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INVENTION

Patents of the Week

A floating plastic litter for transferring patients or injured persons from a seaplane or rescue boat to a ship or airplane earned a patent.

► A LITTER that floats for transferring patients safely over or through water areas was patented by the U.S. Patent Office.

The U.S. Coast Guard is now making and using this type of litter and expects it to be standard equipment in the future. The litter is designed for switching injured persons from a seaplane or rescue boat to a ship or airplane.

It is made out of plastic reinforced with glass fiber, with the head and shoulder part being made of foamable polyurethane resin. A piece of the foamable plastic also fits over the chest.

The bubbled plastic portions keep the litter in such a position that the injured person's head is above water when he is being moved through water or if the litter is accidentally dropped.

The buoyant litter was designed by Lt. Cmdr. David C. Klingensmith of the U.S. Coast Guard, who is now stationed in New Orleans. He assigned rights to patent 3,133,295 to the Secretary of the Navy.

Underwater Weed Saw

A chain-type saw that can be used by two persons to rid bathing beaches or ponds of unwanted vegetation earned patent 3,133,395 for Earl Wesley Farmer of Minneapolis, Minn.

The saw can also be used in deeper water by two men in boats 50 or so feet apart. The weeds are cut by sharpened blades placed at an angle along a flexible link chain.

Because the chain is flexible and weighted, it follows the contours of the underwater surface being cut. Vegetation is thus sawed off as close as possible to the roots.

Sweat Band for Eyeglasses

With hot weather having already hit most of the country, a timely patent was that awarded John B. Janz of Omaha, Nebr., for a sweat band for eyeglasses, 3,133,982.

According to his design, soft sponge-like plastic would be fitted between the glasses and a person's forehead and temples. The plastic would come with adhesive bands covered by tear-off strips so that the absorbing material could be permanently mounted on the glasses.

Mr. Janz recommends use of his device, particularly by workers in high-temperature occupations and by sportsmen.

Other Significant Patents

A record changer for playing automatically and without interruption a stack of records on both sides—patent 3,133,736 to Karl Bodenroder of Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

A device for playing a baseball game that includes movable target panels at which a baseball is thrown by the player—patent 3,133,733 to David C. Elseroad of Greenmount, Md.

A hand calculator that simulates the movement of a particular satellite in its orbit with respect to the earth so that a ship's position can be accurately determined—patent 3,133,352 to Robert E. Jaspersen, Annapolis, Md., who assigned rights to the Secretary of the Navy.

A method of determining the distance to the source of an external field, whether it is magnetic, acoustic or electromagnetic—patent 3,134,104 to Francis J. Murphree and Henry L. Warner, both of Panama City, Fla., who assigned rights to the Secretary of the Navy.

A collision warning system for airplanes that measures the angular change in the line of sight between two vehicles by doppler radar—patent 3,134,100 to Emory Lakatos of Santa Monica, Calif., who assigned rights to Thompson Ramo Wooldridge, Inc., Los Angeles.

A stair-climbing wheel chair that can be operated by hand, having a seat that tilts when the climbing mechanism is being used (not in production)—patent 3,133,742 to Eugene M. Richison and Ethel M. Richison of Kinta, Okla., who assigned one-fourth of the rights to T. H. Conklin of Stigler, Okla.

• Science News Letter, 85:366 June 6, 1964

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