

No. 677,967.

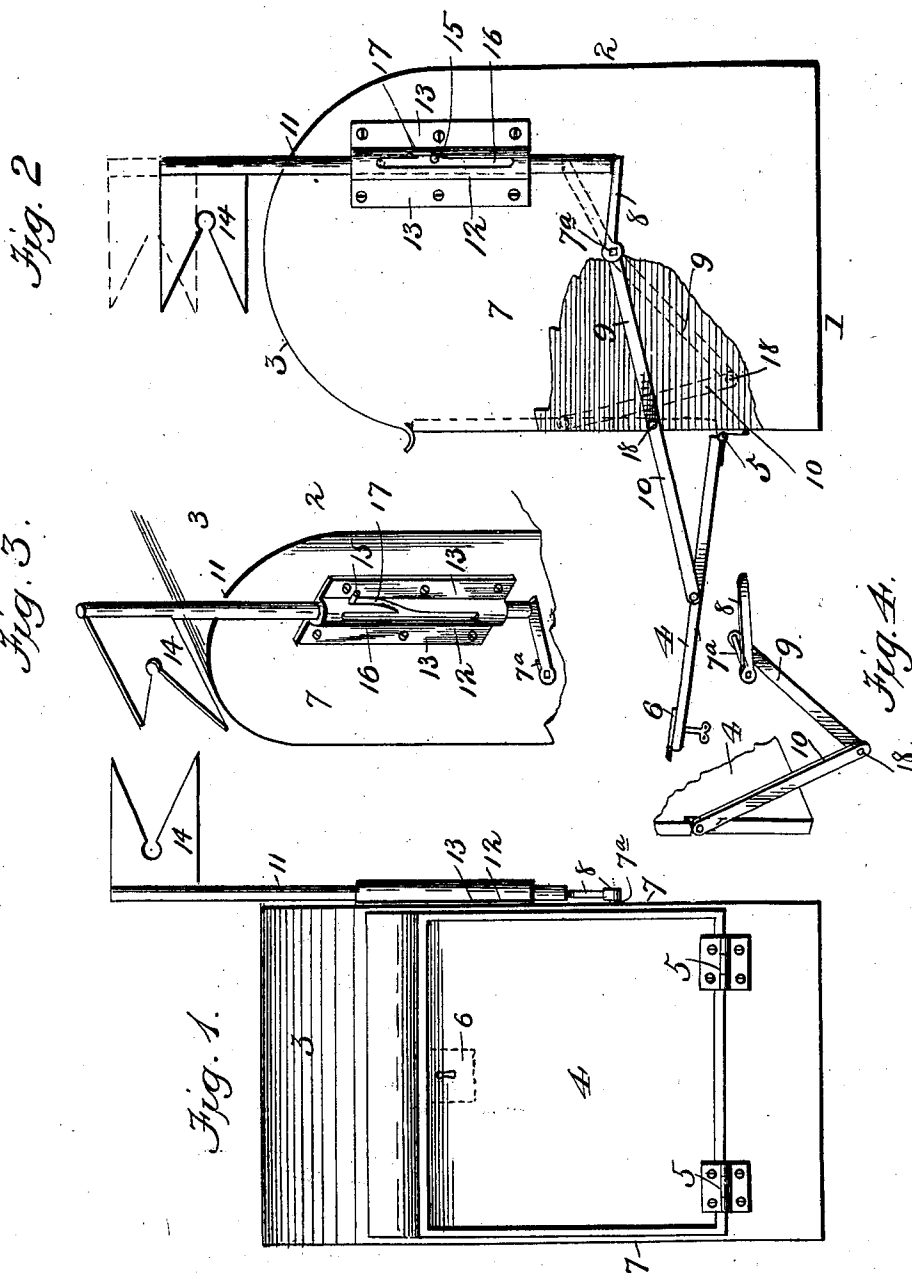
Patented July 9, 1901.

W. E. FENSTERMACHER.

RURAL MAIL BOX.

(Application filed Apr. 23, 1901.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM E. FENSTERMACHER, OF BELOIT, KANSAS.

RURAL MAIL-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 677,967, dated July 9, 1901.

Application filed April 23, 1901. Serial No. 57,037. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. FENSTERMACHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Beloit, in the county of Mitchell and State of Kansas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Rural Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to rural mail-boxes; and the object of the same is to construct a box of this character which shall be provided with a semaphore adapted to be set in two different positions at right angles to each other and be securely locked against meddlers, one position to denote mail for the owners of the box, the other to denote mail for the carrier. This object and these advantages are accomplished by the simple and novel construction described in this specification and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my box. Fig. 2 is an end view with parts broken away and the door open. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective of the semaphore holder and staff. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective of the link mechanism.

Like numerals of reference designate like parts in the different views of the drawings.

The body of my box, comprising a bottom 1, a back 2, and a curved top 3, is constructed of a single sheet of metal pressed into shape. The box is closed by a swinging door 4, secured at its lower edge by hinges 5 and provided with a lock 6. Two keys to the lock are provided, one for the carrier and the other for the owner. The ends 7 of the box are also of sheet metal, flanged and united to the sides, top, and bottom.

Journaled in one of the ends 7 is a stub-shaft 7^a, bearing two rigid arms, an outer and an inner one, designated by the numerals 8 and 9, respectively. The inner arm 9 is located inside of the box and is pivoted at its free end to a link-bar 10, which is oppositely pivoted centrally to one end of the door 4. The outer arm 8 is located outside the box and is positioned to engage the lower end of a semaphore-staff 11, slidably mounted in a holder 12, consisting of a housing provided with flanges 13, riveted to the end 7 of the box. The staff 11 carries a semaphore 14 on its

upper end and has a lug 15 on its lower. The housing 12 is cut by two intersecting slots 16 and 17, within which the lug 15 is constrained to slide. The upper ends of these slots are just ninety degrees apart, and when the lug 15 is engaged by the slot 16 the semaphore 14 extends parallel to the sides of the box, and when the lug is at the upper end of the slot 17 the semaphore extends transversely the box.

When in use, the direction parallel to the length of the box can by agreement denote mail for the owner and the transverse direction denote mail for the carrier. The joint 18 of the bar 10 and end 9 is arranged to throw downward, so that in closing the box the arm 8 will be raised and will engage the lower end of the staff 11 and raise it. The person closing the box can direct the semaphore 14 and deflect the lug 15 into either of the slots 16 or 17 desired. On opening the box the joint 18 would be raised into the position shown in Fig. 2 and the arm 8 lowered, releasing the semaphore, which would drop clear of the box into the position shown in this figure. It will be observed that by the arrangement just described the semaphore is securely locked by the arm 8 when the box is closed, but is released by the opening of the box, thus permitting it to be reset on closing the same.

I do not wish to be limited as to details of construction, as these may be modified in many particulars without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and wish to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a device of the class described, the combination of a housing cut by two intersecting slots, a staff mounted to slide in said housing and provided with a lug engaging said slots, and means for raising said staff and holding it against displacement.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination with a box having a hinged door, of a slidably-mounted staff, a shaft journaled in said box and bearing an outer and an inner arm, said outer arm being located to engage the said staff, and a link-bar pivoted at one end to said inner arm and at its

other end to said door, substantially as described.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination with a box having a swinging door, of a housing mounted on said box and having two intersecting slots therein, a staff bearing a lug slidingly mounted in said housing with the said lug engaging said slots, and means operated by opening and closing of

said door to raise and hold said staff, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM E. FENSTERMACHER.

Witnesses:

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