

No. 680,847.

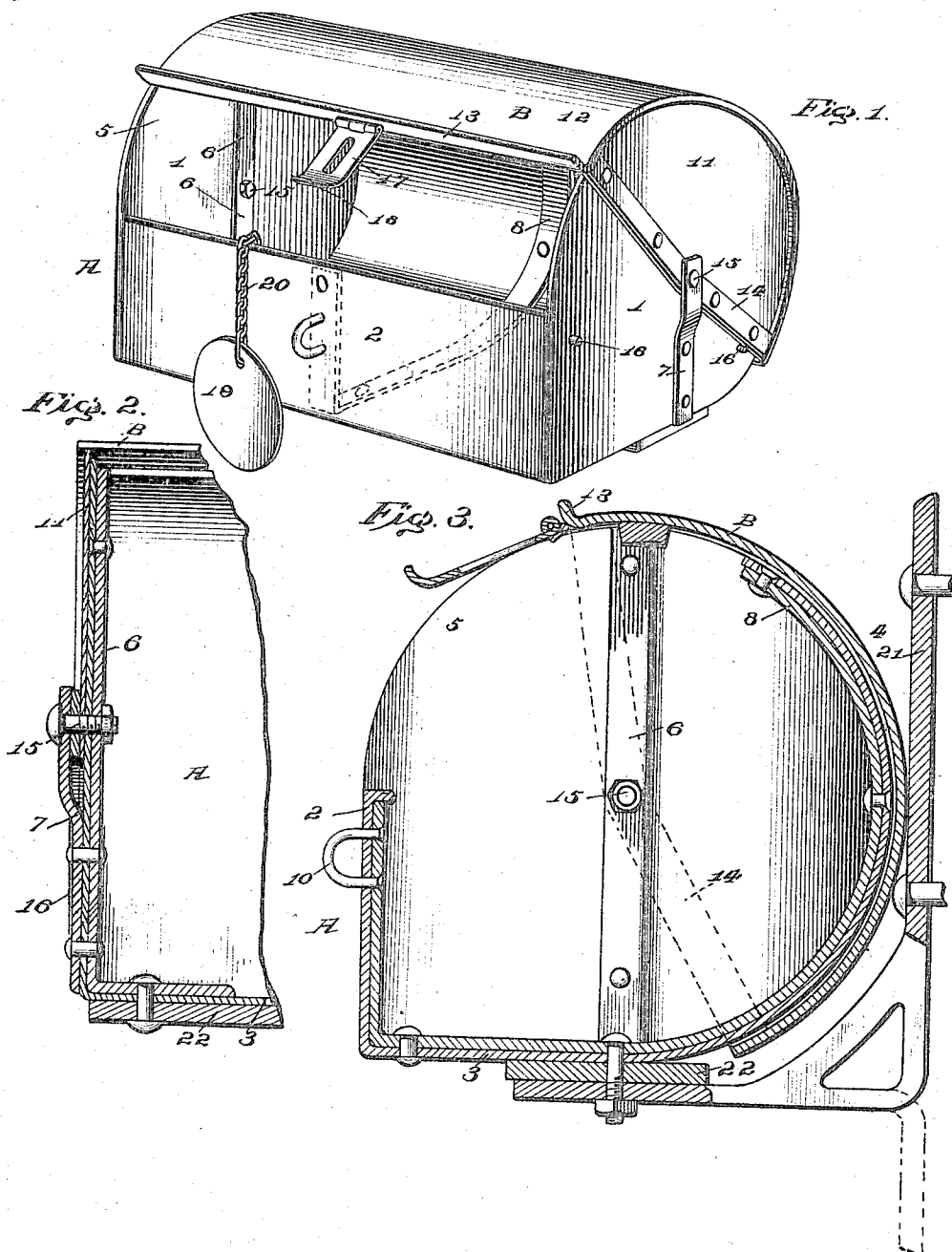
P. B. ENGLAR.

Patented Aug. 20, 1901.

MAIL BOX.

(Application filed Feb. 8, 1901.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

L. C. Handy.

Vernon C. Hodges

Inventor

Preston B. Englar

By *Philo E. Davis & Co.*

his Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PRESTON B. ENGLAR, OF TANEYTOWN, MARYLAND.

MAIL-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 680,847, dated August 20, 1901.

Application filed February 8, 1901. Serial No. 46,465. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PRESTON B. ENGLAR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Taneytown, in the county of Carroll and State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in mail-boxes, the object being to provide a box more particularly adapted for rural-delivery service where a postman rides along and delivers and collects, and one of the principal advantages resides in the facility with which it can be opened and closed and mail-matter removed or deposited; and a further object is to provide a box which will be simple in construction and which can be manufactured at a comparatively trifling cost.

With these objects in view my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts, which will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in perspective, showing the cover open. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section. Fig. 3 is a transverse section, and Fig. 4 is a view of the supporting-bracket.

A represents the box, and B is the cover. Both are preferably made of sheet metal, and the box is adapted to be fixed in position, while the cover B is balanced and pivoted centrally at its ends to the ends of the box. Referring to the box first, it comprises in the main the two ends 1 1, similar in shape, being straight across the lower and front edges and rounded in the arc of a circle between these straight portions around the top and rear. Secured to these ends is the front 2, which extends from the angle of the ends to the point where the ends curve, and from the angles of the end pieces preferably the same piece of sheet metal is bent horizontally to form the bottom 3 and thence upwardly and around to constitute the back 4. The upper edge of this back terminates sufficiently far from the upper edge of the front to leave an opening 5 of ample size for the reception of and removal therefrom of mail-matter. These parts may be secured together in any approved manner.

As a means for strengthening the box the

strips 6 6 are secured vertically inside the ends, and similar strips 7 7 outside are secured by the same rivets, if desired. These latter braces 7 7, however, extend only to the centers of the ends and are offset slightly to receive the ends of the cover between them and the ends of the box. A central brace 8 extends back of the box-front along the bottom and up the rear, and at the front it serves the additional function of a support for the staple or lock 10, which projects from the center of the front.

The cover B is semicylindrical in form, comprising the ends 11 11 and the curved top 12, secured together in any approved way. The forward edge is bent into a flange 13, which affords strength thereto. The lower edges of the ends are preferably reinforced by means of the metal strips 14 14, and pivots 15 15, extending through the ends of the cover and box, furnish a pivoted connection upon which the cover swings, the latter being as nearly balanced as practicable to insure its easy operation and a minimum of labor, as it causes an automatic and complete action of the cover after it has been partly opened or closed, as the case may be, and the extreme movement in each direction may be defined by stops 16 16, placed at suitable points upon the ends of the box.

A simple and automatic means of fastening the cover consists in a gravity-hasp 17, hinged at the center of the cover. This hasp has the usual slot to receive the staple, and its end 18 is upturned sufficiently, and the position of the hasp is such that the staple acts as a cam against it, forcing it aside as the cover is dropped, after which the hasp drops of its own weight over the staple and is in that way automatically caught and held, after which it may be fastened securely by means of a padlock or a spring-lock of any kind, if desired, although for this particular service as a rule no lock whatever is required or even desired. The main thing, in fact, is to afford a box which will protect the contents against the inclemencies of the weather until the postman or patron collects. In short, the idea of my invention is to provide a box which can be opened and closed with perfect facility and ease, in many instances without even requiring the postman to stop

his horse or vehicle, and that is why the cover is balanced and provision is made for automatically fastening the cover the moment it is dropped, so that it will not blow or otherwise be accidentally opened.

5 As a signal to indicate the presence of mail-matter, I propose to use a tag 19, suspended by a chain 20, for instance, from the inside of the box. This is dropped outside to indicate to the postman that there is something for collection. When there is nothing, the tag is dropped inside.

The box may be secured to the top or side of a post to a fence, house, or other convenient support, and a bracket 2 is provided for that purpose. This may be turned so that the upright portion extends up or down, as found most desirable, entirely according to the location, and to assist in its attachment 20 the plate 22 may be employed at the bottom.

It is evident that slight changes might be resorted to in the form and arrangement of the several parts described without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention, and hence I do not wish to limit myself to the exact construction herein set forth; but,

25 Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

30 1. A mail-box comprising ends, front, bot-

tom and rear, the latter curved in the arc of a circle, a central brace extending continuously around from the upper edge of the front, along the bottom and back to the upper edge of the latter and a fastening device secured to the front and brace, the brace thus having the combined function of bracing the parts of the box and supporting the fastening device. 35

2. A mail-box comprising ends, front, bottom and rear, the latter curved in the arc of a circle, a central brace extending continuously around from the upper edge of the front, along the bottom and back to the upper edge of the latter, a fastening device secured to the front and brace, the brace thus having the combined function of bracing the parts of the box and supporting the fastening device, and a balanced cover pivoted to the ends of the box and provided with a catch adapted to automatically engage the fastening device when the cover is closed and to serve as a handle by which to raise the cover. 40 45 50

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses. 55

PRESTON B. ENGLAR.

Witnesses:

ROBERT S. MCKINNEY,
ARTHUR W. COOMBS.