E. C. PALMER.

SIGNAL FOR MAIL BOXES.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 9, 1914.

1,149,781. Patented Aug. 10, 1915.

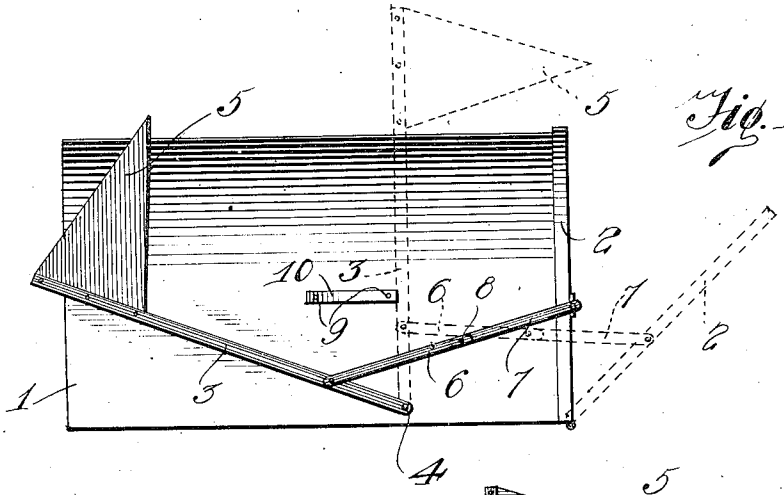


Fig. 1.

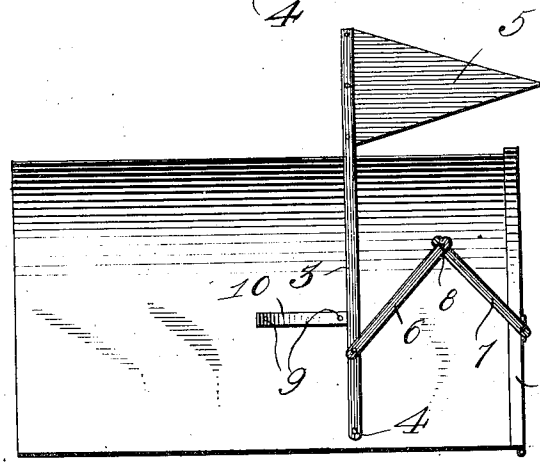
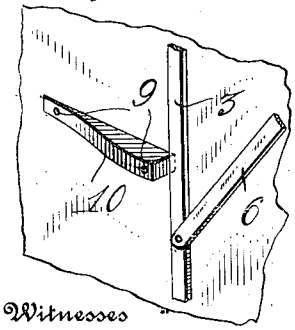


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.



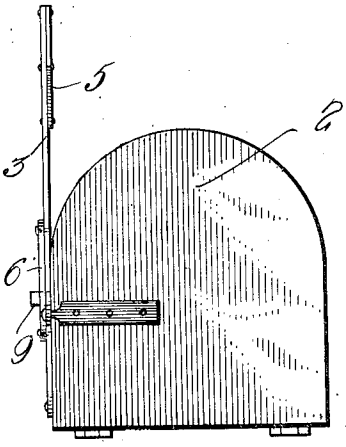


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SIGNAL FOR MAIL-BOXES.

1,149,781. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 10, 1915.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EARL C. PALMER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pleasant Hill, in the county of Miami and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signals for Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to rural mail boxes, and has for its primary object the provision of a mail box provided with means for informing the rural carrier whether or not the box contains matter to be posted, and for informing the owner of the box whether or not the box contains matter intended for him.

Another object of the invention is to have the door of the box connected by means of a pair of levers to a flag, thus providing for the automatic operation thereof.

Another object is to provide the box with a stop member for holding the flag in an upright position.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in the novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings and claimed.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a side elevation of a mail box constructed in accordance with the invention showing the flag in its lowered position. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the flag in a raised position. Fig. 3 is an end elevation, and Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of the stop member.

Referring to the drawings by numerals, 1 designates a mail box which may be of the ordinary construction, and 2 a door which is hinged to one end thereof.

The improved signaling means comprises a rod 3 which is pivoted to the side wall of the box as at 4, and has secured at its upper end a flag 5. A pair of levers 6 and 7 are pivoted to the rod 3 and door 2, respectively, and are pivoted together at their inner ends as at 8. A stop member 9, having a beveled outer face 10, is secured to the box 1 in order to hold the flag in an upright position.

When a postman desires to leave mail in the box, or when the owner of the box desires to leave mail for the postman, he first opens the door 2, inserts the mail within the box, closes the door, and positions the flag as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing. If the postman collects matter from the box but does not have any matter to leave, and if the owner of the box collects the mail therefrom but has no mail to send, he will position the flag as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing. By this construction and operation it will be seen that both the postman and the owner of the box will be able to determine at a glance whether or not there is the necessity of looking within the box.

By reference to the drawings, and more particularly to Fig. 4, it will be seen that the bar 3 is constructed of rather light material and is of a flexible nature, so that when the flag is in the position as shown in Fig. 1 and it is desired to raise the same, the bar 3 will be swung upwardly, past the beveled face of the stop 9, and will spring past the end thereof and thus be held in an upright position.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it is thought that the construction and operation of the device will be clearly understood, and while I have herein shown and described one specific form of my invention, I do not wish to be limited thereto except for such limitations as the claim may import.

I claim:

The combination with a mail box and swinging closure therefor, of a highly resilient rod pivotally mounted on one side of said mail box, a signal plate attached to the upper end of said rod, a lever having one end pivotally connected to said rod at a point intermediate the ends thereof, a second lever having one end pivotally connected to said closure and at a point spaced from the upper and lower ends thereof, means to connect the adjacent ends of said levers, a rigid stop member on one side of said mail box, the outer face of said stop member being beveled to form an abrupt shoulder at one terminal thereof.

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

EARL C. PALMER.

Witnesses:
H. V. BIRELEY,
H. H. BIRELEY.