Nov. 17, 1953 L. COWSAR 2,659,602

ROCKING HORSE

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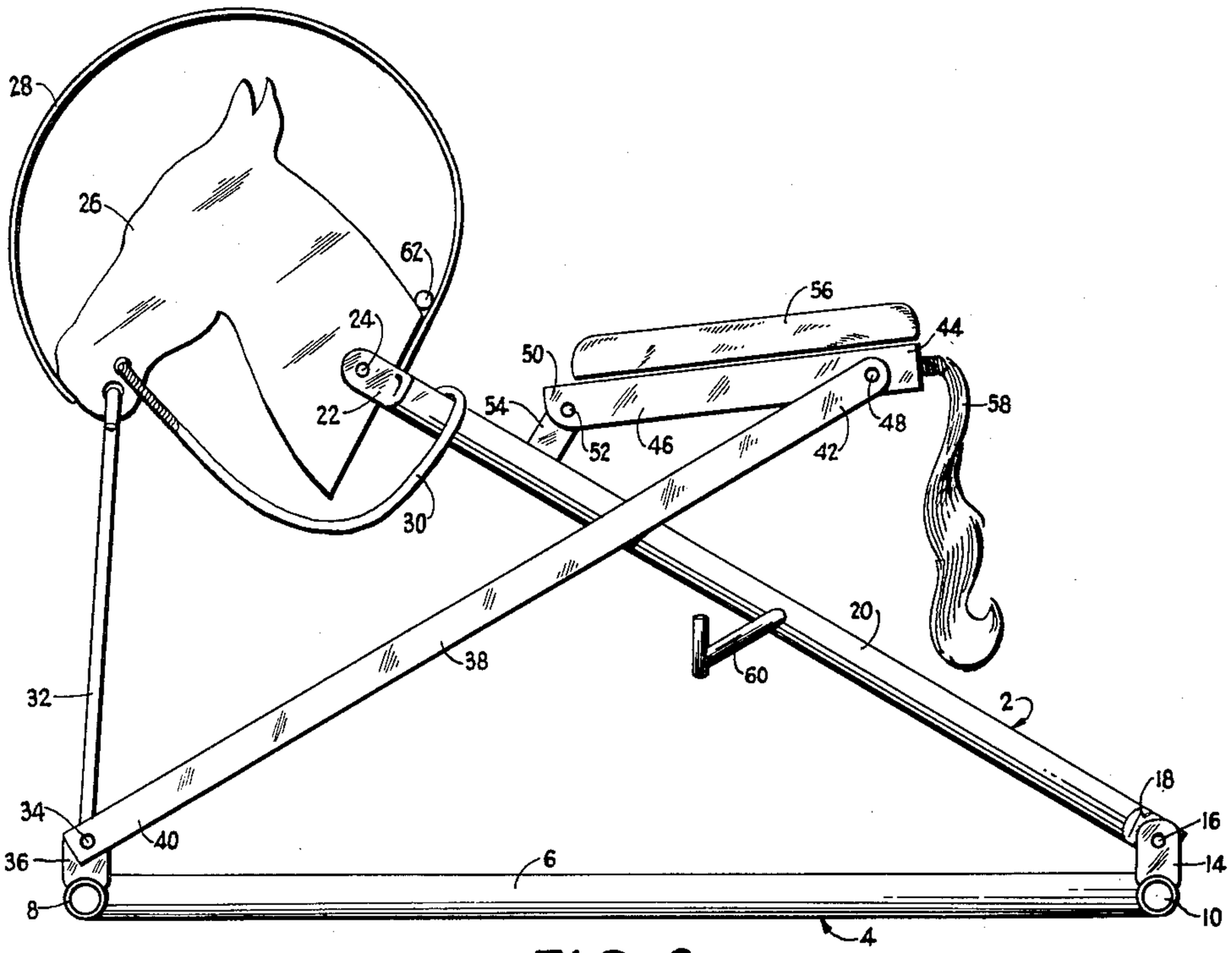

FIG. 2

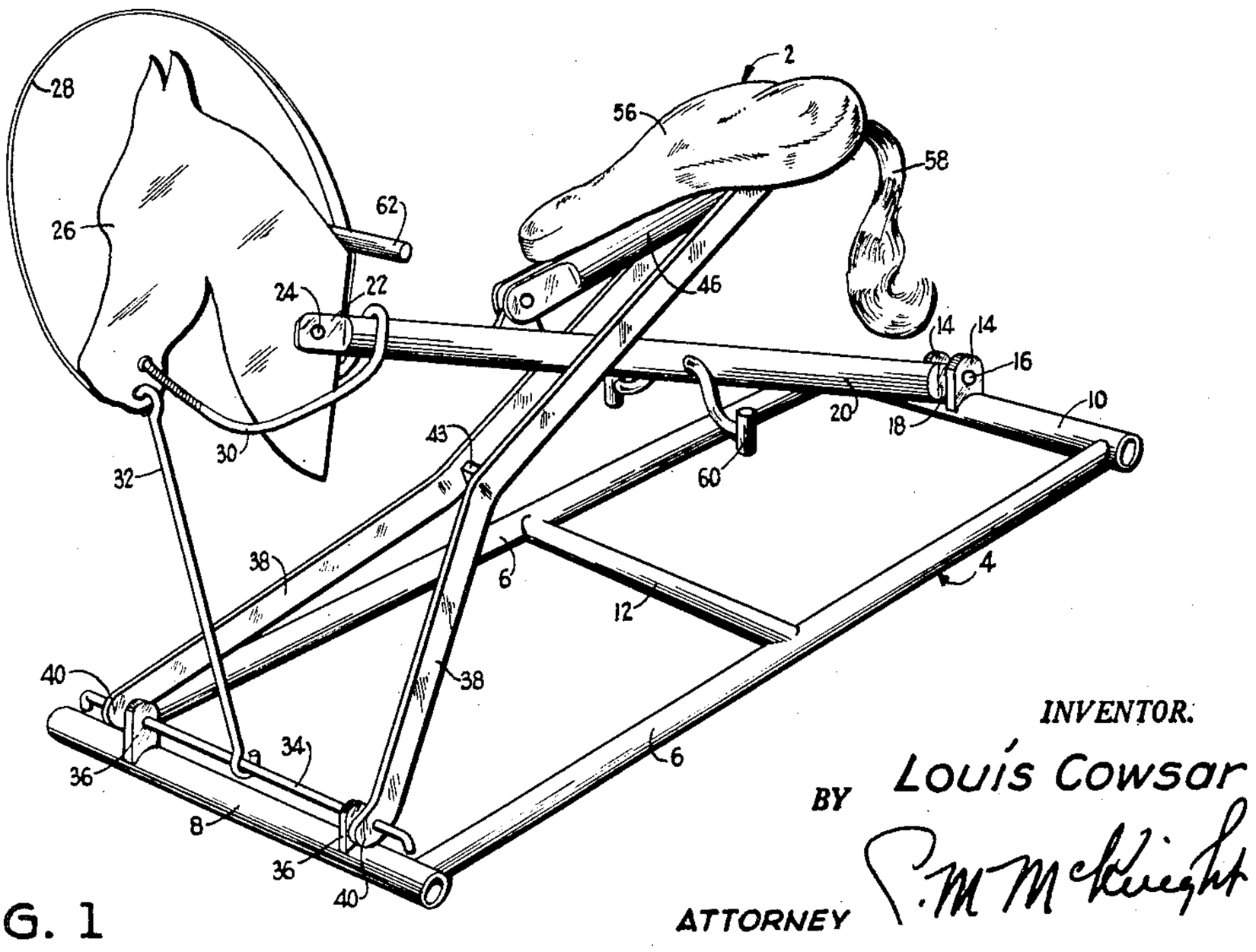

FIG. 1

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ROCKING HORSE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 272—53.1)

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This invention relates to improvements in amusement devices, and more particularly, but not by way of limitation, to an improved rocking horse.

As it is well known, rocking horses and similar devices have been in use for several years as toys or amusement devices for children. However, the usual rocking horse has one or more springs to provide substantially all of the power utilized to rock the device, leaving the occupant very little to do except remain astraddle the horse. In this manner, the child is deprived of a pleasing and healthful exercise. Furthermore, in the event one of the springs breaks or becomes disconnected, the child is likely to be seriously injured.

Another popular type of rocking horse utilizes simple rockers as supports. The inherent noise emitted during the use of this type of device, as well as the scraping and scratching of furniture and floors, are far too well known to most parents. Furthermore, a child gets very little, if any, exercise when using this type of a rocking horse.

The present invention contemplates a novel hobby or rocking horse utilizing no springs. The various elements are pivotally interconnected in such a manner that the occupant of the horse must alternately stand and sit to obtain a rocking action. In this manner, the occupant will obtain a beneficial exercise while being amused. The horse may be made substantially any desired size and therefore may be used as an exercising apparatus for older children or grown-ups, as well as an amusement and exercising device for children. The base of the horse is stationary to preclude the scratching of floors and the like. Furthermore, the horse is silent in operation.

An important object of this invention is to provide an amusement device to exercise as well as amuse the user thereof.

Another object of this invention is to provide a rocking horse utilizing no springs.

Another object of this invention is to decrease the hazard to children and generally increase the safety of the home.

A further object of this invention is to eliminate the necessity of rockers for rocking horses and therefore the inherent disadvantages thereof.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a safe and attractive rocking horse which may be economically manufactured.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be evident from the following detailed description, read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which illustrate my invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a novel rocking horse.

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Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the rocking horse shown in Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings in detail, and particularly Fig. 1, reference character 2 generally designates a novel rocking horse having a substantially rectangular shaped base portion 4. The base 4 is provide with spaced side rails 6 interconnected by forward and rearward end rails 8 and 10 respectively. A suitable cross rail 12 may be provided to interconnect the medial portions of the side rails 6 if desired. It will be understood that the base 4 may be constructed out of any suitable material such as metal tubes, as shown, or wooden structural members (not shown).

A pair of upwardly extending apertured brackets 14 are secured in spaced relation in any desired manner on the medial portion of the rear end rail 10. A suitable pin or bolt 16 extends through the apertured brackets 14 and is secured thereto in any desired manner (not shown). The pin 16 pivotally supports the rear end 18 of a bar 20, hereinafter termed the rear bar, between the brackets 14. The rear bar 20 extends upwardly from the end rail 10 at an oblique angle toward the forward end rail 8. The forward end 22 of the rear bar 20 is pivotally secured by a pin 24 to the neck portion of a representation 26 of a horse's head. The head 26 is preferably formed out of wood for convenience in manufacture and may be painted or otherwise colored to simulate a horse's head. A curved bar or strap 28 partially surrounds the head 26 and is secured thereto by any suitable means (not shown) for decorative purposes only. In addition, a suitable rope or the like 30 may be secured to the nose portion of the head 26 to simulate a pair of reins. A support rod 32 is pivotally secured in the nose portion of the head 26 and extends downwardly therefrom into pivotal connection with a transversely disposed rod 34. The rod 34 is supported above the forward end rail 8 by a pair of spaced upwardly extending apertured brackets 36. The brackets 36 are secured to the end rail 8 in any desired manner such as by welding or the like.

A pair of bars 38, hereinafter termed the forward bars, are pivotally secured at their forward ends 40 to the transverse rod 34 on the outer sides of the brackets 36. The forward bars 38 extend upwardly from the base 4 at an oblique angle toward the rear end rail 10. Furthermore, the forward bars 38 converge toward the rear ends 42 thereof and cross the rear bar 20 at an intermediate portion thereof. In this manner, the rear bar 20 may be pivoted between the forward bars 38, and the bars 38 in turn may be pivoted over the bar 20 as will be hereinafter set forth. A suitable cross bar 43 may be provided

to interconnect the medial portion of the bars **38** for added strength if desired.

The rear end **44** of a cross bar **46** is pivotally secured by a pin **48** to the rear ends **42** of the forward bars **38**. The cross bar **46** extends forwardly from the pin **48** directly above the rear bar **20**. The forward end **50** of the cross bar **46** is pivotally secured by a pin **52** to an apertured bracket **54** extending upwardly from an intermediate portion of the rear bar **20**. In this manner, the cross bar **46** will be tilted upon movement of either the forward bars **38** or the rear bar **20** as will be hereinafter set forth. Furthermore, since the rear bar **20** and forward bars **38** are pivotally supported, at spaced points, the cross bar **46** through the medium of the pins **48** and **52** and the bracket **54** will limit the pivotal movement of the forward and rear bars **38** and **20** respectively.

A suitable seat **56** is secured in any desired manner (not shown) on the cross bar **46** to simulate a saddle for an occupant of the rocking horse **2**. Suitable rope strands **58** or the like extend downwardly from the rear end **44** of the cross bar **46** to simulate a horse's tail. A pair of curved bars **60** extend outwardly from an intermediate portion of the rear bar **20** underneath the seat **56** and function as stirrups for the horse **2**. In addition, a transverse bar **62** is suitably secured to the horse's head **26** in such a manner that an occupant of the seat **56** may place his hands thereon for additional support. It will be apparent that the various structural members may be formed out of either wood or metal, as desired. Also, the various bolts and pins will be provided with nuts (not shown) or other like means to retain the bolts and pins in assembly.

Operation

In operation, an occupant of the rocking horse **2** places his feet on the stirrups **60** and alternately sits and stands to alternately impose his weight upon the seat **56** and the stirrups **60**. In this manner, the weight of the occupant is alternately imposed upon the rear end **42** of the forward bars **38** and on a medial portion of the rear bar **20**. When the weight of the occupant is imposed on the seat **56** the weight will be transmitted through the cross member **46** and pin **48** to the rear ends **42** of the forward bars **38** to pivot the bars **38** in a clockwise direction about the transverse rod **34**. The rear end **44** of the cross bar **46** will therefore obviously be moved downward to tilt or rock the seat **56** in a rearward direction. It will also be noted that the pin **48** will be moved slightly to the right during its downward movement to simultaneously pull the cross member **46** to the right. The rightward movement of the cross member **46** is transmitted through the medium of the pin **52** and bracket **54** to the rear bar **20**, thereby pivoting the bar **20** in a clockwise direction about the pin **16**. It will be apparent that since the pins **48** and **52** are moved through different arcs of curvature, the distance therebetween will tend to vary as the bars **20** and **38** are pivoted. The cross member **46**, being interconnected to the pins **48** and **52**, therefore limits the pivotal movement of the bars **20** and **38** in a clockwise direction from the positions shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

When the weight of the occupant is imposed on the stirrups **60**, the bar **20** will obviously be moved in a counter-clockwise direction to move

the pin **52** downwardly and slightly to the left. In this manner, the cross member **46** and seat **56** are tilted or rocked in a forward direction. Furthermore, the movement of the pin **52** is transmitted through the medium of the cross member **46** and pin **48** to simultaneously pivot the forward bars **38** in a counter-clockwise direction. The cross member **46** will again limit the pivotal movement of the bars **20** and **38**. It will also be noted that during the clockwise pivotal movement of the bar **20**, the head **26** will be tilted in a forward direction and during the counter-clockwise movement of the bar **20**, the head **26** will be tilted in a rearward direction to simulate a bucking horse. The rod **32** will pivot on the transverse rod **34** during the pivotal movement of the head **26**.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that the present invention provides an amusement device in the form of a rocking horse whereby the occupant or user thereof will obtain a beneficial exercise as well as amusement. The present rocking horse utilizes no springs which are likely to become broken or disconnected and injure the occupant of the horse. Furthermore, the present rocking horse utilizes a stationary base, thereby precluding scraping and scratching of floors and furniture. It is also apparent that the present invention provides a safe and silent operating rocking horse which may be economically manufactured.

Changes may be made in the combination and arrangement of parts as heretofore set forth in the specification and shown in the drawings, it being understood that any modification in the precise embodiment of the invention may be made within the scope of the following claim without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

In a rocking horse, comprising a substantially rectangularly shaped stationary base member of tubular construction, a bar pivotally connected at one end at a substantially medial point to the rear portion of the base, and extending forward over the base at an oblique angle, a pair of bars pivotally connected conterminous with the corners to the forward portion of the base and extending rearwardly over the base at an oblique angle, said pair of bars converging toward their rear ends and extending substantially straight to a point rearward of the front end of the first mentioned bar, a cross member pivotally secured at one end to the rear ends of said pair of straight bars, and pivotally secured at its opposite end to the first mentioned bar at a point above where the pair of bars extend past the first mentioned bar in such a manner to limit independent pivotal movement of said pair of bars and said first mentioned bar, a seat on the cross member, stirrups secured to the first mentioned bar at a point below the seat and the pair of bars, a head pivotally secured to the forward end of the first mentioned bar, handles on the head, and a support bar pivotally secured to the head and the forward portion of the base.

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