J. E. FISHER.

MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 19, 1912.

1,164,935. Patented Dec. 21, 1915.

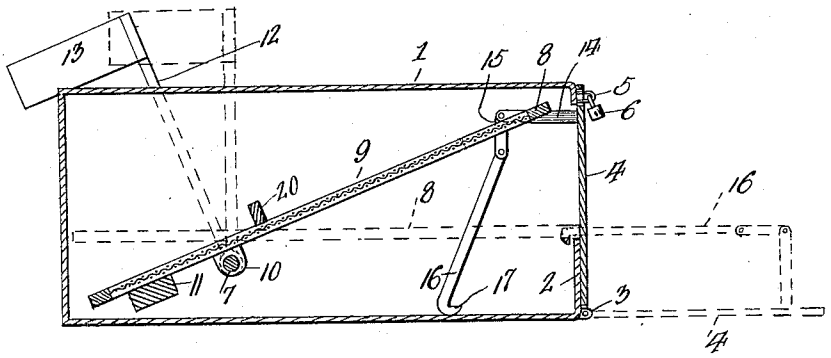


Fig. 1.

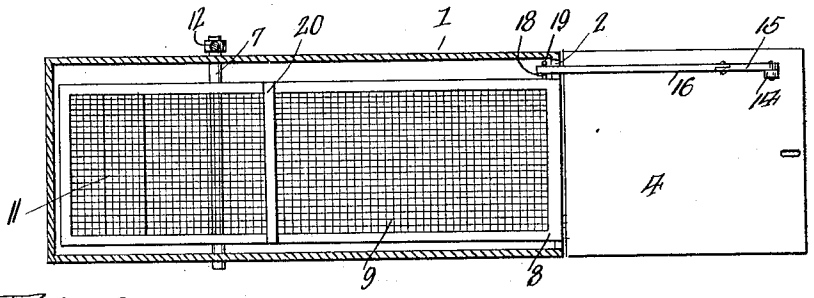


Fig. 2.

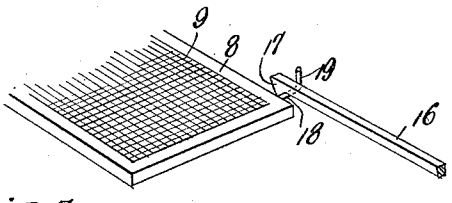


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

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MAIL-BOX.

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Application filed September 19, 1912. Serial No. 721,269.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES E. FISHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bardwell, in the county of Carlisle and State of Kentucky, have invented new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to mail boxes.

One object of the invention is to provide a member adapted to be operated by deposited mail to positively indicate its deposit.

In connection with said object, another object of the invention is to provide a pivoted mail receiving platform having a flag or other signal attached thereto, which signal will be in lowered position during the absence of mail on the receiving platform, and which signal will be raised and maintained in raised position by the presence of mail on the receiving platform.

Another object of the invention is to provide on the mail receiving platform, suitable guard means to prevent mail falling from said platform and catching between the end thereof and the mail box proper.

Another object of the invention is to provide means operated by a door of the box to lower the mail receiving platform upon the opening of said door, for the purpose of depositing mail on said receiving platform.

Other objects will appear from the description hereinafter following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein the preferred embodiment of my invention is illustrated, and in which drawings:—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view. Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view with the door in open position, and, Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of a part of the mail receiving platform and its connection with an actuating arm secured to the door.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 1 designates a box or receptacle which may be made of any suitable material such as metal or wood, which is open at one end where a low vertical wall 2 projects upwardly. At said open end is also pivoted at 3, a door 4 adapted to be locked by any suitable means. The one form shown consists of a staple 5 secured to the box and projecting through the door, beyond which the staple is engaged by a padlock or the like 6. In the side walls of the box is journaled or pivoted a rod designated 7. To said rod is secured a suitable mail receiving platform which as shown, comprises a frame 8 having secured thereto a screen, preferably of metal, such as 9. From the frame 8 depend lugs 10 which are directly and rigidly connected to the rod 7. Adjacent the closed end of the box, the frame 8 has secured thereto a suitable weight designated 11, which normally maintains the mail receiving platform in tilted position, as shown in full lines in Fig. 1.

Exterior of the box, to the shaft 7 is rigidly connected a staff or rod 12 having a flag or other suitable signal 13 thereon.

To the door is secured a stud or arm 14 having pivoted thereto a link 15, to which is pivoted a hook arm 16, whose hook is designated 17. Projecting from the frame 8 and secured thereto, is a pin or the like 18 arranged in the path of the hook arm 16. The projecting pin or the like 18 is preferably upturned at 19 so as to guard against sidewise disengagement of the hook arm 16 therefrom. To the frame 8 may be secured a cross bar 20 which serves as a barrier for deposited mail. Upon application to Fig. 1 of the drawings it is apparent that the link 15 is necessary to permit the door 4 to be swung upon its hinge or pivot point 3 for the reason that the arm 14, were it made rigid, would engage the top of the mail box or body 1 of the device and thereby prevent opening of the door.

In the absence of mail within the box, the weight 11 maintains the mail receiving platform tilted and in the position shown in full lines in Fig. 1. In said position the signal will be lowered or in the position shown in full lines in said figure. Upon the deposit of mail within the box, the postman unlocks the door 4 and lowers the same to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1 and in full lines in Fig. 2, in which position the mail receiving platform rests upon the top of the wall 2, which wall thus serves as a stop to limit its movement. In moving to open position, the door due to the pivotal connection of link 15 and hook arm 16, moves said hook arm to position, where the

hook 17 engages the pin 18 so that the same will, by further movement of the door, move the mail receiving platform to horizontal or lowered position as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1. During such downward movement of the mail receiving platform, by reason of its rigid connection to the pivot rod 7 and the rigid connection of the staff 12 and signal 13 with said rod, the signal is lifted or moved to a vertical position or the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1. From this position of the signal the owner of the box may determine that mail has been deposited in the box. While the mail receiving platform is in lowered position the mail is deposited thereon and its weight is sufficient to maintain the receiving platform in such position after deposit, so that at all times while the mail is thereon, the signal will indicate such fact. After the mail has been removed from the receiving platform, the weight 11 will restore said platform to tilted position and accordingly lower the signal. When the door 4 is closed, the pin member 18 and hook member 16 are disengaged so that said parts do not affect the return of the receiving platform to tilted position.

The means for lowering the mail receiving platform, by means of the door as shown, is only one form and it is to be understood that the same may be varied.

When it is desired that a letter or other article should be deposited for collection within the mail box 1, the door 4 is unlocked and the letter placed upon the mail receiving member 8, the weight of the letter causing the said member to remain in lowered or horizontal position thereby causing the signal staff 12 to extend vertically with respect to the mail box 1. The movement of the door 4 upon its hinge 3 causes the mail receiving member 8 to be lowered or swung into horizontal position, in which position it will remain until the letter or other article thereon is removed by the postman during collection.

It is also to be understood that the preferred embodiment of my invention only has been illustrated and described, and that changes in the details of construction thereof may be made within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my said invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In a mail box, a pivoted receiving platform, a hinged door, a support for said platform, and a hook member pivoted to said door and normally disengaged from said platform, said hook member being adapted to automatically engage said platform when the door is opened to move the same to a horizontal position.

2. In a mail box, a pivoted mail receiving platform, a hinged door, a support for said platform, and a pivoted hook member normally out of engagement with said platform and carried by said door engageable with said mail receiving platform to swing the latter into engagement with said support during the opening of the door.

3. In a mail box, a mail receiving platform, a pivot member to which the same is secured intermediate its ends, a signal secured to said pivoted member upon the exterior of the box, a weight on said member normally maintaining the said member raised, a projecting member on said receiving platform, a hinged door, a hook arm pivoted to said door and disposed in the path of said projecting member to actuate the mail receiving platform through the movement of the door, and a wall against which the mail receiving platform abuts to limit its movement.

4. In a mail box, a mail receiving platform normally supported at an inclination within the said box, a pivot member to which the same is secured intermediate its ends, a signal secured to said pivot member upon the exterior of the mail box adapted to be actuated according to the movement of the said receiving platform, a weight on said receiving platform normally maintaining said platform at an inclination, a projecting member on said mail receiving platform, a hinged door, a stud projecting inwardly from the free end of the said door, a hook arm pivoted to said stud disposed in the path of the said projecting member to actuate the mail receiving platform according to the movement of the door, the movement of the door adapted to force the said mail receiving platform into a substantially horizontal position where it is retained by the mail matter deposited thereon, and a wall against which the mail receiving platform abuts to limit its pivot movement.

5. In a mail box, a mail receiving platform arranged within the said box, adapted to be normally supported at an inclination, a pivot member to which the same is secured intermediate its ends, one end of the said pivot member projecting exteriorly of the mail box, a signal secured to the extended portion of the pivot member adapted to extend at right angles to the said mail receiving platform, a weight on said mail receiving platform to normally maintain the said platform at an inclination, a projecting member on said mail receiving platform, a hinged door, a stud projecting inwardly from the free end of the said door, a hook arm pivoted to the said stud and disposed in the path of said projecting member to actuate the mail receiving platform according to the movement of the door, the door when opened adapted to force the said mail receiving platform to a substantially horizontal position where it is maintained by

the mail matter deposited thereon, means carried by the said receiving platform to prevent movement of the mail matter beyond the pivot point thereof, and a wall formed from the said mail box against which the mail receiving platform normally rests when in a horizontal position, the said wall acting as a stop for the said platform, as and for the purpose set forth.

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