

No. 849,551.

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A. A. LUTTERMAN.
MAIL CARRYING DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 29, 1906.

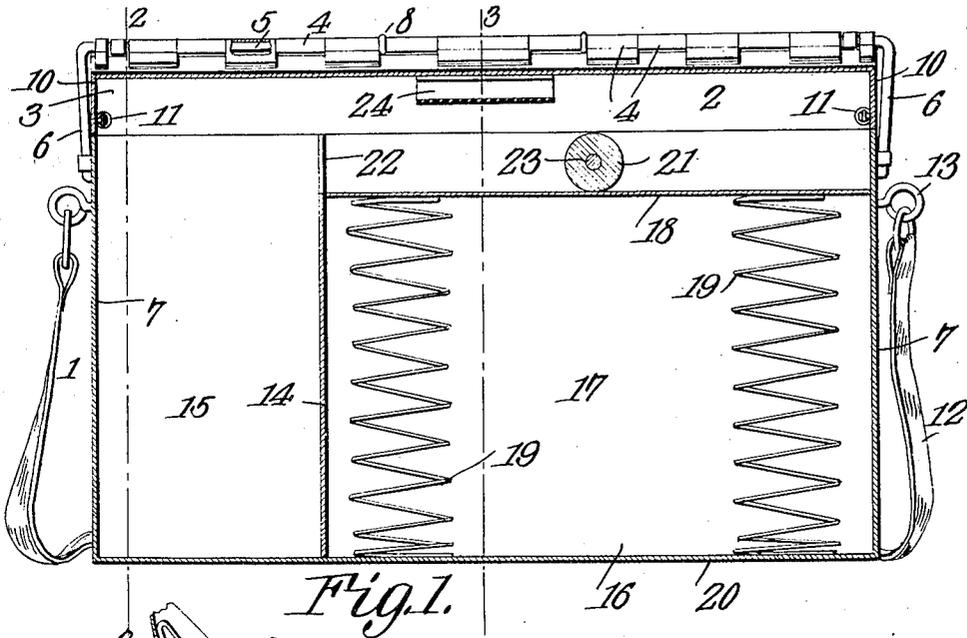


Fig. 1.

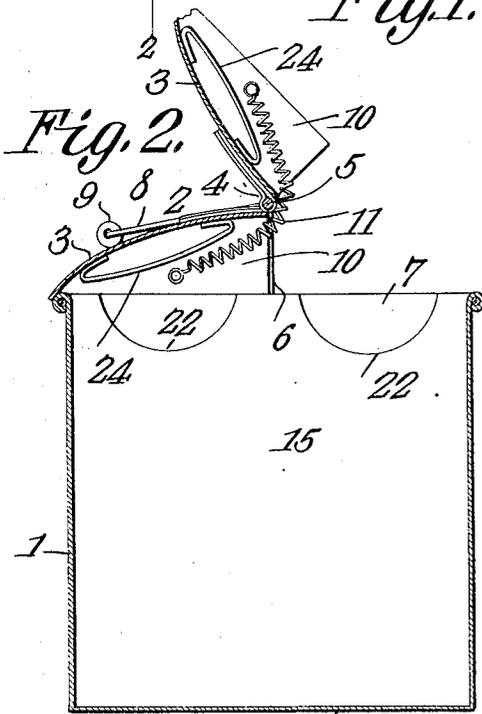


Fig. 2.

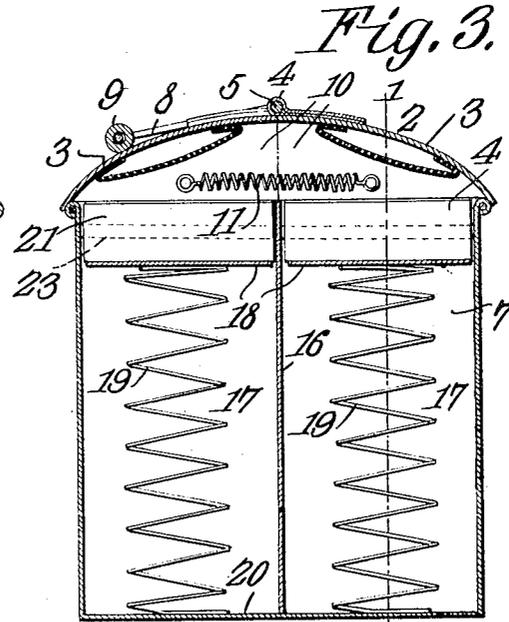


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AEILT A. LUTTERMAN, OF ACKLEY, IOWA.

MAIL-CARRYING DEVICE.

No. 849,551.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 9, 1907.

Application filed December 29, 1906. Serial No. 350,036.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AEILT A. LUTTERMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ackley, in the county of Hardin and State of Iowa, have invented a new and useful Mail-Carrying Device, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a mail-carrying device intended for use by carriers in city and rural free-delivery service, and comprises a weather-tight receptacle divided into several compartments in which the mail-matter is conveniently packed for delivery and collected during the trip.

The invention has for one of its objects to improve and simplify the construction and operation of devices of this character, so as to be comparatively easy and inexpensive to manufacture, of substantial and durable construction, and adapted to enable the letter-carrier to conveniently and orderly arrange the mail-matter to be delivered.

A further object of the invention is to provide a mail-carrying device comprising a receptacle divided into several compartments and having a two-part hinged cover which is spring-closed and adapted to be automatically held open when placing mail-matter or taking it out of the receptacle.

With these objects in view and others, as will appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the invention comprises the various novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, which will be more fully described hereinafter, and set forth with particularity in the claims appended hereto.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate one of the embodiments of the invention, Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view of the device on the line 1 1, Fig. 3. Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse section on line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a similar view on line 3 3 of Fig. 1.

Corresponding parts in the several figures are indicated throughout by similar characters of reference.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates the body of the receptacle or box, which is preferably made of sheet metal of suitable lightness and gage. The receptacle is open at its top, and it is provided with a cover 2, which is arched in transverse section, as shown in Fig. 3, and composed of two sections 3, extending the full length of the receptacle.

At the meeting edges of the sections 3 are provided alternately-arranged eyes 4, through

which extends a pintle-rod 5, whereby the two sections are hinged together. The ends of the pintle-rod 5 are bent downwardly at 6 and are secured to the end walls 7 of the receptacle.

At the center of the pintle-rod 5 is arranged a wire bail 8, having a handle 9 for enabling the device to be carried like a grip.

The ends of the sections 3 of the cover are provided with the segmental depending portions 10, which close the space between the sections 3 and the top edges of the end walls 7.

At the ends of the cover and arranged interiorly thereof are the spiral springs 11, having their ends attached to the depending portions 10, at about the centers thereof. These springs keep the sections of the cover closed, as shown in Fig. 3, and permit the covers to be held open one at a time, as shown in Fig. 2, so that the mail-matter can be placed in the box or taken therefrom without having to manually hold the cover open.

To facilitate the carrying of the device, a shoulder-strap 12 is provided, which has its ends connected with the eyes 13 on the end walls 7 of the receptacle.

The interior of the receptacle 1 is divided into a plurality of compartments, certain of which are intended to hold the mail-matter which is to be delivered by the letter-carrier, while another is intended to receive the letters collected during the delivery trip and to hold money-order blanks, postal cards, envelopes, and the like, which are kept in stock by the carrier in accordance with the requirements of the service. In the present instance a transverse partition 14 is arranged adjacent one end to form the receptacle 15 for receiving the collected mail-matter and for holding the postal stock. The space on one side of the vertical partition 14 is divided by a central longitudinal partition 16 into the two long compartments 17 for holding the mail-matter to be delivered by the carrier. The compartments 17 are each disposed under one of the cover-sections 3, so that by opening one or the other of the cover-sections access to the compartments 17 is had. The cover-sections also extend over the end compartment 15, so that access thereto is obtained by opening either one of the cover-sections. In each compartment 17 is a plate-like follower 18, that is freely movable in a vertical direction and supported on helical compression-springs 19, arranged adjacent the ends of the follower and

disposed between the bottom 20 of the receptacle 1 and under side of the follower. By this means the mail-matter arranged in the compartments is gradually fed upwardly toward the top as piece after piece of the mail-matter is taken out for delivery.

To limit the upward movement of the follower and to facilitate the removal of the mail-matter, a roller 21 is arranged at the top of each compartment and located centrally with respect to the follower thereof, and between each roller and its companion follower the mail-matter is confined in each compartment. To facilitate access to the letters in the compartments 17, the upper portion of the transverse partition 14 is provided with notches 22, which accommodate the fingers as the postman takes hold of the letters to withdraw them from under the rollers 21. The rollers 21 are mounted on a common transverse shaft 23, supported on the side walls of the receptacle 1 and on the longitudinal partition 16, and the rollers freely rotate thereon.

On each of the cover-sections 3 is arranged an elastic element 24, that is disposed on the inner surface of its respective cover-section, at about the center thereof. This member forms with the cover-section a pocket for holding any special mail-matter—such, for instance, as letters collected along the route to be delivered at some other point during the same trip. By this means the letters are conveniently accessible and can be arranged separate from the other mail-matter.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the advantages of the construction and of the method of operation will be readily understood by those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation of the invention, together with the device which I now consider to be the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that the device shown is merely illustrative and that various changes may be made when desired as are within the scope of the claims.

What is claimed is—

1. In a device of the class described, the combination of a receptacle, a transverse partition adjacent one end thereof, a longitudinal partition extending from the transverse partition to the other end of the receptacle, spring-pressed followers in the compartments on opposite sides of the longitudinal partition, a transverse shaft in the receptacle extending across the said compart-

ments, freely-rotatable rollers on the shaft cooperating with the followers to hold mail-matter between them, and hingedly-connected cover-sections arranged over the compartments.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of a receptacle, a transverse partition having spaced notches at its top portion, a longitudinal partition disposed in a plane between the notches and extending from the transverse partition to one end of the receptacle, a follower in each compartment on opposite sides of the longitudinal partition, springs for yieldingly supporting the followers, a single shaft mounted in two opposite walls of the receptacle and in the longitudinal partition, a roller on the shaft at each side of the longitudinal partition, an arched cover for the receptacle composed of hingedly-connected sections, devices for holding the cover-sections closed, and means on the said sections for holding mail-matter.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination of a receptacle divided into compartments, an arched cover divided longitudinally into sections having depending end portions, eyes at the meeting edges of the sections, a pintle-rod extending through the eyes and having its ends bent downwardly over the end portions of the sections and secured to the receptacle, elastic members at the ends of the cover each connected with the depending portions of the sections thereof for holding the sections closed, and a carrying means attached to the receptacle.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination of a receptacle divided into compartments, an arched cover divided longitudinally into sections having depending end portions, eyes at the meeting edges of the sections, a pintle-rod extending through the eyes and having its ends bent downwardly over the end portions of the sections and secured to the receptacle, elastic members at the ends of the cover each connected with the depending portions of the sections thereof for holding the sections closed, a bail attached to the pintle-rod, and means on the inside of the cover-sections for holding mail-matter.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

AEILT A. LUTTERMAN

Witnesses:

O. BERG,
JOHN RATH.