Aug. 17, 1948. H. C. BAKER 2,447,152

FLAG FOR MAIL BOXES

Filed Jan. 7, 1944

Fig. 1.

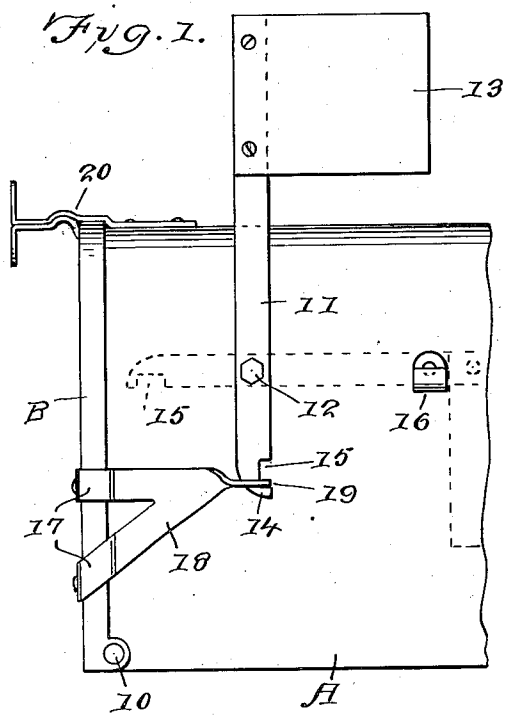


Fig. 2.

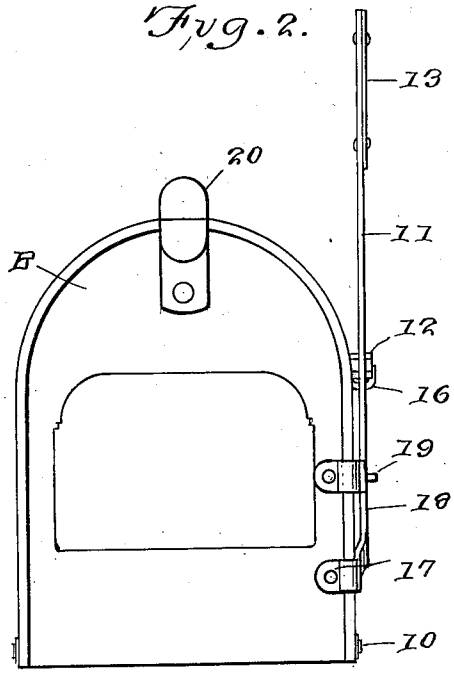


Fig. 3.

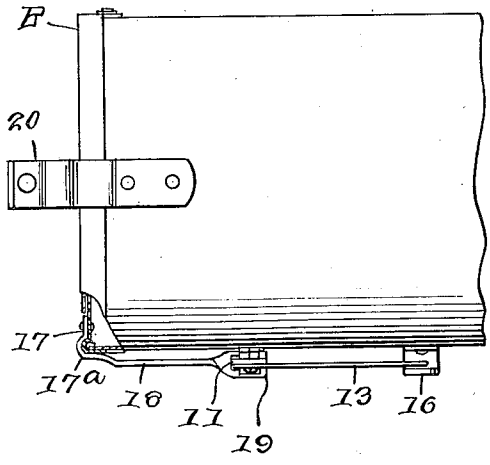


Fig. 4.

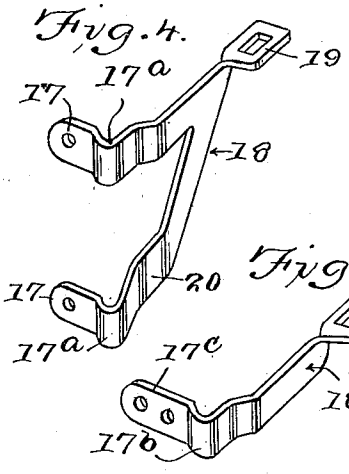


Fig. 5.

Henry C. Baker,
INVENTOR.

BY

Victor J. Evans & Co.

ATTORNEYS

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FLAG FOR MAILBOXES

Henry C. Baker, Muskegon, Mich.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 232—35)

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The invention relates to signalling devices and more especially to rural mail box signals.

The primary object of the invention is the provision of a device of this character, which is adapted for permanent attachment to a rural mail box, which may be readily arranged in signalling position by the letter carrier and which will not interfere with the opening of the door of the mail box.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a device of this character, which is extremely simple in its construction, readily and easily handled, strong, durable, thoroughly reliable and efficient in operation, possessing few parts, thus relieving the same from any disorder, and inexpensive to manufacture and install.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in the features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described in detail, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, which discloses the preferred embodiment of the invention, and pointed out in the following claims.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a side view of a fragmentary portion of a mail box equipped with a signal constructed in accordance with my invention, the signal being shown in full lines in signalling position and in dotted lines in non-signalling position.

Figure 2 is a front elevation.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary top plan partly in section.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the keeper of the device, and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a modified form of the keeper.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views in the drawing.

Referring to the drawing in detail A designates generally a portion of a rural mail box, which may be of any conventional construction, having a vertically swinging front closure B, it being hinged at 10 to the body of the box A.

The signalling device constituting the present invention, comprises a flag staff 11 formed in this instance from a single straight flat bar of metal, although it may be made from any other suitable rigid material, and is adapted for vertical swinging movement upon a horizontally disposed pivot bolt 12, which secures the staff 12 to the side of the body of the box A, as shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 of the drawing.

The staff 11 has a rigid flag emblem 13 thereon at one side of the pivot bolt 12 and preferably on the upper or longer arm of the staff 11, while the lower or shorter arm of the staff has a rounded hook extremity 14 with a notch 15.

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The flag staff 11 when in a non-signalling position rests in a saddle 16 fixed to the side of the box A in horizontal alignment with the bolt 12, assuming the position shown by dotted lines in Figure 1, from a signalling vertical position denoted by full lines in said figure of the drawing.

The closure B has fixed thereto the lateral ear terminals 17 of a double armed V-shaped keeper member 18. The terminals 17 are at right-angles to the keeper member 18 and are offset as at 17a to arrange the member 18 beyond that side of the box A having the signal staff 11 thereon and to permit the ears to be secured to the door B in full abutting relation thereto. This member 18 has twisted therefrom a crosswise disposed keeper eye 19 which on the shutting of the closure B will lie in the path of the hook extremity 14 for the latter's engagement therein when the said staff 11 is moved to vertical or upright position for signalling the deposit of mail matter within the box A. The keeper member 20 is corrugated vertically to add strength and rigidity thereto.

When the closure B is moved to open position, the staff 18 will swing to a horizontal position for resting in the saddle 16, as shown by dotted lines in Figure 1 of the drawing, thus indicating the the mail box has been emptied of contents.

If desired, the keeper member may be constructed as shown in Figure 5. In this form thereof the keeper member 18a consists simply of an L-shaped member. The shorter arm 17c of the keeper member is provided with openings to adapt it to be secured by bolts to the door 13. The longer arm 17b of the keeper member has its rear end formed to provide an eye 19a for engagement with the hooked end 15 of the staff 11. The keeper member is corrugated vertically to add strength and rigidity thereto, and it is especially adapted for use in connection with mail boxes having doors not equipped with flanges.

What is claimed is:

1. A flag signal device for rural mail boxes having a front end opening and a hinged door normally closing the opening, said flag signal comprising a staff pivotally mounted intermediate its ends to one side of said box and at a distance inwardly from the front end thereof, a flag carried at the upper end of said staff, said staff being normally disposed in vertical position to display said flag above the top side of said box and having a rearwardly opening notch formed

adjacent its lower end, the lower end of said staff being forwardly and upwardly curved, an angled bracket secured to a side edge of the door and extending rearwardly therefrom alongside said one side of said box, and a horizontally disposed member at the rearwardly directed end of said bracket, said member being apertured to form a keeper adapted to be engaged by the lower end of said staff when the staff is swung to vertical position, said notch interlocking with the rearwardly directed side of said aperture to positively latch the staff in its vertical position, the curvature at the lower end of the staff providing a clearance to facilitate the engagement and disengagement of that end with and from said keeper when the staff is swung to and from vertical position.

2. In a signal device for a rural mail box having an open front end and a hinged door for said end, said signal comprising a staff carrying a flag at the upper end thereof, a bolt pivotally mounting the staff intermediate the ends thereof on one side of the box, the pivot bolt of the staff being spaced rearwardly from the front end of the box a distance greater than the length of that partion of the staff extending downwardly from the pivot bolt, whereby to space the lower end of the staff rearwardly from the front end of the box when the staff is in horizontal position, said staff having an arcuate surface on the forward edge of the lower end portion thereof and having a notch in the rear edge of said end portion, said notch being spaced upwardly from the lower end of the staff, and a keeper having right angularly related arms of different lengths, the keeper having its shorter arm secured to the front face of the door and the longer arm positioned close to said side of the box to which the staff is pivoted, the longer arm extending from the door to a point rearwardly beyond a vertical plane intersecting the pivot bolt of the staff, said keeper having a horizontally disposed rear end portion provided with an aperture, said aperture receiving the lower end of the staff with the front wall of the aperture contacting with the arcuate edge of the staff and with the lower side of said horizontal portion contacting with the bottom

wall of the notch of the staff whereby to maintain the staff in upright position when the door is closed, said arcuate surface of the staff being immediately in front of the notch of the staff to facilitate the insertion of the lower end of the staff into the aperture and to facilitate the removal of the lower end of the staff from the aperture.

3. A flag signal device for rural mail boxes having a front end opening and hinged door normally closing the opening, said flag signal comprising a staff pivotally mounted intermediate its ends to one side of said box and at a distance inwardly from the front end thereof, a flag carried at the upper end of said staff, said staff being normally disposed in vertical position to display said flag above the top side of said box, the lower end of said staff being curved at its forward edge, a bracket secured to the door and extending rearwardly therefrom alongside said side of said box and recessed at its rearward end to receive the curved lower end of said staff when the staff is in vertical position, the rear edge of the recess engaging the rear side of said staff to lower the flag when the door is opened, the curved end of the staff allowing the staff to rotate about said pivot and out of said recess when the door is opened.

HENRY C. BAKER.

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