March 26, 1929. N. COHAN 1,707,049

ADJUSTABLE MAIL BOX

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FIG. 1

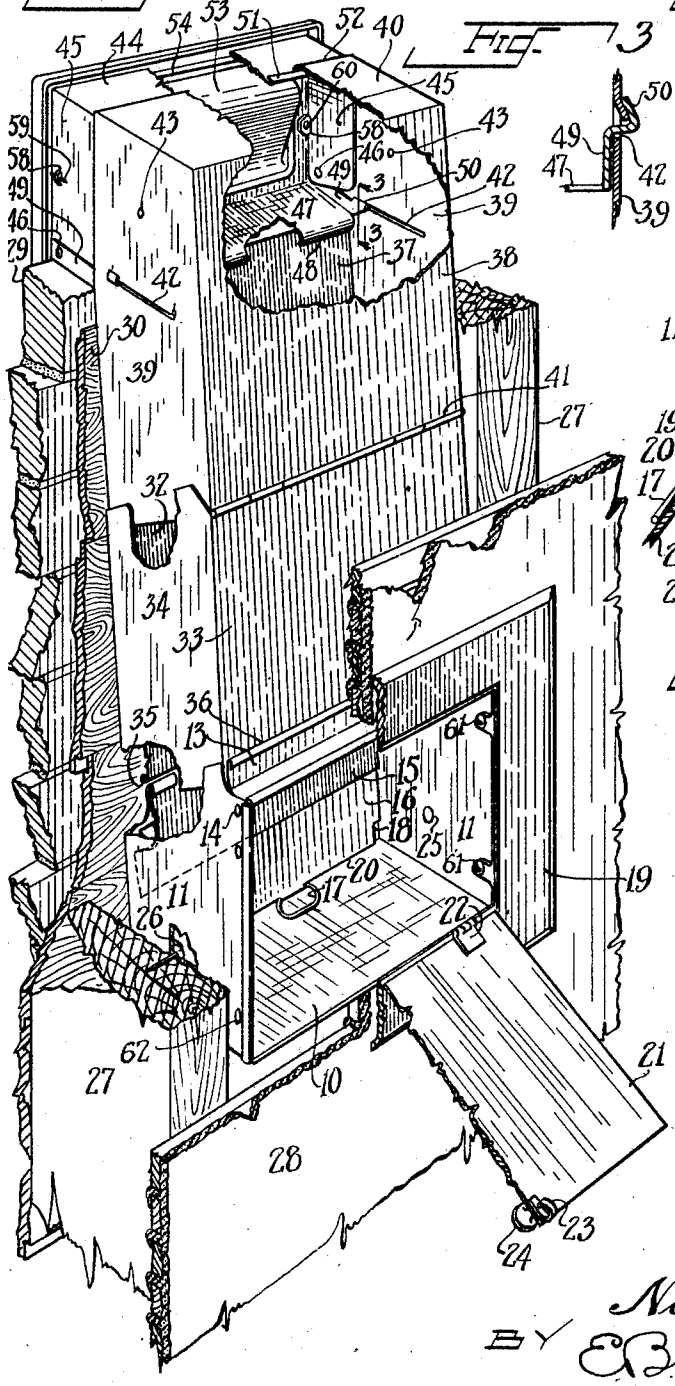


FIG. 3

FIG. 2

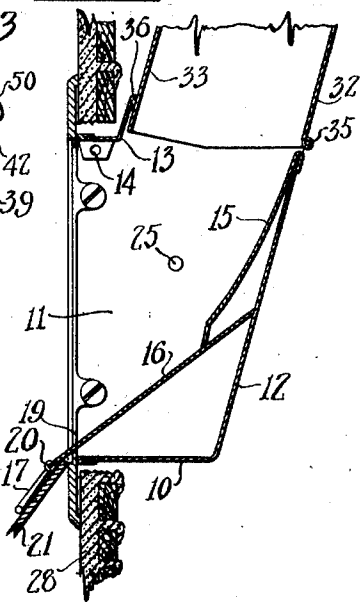
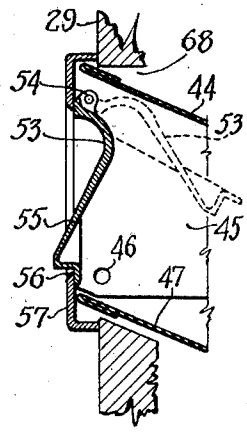


FIG. 4



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FIG. 8

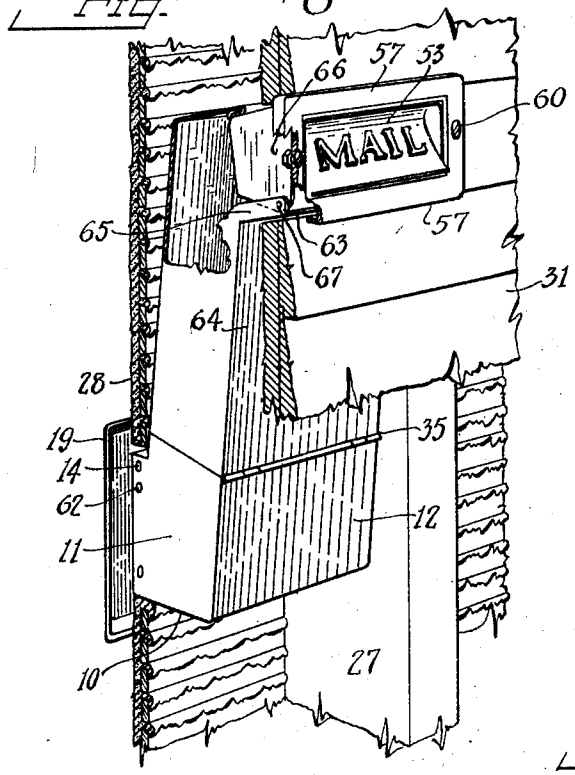


FIG. 7

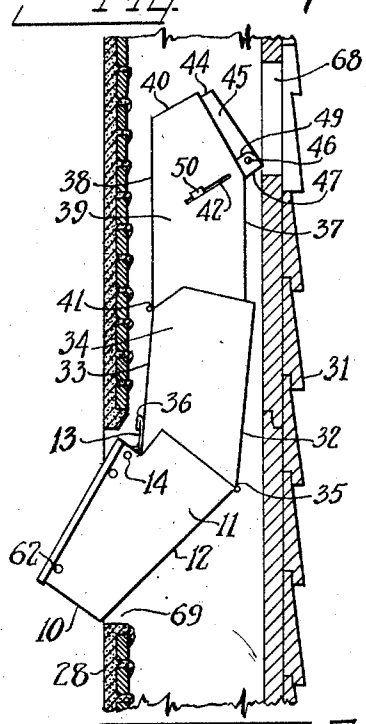


FIG. 6

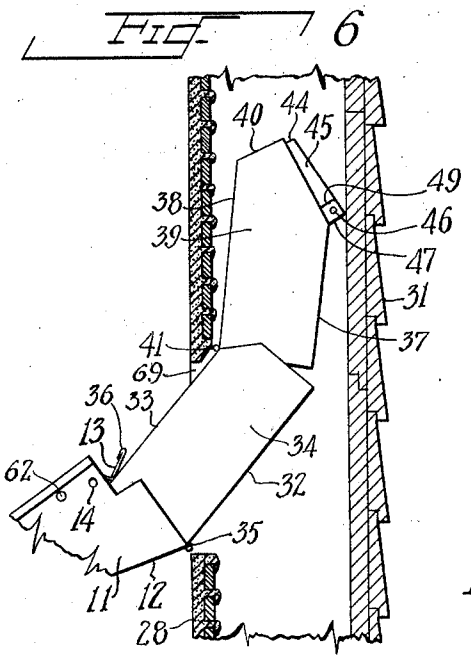
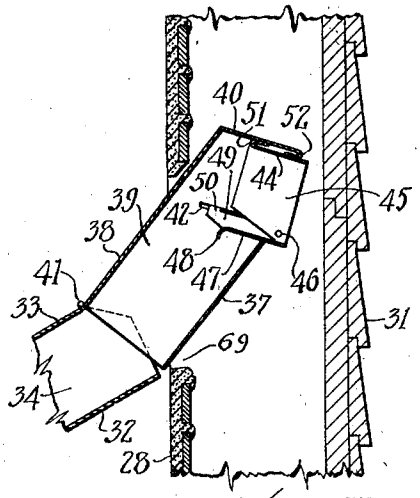


FIG. 5



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Patented Mar. 26, 1929. 1,707,049

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NEWTON COHAN, OF PORTLAND, OREGON.

ADJUSTABLE MAIL BOX.

Application filed February 24, 1927. Serial No. 170,486.

This invention relates generally to mail boxes for the purpose of receiving mail from post-men, and particularly to a special form of mail box adapted to occupy space between the studdings of a wall or within the air space of a wall.

The first object of this invention is to provide an exceedingly simple and efficient form of mail box which can be put into place within a wall while being built, or can be introduced into a wall after it is built.

The second object is to provide a special form of receiving end for the box which will adapt itself for use with wood or plastic exteriors through which it is able to penetrate regardless of their thickness.

The third object is to provide a special form of bottom for the outlet end of the box which will cause the contents to be discharged into the room as rapidly as introduced, as, for instance, during prolonged absence of the owner.

The fourth object is to provide a special form of closure for the inlet opening which will greatly facilitate the introduction of mail by making it possible to introduce mail material with one hand by merely pushing same against the closure.

The fifth object is to so construct the box that its entire structure will be flexible in the sense that it can be bent sufficiently to allow its introduction into the air space of a wall through an opening which is just large enough for the outlet portion of the box.

These objects are accomplished in the manner set forth in the following specification as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device in place in a wall with portions of the wall and the mail box broken away to disclose the parts. Figure 2 is a vertical section through the outlet box with the deflector in position for discharging mail into the room. Figure 3 is a vertical section taken along the line 3—3 in Figure 1. Figure 4 is a vertical section through the inlet door and inlet box. Figure 5 is a vertical section showing the box being started into the wall space. Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 5 showing the box further advanced into the wall space, but not showing the box in section. Figure 7 is a view similar to Figure 6 showing the box almost completely in position. Figure 8 shows a slightly modified form of box not having its inlet box collapsible or its mail chute hinged along its mid portion.

Similar numbers of reference refer to similar parts throughout the different views.

Referring in detail to the drawings, as illustrated in the first seven figures the device will be seen to consist of four principal sections namely, an inlet box, an upper chute, a lower chute and an outlet box.

Outlet box.

The outlet box consists of the bottom 10 and sides 11 between which are secured a back 12. Across the upper ends of the open sides of the box is attached an angular side 13 which is pivotally joined to the sides 11 by the rivets 14. Over the upper edge of the back 12 is hinged a guard 15 under whose lower edge is inserted a deflector plate 16 whose lower edge is provided with a handle 17 and whose corners are provided with notches 18 which engage the sides of the door casing 19 so that the forward edge 20 of the deflector 16 will project slightly over the door 21 which is attached to the casing 19 by means of the hinges 22. A spring latch 23 is secured to the door 21, which also carries a knob 24 to assist in operating the door.

It is preferable to supply holes 25 in the sides 11 for the nails 26 by means of which the outlet box is secured to the upright studs 27, to which are secured the inner plastered walls 28 and the outer walls 29, which may be of brick or tile facing, as indicated in Figure 1, over the wood sheathing 30 or perhaps lapped siding 31, as indicated in Figures 5 to 8 inclusive.

Lower chute.

The lower chute consists of the back 32, the front 33 and sides 34. The lower edge 35 of the back 32 is hinged to the back 12, and the front edge 33 engages the upper edge 36 of the angular side 13. The sides 34 are inside of the sides 11 and these members over-lap at all times.

Upper chute.

The upper chute consists of the back 37, front 38, the sides 39 and top 40. The lower edge 41 of the front 38 is hinged to the front 33, and the sides 39 over-lap the inner sides

of the members 34. The sides 39 are provided with horizontal slots 42, the object of which will be described later. The sides 39 are also provided with perforations 43 through which nails may be driven into the studdings 27.

Inlet box.

The inlet box includes the integral top 44 and sides 45 between whose lower ends is pivotally attached by means of the rivets 46 the bottom 47 whose edge 48 is downturned and whose ends 49 are upturned. Each end 49 has an outturned ear 50 which passes through a slot 42. The top 44 has its inner end 51 turned backwardly toward the top 40 whose edge 52 is inturned toward the top 44.

It will be noted that the inlet box is slidable with relation to the upper chute and that the inlet box itself is also provided with an angular adjustment. The inlet box 53 is swung from the hinges 54 and the major portion 55 of the door slopes outwardly over the lower edge 56 of the casing 57, thereby forming a water shed for the opening.

The weight of the door is so distributed as to cause same to urge the door to a closed position, as shown in Figure 4, which action can be overcome by a slight push against the portion 55 which can be accomplished by pressing the mail matter about to be deposited in the box against the portion 55; the door returning to its original position as soon as the matter has passed into the box.

To each side 45 is attached a nut 58 which passes partially through the side itself and a pin 59 passes through the nut, as indicated, which is then soldered into place making it impossible for the nut to become detached from the side 45. Screws 60 pass through the casing 57 and the nuts 58. The casing 19 around the outlet opening is held in place by means of the screws 61, which pass through the opening 62 in the sides 11.

In the modification shown in Figure 8 the parts are identical with those in the other figures, except that the hinge along the edge 41 is omitted and the upper and lower chutes are integral. In this modification the floor 63 of the inlet box is integral with the side 64 of the chute and its turned up edge 65 holds the floor 63 in rigid relation to the chute. However, the box 66 being hinged on the rivets 67 is capable of angular adjustment with relation to the side 64 to accommodate the device to various thicknesses of walls. The type of box shown in Figure 8 is usable only for new constructions work, whereas the type shown in the remaining figures is as easily introduced into existing buildings as it would be in the new.

In order to install this mail box it is necessary to collapse same by pushing the inlet box as far as possible into the upper chute and after having formed an opening 68 for the inlet box and an opening 69 for the outlet box in their respective walls it is only necessary to slip the smaller inlet end upwardly through the hole 69, as shown in Figure 5, bending the chutes and outlet box with relation to each other as required to secure a free passage into the air space of the wall until they approach the position shown in Figure 7, after which the inlet box is pulled out until it penetrates the material 29 or 31 sufficiently to permit the attachment of the casing 57. The outlet box is now swung into position in the opening 69 and its door casing 19 is put into place.

By this construction it is possible to secure the maximum depth and thickness of mail boxes for a given depth of air space in a wall, and to make it possible to penetrate a relatively thick outer wall without sacrificing the capacity of the mail chute itself.

It will also be noticed that in inserting this box into existing walls that it is not necessary to cut an opening any larger than can be covered by the casings which are to be used around such opening, making it unnecessary to repair the walls before or after the box is installed and making it extremely easy for even the inexperienced mechanic to properly install this device.

As above suggested, if a user of the box contemplates a prolonged absence he merely opens the door 21 and pulls out the deflector plate 16, as shown in Figure 2. This allows the postman to insert the mail into the box as before, but prevents any accumulation of mail in the box, with an accompanying opportunity for the unauthorized removal of same through the inlet opening.

By the use of the special type of inlet door described one of the main objections to ordinary mail boxes is overcome, inasmuch as only one hand is required to easily insert a piece of mail of any suitable character into the box.

It will also be noted that the thickness of the walls does not affect the use of the device since it readily adapts itself to varying thicknesses of wall, and at all times leaves a free and smooth chute through which the mail can pass without injury or danger of stoppage.

Attention is drawn to my co-pending application Number 116,058, over which this device is an improvement.

I claim:

1. A mail chute having an outlet box provided with a door at one side thereof, the back of said box having a deflector plate slidably mounted therein, said deflector plate being arranged to have its lower edge moved forwardly for the purpose of ejecting mail through said chute outwardly through said door.

2. A mail chute having an outlet box pro-

vided with a side opening, the casing around said opening having a door hinged to the lower side thereof, said door having an open top; a guard hung from the top of the side opposite said door; and a deflector plate slidably placed between the ends of said box having its upper end behind said guard and its lower end adapted to be moved away from the back of said box toward the front thereof and to overlap the hinge of said door for the purpose of ejecting mail passing downwardly into said box.

NEWTON COHAN.