June 22, 1926. 1,589,714

E. G. OVERLY

ENVELOPE

Filed April 21, 1925 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

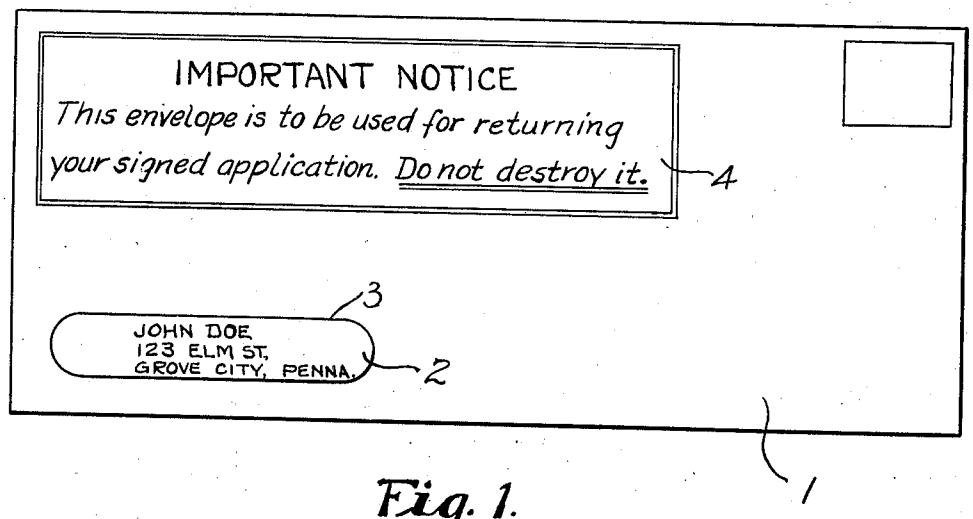


Fig. 1.

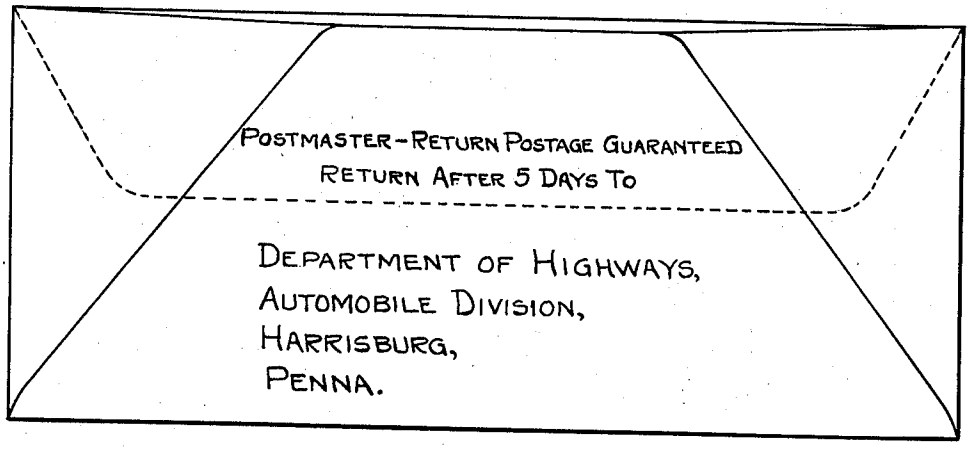


Fig. 2.

INVENTOR.
Elmer G. Overly
BY Lunn & Scott
ATTORNEYS.

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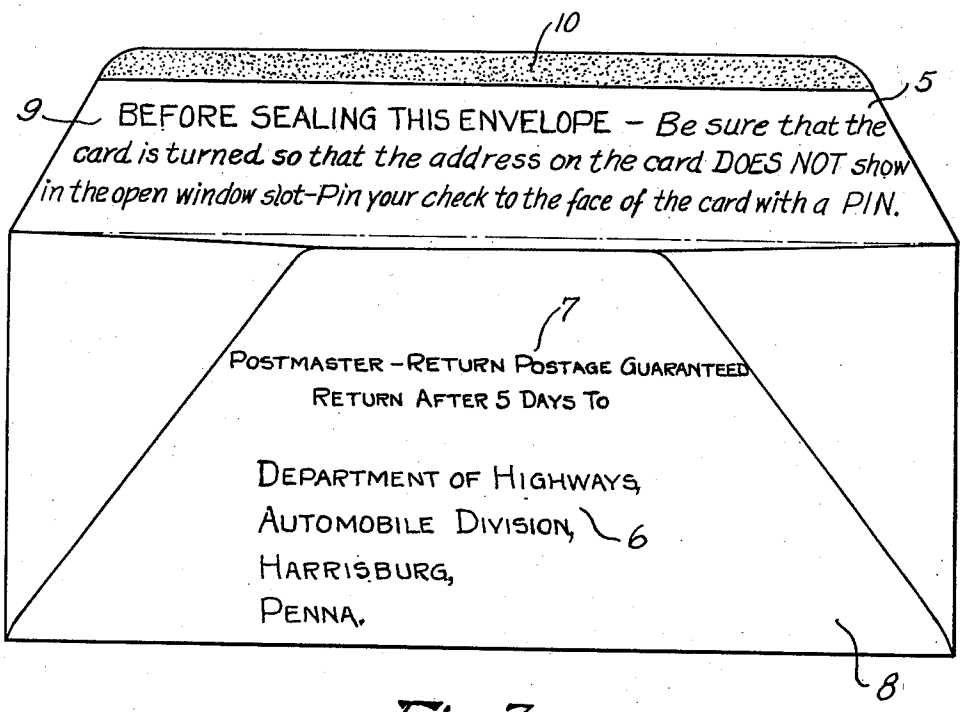


Fig. 3

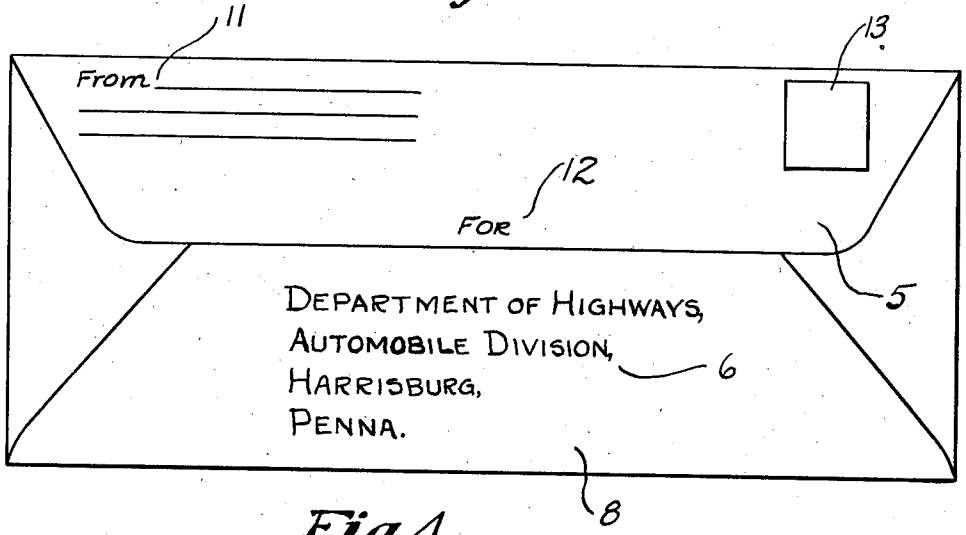


Fig. 4

INVENTOR.
Elmer G. Overly
BY
ATTORNEYS.

Patented June 22, 1926. 1,589,714

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELMER G. OVERLY, OF GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

ENVELOPE.

Application filed April 21, 1925. Serial No. 24,726.

This invention relates generally to improvements in envelopes, particularly to return envelopes designed for transmission from sender to recipient and from recipient to sender.

It is the purpose of my invention to provide an envelope with means, so that the envelope may be used to send material to recipient as second class mail and that the same envelope may be returned by recipient to the sender as first class mail.

The back of the envelope bears a return address, and a flap. The said flap is provided with designations which are concealed by the envelope during the original trip, but are visible on the return trip when the said flap is sealed over the back. By sealing the flap in this position the back of the envelope is converted into the face for the return trip.

Various other features and objects of the invention will be apparent from the following description of a preferred form of embodiment thereof, having reference to the accompanying drawings, in which;

Figure 1 is a front plan view of an embodiment of my invention showing a window with the directing address therein;

Figure 2 is a back plan view of the envelope illustrated in Figure 1 showing a return address and associated legend;

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2, except that the flap is out to display the legend printed thereon;

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 2, except that the flap is sealed and the envelope is ready for the return mail.

Similar characters of reference relate to similar parts throughout the different figures of the drawing.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1, the numeral 1 designates the front of an envelope. A window 2 is provided in this front so that a directing address 3 contained on matter within the envelope registers with said window. In the upper corner of the envelope, a legend 4 is printed instructing the recipient to use the envelope for returning the enclosed matter, such as an automobile license application which must be filled out by recipient and returned to the State license bureau.

The back 8 of the envelope has printed thereon a return address 6 and a legend 7 directly above said address. This legend relates to the return of the letter in case of non-delivery to the sender, and, thus, notifies the postman that the address on the back of the envelope is merely a return address for the original trip. A return postage guarantee may also be included in this legend although it is not essential. A flap 5 with a strip of gum 10 at its edge is positioned on the top of the envelope in the usual manner. On the inner surface of the flap another legend 9 is printed, instructing the recipient of the letter how to insert the blank or card in the envelope before remailing it. Of course, this instruction legend might be printed on any other convenient place on the envelope. The outer surface of the flap has a lined portion 11 for the recipient's name and address and a place 13 for a postage stamp which is to be used during the return trip. A designation 12 on the flap informs the postman that the address on the back of the envelope is the new directing address. In this way, the original return address is converted into the new directing address.

The manner of using this envelope is very simple. The original sender places a card bearing the directing address in the envelope so that the address registers with the window. The flap is inserted within the envelope which may then be posted as second class mail. The legend 7 is exposed, thus notifying the postman where to return the envelope in case of misdirection. The recipient opens the envelope and follows the instructions of legend 9. He then inserts the return material in the envelope, so that the front window is blank, i.e. does not show any address. The flap is now sealed over legend 7 and address 6 becomes the directing address. If desired, the recipient may put his own name and address on lines 11 to prevent the letter from going to the Dead Letter Office in case of non-delivery. The letter is now ready to be returned to the original sender by first class mail.

It is to be noted that a great saving will be effected by the use of the present invention in that only one envelope need be used in place of two. Under the present practice, particularly in State license bureaus, the return envelope is inserted with any other material in the original sending envelope. The sending envelope is thrown away by the recipient of the letter, and

hence, is absolutely wasted. The present invention positively eliminates and prevents this waste.

It will be understood that many changes and modifications may be made in the form of embodiment of the invention, within the scope of the following claims, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What I claim is:

1. A return envelope provided on its face with a directing address for the original trip, an address printed on the back of the said envelope with a legend to show that the said address is a return address, and means to convert the said address on the back of the envelope into a new directing address for the return trip.

2. A return envelope having an address window on the front to expose the directing address on an enclosure inserted in the envelope, an address on the back of said envelope, a legend associated with said address, whereby said address is designated a return address, and a sealing flap adapted to be inserted inside of the envelope during the original trip and to cover said legend but leave said address exposed during the return trip.

3. A return envelope having an address window on the front to show the directing address, an address and legend associated with said address whereby said address is designated a return address, a sealing flap bearing a designation and a place for postage on its outer surface, said flap being adapted to be inserted inside of the envelope during the orignal trip and to be sealed on the back of said envelope during the return trip so as to cover said legend and to bring said designation on the flap above the orignal return address to convert it to a new directing address.

4. A return envelope having an address window for the directing address of the original trip on its front, and a return postage guarantee and a return address printed on its back, a sealing flap bearing instruction legend on its inner face, said printing relating to return postage guarantee being covered when flap is sealed.

5. A return envelope comprising a front having an address window for the address of the original addressee, said window being blank during the return trip, a sealing flap having instruction legend on its inner face and printed matter relating to return of envelope on its outer face, and a back having a return postage guarantee and return address printed thereon, said return postage guarantee printing being uncovered during the trip to the original addressee and being covered by the flap on the return trip.

6. A return envelope having a return address on its back; and a flap adapted to be inserted into the envelope on the original trip whereby the said envelope may be sent by lower than first class mail, and arranged to be sealed over the back of the envelope to convert the same into a first class letter for the return trip, said flap being provided with designations whereby the rear of the envelope is converted into the front as a first class letter.

7. A return envelope for sending a blank printed form by second class mail, and for returning it when filled in, by first class mail, comprising a front including an address window for the original directing address, and a legend bearing portion notifying the recipient that the envelope is to be used for the return of the form, a back having a portion provided with the address of the sender, and a portion bearing a legend above the address to indicate during the original trip that the address on the back is not a directing address, but merely a return address, and a flap foldable inside the envelope to retain the contents therein without sealing during the original trip, said flap being covered and concealed by the back of the envelope on the original trip, but arranged to cover and conceal the return address legend portion of the back of the envelope when sealed outside the said back on the return trip, thereby to convert the return address into a directing address, and said flap including a portion on its inner face, bearing an instruction legend concerning the use of the envelope on the return trip.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature to this specification.

ELMER G. OVERLY.