April 24, 1951 J. B. DUNAGAN 2,550,338

SUPPORT FOR MAILBOXES OR THE LIKE

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Fig. 1.

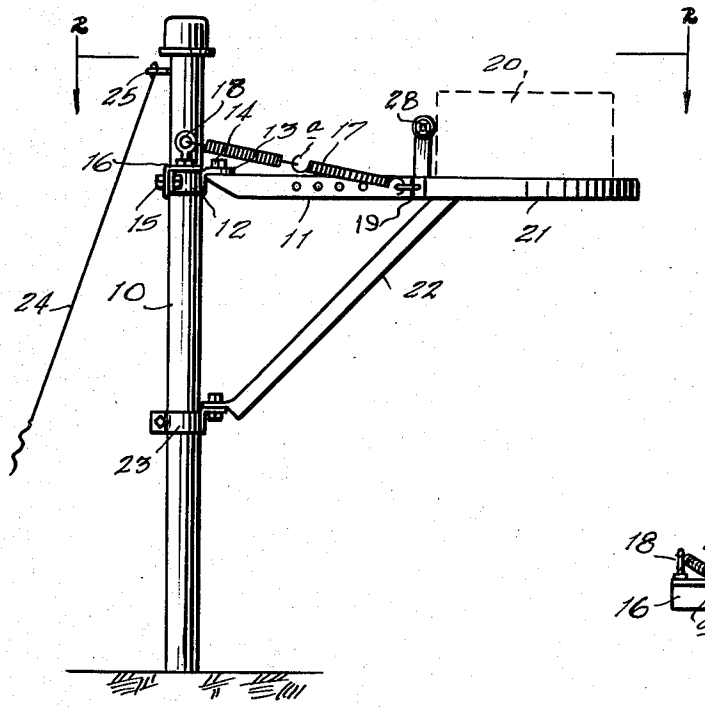


Fig. 3.

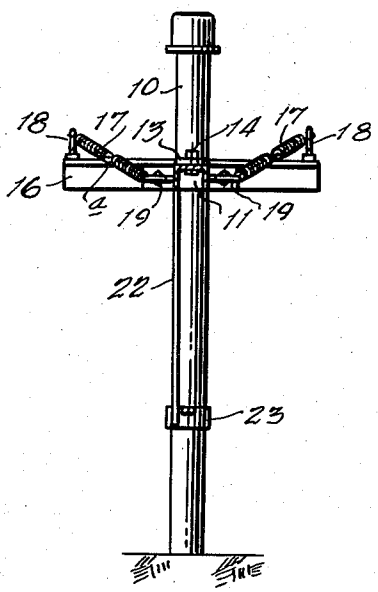
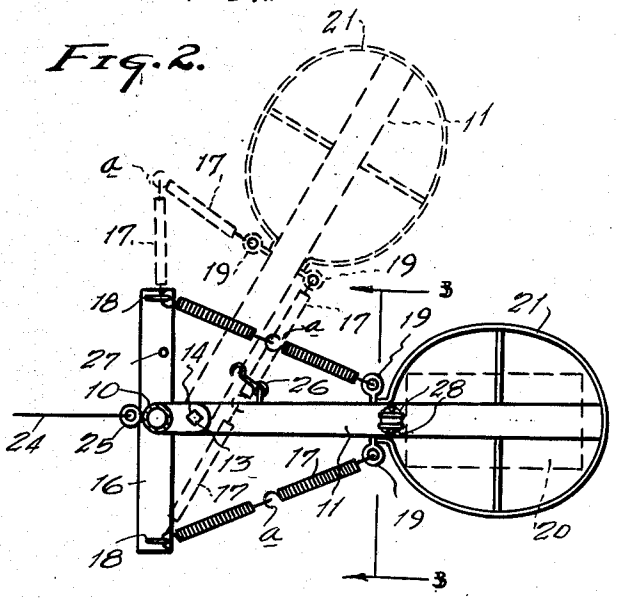


Fig. 2.



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SUPPORT FOR MAILBOXES OR THE LIKE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 248—145)

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This invention relates to supporting devices for mail boxes, signs, or the like, especially along highways, or other thoroughfares having rural mail routes, or requiring signs, and the like, and its principal object resides in the provision of an adjustable standard having a swinging arm for supporting a mail box extending from the side of the roadway for easy accessibility from a vehicle, as that of a rural mail carrier.

Another object of the invention is that of providing a flexible support for signs, such as mileage or traffic signs, which are preferably arranged in as close proximity to the traffic-way as safety will permit, yet affording an arrangement whereby the supporting standard can be set well back from the traffic-way safely outside the specified traffic zone and incapable of presenting a hazard.

An object of the invention resides in the provision of a support of the character described embodying features of construction which will minimize traffic hazards while affording a means whereby a mail box or sign can be located in closer proximity to a traffic-way than conventional rigid supporting standards, the yieldable features of the invention serving to minimize damage to vehicles accidentally striking the device.

Broadly, the invention contemplates the provision of a supporting structure for mail boxes, signs, and the like, capable of being swung to one side during mowing or repair operations along rights-of-way while permitting the supported article to be extended to close proximity to the traffic-way, even though the standard or post is situated well back from the thoroughfare as across a bar ditch, or the like.

While the foregoing objects are paramount, other and lesser objects will become manifest as the description proceeds, taken in connection with the appended drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the invention showing the swinging, tensioned arm for supporting a sign or mail box, shown in dotted lines.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the invention illustrating, in dotted lines, the variable swinging positions of the supporting arm, and showing the guard for the supported article, and

Figure 3 illustrates the standard and cross-arm in front elevation and the supporting arm in transverse section, taken on lines 3—3 of Figure 2.

The invention comprises a standard 10 preferably of pipe, or other suitable material, capable of being supported in the ground, as shown in Figures 1 and 3. A swinging arm 11 is pivotally connected to a clamp 12 secured to the standard 10 near its top and made adjustable thereon so that its height can be varied as desired. The clamp 12 has a bracket 13 integral therewith providing a device by which the arm 11 can be pivoted by a bolt 14, or the like.

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Attached to the clamp 12 by bolts 15 is a cross-arm 16 which is arranged transversely of the arm 11 and in the same horizontal plane. The arm 16 is rigid and has a spring 17 connected to each end by eye-bolts 18, or other suitable device. The opposite ends of the springs 17 are connected by eye-bolts 19 to each side of the swinging arm 11, in the manner illustrated in Figure 2. It is desirable that each of the springs 17 comprise paired short lengths joined by a toggle connection *a*, as shown particularly in Figure 2, to afford the maximum flexibility when the arm 11 is moved from side to side, in the manner shown in dotted lines in Figure 2.

The invention, as previously stated, is designed for the purpose of supporting a mail box 20, or other article, the box being shown in dotted lines in Figures 1 and 2. A suitable guard 21 of any desired form is secured to the arm 11 and functions to protect the supported article 20 from damage when struck by a vehicle, or the like, along the roadway on which the invention is installed. The guard 21 is preferably generally circular in form to eliminate relatively sharp corners and other objectionable protrusions.

The arm 11 is supported in its horizontal position by a brace member 22 rigidly connected at its upper end to the arm 11 toward the free end of the latter, its opposite end being pivotally secured to a clamp 23 also adjustably arranged on the standard 10. The pivot *b* is provided to permit the lateral movement of the arm 11 previously described. Both clamps 12 and 23 are adjustable longitudinally of the standard 10 to vary the height of the arm 11 to suit the particular conditions to which the assembly is to be applied.

It is desirable to provide a guy wire 24, or the like, by which the standard 10 can be rigidly supported, and it is desirable to connect the same near the top of the standard 10 by means of an eye-bolt 25, as in Figures 1 and 2. Arranged oppositely to the arm 11 and its burden, the latter can be more suitably supported and thus provide a more substantial assembly.

Obviously any suitable material may be utilized in fabricating the invention although it is

desirable that the arm 11 and its bracket 22 be of angle or channel iron, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 3.

When it is desirable to fasten the arm 11 in a collapsed position, as by turning the same to one side, as depicted in dotted lines in Figure 2, a hook 26 attached to the arm 11 is employed to secure the same to the cross-arm 16 by engaging the hook 26 with the aperture 27 in the arm 16, as shown in Figure 2. This arrangement is desirable when mowing or road maintaining operations are performed to retain the assembly out of the way. A pair of reflectors 28 are arranged on the arm 11 as a night warning signal for traffic along roadways.

Manifestly the structure herein shown and described is capable of considerable changes and modifications by persons skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and intent of the invention or the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

In a mail box support comprising, in combination with a standard adapted to be supported vertically at a roadside, a cross-arm having a clamp rigidly secured to said standard near the upper end thereof and extending horizontally from both sides of said standard, an integral bracket on said clamp, a box supporting arm

pivotally connected to said clamp and extending horizontally from the front of said standard and capable of swinging in a horizontal arc in front of said standard and on a common plane with said cross-arm, a substantially circular guard member attached to the outer end of said box supporting arm and arranged in a horizontal plane, a pair of pull springs providing a connection between the outer ends of said cross-arm and said pivoted arm whereby the latter is normally extended at right angles to said cross-arm, each of said pairs of springs being hingedly joined longitudinally, and an angular brace member rigidly connected at its upper end to the underside of said pivoted arm, and having a pivotal attachment at its lower end to said standard.

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