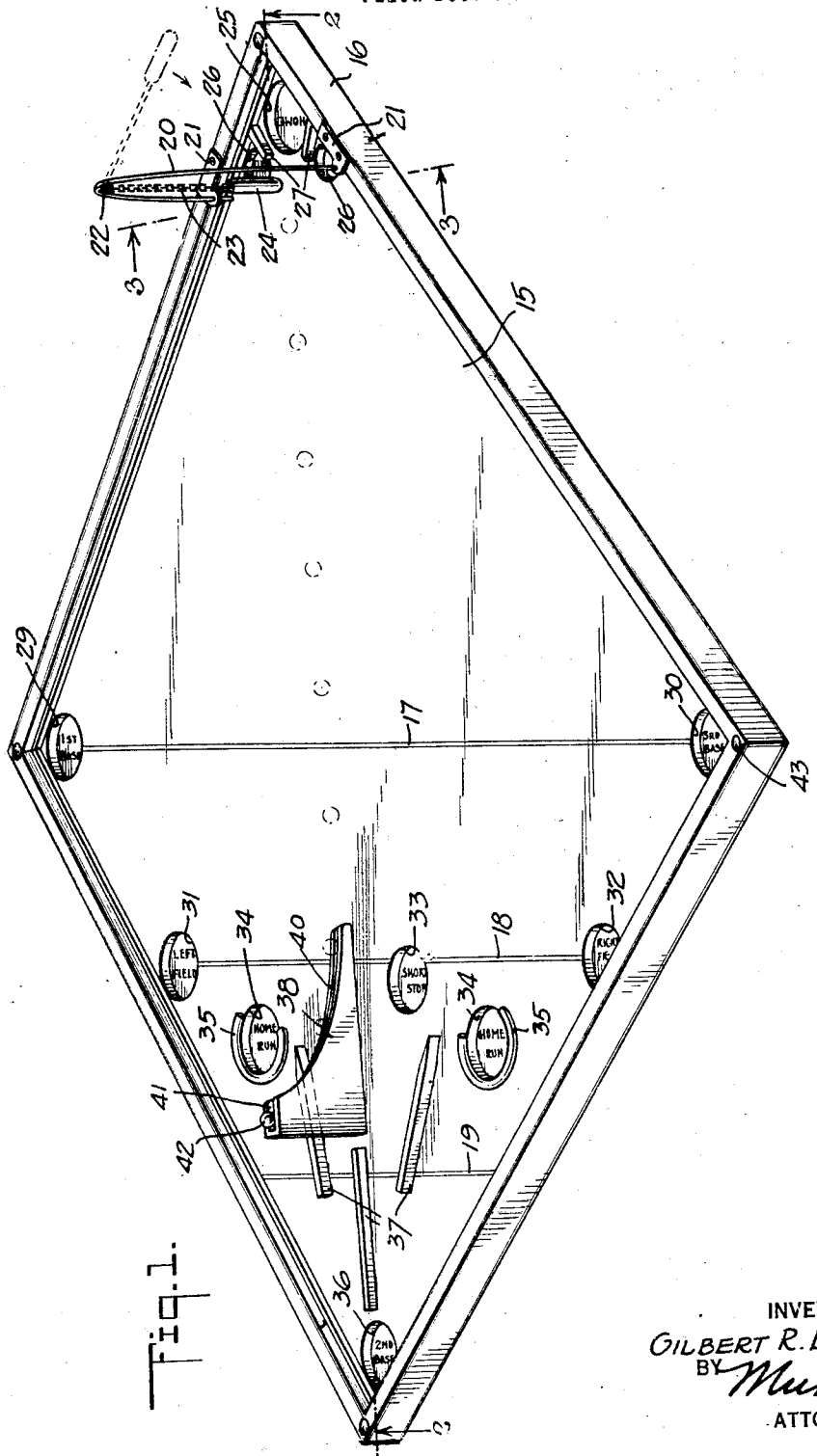


Fig. 1.

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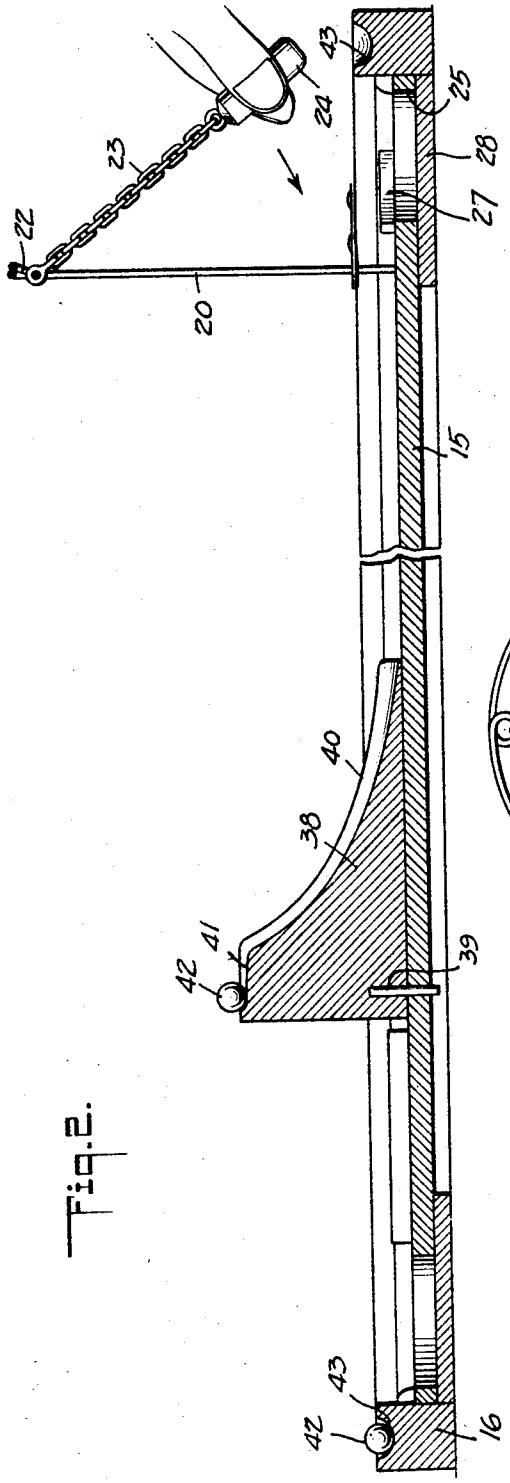


Fig. 2.

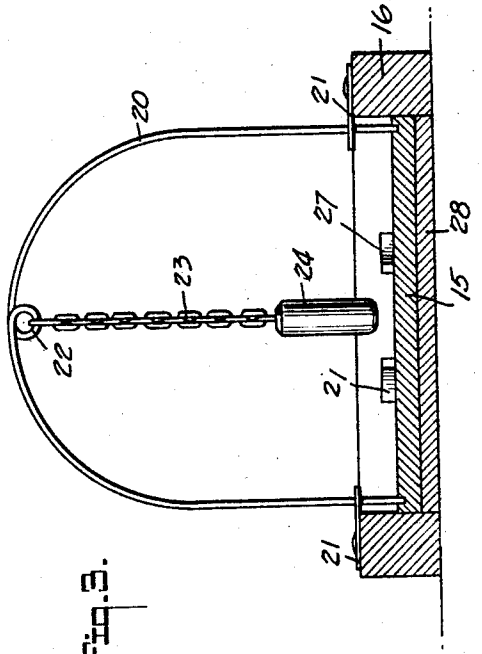


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BASEBALL GAME APPARATUS.

Application filed December 29, 1926. Serial No. 157,748.

My invention relates to games, and it has for its purpose the provision of a game apparatus of extremely simple, durable and inexpensive construction which is designed to carry out as closely as possible the playing of base ball, even to the extent of providing a ball pitching device, a ball batting device and a board having a surface in representation of a base ball field and over which a ball is projected in a manner similar to a base ball game.

I will describe only one form of game apparatus embodying my invention, and will then point out the novel features thereof in claims.

In the drawings

Figure 1 is a view showing in perspective one form of game apparatus embodying my invention;

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Referring specifically to the drawings, my invention in its present embodiment comprises a game board including a flat body 15 secured within a frame 16, and an upper surface of the body 15 constitutes a base ball field and having thereon lines 17, 18 and 19 positioned as shown in Figure 1, and defining zones which are employed in the scoring of the game.

At one corner of the board is arranged a U-shaped yoke 20, preferably formed of a single length of wire, with its ends removably mounted in a pair of brackets 21 secured on the frame 16. The yoke wire is bent to provide an eye 22 to which a chain or other flexible member 23 is connected for the supporting of a weight 24 preferably formed of lead and constituting a bat which is adapted to be manually swung in a manner similar to a pendulum for projecting a ball over the surface of the board.

In the same corner with the batting device the body 15 is formed with a pocket 25 which constitutes a home plate and is positioned directly in the rear of the bat 24, when the latter is in normal position. At the sides of the pocket 25 are two smaller pockets 26 which are disposed at opposite sides of the path of movement of the bat, and which are designed to receive the ball for a purpose which will be described hereinafter. Guiding ribs 27 are secured to the board between the pocket 25 and the pockets 26 to provide a restricted mouth for a ball entering the pocket 25 and tending to direct balls into the pockets 26. The pockets 25 and 26 are provided with bottoms, all of which are formed by a strip 28 of wood or other suitable material secured to the under side of the body 15 as clearly illustrated in Figure 2.

At the ends of the line 17 the board is formed with pockets 29 and 30 provided with bottom strips (not shown) in a manner similar to the strips 28. These two pockets constitute first and third base, as indicated by the legends, and because of their positioning with respect to the adjacent corners of the board it will be understood that the frame 16 tends to guide balls projected toward the pockets into the latter. At the ends of the line 18 pockets 31 and 32 are formed in the board, both of which are provided with bottoms and which are designed to designate left and right fields of a base ball field as indicated by the legends. Between these pockets and preferably intersecting the line 18 is a third pocket 33 which designates the short stop position as indicated by the legends. Beyond the line 18 are two other pockets 34 having bottoms and designated home runs, as indicated by the legends. Each of these pockets is formed with an arcuate bead 35 which functions to prevent a ball finding the pocket other than by a direct hit. At the extreme further corner of the board a pocket 36 is formed therein and provided with a bottom, this pocket designating second base as indicated by the legend. Guide strips 37 are arranged as shown, so as to function in guiding a ball projected over the surface toward the pocket 36.

For projecting a ball toward the batting device I provide a pitching device which comprises a block 38 of tapered form, with its bottom provided with a pin 39 which extends into a suitable opening in the board body 15 and to secure the block against longitudinal displacement but to provide a pivot above which the block can be moved to permit shifting thereof from one side to the other. The upper surface of the block is in part curved and inclined downwardly and grooved to provide a ball chute 40. The upper end of this chute communicates with a curved and slightly inclined plat-

form 41 on which a ball 42, preferably formed of steel, is adapted to be placed preparatory to causing it to be projected downwardly of the chute.

In operation, one player, called the "batter", manipulates the bat 24, while another player, called the "pitcher" manipulates the pitching device to project the ball across the field or board toward the batting device. By pushing the ball 42 forwardly on the platform 41 it will be caused to descend the chute 40, traveling across the board as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 1, toward the home plate pocket 25. As the ball moves toward the home plate, the batter, having elevated the bar as indicated in Figure 2, releases the latter so as to allow it to swing forwardly toward the ball, and if such a release has been properly timed with respect to the movement of the ball, the bat will strike the ball and thus project it forwardly across the field. If the ball comes to rest at the adjacent side of the line 17 it is called a "foul" and consequently a "strike" in keeping with the rules of base ball. If the ball should come to rest between the lines 17 and 18 it may be considered a one base "hit", between lines 18 and 19 a two base "hit", while if coming to rest beyond the line 19 it is counted as a three base "hit". If the ball comes to rest within any one of the base designating pockets or the pockets 31, 32 and 33, it is considered an "out". If the ball should stop within one of the pockets 34 it is counted as a "home run".

In the actual playing of the game four balls 42 are employed, one for batting purposes and the other three for designating "men" on the bases. Cupped recesses 43 are formed in the frame 16 opposite the base pockets in which the balls representing "men" can be placed, thus showing that one or more bases is occupied.

Should the batter fail to strike the ball with the bat 24 and the ball comes to rest within the home plate pocket 25 it is counted as a "strike". If, on the other hand, the batter makes no attempt to strike the ball because it has not been projected in the line of swing of the bat it is counted as a "ball" and in most instances comes to rest within either of the pockets 26. As in regular base ball, should the batter receive four "balls" he is entitled to place a man on the first base, it being understood that during the playing of the game a man may advance from one base to the other in accordance with the rules of base ball.

As previously described, the block 38 is capable of being swung to one side or the other about the pin 39 as a center. In this manner the chute 40 in respect to the batting device can be positioned by the "pitcher" as desired, so as to project the ball along different paths, thus rendering the batting of the ball more difficult. Further, the speed of travel of the ball can be varied as desired, by starting its descent at various points along the length of the chute 40.

Although I have herein shown and described only one form of game apparatus embodying my invention, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention, and the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A game apparatus comprising a board having a surface in representation of a base ball field, with pockets therein adapted to receive a ball and positioned to correspond with the bases and home plate of a base ball diamond, other pockets adapted to receive a ball and for designating other positions on a base ball field, lines on the surface dividing the field into zones, pockets adjacent the home plate pocket adapted to receive a ball therein, guiding ribs secured to the board between the home plate pocket and the pockets adjacent the home plate pocket and converging towards the field so as to provide a restricted mouth for the home plate pocket and tending to direct balls into the adjacent pockets, a ball pitching device for projecting a ball over the surface toward the home plate pocket, and a ball batting device positioned in advance of the home plate pocket between the pockets adjacent thereto and operable to strike a ball projected by the pitching device.

2. A game apparatus as embodied in claim 1 wherein certain of said pockets are partially surrounded with beads which operate to prevent the deposit of a ball into the pockets other than by a direct hit, and guide strips are provided in alinement with and at opposite sides of the ball pitching device for guiding a ball projected beyond said pitching device, into one of said pockets.

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