M. F. CRAFTON.

MAIL PACKER AND CARRIER.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 1, 1914.

1,131,474.

Patented Mar. 9, 1915.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

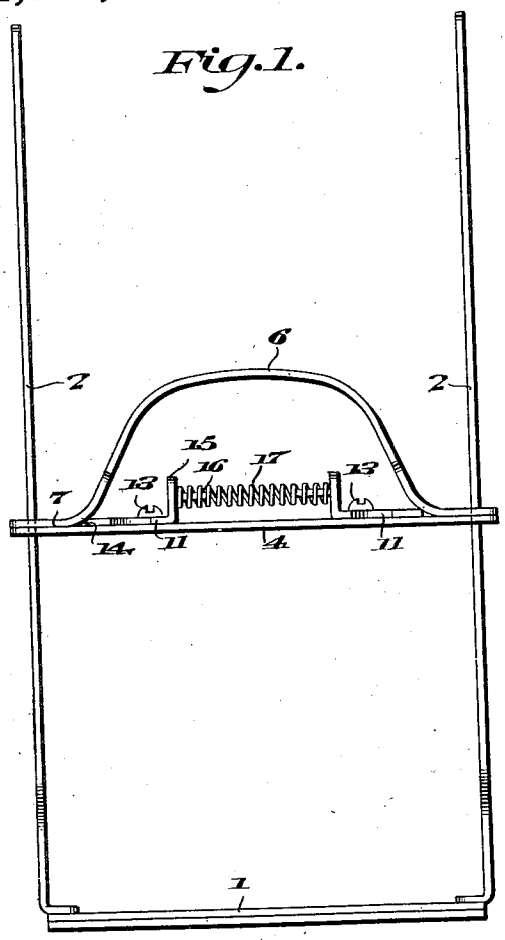
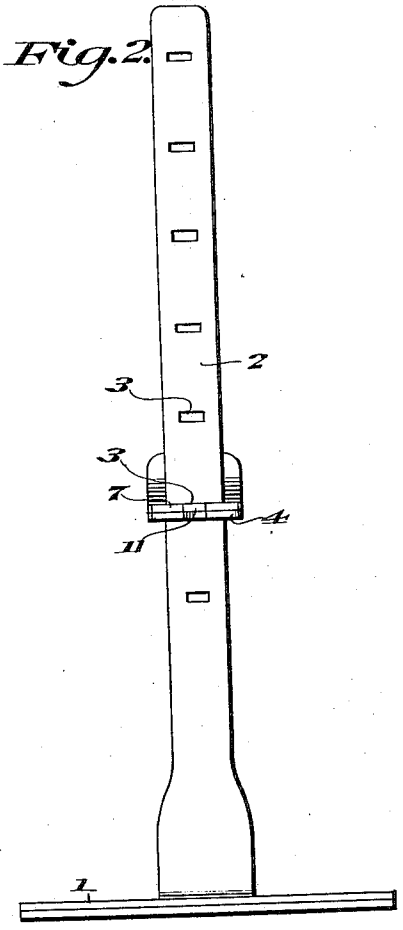


Fig. 2.



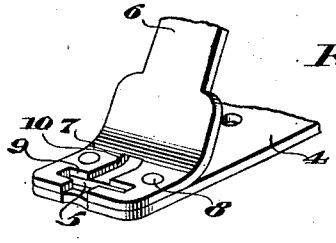


Fig. 6.

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Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

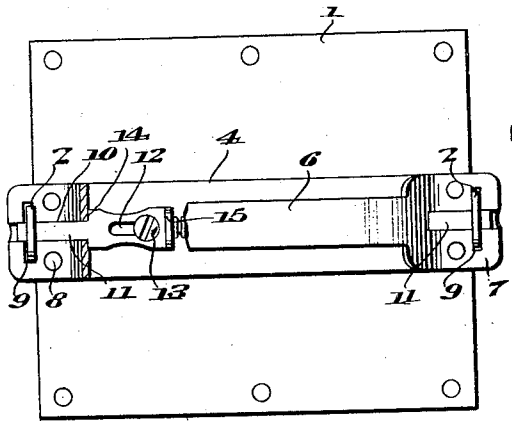


Fig. 4.

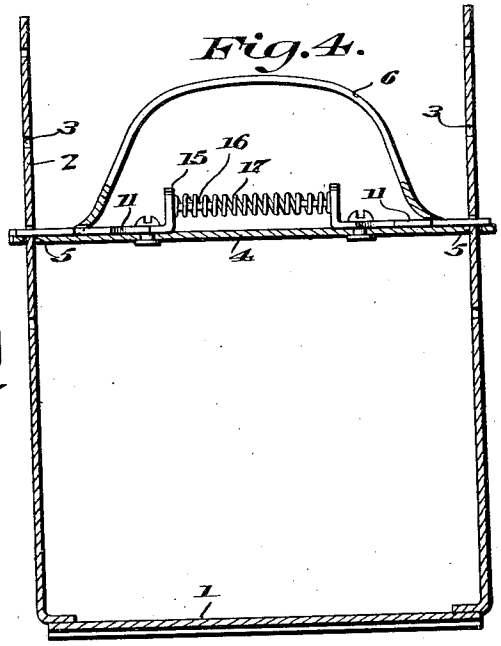


Fig. 5.

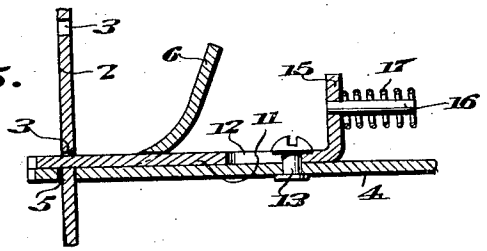
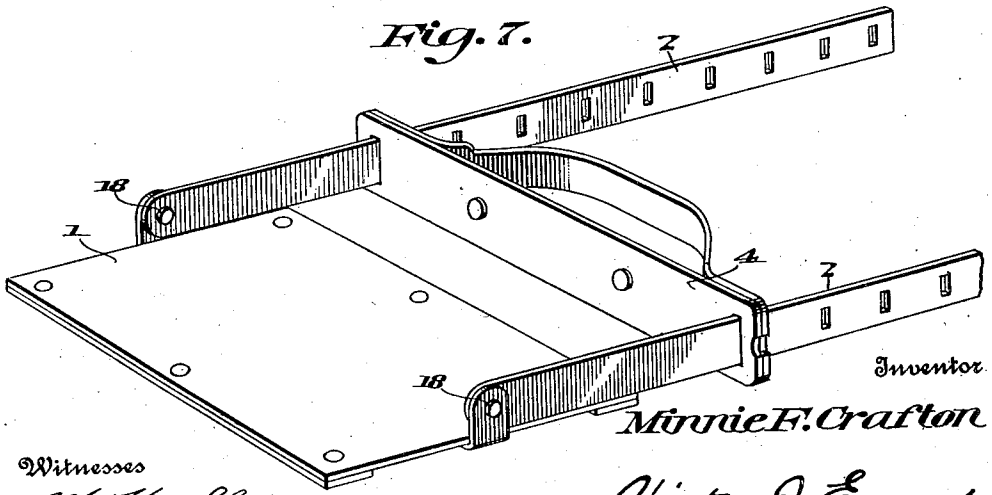


Fig. 7.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MINNIE F. CRAFTON, OF MASON CITY, ILLINOIS.

MAIL PACKER AND CARRIER.

1,131,474. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 9, 1915.

Application filed July 1, 1914. Serial No. 848,438.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MINNIE F. CRAFTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mason City, in the county of Mason and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Mail Packers and Carriers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in devices for packing and carrying mail, and is particularly designed for the use of rural carriers.

The object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which is simple, inexpensive and efficient in construction and use, and in which the assorted mail may be packed or clamped against loss or displacement, while at the same time held in such condition as to permit ready removal of the mail matter for delivery.

The invention consists of the features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts herein fully described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of a mail packer and carrier embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation. Fig. 3 is a top plan view. Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse section. Fig. 5 is a similar view through one end of the follower on an enlarged scale. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of one end of the follower, with the associated locking bolt removed. Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing a modified construction of device, with its parts in folded position.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates a base plate, formed of sheet metal or other suitable material, and preferably of rectangular or oblong rectangular conformation. Secured to and rising from opposite sides of said base plate are standards or uprights 2, preferably consisting of flat strips of sheet metal of any suitable length, and which are coextensive in dimensions with each other. These standards or uprights are provided at spaced intervals with horizontal transverse slots or keeper openings 3, the said slots or openings in the two standards being arranged in registering relation.

The mail matter which has been assorted is rested upon the base plate between the standards or uprights, and is adapted to be adjustably clamped or packed in an assorted stack against the base plate by a follower 4. This follower comprises a strip of sheet metal or some other suitable material of a length slightly exceeding the distance between the standards and provided at its ends with guide slots 5, whereby it is adapted to slidably engage the standards for vertical adjustment thereon.

The follower is provided with a looped handle 6, also preferably made of sheet metal, said handle having end portions 7 which are bent at an angle thereto to rest upon and extend parallel with the follower plate such end portions of the handle being rigidly fastened to the follower in any suitable manner, as by the use of rivets 8.

The end portions 7 of the handle are provided with transverse slots 9 registering with the slots 5, and also formed in the said end portions are longitudinal guide slots 10 communicating at their outer ends with the registering slots 5 and 9 and opening at their inner ends through the end portions at the points where such end portions are bent upwardly and connected with the body of the handle. The slots 10 are closed at their bases by the follower and form guides for longitudinally sliding latch bolts 11 the outer ends of which are adapted to engage and interlock with the slots 3 in the standards. The inner ends of these latch bolts are provided with guide slots 12 engaging screws or studs 13 carried by the follower, and have shoulders 14 to limit their outward movement and upwardly bent lugs 15. The lugs 15 serve as finger pieces whereby the bolts may be simultaneously restricted and are provided with inwardly extending retaining pins 16 to receive and hold in position a coiled spring 17, whereby the bolts are normally spread apart and projected and maintained in engagement with certain of the slots 3.

In the use of the device it will be understood that the package of assorted mail is placed on the base plate, the bolts restricted to permit the follower to have free movement, and the follower then slid downward into engagement with the mail matter, firmly clamping the same against the base plate to prevent loss or displacement. The finger pieces are then released, whereupon the spring will project the latch bolts to lock the follower in clamping position. By means of the handle 6 the device with the mail matter applied thereto may then be readily and conveniently lifted and transported by means of the handle 6, and, when-

ever it is desired to remove a piece of mail for delivery, this may be accomplished by simply releasing the bolts, drawing up the follower to free the stack of mail matter and withdrawing the piece of mail matter designed for delivery, after which the follower may then be again disposed in clamping position.

In the form of my invention illustrated in Fig. 7 the structure is the same, except that the standards or uprights 2 are pivoted to the base 1, as shown at 18, thus allowing the device to be in compact form for transportation, when not in use, or for insertion within a mail sack.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings, the construction and mode of use of my improved mail packer and carrier will be readily understood, and it will be seen that the invention provides a device of this character by which a bag or stack of mail matter may be clamped securely against loss or displacement in assorted condition, easily handled and transported and the mail matter conveniently removed therefrom for delivery.

I claim:—

1. A mail packer and carrier comprising a base member, uprights rising therefrom and provided with spaced slots, a follower slidably engaging the uprights, a handle applied to the follower, locking bolts carried by the follower and adapted for engagement with said slots, said bolts being provided with finger pieces, whereby they may be simultaneously retracted, and a spring acting on said finger pieces for normally holding the bolts projected.

2. A mail packer and carrier comprising a base member, uprights rising therefrom, and provided with slots at spaced intervals, a follower slidably engaging the uprights, a handle having end portions secured to the follower and forming guide members, locking bolts engaging said guide members and adapted for engagement with the slots in the uprights, said bolts being slidably connected with the follower and having finger pieces at their upper ends, and a spring disposed between said finger pieces for projecting the bolts.

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

MINNIE F. CRAFTON.

Witnesses:
W. E. Stone,
Elma Jones.