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F. J. ALLEN, JR

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MATCHING GAMES

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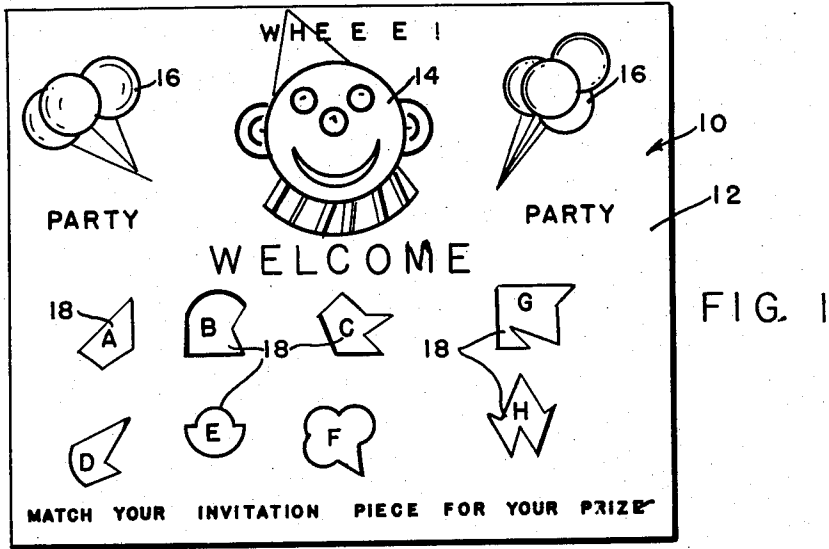


FIG. 2

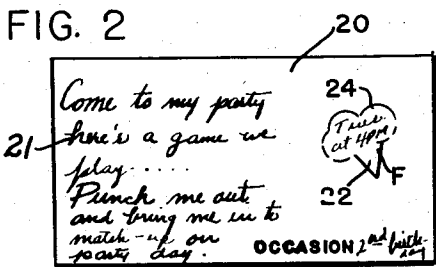


FIG. 3

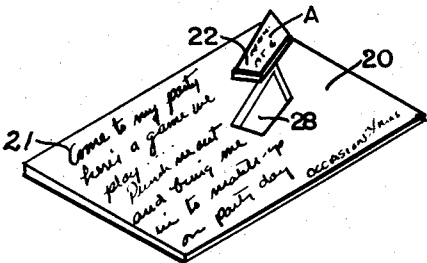
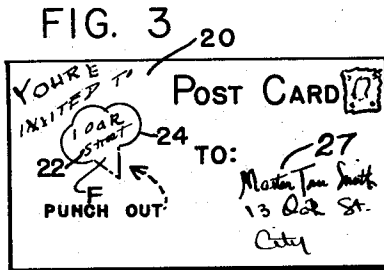


FIG. 4

PRIZE LIST	
10 → A. doll	32 E. hat
30 B. gum	F. purple
C. pistol	G. knife
D. candy	H. mask

FIG. 5

INVENTOR.
FRANK J. ALLEN, JR

BY

Patrick Henry

ATTORNEY

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MATCHING GAMES

Frank J. Allen, Jr., Doraville, Ga.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 273-153)

This invention relates to a matching game and more particularly to a matching game of the sort using a game board and separate game elements distributable among several people.

The present game also includes as a novel feature thereof a means for inviting the participants to come in at a central location for a gathering at which the game will be played. This arrangement has as one form thereof a postal type invitation card with a portion or elements of the game therewith.

There is always a demand for a novel, unique game particularly for use when children gather in groups such as at parties, school, home, and the like. Such a game is very absorbing if it has some element of suspense and puzzling effort which will get and keep attention from the group and end in a prize for each, or nearly each, participant. The present game has all of these attributes and many more.

Generally described, the present game comprises a game board to be located at one place, such as the party, and having a plurality of individual portions defined thereon as by cutting irregular closed figures therein. A plurality of cards are sent in advance to announce the game and the occasion and each one of the cards has a defined portion thereof substantially identical with at least one of the portions on the game board so that the card portion may be physically matched with its counterpart on the game board. One way of playing the game involves mailing the individual cards as postal cards with written invitation thereon to come to the party and to bring the defined card portion. Then at the game each of the game board portions has been marked or otherwise identified to correspond with a prize list selected ahead of time. After assembling at the game location the players try and match up their cards to receive whatever prize goes therewith. This description is not a limitation on the scope of my game, reference being made to the claims for such purpose.

An object of this invention is to present a game apparatus with parts thereof distributed in advance of the actual gathering for playing the game.

A further object of this invention is to provide a game apparatus where the game board has a number of individual portions and the invitations to come and play the game have matching elements for at least part of the game board.

An additional object of this invention resides in the novel invitation card having an element of the game indicated therewith.

Another feature is found in the provision of a small punch out tab on the invitation card which will act as a small reminder in addition to being used with the actual playing of the game at the party.

Also an object is the arrangement whereby no particular sequence of matching it necessary although there are a number of positions on the board.

As the more detailed outline of the invention proceeds many objects and advantages will become apparent when

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reading the description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the front of a preferred form of game board for this invention.

Fig. 2 is one side of an invitation card with removable tab both forming a part of the game.

Fig. 3 is the other side of the card shown in Fig. 2 adapted for mailing.

Fig. 4 is a pictorial view of another of the cards used in the game and with a different shape tab shown removed.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the back of the game board in Fig. 1 showing use as a prize tabulation sheet.

Proceeding to elaborate on the general outline of the operation presented above reference is now made to the drawing for a more concise description where it is seen that the game has as one element thereof a game board 10 constructed from paper or the like in single or multiply sheets and the like with a front, flat surface 12 which may be decorated in anticipation of the occasion for which the game is played (such as birthday, Halloween, Christmas, and the like) or in the general gaiety of the clown 14, balloons 16, and other humorous text material. Fashioned on the game board front 12 are a number of individual portions designated generally at 18 and identified both as to particular and peculiar shape and/or some sort of indicia such as letters A, B, C, D, etc., as shown in Fig. 1. The portions 18 may be defined in any preferred manner as by cutting away part of the top surface of the material or removing the top ply in a multiply board 12 or simply by marking the border of the individual portions 18. For the purpose of illustration the portions 18 in the drawings are of obvious individual, irregular and peculiar shape so as to be not too difficult for a child of tender years.

In addition to the game board 12 are a plurality of game cards 20, preferably constructed of heavy or of multiply material, each having space for written or printed text material 21 relative to the occasion and a card portion or tab member 22 which corresponds to at least one of the portions 18 on the game board 12 so that card tab 22 has matching counterpart 18 but without the various card portions 22 or game portions on board 12 being in any manner necessarily dependent upon any interlocking or the like or upon any necessary sequence of matching, that is, any card portion 22 will match up with its counterpart game board portion 18 without the necessity of another portion 18 being in any particular place. In the example of Figs. 2 and 3, the card 20 has thereon a card portion 22 corresponding to the "ice cream cone" like figure F on game board 12. Card portion 22 is formed in the material 20 along weakened lines 24 so that it is easily punched or pulled out from its position.

The card 20 of the present embodiment is in a preferred form of a novel postal card invitation to a party on the occasion of the child's birthday noted on the card and with a poetic description of what to do with the card as relates to playing the game and having address space 27 and so forth as is apparent in the drawings. On one side of the punch-out tab or portion 22-F is written the day of the party and on the other side is written the place. Accordingly, the small punch out 22-F is a reminder of the occasion.

Another card 20 is shown in Fig. 4 with its punch-out tab or portion 22 actually punched out leaving an opening 28. The portion 22 in Fig. 4 corresponds to the game board portion A and would be matched therewith when the game is played.

Normally the indicia A, B, C, etc. should not be found on the card 20 or card portion 22 since the actual challenge comes from the mental effort required

to realize the comparison between shapes although the game may be simplified further by the indicia or other means if desired. Naturally, such simplicity as shown would not be at all attractive to an adult or older child so the portions may be made more similar to each other with less distinguishing characteristics and a time allotment made in order to complicate the game for more of an adult challenge.

In playing the game the individual cards are distributed, as by mailing, to as many persons as desired within the limits of the number of positions on the particular board 10 at hand. Upon receipt of the invitation, each person removes his particular and individual tab or portion 22 and retains it and carries it with him to the party. At some time in the stage of the gathering quite a to-do is made and everyone gathers around for the matching of the pieces. As each child is called forward in whatever order desired he advances to match his portion with the proper place on the board 10. The primary importance of having some indicia with the portions 18 on the board 10 is in being able to identify the portions with some prize according to a list of prizes which may be written on the back 30 of game board 10 as a prize list 32. Prizes are then awarded according to the pre-selected arrangement.

There is no limit, except convenience, insofar as the size of the game board 10 and the number of game board portions 18 and the variations in shapes and sizes of portions 18 are just as unlimited. Furthermore, the portions 18 may be defined in many ways on the board front 12 and likewise the matching portions 22 could be gummed stickers as well as the punch-out tabs.

The game can be used with older groups as an incentive to get people together. For example, a lodge or country club can send out cards 20 informing them that the game is to be played at some dance or dinner which is announced by the card 20. One prize could be an extremely desirable object like a television set while all others could be in the nature of nominal things.

Although I have shown and described a preferred form of my invention with details of operation thereof this is not to be construed as any sort of limitation on the extent or scope of the invention since many modifications, alterations, substitutions, eliminations, and variations may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a game apparatus of the class described, a game board having a plurality of individually distinctive positions independent of each other in fixed designation on said board, said board being for location on exhibition at a central location such as a party and a plurality of individual and independent game invitation cards each having a distinctive game portion removably connected

therewith and normally carried thereby, said game portions including a plurality of matching portions having a counterpart among the distinctive positions on said board with there being identification means on both said game board positions and said matching portions so that they may be compared and identified, each of said cards having a space thereon on which may be placed written material such as the time and day of a party whereby said cards may be distributed among several people as invitations to a gathering and said people will have the pleasure and fun of trying to match their card portion with a game board counterpart.

2. In a game apparatus of the class described, a plurality of individual and independent card members for dissemination as invitations to a group of people preferably in advance of an anticipated assembly like a game and each card member including an individual irregular closed portion identified with that particular card by its readily visible shape, a central game board for location at a place of assembly and having a plurality of positions with each position thereof defining an individual closed area of particular shape, there being many areas on the game board with at least some of said areas corresponding with a respective matching and identically shaped portion on a respective card member comprising the closed portions on the different card members, and each of the game board positions having identifying indicia associated therewith to point out a prize corresponding with that particular position and which is awarded to the person matching the closed portion of their card with the corresponding position on the game board in accordance with a pre-arranged tabulation of prizes for the many positions, said cards being distributable to individuals as they are desired to be informed such as by mailing in advance of the occasion so that said cards and said portions may be used as notices and again used at the occasion.

3. The device claimed in claim 2 in which the closed portions on the individual card members are formed as removable tab-like members cut from the card material.

4. The device claimed in claim 2 wherein said card member is a postal type card and said closed portion of said card is removable therefrom.

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