

March 14, 1967

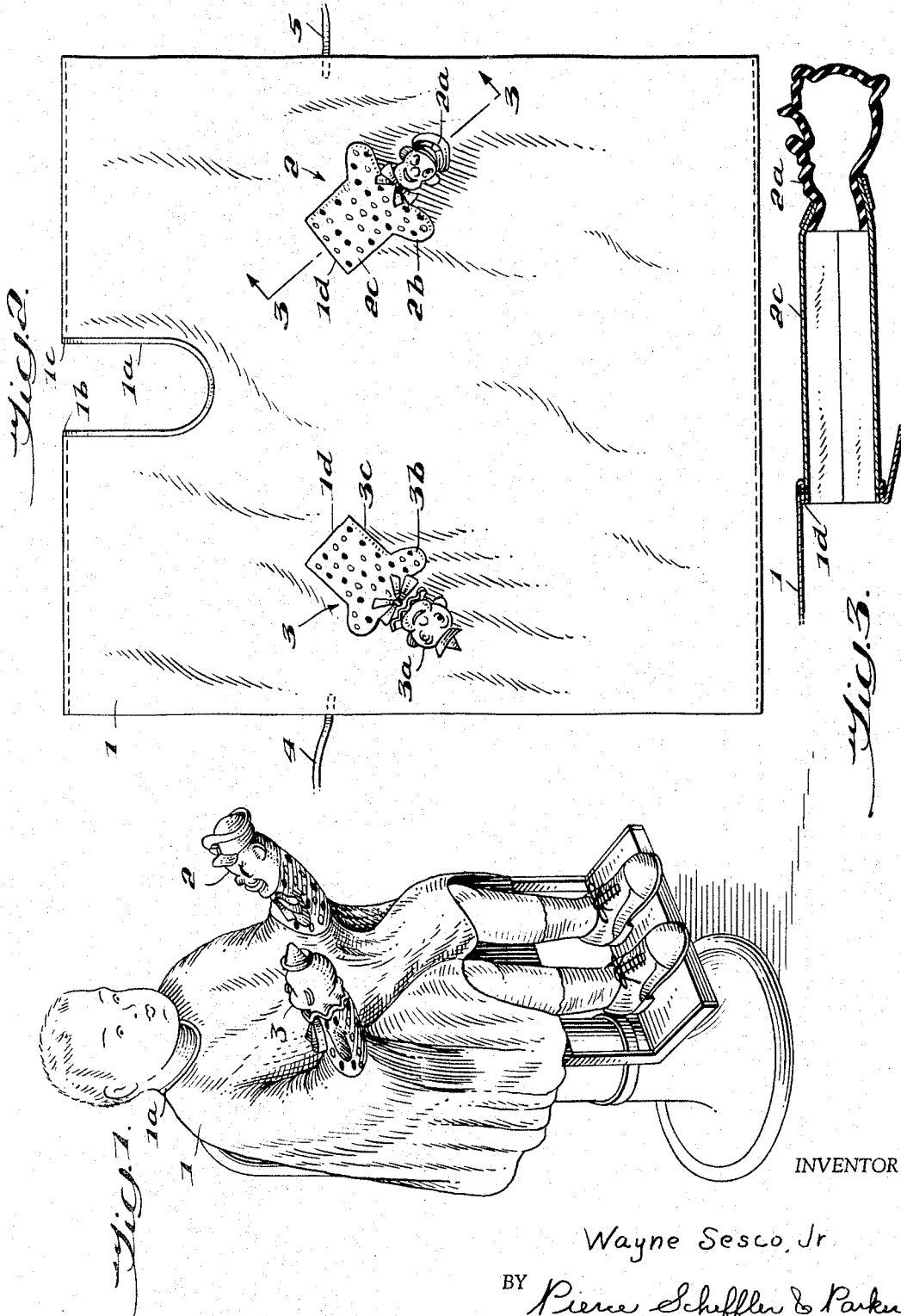
W. SESCO, JR

3,308,479

PUPPET EQUIPPED PROTECTIVE CLOTH FOR USE ON CHILDREN

Filed Jan. 10, 1966

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR

Wayne Sesco, Jr

BY *Pierre, Schaffer & Parker*  
ATTORNEYS

March 14, 1967

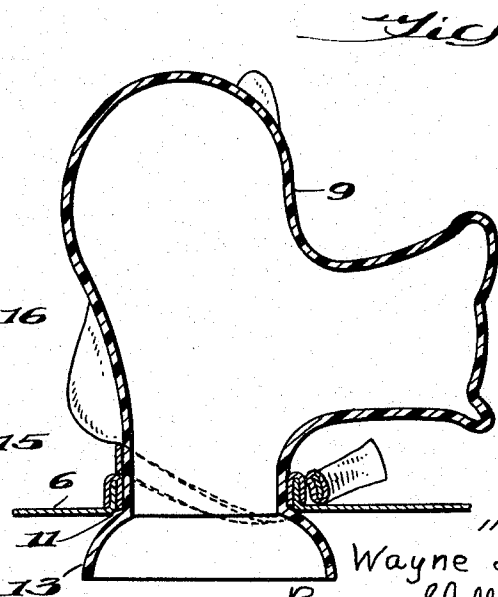
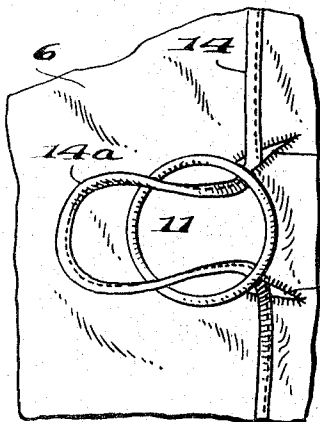
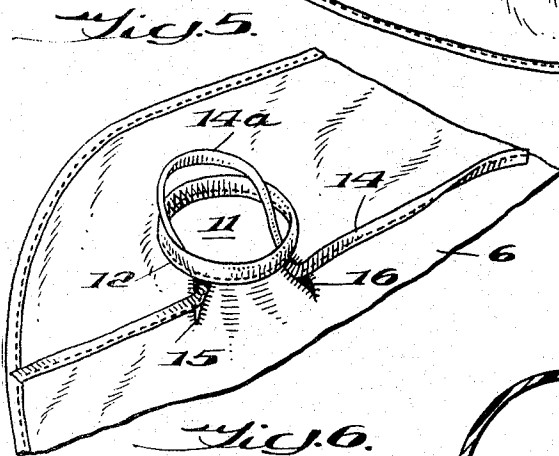
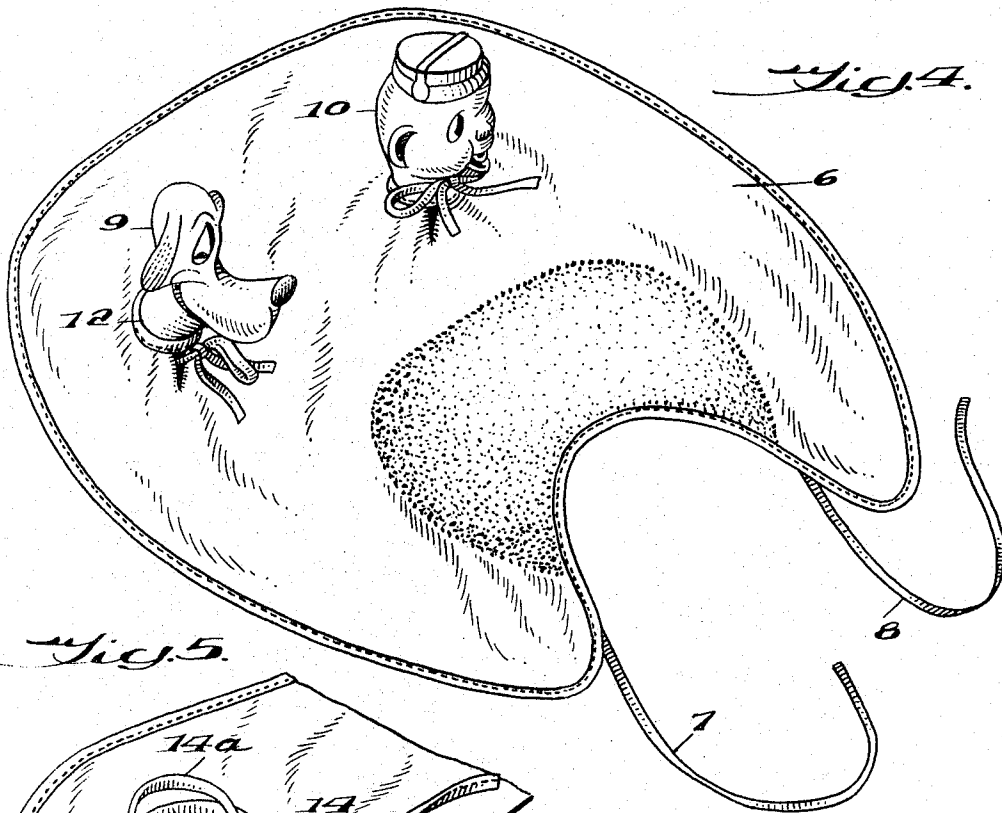
W. SESCO, JR

3,308,479

PUPPET EQUIPPED PROTECTIVE CLOTH FOR USE ON CHILDREN

Filed Jan. 10, 1966

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



INVENTOR  
Wayne Sesco, Jr.  
BY Pierre, Schell & Parker  
ATTORNEYS

1

3,308,479  
**PUPPET EQUIPPED PROTECTIVE CLOTH FOR USE ON CHILDREN**

Wayne Sesco, Jr., 5 Prince George Drive,  
Hampton, Va. 23369  
Filed Jan. 10, 1966, Ser. No. 526,938  
5 Claims. (Cl. 2-50)

The present invention relates to protective cloths comprising hair cloths for barbers, bibs, and the like adapted to be applied to children for the purpose of self-amusement, and is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 428,458, filed January 27, 1965, now abandoned.

In accordance with the invention, the protective cloth includes at least a front panel adapted to be secured in place over the front portion of a child's body, and wherein one or more hollow puppet heads are secured in place at the outer side of the front panel, the interior of the head being accessible from the under side of the panel to receive one or more fingers, or thumb of the child so as to enable the child to manipulate the puppet head. The puppet head can be secured in place directly at the cloth by providing an opening in the latter through which the neck portion of the head can be inserted in place, or the head can include a body portion establishing a short sleeve which latter is secured to an opening in the cloth, thus enabling the child to insert his hand and a portion of his forearm into the puppet in order to manipulate it.

With the protective cloth in place on the child, he is thus able to amuse himself and hence serves to divert his attention while other things are being done for him. The invention is applicable to various types of protective cloths. For example, it may be used as a hair cloth in barber shops thus making it easier for the barber to cut the child's hair since the hands and mind of the child are occupied in manipulating the puppets thus diverting his attention from the barber. The invention, in the form of a hair cloth may also be embodied in a home barber kit in order to make it easier for one to cut a child's hair in the home. The cloth may also be used by dentists and other practitioners in order to make it easier for them to work with a child. The cloth can also be designed as a child's bib in order to overcome difficulties often encountered in feeding. Moreover, the cloth may be donned by the child simply as an amusement device to keep him occupied while at home or while traveling, etc.

The foregoing as well as other objects and advantages inherent in the invention will become more apparent from the following description of two suitable embodiments of the invention when considered with the accompanying drawings. In these drawings:

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective of one embodiment of the invention in the form of a hair cloth to be worn by a child in the barber's chair;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the hair cloth;

FIG. 3 is a section of the cloth taken on line 3-3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a view in perspective of another embodiment of the invention in the form of a child's bib;

FIGS. 5 and 6 are enlarged perspectives of a portion of the bib showing details of the opening in the bib for receiving the neck portion of the puppet head and the arrangement for tying it in place; and

FIG. 7 is a sectional view through the hollow puppet head and bib.

With reference now to the drawings, the hair cloth embodiment of the invention as depicted in FIGS. 1-3 is seen to be composed of a generally rectangular cloth panel 1 with an opening 1a extending downward from the upper edge of the panel to receive the neck of the child.

2

As shown in FIG. 1, the front part of the panel is draped over the front of the child in customary fashion, and the two corners 1b, 1c at the opening 1a are secured together in any practical manner. A safety pin is customarily used for this purpose by barbers but tie strings would obviously serve just as well.

In accordance with the embodiment of the invention, the hair cloth incorporates a pair of puppets 2 and 3 designed for self-amusement of the child while his hair is being cut. Many barbers experience much difficulty in cutting a child's hair. Many cry and go through antics resulting in head movements which obviously make it very difficult for the barber to use clippers and scissors. Others raise their hands to their head and interfere with the barber. All of these antics not only make for difficulties in cutting the child's hair but also sometimes lead to accidental injury to the child from the scissors or clippers. The puppets 2 and 3 provide self-amusement and divert his attention from what the barber is doing. Moreover, since the arms and hands of the child are inserted into the body portions of the puppets, it also becomes practically impossible for the child to raise his arms and thus interfere with the barber. This so-called "tying down" of the child's arms can better be assured, if desired, by providing tie strings 4 and 5 at opposite side edges of the cloth panel 1, these two strings being adapted to be passed around to the back of the child and there tied together.

The puppets themselves are of conventional figure construction and are adapted to be hand-manipulated in the usual manner by inserting different fingers and thumb into the hollow head and outspread "arm" parts of the figure. The head and arm parts of the puppets 2 and 3 are designated by 2a, 2b and 3a, 3b respectively. The hollow "body" parts 2c, 3c of the two puppet figures receive and enclose the arms of the child and thus serve as sleeve elements. The two puppets can represent the same figure or, as illustrated, can represent different figures, thus adding to the interest and imagination of the child while playing with them.

Assuming the hollow body parts 2c, 3c of the puppet figures to be of a length sufficient to constitute a sleeve for the arms of the child, the puppets may be attached to the cloth simply by cutting two openings 1d into the cloth panel 1 and stitching the lower edges of the body parts 2c, 3c around the edges of these openings, as depicted in FIG. 3. As a variant, where longer sleeve parts are desired, it is also possible to set separate sleeve portions in the cloth panel 1 and then attach the hollow body portions 2c, 3c of the puppets.

Preferably, as shown in the drawings, the two puppet figures are attached to the cloth panel in a downwardly and outwardly inclined attitude, and with their faces toward the front so that when the child's arms are inserted into the puppets, a slight natural raising motion of his arms will bring the faces of the puppets naturally into his view and in an optimum position for self-amusement.

By amusing himself with the puppets while the barber is cutting his hair, it is believed to be self-evident that many of the barber's usual difficulties and vexations experienced in cutting children's hair will be overcome.

Another embodiment of the invention is illustrated in FIGS. 4-7 from which it will be seen that the protective cloth is in the form of a child's bib 6 provided with ties 7, 8 at the upper part thereof for tying the bib in place around the neck of the child. In this embodiment of the invention, the body of the puppet is eliminated, thus there is no sleeve portion, and the hollow puppet head 9, 10, made of soft rubber, are secured directly upon the outer side of the bib 6 by providing suitably spaced

openings 11 in the bib which can be bound at 12 to smooth the edge of the opening and resist tearing. The neck portion 13 of each puppet head is inserted through the opening 11 and secured in place by means of a draw string 14. A loop 14a in the draw string is placed around the neck portion of the puppet head and the opposite end portions of the draw string are then passed through spaced slits 15, 16 in the bib from the under to the upper side thereof, drawn tight to tighten the loop 14a about the neck 13 and then tied in bows as shown in FIG. 4. When the bib has been tied around the child's neck, he can then insert one or more fingers of each hand into the hollow puppet heads from the underside of the bib to animate them. When the bib has become soiled, the puppet heads can be easily removed from the bib for laundering by untying the draw strings 14.

While the illustrated embodiment of the bib in accordance with the invention is provided with two such puppet heads, obviously it can be made with only one head, if this is desired. However, two puppet heads are preferred since this will serve to keep both hands of the child occupied.

In conclusion, it will be apparent that the puppet head equipped cloth for children in accordance with the invention has many applications. In addition to barber cloths and bibs, it can also be used by dentists and doctors to divert their attention during their administrations. Moreover, the improved cloth provided with the puppets can also be used simply as an amusement device for children during play or an artifice to keep them occupied and under control while traveling.

I claim:

1. A protective cloth for use on children, said protective cloth comprising a protective panel having an exposed outer side and an under side when in use and having a cut-out portion at its top edge adapted to fit around the neck of the child, said protective cloth being adapted to be secured in place on the child to cover the front portion of the child's body, at least one hollow puppet head secured in place on the outer side of said panel below said cut-out portion, and means providing access to the interior of said puppet head from the underside of said panel to receive one or more fingers of the child for animation of said puppet head.

2. A protective cloth for use on children as defined in claim 1 and wherein a pair of puppet heads are secured in place on the outer side of said panel, said puppet

heads being located at equal distances from a center line extending from the upper to the lower edges of said panel.

3. A protective cloth for use on children as defined in claim 1 wherein said puppet head is provided with a hollow neck part establishing access to the interior of said puppet head, wherein said panel includes an opening through which said neck part is inserted, and which further includes means for securing said neck part to said panel.

4. A protective cloth for use on children as defined in claim 1 wherein said panel includes an opening and wherein said means providing access to the interior of said puppet head from the under side of said panel comprises a sleeve-like member forming a puppet body part, one end of said sleeve-like member being secured around said panel opening for insertion of the child's hand and the other end of said sleeve-like member being secured to said puppet head.

5. A protective cloth for use on children, said protective cloth comprising a protective panel having an exposed outer side and an under side when in use and having a cut-out portion at its top edge adapted to fit around the neck of the child, at least one hollow puppet head provided with a hollow neck part establishing access to the interior of said puppet head from the under side of said panel to receive one or more fingers of the child for animation of said puppet head, said panel including an opening below said cut-out portion and through which said neck part is inserted, and means for tying said neck part in place at said opening comprising a tie string adapted to be looped around said neck part, the ends of said tie string being passed through other openings in said panel adjacent said neck opening and tied together.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

683,857	10/1901	Kilpatrick	46-154
1,464,546	8/1923	Spero	2-50
1,641,175	9/1927	Lemieux	46-154
2,532,932	12/1950	Neiswander	2-49
2,655,762	10/1953	Burke	46-154 X
2,727,240	12/1955	Marshall	2-50
2,931,137	4/1960	Ellett	46-154
3,106,041	10/1963	Kahn	46-154

JORDAN FRANKLIN, Primary Examiner.

A. R. GUEST, Assistant Examiner.