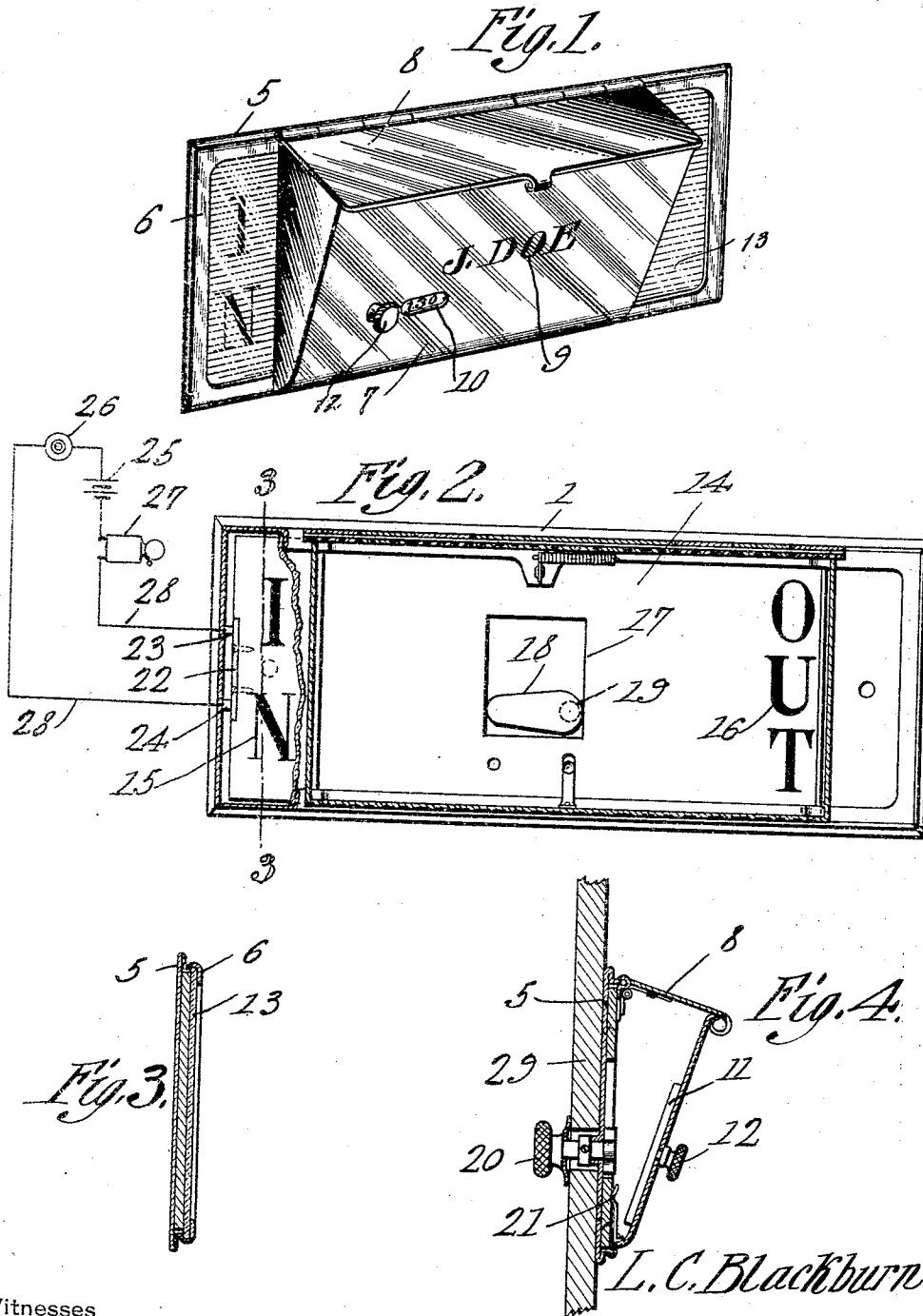


L. C. BLACKBURN.
 INDICATOR FOR MAIL BOXES.
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1,239,342.

Patented Sept. 4, 1917.



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INDICATOR FOR MAIL-BOXES.

1,239,342.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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Application filed October 16, 1915. Serial No. 56,232.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LLOYD C. BLACKBURN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Akron, in the county of Summit and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indicators for Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to novel improvements in indicators for use in connection with mail boxes or the like.

This invention aims to provide in the first instance a reciprocatory visual signal member, which is manually operable and which in turn controls a selecting switch to permit an electrical circuit to be placed in condition to be operated or to remain inoperative.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a mail box and name plate, which is provided with a reciprocatory signal member, carrying indications to advise a caller whether the home party is "In" or "Out," and constituting a means for operating a selecting switch, whereby said selecting member is operative only when the "In" signal is visual.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail box and name plate made according to and embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section through the same, showing the audible alarm circuit in diagram.

Fig. 3 is a section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a central transverse sectional view through the complete device.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 5 designates the base plate provided with the bead or rim 6, and carrying intermediate of its ends from the front thereof, the mail receptacle or box 7, which is provided with a closure 8 hingedly connected with the bead or rim 6, and carries the name plate 9. In the front wall to one side is provided the slot 10, through which is observable the time marks carried by the rotatable disk or dial 11, which is manually manipulated through the instrumentality of the knob 12. By this means the hour of return of the owner may be readily designated, such words as "Will return at" or the like be placed adjacent to the slot 10.

The glass 13 is fitted in the beads or rims 6, to inclose the respective spaces at each side of the box 7, and mounted for reciprocation within the base is the plate 14, which is provided with the "In" sign 15 and the "Out" sign 16, either one of which is visible at a time. In order to operate the plate 14, a rectangular opening 17 is provided centrally thereof for the reception of the operating arm or lug 18, which in turn is fast upon the short shaft 19, which is mounted in the door 29 and carries the knob 20 operable from within the house. The spring clip 21 assists in holding the plate or visual signal carrying member in place.

In order to provide a means whereby a door bell circuit may be selected for operation when the member 14 indicates that the party is "In" there is carried by and insulated from the member 14, a metal plate 22, which is in the path to engage the insulated contacts 23 and 24 carried by the base 5. A battery 25, which may be in any remote place, with the push button 26, bell 27 and the circuit wires 28 form with the contacts 23 and 24 and the plate 22, the audible alarm circuit.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the drawings, it is evident that a mail box made according to and embodying this invention will provide a device which is easily installed, or positioned for use, and that by the manipulation of the visual signal member 14, the audible circuit is selected for operation.

Although the present construction is shown, it is apparent that various changes may be made therein, and still remain within the spirit of the invention, and that also the mail box as illustrated may have substituted therefor a drop by means of which mail may be directed through the door.

What I claim as new is:—

In combination with a receptacle having a closure, of an attaching member of greater length than the receptacle and having side openings, a bead or rim constituting a guideway on the attaching member, the closure being hingedly connected with said rim or bead, a transparent plate mounted beneath the rim in the rear of the said openings, an opaque plate reciprocating in the guideway formed by the rim and having a central opening therein and further provided on its front face adjacent the respective ends with indicia adapted to be alternately moved from a position beneath the receptacle to registry with the side openings so as to be visible therethrough, one of the ends of the

attaching member constituting an electric contact support, a shank rotatably mounted in the attaching member, an arm on the inner end of the shank and arranged to engage the edges of the opening in the opaque plate, an actuating knob for rotating the shank to consequently move the opaque plate to engage the contacts for closing an alarm circuit when indicia is displayed through one of the openings and to move out of the circuit closing position when the indicia is visible through the other opening. 10

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

LLOYD C. BLACKBURN.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."