

No. 884,964.

PATENTED APR. 14, 1908.

W. H. VOSS.

MAIL BOX SIGNAL.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 25, 1907.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

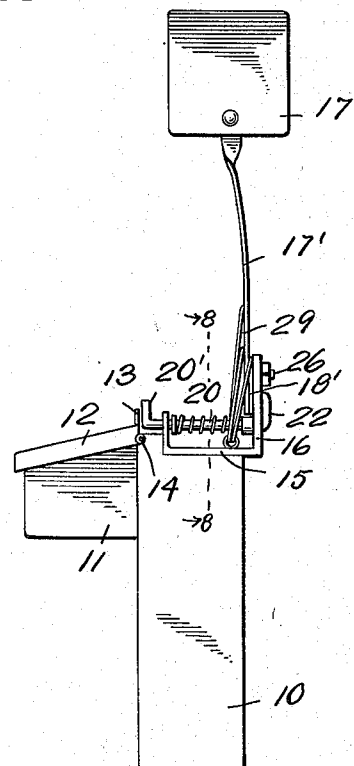


Fig. 2.

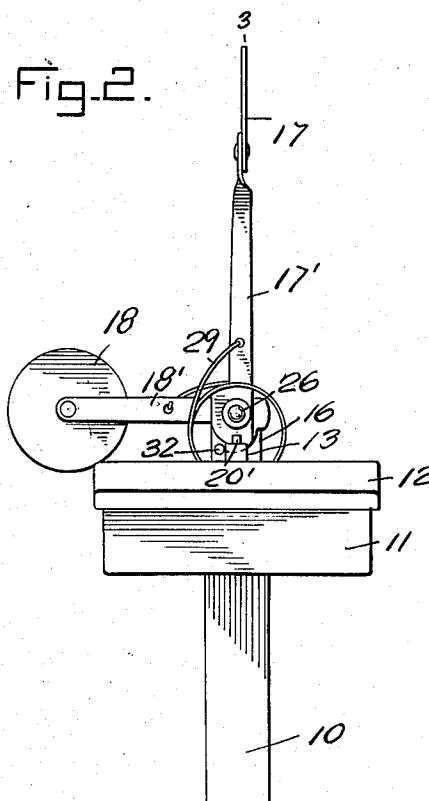


Fig. 3.

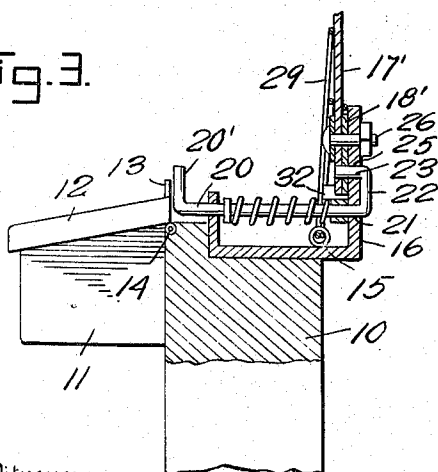
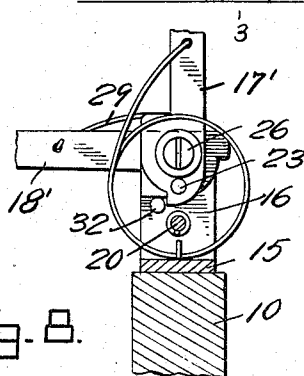


Fig. 4.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

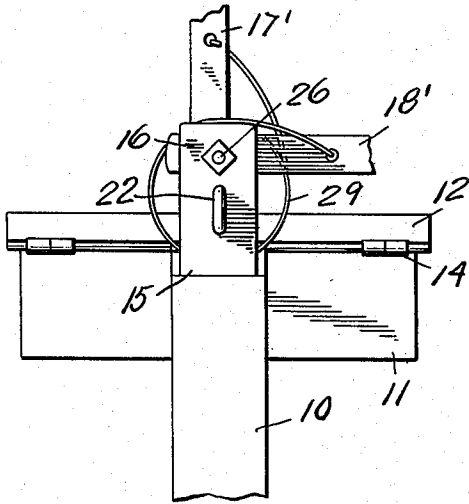


Fig. 5.

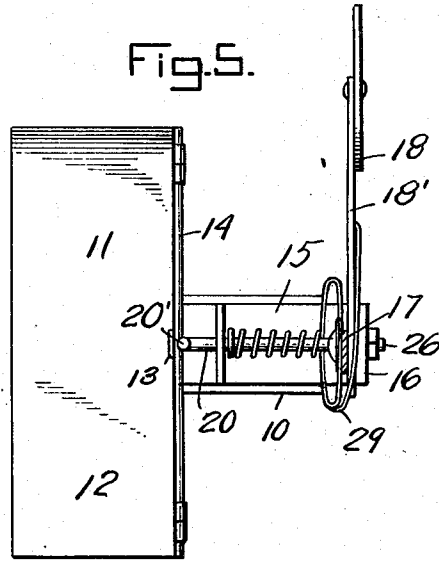


Fig. 6.

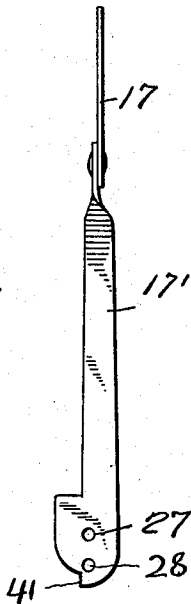
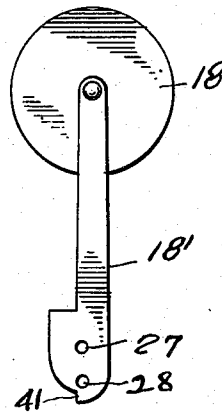


Fig. 7.



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MAIL-BOX SIGNAL.

No. 884,964.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 14, 1908.

Application filed March 25, 1907. Serial No. 364,367.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. VOSS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Poynette, in the county of Columbia, State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Box Signals; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention has relation to mail-boxes for rural free-delivery mail routes.

It is the object of the invention to provide improvements in mail-boxes of the class mentioned that will indicate to the carrier as to whether there is anything in the box for him to collect, and that will automatically set a signal, upon the carrier putting mail matter in the box or taking any matter out, to automatically lower the signal previously set and raise a different one to indicate that he has gone by and opened the box to do either one or both of the things mentioned.

The nature of the invention may be fully and clearly ascertained from the device portrayed in the annexed drawings, forming a part of this specification, in view of which it will first be fully described in detail with respect to this construction and mode of operation and then be pointed out with particularity in the subjoined claims.

Of the said drawings—Figure 1 is a side elevation of a rural mail delivery box secured upon a supporting post and equipped with my improvements. Fig. 2 is a front view of the same, showing the staff carrying the round signal as down, while a staff carrying the square transverse signal is raised. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view in the plane 3-3, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a rear elevation. Fig. 5 is a plan. Figs. 6 and 7 are respectively separate views of the two staffs and their signals. Fig. 8 is a sectional view in the plane 8-8, Fig. 1, drawn to an enlarged scale.

Similar figures of reference designate similar parts or features, as the case may be, wherever they occur.

In the drawings, 10 designates the post to which the letter-box 11 is secured. The latter is provided with a lid, 12, hinged to the rear of the box in any suitable way and has a plate 13, or it may be simply its upper rear edge of the lid or cover extending above the hinge point 14.

On top of the post 10 there may be a base-

board, 15, of suitable width and length provided at its rear end with an upright or standard, 16, upon the front of which is pivoted a flat staff 17' carrying at its upper or outer end a square signal 17, and upon the same side of the upright 16, is a like staff 18', bearing a round signal 18, the square signal being disposed transversely of the roadway and the round signal parallel with it.

20 designates a trip-rod that is supported horizontally on the upper side of the base-board 15 and has its forward end 20' turned up in the rear of the upper edge of the cover of the box, and its rear end extends through a hole 21, see Fig. 3, in the upright 16, where it is bent upward vertically, as at 22, the extremity being turned forward at a right angle to the said part 22, and parallel with the base-board 15, so as to form, as it were, a pin, 23. A spring connected with the base-board or otherwise suitably arranged operates on the trip-rod to press it normally forward, so that the pin 23, will tend to be normally projected through the hole 25 of the upright 16.

The upright 16 is provided with a pin 26 upon which the respective staffs 17' and 18' are supported, the said pin extending through the holes 27 and 28 of said staffs respectively.

A spiral spring 29, supported on and attached to the base-plate 15 is connected at one end with the staff 17' and at the other end with the staff 18' and operates with a tendency to raise the former and lower the latter.

Supposing both staffs to be raised, and a person opens the box, the rear end of the lid will push back the trip-rod, which will carry the pin 26 back out of the holes 27 and 28 that held the staffs raised and the staff 17' and its signal 17 will through the support of its spring remain upright, and this will be the condition of things when the box lid is closed.

It being intended that the staff 18' shall be automatically raised to vertical position and the staff 17' and its signal 17 automatically lowered at each time that the lid of the box is raised, the operation stated will take place under the circumstances specified.

Each staff is cut away at its lower end 41 see Figs. 6 and 7 so as to come in contact with the stop-pin 32 when the staffs are raised so that they may be stopped and retained in vertical position by the pin 23 of the stop-rod which will enter the holes 27 and 28 respectively of the staff.

When a letter is placed in the box the party mailing it will manually lower the staff 18' and signal 18 by pushing back the trip-rod and releasing the said staff so that it may be put down. After the letter shall have been mailed the staff 17' carrying the square signal 17 will be raised to vertical position and the trip-rod released, when its pin 23 will enter the hole 28 of staff 18' and the hole 28 of the lowered staff 18' automatically holding the former in vertical position and the latter in lowered position. This will indicate to the carrier that mail has been put into the box and is ready for him to take it up. When, now the carrier goes to the box in response to the signal 17 he opens the lid which pushes back the trip-rod and its pin 23 releasing the staff 17' and lowering the signal 17 while the staff 18' and its signal 18 will be raised. Upon closing the box-lid the pin 23 of the trip-rod will engage the hole 28 in the staff 18' and maintain the latter in vertical position while the staff 17' will be lowered. The signal 18 indicates that the carrier has passed and been at the box either to take mail-matter out therefrom or to place mail-matter therein. After the mail-matter shall have been removed by the party to whom it is addressed the staff 18' will be manually lowered and the staff 17' will be lowered also, provided the box is empty, showing there is nothing in the box. Whenever mail-matter is placed in the box, however, the staff 17' will be manually raised and the staff 18' will be kept down; it being understood that the signal 17 which extends transversely of the roadway where the box is placed is raised for the attention of the carrier and that the signal 18 which extends parallel with the roadway is raised for the attention of the patrons indicating that there is mail-matter in the box that may be taken out or that the carrier has

passed. With both the signals down there is indicated to the carrier that there is nothing in the box, and he goes by without examining the same.

It is further the design of the invention that the signal 18 shall be raised automatically when the carrier examines the box or opens the lid for any purpose and that the signal 17 shall go down automatically through the operation of the lid of the box.

What is claimed is:

1. A mail-box comprising two signal devices, a spring connected with one signal to raise it and a spring connected with the other signal to lower it, combined with the box-lid and means intermediate of the same and the signals to hold them in raised position and to release them upon the opening of the lid to allow the springs to act thereon.

2. A mail-box comprising two signaling devices, a standard for each signal, an upright upon which the staffs are pivoted, a trip-rod having a pin, each staff being provided with a hole to be engaged by said pin and a spring engaging each upright and acting to depress one and lower the other, combined with the box-lid adapted when opened to engage the trip-rod to release the staffs.

3. A mail-box comprising two signaling devices, a spring connected with each and acting to raise one and lower the other, a trip-rod adapted to engage the signals to hold them in raised position, and to be moved to release them to allow one to be automatically lowered and the other remain in position, or to allow both to be lowered.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM H. VOSS.

Witnesses:

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GRACE M. HARDIE.