

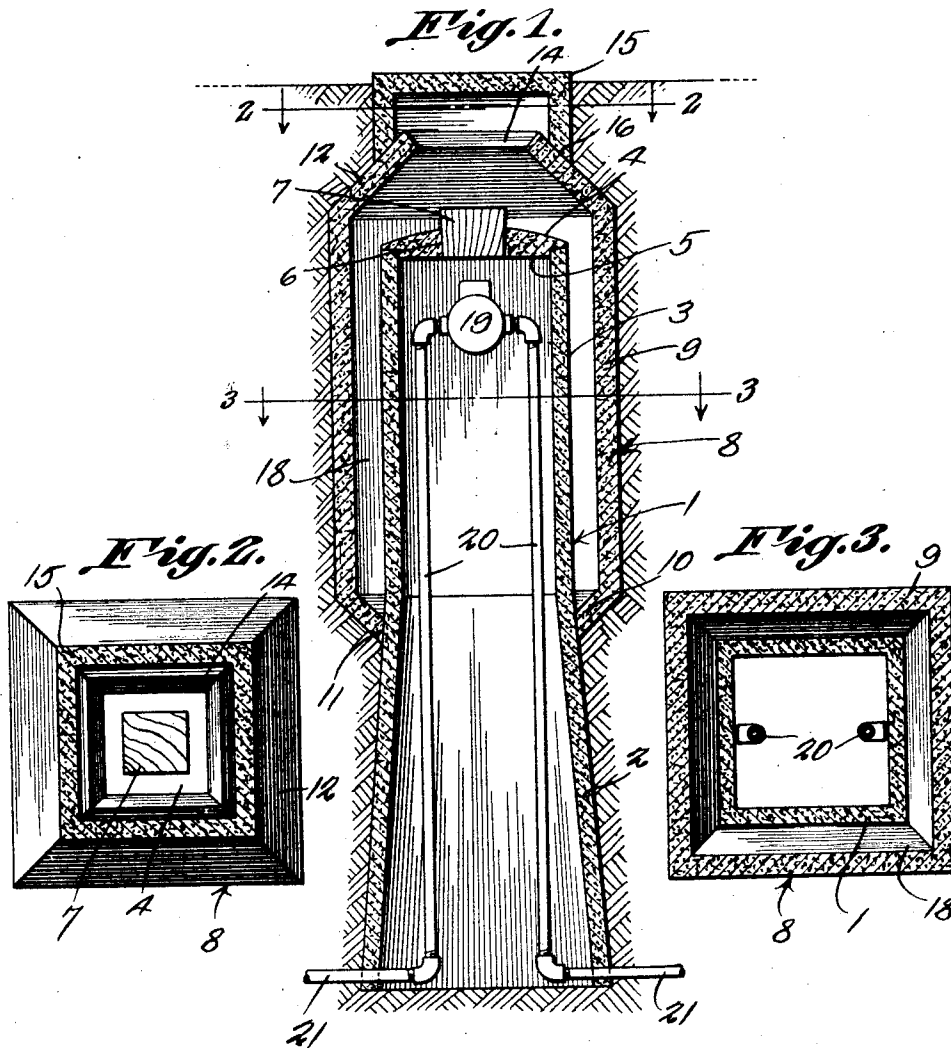
Feb. 19, 1929.

1,702,296

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METER BOX

Filed May 17, 1928



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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METER BOX.

Application filed May 17, 1928. Serial No. 278,566.

One object of this invention is to provide a box of novel construction, adapted to be mounted in the ground, for the purpose of housing in a meter of any desired kind, and particularly a water meter, against freezing. Another object of the invention is to provide a novel construction whereby the constituent parts of the device are held in proper relation to each other, so as to form an air chamber. Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the class described which can be taken down and set up readily without the use of tools.

It is within the province of the disclosure to improve generally and to enhance the utility of devices of that type to which the invention appertains.

With the above and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, may be made within the scope of what is claimed, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 shows in vertical longitudinal section, a device constructed in accordance with the invention; and

Figures 2 and 3 are cross sections taken, respectively, on the lines 2—2 and 3—3 of Figure 1.

In carrying out the invention, there is provided a tubular housing 1 which, as shown, is rectangular in cross section, although the housing might have a different cross section if desired. The housing 1 preferably is made of concrete. It includes an upwardly tapered base 2 having a reduced neck 3 on which rests a lid 4, made of concrete if desired. The lid 4 having an extension 5 which projects into the upper end of the neck 3 of the housing 1.

In the lid 4 there is an opening 6 in which is fitted a closure 7, which may be a wooden plug, although some may prefer to use a material other than wood in the making of the plug 7. A tubular casing 8 is disposed about the upper portion of the housing 1, and is spaced therefrom to form a chamber 18 which insulates the heat within the housing 1 from the surrounding soil, both the housing 1 and the casing 8 being embedded in the soil, as shown in Figure 1. The housing 1 extends down far enough into the soil to be well be-

low the frost line, and, consequently, the natural heat from the soil can rise up within the housing 1, where it will be retained by the insulating chamber 18 that exists inside of the casing 8. The casing 8 includes a body 9, of rectangular cross section, or otherwise, having a downwardly tapered lower end 10 in which there is an opening 11 shaped to conform closely to the external surface of the base 2 of the housing 1. When the casing 8 is lowered into place, as shown in Figure 1, the base 2 is wedged tightly in the opening 11 that is formed in the lower end 10 of the body 9 of the casing 8. The casing 8 has an upwardly tapered upper end 12 provided with a mouth 14 which, preferably, is located a little way below the surface of the soil.

An inverted cup shaped cap 15 is placed on the upper end 12 of the casing 8 and serves as a closure for the opening 14. The lower end of the cap 15 is bevelled as shown at 16, so that it will fit on the sloping upper surface of the part 12 of the casing 8.

The meter 19 is located close enough to the upper end of the housing 1 so that when the plug 7 is removed, the meter can be read. The pipes 20 which are connected to the meter 19 are extended downwardly to a point below the frost line, and there are prolonged laterally, as shown at 21, through the side wall of the base 2. The cap 15 may be made of concrete, if desired, and the same observation holds true with respect to the casing 8. The cap 15 can be lifted off without difficulty thereby uncovering the opening 14, so that the operator can remove the plug 7 and read the meter. If more access is required than is afforded by the removal of the plug 7, the lid 4 can be taken off.

What is claimed is:—

1. In a device of the class described, a tubular housing a portion of which is upwardly tapered, a casing surrounding the upper end of the housing and spaced from the housing to form a heat insulating chamber, the upper end of the casing being spaced above the upper end of the housing, the lower end of the casing having an opening in which the tapered portion of the housing is detachably wedged, the casing having an opening in its upper end, a removable closure for the upper end of the housing, and a removable closure for the upper end of the casing.

2. In a device of the class described, a tubular housing, a portion of which is upwardly tapered, a casing surrounding the upper end

of the housing and spaced from the housing to form a heat insulating chamber, the upper end of the casing being upwardly tapered, and being provided with an opening, a removable closure for the said opening, the lower end of the casing being downwardly tapered, and being provided with an opening in which the tapered portion of the housing is wedged, and a closure for the upper end of the housing, the last specified closure being located within the casing. 10

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature.
ANTON FLINK.