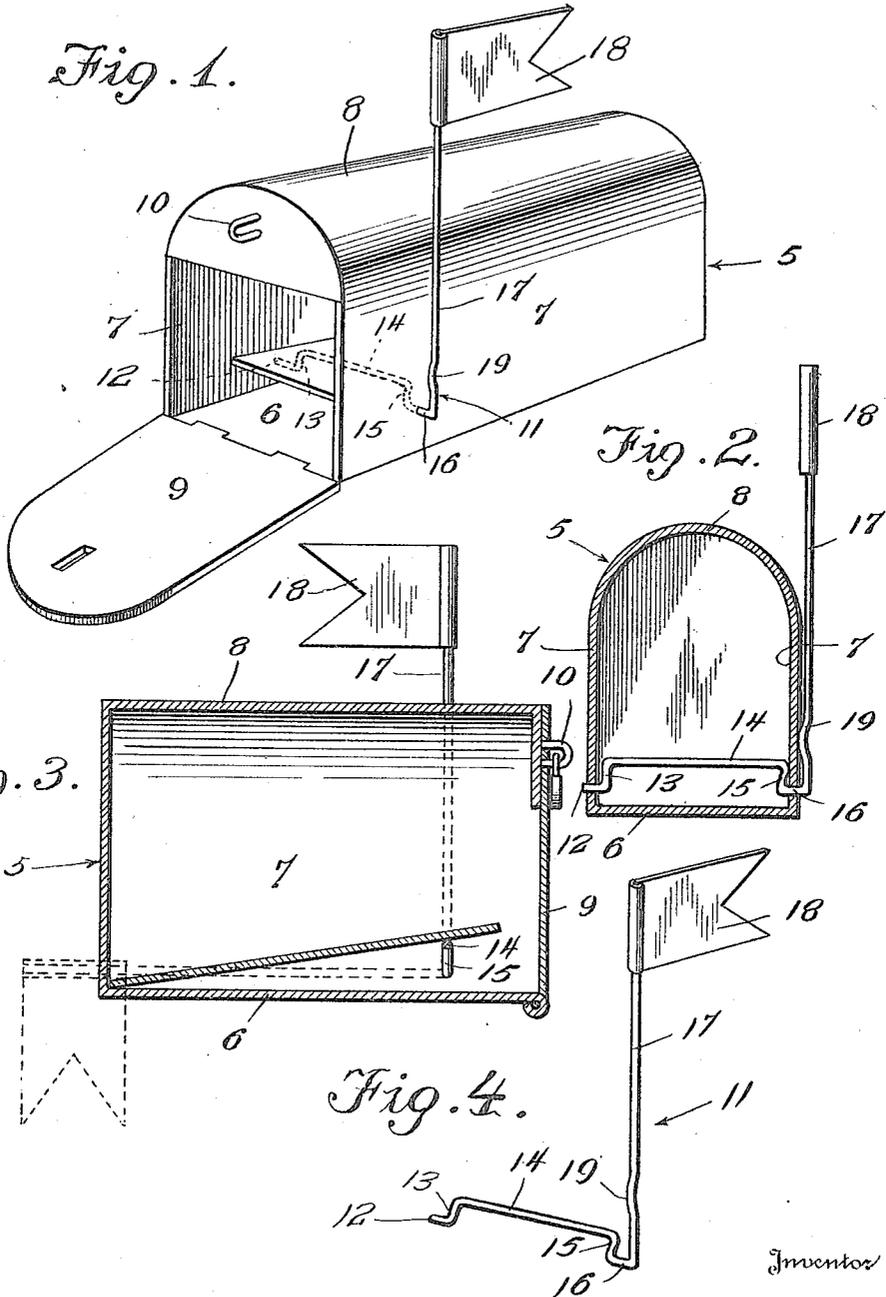


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 MAIL BOX.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MAIL-BOX.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT H. ACKMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Billett, in the county of Lawrence, State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains, to make and use the same.

This invention relates to mail boxes such as are used on the rural free delivery routes and has particular reference to the provision of a novel form of signal staff adapted to perform new and manifold functions.

It is a well known fact that in most of the types of mail boxes in ordinary use, there is provided a flat bottom upon which mail is placed for collection by the mail carrier. When a thin piece of mail, as for instance, a letter, and especially a post-card, is placed upon such a flat bottom, it lies so flat that it is a difficult matter for the carrier to grasp the card for removing it from the box. This is especially true in winter when the carrier's hands are either stiff and numb from the cold or else hampered by more or less thick gloves.

The object of the present invention is broadly to obviate this extremely annoying and time consuming disadvantage by providing a mail box equipped with means for elevating the outer end of a piece of mail when the signal is set to indicate the presence of mail within the box.

Another and important object is to provide an improved signal staff of such construction that it is capable of being quickly and easily raised to its signaling position and which will retain its different positions regardless of the violence of the wind.

With these and other objects in view, such as simplicity, durability, cheapness, efficiency and the general improvement of the art, my invention consists in the novel construction and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail box equipped with my invention, Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view therethrough, Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view there-through showing the signal raised, by full

lines, and lowered, by dotted lines, and Fig. 4 is a perspective view of my device removed from the box.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the numeral 5 designates as a whole, an ordinary form of mail box comprising a bottom 6, side walls 7, a top 8, and a hinged door 9 adapted to be locked in the usual manner as by a lock and staple 10 as shown. In such a box, mail would of course be placed on the bottom 6 to be collected by the carrier.

In order to elevate the outer end of a letter or post-card within the box to facilitate its collection by the carrier, I provide a combined signal and elevating bar designated as a whole by the numeral 11, which is formed preferably of a single length of springy material such as tempered wire. The end of this member forms a trunnion 12. Adjacent the end, the member 11 is bent at right angles, forming an arm 13, and then rebent to form a horizontal portion 14 parallel with the trunnion 12. It is then bent again, forming an arm 15, and then bent upon itself to form a trunnion 16 in alinement with the trunnion 12. The signal staff is formed by bending the wire again at the trunnion 16 to form a long extending staff 17, upon which is secured the usual flag, target or other suitable signal 18.

The member 11 is mounted within the mail box 12 a few inches from the rear end wall of the box and with the trunnions 12 and 16 disposed through the walls 7 of the box immediately adjacent to the bottom 6. Under ordinary circumstances, when it is not desired to attract the carrier's attention, the staff 17 will be swung down into its horizontal position as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3. The arms 13 and 15 together with the horizontal portion 14 will then be disposed flat upon the bottom 6 of the box. When mail is placed within the box it will of course rest upon the portion 14. When the staff 17 is then raised to attract the carrier's attention, the member 11 will rock upon the trunnions 12 and 16, and the portion 14 will swing upwardly, raising the forward or outer end of the piece of mail matter so that it can be readily grasped by the carrier even though his hands be cold and numb or encumbered by gloves.

In order to prevent the staff from being blown down by the wind or other disturb-

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ance, I provide a novel friction means for preventing too easy swinging of the staff. I accomplish this result by bending the staff 17 intermediate its end and the trunnion 16, as shown at 19, so that when the member 11 is properly secured within a mail box the staff 17 will bear firmly against the outside 7 of the box as shown in Fig. 2. The arm 15 will also bear against the inside of the wall 7, thus providing effectual friction means for preventing the accidental displacement of the signal.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

15 1. In a mail box, a rod journaled transversely of the box adjacent the bottom and extending entirely thereacross, an offset portion on said rod within said box, and a signal staff on the end of said rod exteriorly of said box, said staff being capable of being swung in a vertical plane.

20 2. In a mail box, a rod journaled transversely of the box and extending entirely thereacross, an offset portion formed on said rod within said box, and a signal staff formed on said rod exteriorly of said box, said offset portion and said staff being in the same plane.

25 3. In a mail box, a rod bent to form an offset portion disposed within the box adjacent its bottom and extending entirely thereacross, trunnions formed on said rod adjacent each end of said offset portion, said trunnions extending through the sides of said box, a signal staff formed on said rod adjacent one of said trunnions and extending exteriorly of said box, said staff being

bent to frictionally engage the wall of said box.

4. In a mail box, a rod journaled transversely of the box and extending entirely thereacross adjacent its bottom, an offset portion formed on said rod within said box, a signal staff formed on said rod exteriorly of said box, and means on said signal staff for frictionally engaging the exterior wall of said box.

5. In a mail box, a rod journaled transversely of the box and extending entirely thereacross adjacent its bottom, an offset portion formed on said rod within said box, and a signal staff formed on said rod exteriorly of said box, one side arm of said offset portion being bent to frictionally engage one interior wall of said box.

55 6. In a mail box, a rod journaled transversely of the box and extending entirely thereacross adjacent its bottom, an offset portion formed on said rod within the box, a signal staff formed on one end of said rod, and means for preventing accidental movement of said rod, said means comprising bent portions formed on said signal staff and the adjacent side arm of said offset portion, said bent portions frictionally engaging the outer and inner sides respectively of one side wall of the box.

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

ALBERT H. ACKMAN.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. RICHARDSON,
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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."