W. H. DOOLEY.

RURAL MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 3, 1921.

1,432,843.

Patented Oct. 24, 1922.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

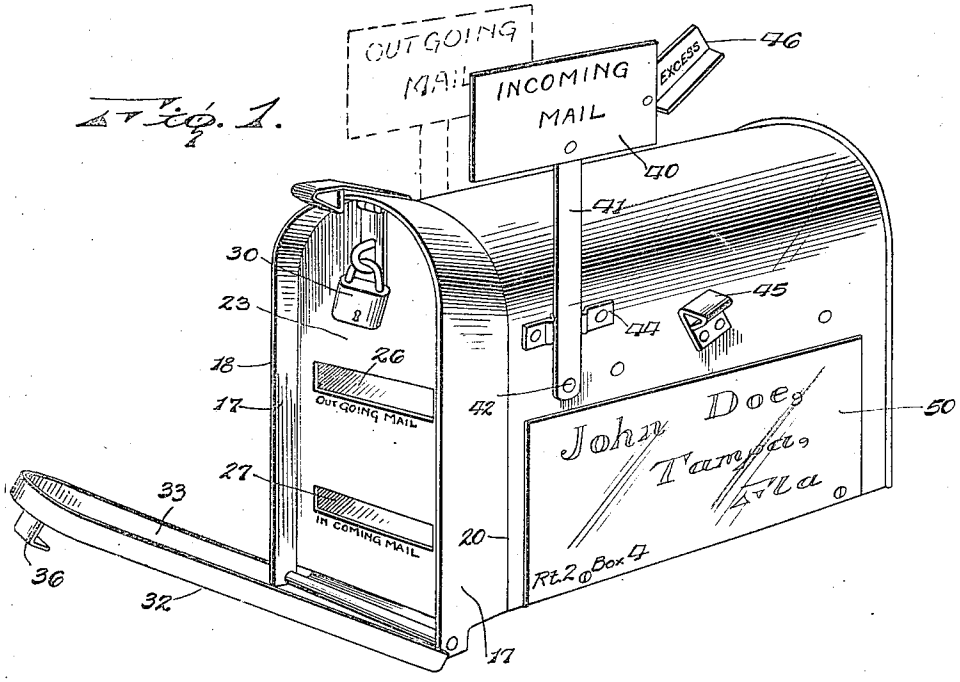


Fig. 2.

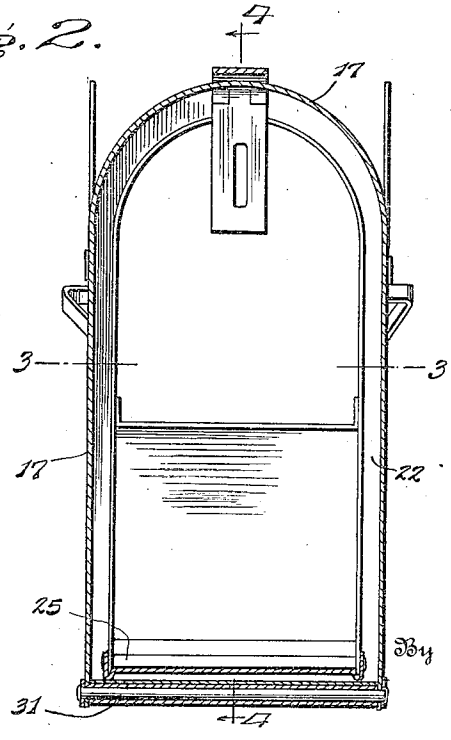
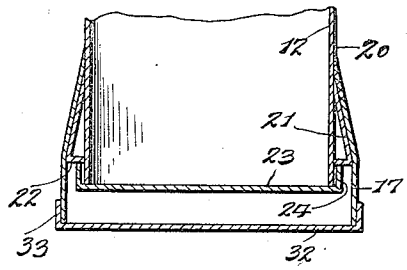


Fig. 3.



Inventor

W. H. Dooley.

By

Lacey & Lacey, Attorneys.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

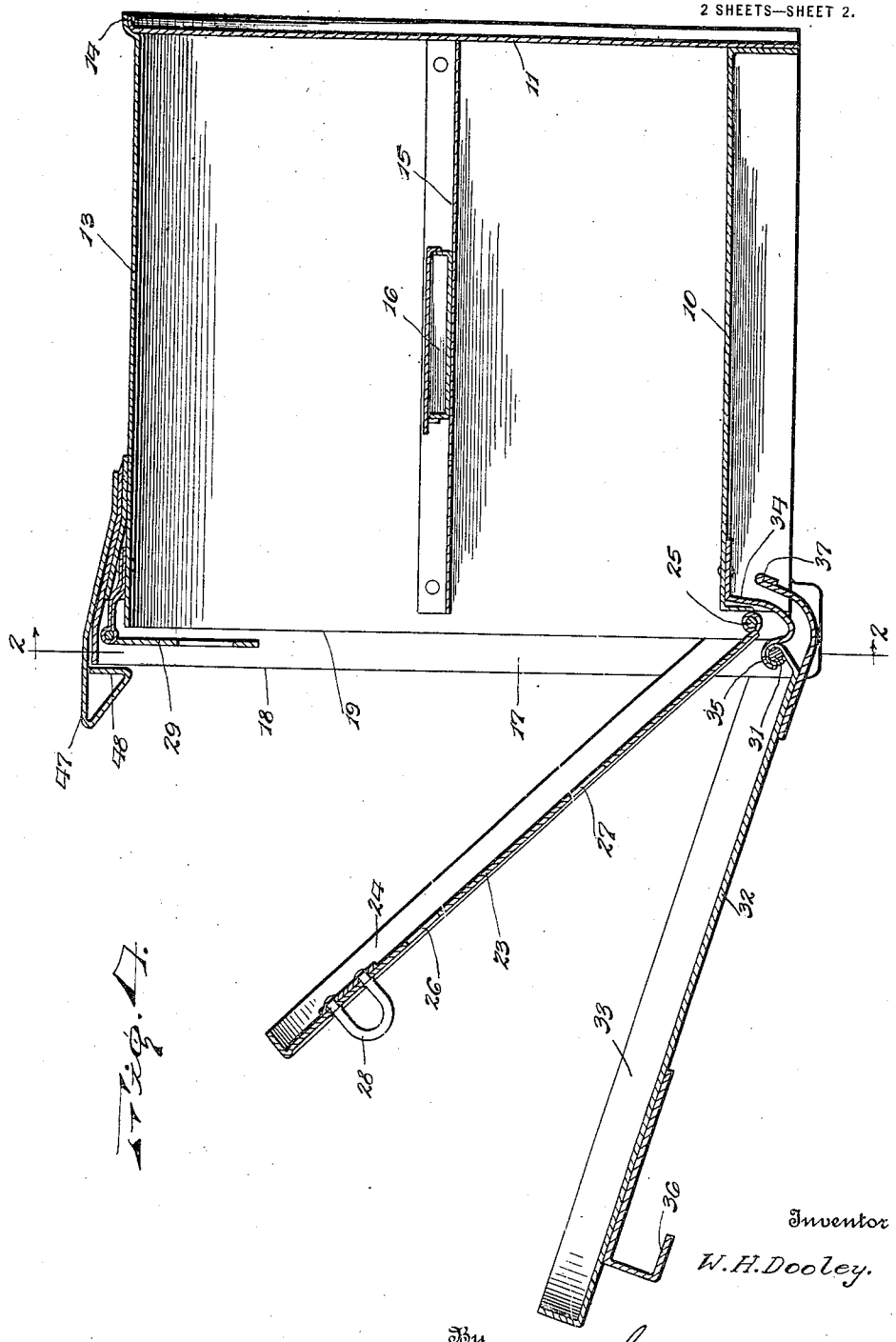


Fig. 4.

Inventor

W. H. Dooley.

By

Lacey & Lacey, Attorneys

Patented Oct. 24, 1922. 1,432,843

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILL HENRY DOOLEY, OF WHARTON, TEXAS.

RURAL MAIL BOX.

Application filed December 3, 1921. Serial No. 519,663.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILL HENRY DOOLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wharton, in the county of Wharton and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rural Mail Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to mail boxes intended for rural routes and the main object of the invention is to provide a mail box for holding not only incoming mail but also outgoing mail, each contained in a separate compartment in the box.

Another object is to provide signals on the box to indicate to the postman if mail is to be taken out, and to the owner of the box, if mail has been delivered to him by the postman.

Another object resides in the provision of double doors, the inner one with slots for depositing mail and a lock to prevent unauthorized persons from tampering with its contents; the outer door to protect the box from dust, dampness, rain or snow which may otherwise penetrate to the interior of the box. When both doors are closed the box becomes practically sealed, so that the weather cannot affect the contents of the box.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will be obvious from the following description and claims. One embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings; and

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a mail box with the outer door partly open;

Figure 2 is a vertical section along line 2—2 of Figure 4;

Figure 3 is a horizontal section along line 3—3 of Figure 2; and

Figure 4 is a central longitudinal section along line 4—4 of Figure 2.

The mail box consists of a flat bottom 10, a flat back 11, and two perpendicular sides 12 joining at the top to form a dome-like roof 13. The sides and back are preferably connected by means of flanged edges 14 and the bottom 10 is soldered or riveted to the sides and the back of the box. Half way up the interior of the box is secured a partition 15 for dividing the box into an upper compartment for receiving outgoing mail and a lower compartment for incoming mail. On this partition I may place a small receptacle 16 for depositing coin in exchange for necessary stamps to be attached to the mail in the outgoing compartment.

Around the open end of the box I provide a hood 17 which protrudes with its edge 18 beyond the edge 19 of this end of the box and the hood 17 is moreover spaced from the roof and side walls of the box at these edges and tapering toward the other end to join the box proper as at 20, where it is tightly secured in any suitable manner as by soldering or riveting. In order to make the connection between the hood and the box more firm I insert a spacing member 21 to fill the space between the hood and box and also to form an abutment 22 for the edges of the inner door 23 when closed.

This door 23 consists of a flanged plate, the flanges 24 of which are constructed to engage around the outside of the end 19 of the box and a hinge 25 is formed at the lower end of the door, by means of which it is connected to the bottom and sides of the box. An upper slot 26 and a lower slot 27 are provided in the door 23 and through which the mail is deposited in the outgoing and incoming mail compartments of the box respectively. A staple 28 adapted to engage with a hasp 29 and secured at the top of the box and a lock 30 are provided for locking the door 23 in position. A pin on a chain attached to the box may take the place of the lock.

As best seen in Figures 2 and 4, the hood 17 is not closed at the bottom but extends below the same in order to form a bearing for the hinge 31 of the outer door 32. This door is formed in a similar manner to the inner door but has no slots. The flanges 33 are constructed to fit tightly over the edge 18 of the hood 17, so as to form a sealed joint therewith around three sides of the box. In order to close the hinge or bottom side of the box, I provide a sealing plate 34, which is soldered or riveted along the under side of the bottom 10 and has a hooked or curved tongue 35, which fits over the hinge 31 exerting a pressure thereon. It will be evident that with this additional sealing plate 34, all cracks and joints between the door 32 and the box will be filled, so that no moisture or dust can penetrate into the compartments of the box, and no rust or ice is apt to injure the lock 30.

The outer door 32 has a handle 36 at its upper end and a tail piece 37 at its lower end, shaped to form a stop against the bot-

tom of the box when the outer door is opened and has taken a substantially horizontal position. The relative positions of the hinges 25 and 31 is such, that the hinge 31 for the outer door forms a stop, upon which the inner door 23 rests when in open position.

In order to hold the outer door 32 in closed position, I provide a latch 47 of a good spring steel rigidly secured on the top of the box as seen in Figure 4. This latch has a depending nose 48 intended for engaging with the upper end of the door 32 and hold it tightly against the hood 17.

Pivoted to the box, as seen in Figure 1, is preferably provided a flag for each kind of mail, so that for instance the flag for incoming mail, consisting of a rectangular plate 40 and a stem 41, pivoted at 42, so that it can swing in the plane of the side of the mail box. A spring clasp 44 is provided to retain the flag in upright position and a stop plate 45 for contacting with the stem 41, when the flag is in folded position. In case the postman should carry more mail for the recipient than the incoming compartment will hold, a folding flap 46 hinged on the rectangular flag portion 40, and marked excess, has been provided. In that case the postman will not only raise the flag marked "Incoming mail," but also unfold the flap 46, so that the owner of the box will be able to see from his house, not only that mail has been delivered, but also, that an excess of mail, that the incoming mail compartment will not hold, has arrived.

A similar constructed flag marked "Outgoing mail" is preferably provided on the opposite side of the box, which the owner will raise, when there is mail to be taken out by the postman, thus saving the postman from opening the box unnecessarily.

A plate 50 may be provided for giving the name of the owner of the box and this plate is preferably secured to one side thereof by means of screws or other detachable means and in case that the residence should change hands, a similar plate, giving the former owner's name and new address, might be provided on the opposite side of the box.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new is:

1. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed.

2. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed, said means including flanges on said outer door tightly engaging with said hood.

3. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed, said means including a connecting member between the hinge of said outer door and the fourth side of the box.

4. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed, said means comprising flanges on said outer door adapted to engage tightly over said hood and a plate secured to the fourth side of the box and provided with a curved lip resting on the hinge of said outer door.

5. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed, a stop on said outer door for limiting the swinging thereof and adapted to engage with the fourth side of the box when the door is in open position.

6. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed, said first door being hinged to the box and the hinge of the outer door forming a stop for said first door when in open position.

7. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides

of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, a spacing member inserted between said hood and said sides, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed.

8. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed; a partition in the box for providing a compartment for incoming mail and another compartment for outgoing mail, and corresponding slots for depositing mail therein being provided in said first door.

9. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed; a partition in the box for providing a compartment for incoming mail and another compartment for outgoing mail, and corresponding slots for depositing mail therein being provided in said first door, a flag for each kind of mail being pivoted on the outside of the box and adapted to announce the contents of the box, when said flag is raised to a certain position, and means for securing the flag in said position.

10. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed; a partition in the box for providing a compartment for incoming mail and another compartment for outgoing mail, and corresponding slots for depositing mail therein being provided in said first door, a flag for each kind of mail being pivoted on the outside of the box and adapted to announce the contents of the box, when said flag is raised to a certain position, and means for securing the flag in said position, and a folding flap on said flag intended to denote certain conditions of said mail when said flap is unfolded.

11. In a mail box having an opening at one end, a door with a suitable lock for closing said opening, a hood surrounding three sides of said end and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door being hinged to said hood at the fourth side of the box and provided with a latch and means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed, a plate detachably mounted on said box and carrying the owner's name.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILL HENRY DOOLEY. [L. S.]

Certificate of Correction.

It is hereby certified that in Letters Patent No. 1,432,843, granted October 24, 1922, upon the application of Will Henry Dooley, of Wharton, Texas, for an improvement in "Rural Mail Boxes," an error appears in the printed specification requiring correction as follows: Page 3, after line 75, insert the following as claim 12:

12. A mail box having an opening, a door adapted to close said opening, a hood surrounding the opening and protruding beyond the edges thereof, said hood forming a tight joint with the walls of the box, an outer door hinged to said hood and having means for sealing the outer door on all sides when closed.;

and that the said Letters Patent should be read with this correction therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed and sealed this 6th day of January, A. D. 1925.

[SEAL.]

KARL FENNING,
Acting Commissioner of Patents.