April 14, 1931. P. A. SAVARD 1,800,960

BATHING SUIT

Filed Aug. 4, 1930

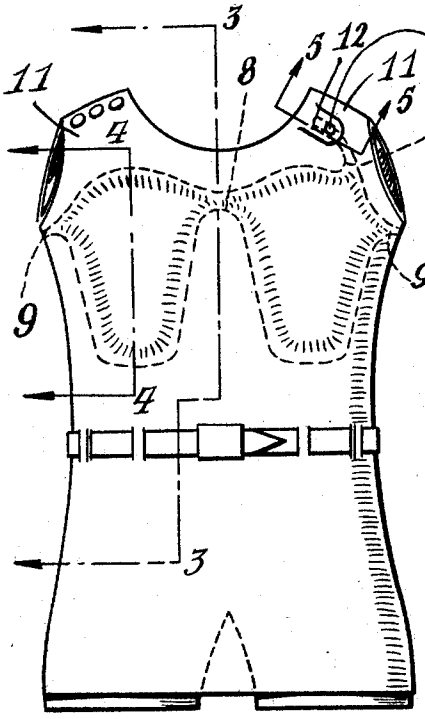


Fig. 1

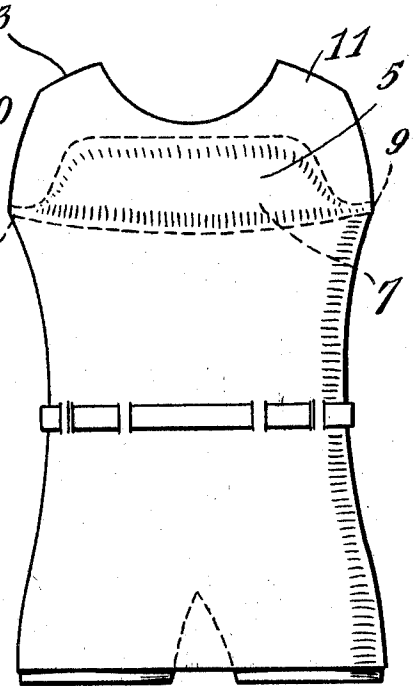


Fig. 2

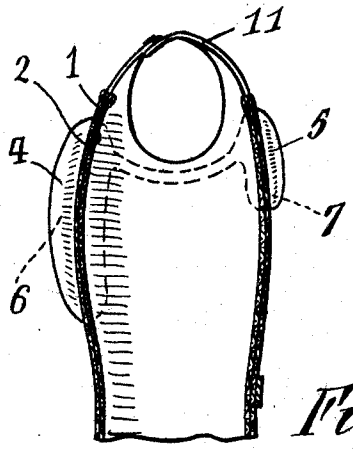


Fig. 3

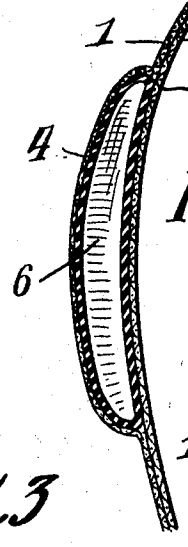


Fig. 4

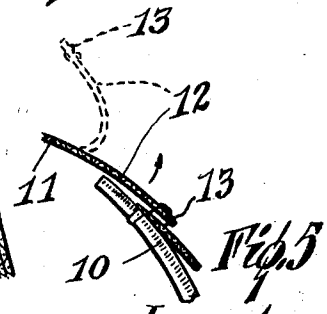


Fig. 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BATHING SUIT

Application filed August 4, 1930, Serial No. 472,942, and in Canada April 24, 1930.

The present invention pertains to a novel bathing suit, and the principal object is to provide a device of this character having considerable buoyancy so that it may be used by beginners in swimming or generally for safety purposes on the water.

Among the principal features of the invention is the fact that the buoyant elements, which are of an inflatable nature, may be blown up while the suit is being worn in the water. The buoyant elements are preferably in the form of bags provided at the chest and back portions of the suit and preferably secured between the two plies of fabric of which the suit is made. The bags are interconnected, and a filling tube extends from one of them to a point beneath one of the shoulder straps of the suit. A small flap formed in this strap may be unfastened to expose the end of the filling tube, whereby the bags may be filled with air blown from the mouth of the wearer while in the water as stated above.

Another feature of the invention is that the bags may readily be deflated, whereupon the device occupies no greater volume than the ordinary bathing suit for packing purposes and may also be worn under ordinary street clothing in a deflated condition.

The bags are so positioned as not to interfere with the freedom of movement of the wearer and are further of such a nature that replacement thereof and other parts of the suit is quite simple. It will be evident that the suit may be worn by passengers on all types of sea-going vessels for emergency or life-saving purposes and in such cases is readily brought into an operative and buoyant condition by inflation from the mouth of the wearer in the manner already described.

The invention is fully disclosed by way of example in the following description and in the accompanying drawing in which,

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the bathing suit;

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation;

Fig. 3 is a section of the line 3—3 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Reference to these views will now be made by use of like characters which are employed to designate corresponding parts throughout.

The bathing suit, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, has the usual outward appearance but is preferably made of two thicknesses of fabric indicated by the numerals 1 and 2 in Fig. 4. At certain points at the front and back, preferably at the chest and across the shoulder blades, the two thicknesses of fabric are separated as indicated by the numeral 3 in such a manner as to provide forward pockets 4 and a rear pocket 5. In these pockets is located an inflatable bag or bladder member similar to the well known water wings. This member is of such a nature as to substantially fill the pockets 4 and 5 and therefore comprises two bag sections 6 fitted in the forward pockets 4 and a rear back section 7 fitted in the back pocket 5. The forward pockets are interconnected at their upper ends by an integral throat 8, while the extreme outward sides of the forward pockets are connected to the ends of the rear pocket by similar integral throats 9.

For the purpose of inflating or deflating the device when desired, there is provided a tube 10 extending from the upper end of one of the forward pockets 6 to a point beneath one of the shoulder straps 11. A suitable valve (not shown), preferably a check valve, is provided in the tube 10. A flap 12 is formed in the shoulder strap 11 over the end of the tube 10 and is normally held to the body of the strap by a suitable snap fastener 13. When it is desired to inflate the bags, it is merely necessary to lift the flap as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 5 whereupon the wearer may readily bring his mouth to the tube 10 in order to blow air into the bags.

It will be apparent that the device may thus be filled even when in the water and that, apart from the volume of the bags, it is no more voluminous than the ordinary bathing suit. Moreover, it may be worn under the ordinary clothing, with the bags deflated, in the same manner that an ordinary bathing suit is now often worn.

Although a specific embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described, it will be understood that various alterations

in the details of construction may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as indicated by the appended claims.

What I claim is:—

1. In a bathing suit, inflatable bag members at the forward and back portions thereof and interconnected, said bathing suit comprising shoulder straps, a filling tube extending from one of said bag members and disposed beneath one of said straps, and a flap formed in said strap and adapted to uncover said tube.

2. In a bathing suit of two-ply thickness and having shoulder straps, an inflatable member disposed between said plies, a filling tube extending from said member and disposed beneath one of said straps, and a flap formed in said strap and adapted to uncover said tube.

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