Sept. 11, 1951 R. L. KELLY 2,567,487

NEWSPAPER RECEPTACLE ATTACHMENT FOR RURAL MAILBOXES

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FIG. 1.

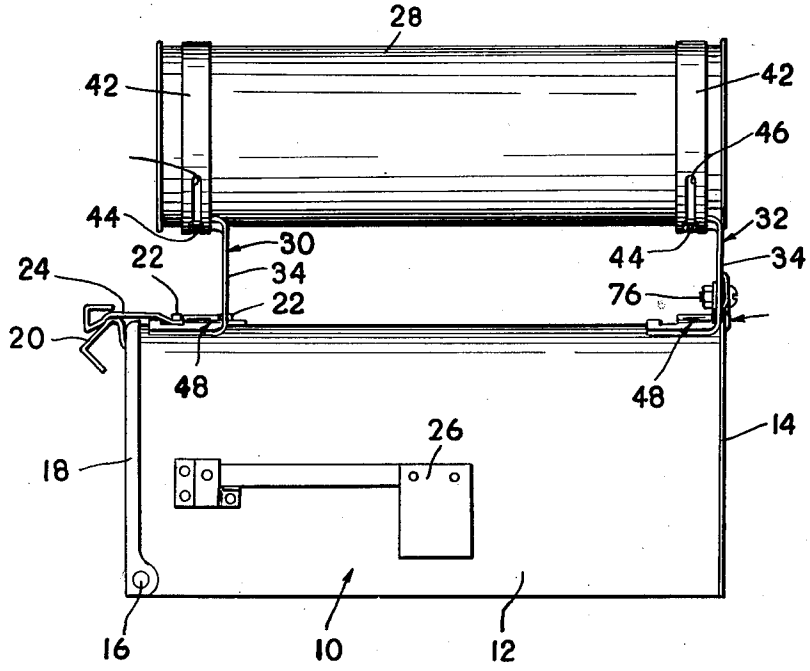


FIG. 2.

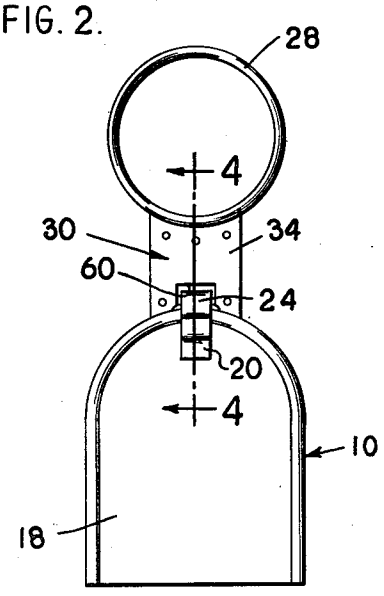
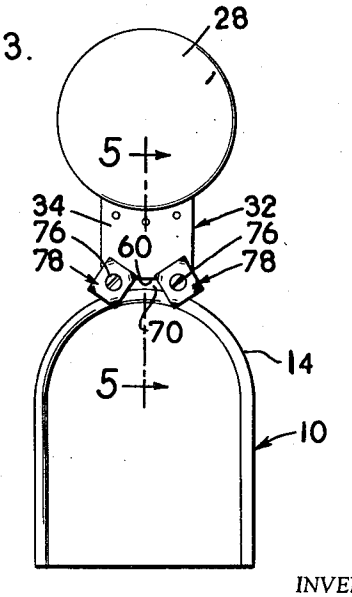


FIG. 3.



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FIG. 4.

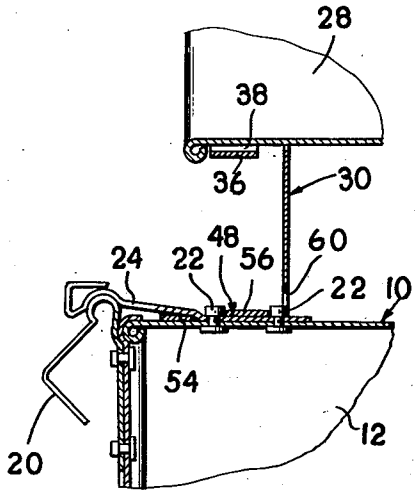


FIG. 5.

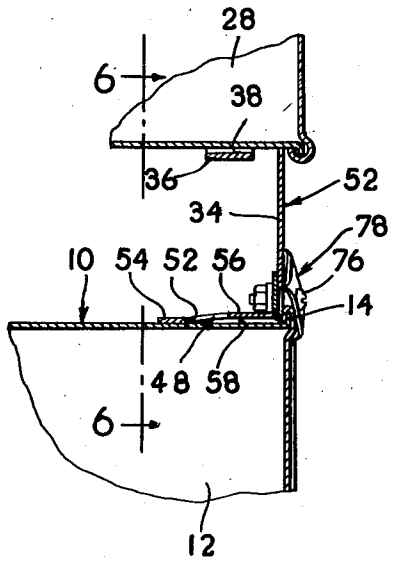


FIG. 6.

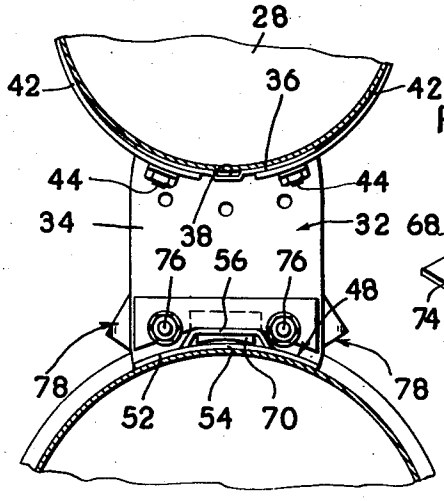


FIG. 7.

FIG. 8.

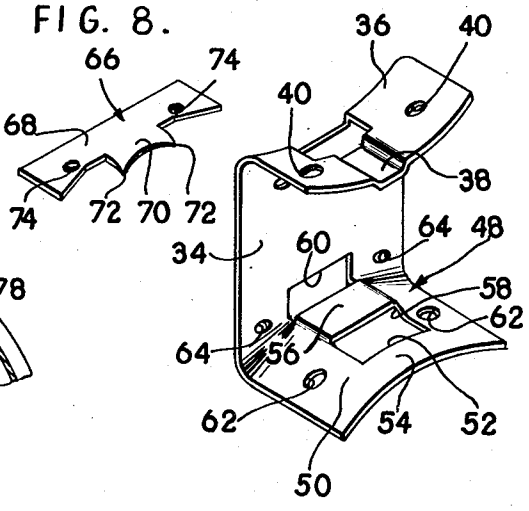
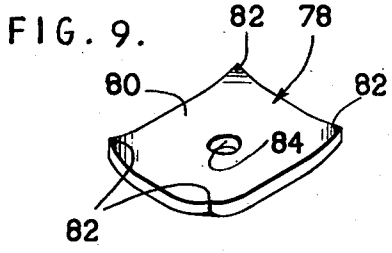


FIG. 9.



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FIG. 10.

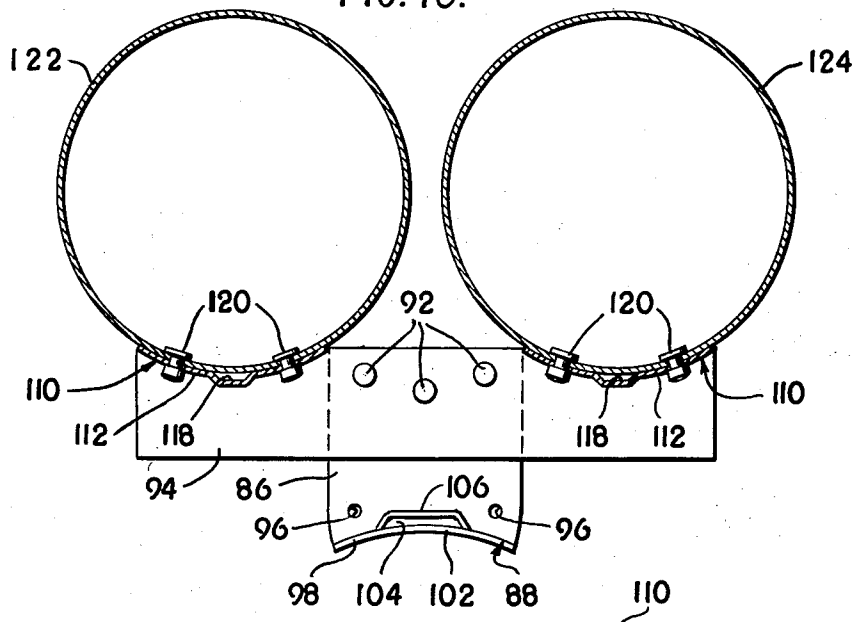


FIG. 11.

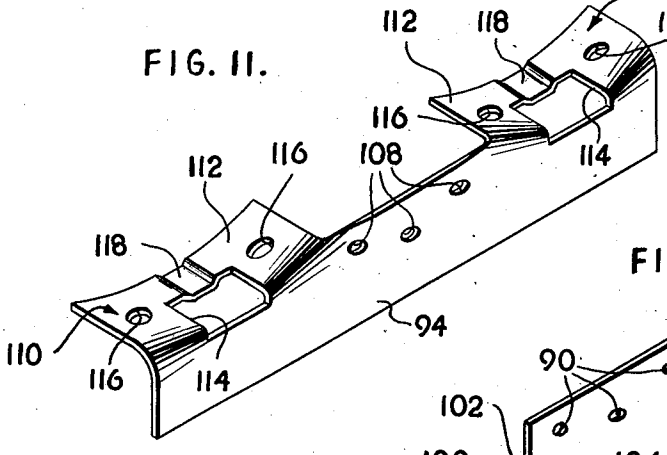
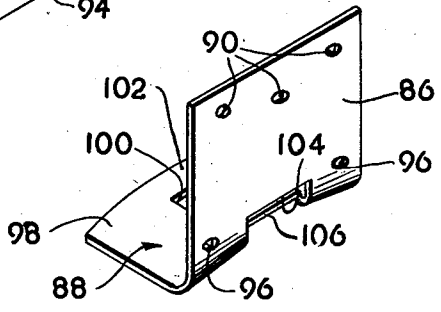


FIG. 12.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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NEWSPAPER RECEPTACLE ATTACHMENT FOR RURAL MAILBOXES

Robert L. Kelly, Baltimore, Md.

Application August 26, 1949, Serial No. 112,516

1 Claim. (Cl. 232—33)

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This invention relates to a newspaper receptacle attachment for a rural mail box and has for its primary object to support atop a conventional rural mail box a receptacle in the nature of a cylindrical tube closed at one end, such as are commonly employed for receiving newspapers in rural areas.

A primary object of the invention is to utilize the conventional construction of a rural mail box for anchoring the receptacle in place thereon.

Another object is to facilitate the rapid mounting of the receptacle on a rural mail box of conventional construction.

A still further object is detachably to connect the receptacle to the mounting brackets and permit of longitudinal adjustment of the brackets on the receptacle.

The above and other objects may be attained by employing this invention which embodies among its features a bracket comprising an upright, a seat carried by the upper end of the upright for accommodating the newspaper receptacle, a saddle member carried by the lower end of the upright for resting upon the top of a conventional rural mail box, said saddle member having an opening therein to accommodate the conventional latch tongue of a rural mail box to utilize said latch tongue as an anchoring means for the bracket at one end of the receptacle and clamping means removably coupled to the bracket at the opposite end of the receptacle for clamping said bracket to the outstanding flange of a conventional rural mail box.

Other features include means detachably and adjustably to couple the brackets to a newspaper receptacle.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a side view of a conventional rural mail box showing a newspaper receptacle mounted thereon in accordance with this invention,

Figure 2 is a front view in elevation of the structure illustrated in Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a rear view of the structure illustrated in Figure 1,

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken substantially along the line 4—4 of Figure 2,

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken substantially along the line 5—5 of Figure 3,

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 6—6 of Figure 5,

Figure 7 is a perspective of one of the mounting brackets,

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Figure 8 is a perspective view of one of the clamping members,

Figure 9 is an enlarged perspective view of a cooperating clamp member,

Figure 10 is a vertical sectional view through a modified form of the invention,

Figure 11 is a perspective view of the cross arm employed with the structure illustrated in Figure 10, and

Figure 12 is a perspective view of the bracket employed in connection with the structure illustrated in Figure 10.

Referring to the drawings in detail a conventional rural mail box designated generally 10 comprises a container 12, which is closed at one end and carries at its closed end a conventional outstanding flange 14. Pivotally connected to the container 12, adjacent the open end thereof, as at 16, is a conventional downwardly opening door 18, carrying a combination handle and latch keeper 20. Riveted, or otherwise attached to the top of the container 12, as at 22, is a conventional latch tongue 24, which projects forwardly beyond the open end of the container and overhangs the door 18 to cooperate with the latch keeper and handle 20 in holding the door in closed position. The mail box is provided with a conventional flag 26. The structure so far recited is of conventional form and forms no part of this invention.

In order to support a newspaper receptacle 28 above the mail box 10, I provide a pair of spaced brackets designated generally 30 and 32 respectively. Each such bracket comprises an upright 34 carrying at its upper end an outwardly extending concave seat 36. In the preferred form of the invention, the seat 36 is equipped with a longitudinal groove 38 for accommodating the seam joining opposite ends of the sheet of material from which the tubular receptacle 28 is formed. Spaced openings 40 are formed in the seat 36 to accommodate rivets or bolts by which the tubular receptacle 28 may be attached to the seat. In some instances annular bands 42 may encircle the receptacle 28 in which case bolts 44 are extended through the openings 40 and through slots 46 formed in the bands 42, adjustably to couple the bands to the seat 36.

Formed at the lower end of each upright 34 is a saddle member designated generally 48 which comprises a concave flange 50 having formed intermediate its ends an opening 52. This opening forms at the end of the flange 50 remote from the upright 34 a transversely extended bar 54 which follows the contour of the top of the con-

tainer 12, as will be readily understood upon reference to Figure 6. The portion of the saddle member 48, which lies between the opening 52 and the upright 34, is struck upwardly to form a bridge member 56 which extends across and forms the top wall of a longitudinal channel 58, in which a portion of the latch tongue 24 is accommodated. Formed at the junction of the upright 34 and saddle member 48 is an opening 60, the purpose of which will hereinafter appear, and formed in the flange 50, between the opening 52 and opposite side edges of said flange, are openings 62 for the accommodation of bolts when it is desired to bolt the bracket to the container 12. Formed in the upright 34 between opposite side edges thereof and the opening 60 are bolt receiving openings 64 by which the clamp members, to be more fully hereinafter described, are connected to the upright.

When the bracket is to be used at the rear closed end of the container 12, a clamp member designated generally 66 (Figure 8) is employed. This clamp member comprises an elongated body 68 provided intermediate its ends with a lateral extension 70 opposite corners of which are bent as at 72 to form prongs for engaging the front face of the flange 14. Formed in the body 68, between opposite ends thereof and the lateral extension 70, are bolt receiving openings 74 which when the clamp is in use align with the openings 64 to receive clamping bolts 76. Cooperating clamp members designated generally 78 (Figure 9) comprise substantially rectangular bodies 80, opposite corners of which are bent as at 82 to form clamping prongs which engage the upright 34 and the back side of the flange 14, as will be readily understood upon reference to the Figures 1 and 5. Formed centrally of each rectangular body 80 is an opening 84 for the reception of one of the bolts 76 so that when the bolts are tightened, the clamps 66 and 78 will be drawn into clamping engagement with the flange 14 in order to hold the upright 34 of the rear bracket 32 in proper position on the top of the container 12.

The brackets 30 and 32 are exact counterparts except for the fact that the bracket 32 is equipped with clamp members just described, and these are so designed that they may be utilized interchangeably with the brackets.

In the preferred form of the invention the brackets 32 and 34 are first connected to the receptacle and the spacing between them adjusted so that when the bracket 30 is engaged with the latch tongue 34, as illustrated in Figure 1, the bracket 32 will lie against the front face of the flange 14. Having thus connected the brackets to the receptacle 28, the door 18 of the container 12 is moved to open position and the saddle member 48 of the bracket 30 is slipped over the overhanging end of the latch tongue 24 with the latch tongue projecting through the opening therein. Upon moving the receptacle 28 downwardly into substantially parallel relation to the container 12, the rivets 22 will pass through the openings 52 and 60 and will engage opposite ends of the bridge member 56. At the same time opposite side walls of the recess 58 will engage opposite side edges of the portion of the latch tongue 24 which rests on the top of the container, thus securely anchoring the forward bracket 30 to the container. Simultaneously with the movement of the receptacle into parallel relation with the container, the clamp member 66 carried by the bracket 32 will engage the front face of the flange 14 through the opening 60 in the upright 34 of said bracket 32 and the clamp members 78 will engage the rear face of the flange 14 so that upon tightening the bolts 76 the clamps 66 and 78 will be drawn tightly against the flange 14 securely to hold the bracket 32 in position on the container 12. In this way rapid mounting of the receptacle 28 on a conventional rural mail box 10 may be achieved.

In the modified form of the invention illustrated in Figures 10 through 12 inclusive, the mounting device comprises a pair of brackets corresponding to the forward and rear brackets 30 and 32 previously referred to. Each such bracket comprises an upright 86 formed at its lower end with a laterally extending saddle member 88 corresponding in all respects to the saddle member 48 previously described. Formed adjacent the upper end of the upright 86 are spaced openings 90 for the reception of suitable fastening means 92, such as rivets, by means of which a cross arm 94 is connected to the upright. Like the upright 34, the upright 86 is provided adjacent its lower end with spaced openings 96 for the reception of bolts by means of which the clamps 66 and 78 may be detachably mounted on the upright 86. The saddle member 88 comprises a flange 98 which is transversely curved like the flange 50 and is formed intermediate its end with an opening 100, which corresponds with the opening 52 in the flange 50 to form a cross bar 102 corresponding to the cross bar 54, previously described. Formed at the junction of the flange 98 with the upright 86 is an opening 104 and the portion of the flange 98 lying between the openings 100 and 104 is struck upwardly to form a bridge piece 106.

The cross arm 94 is provided intermediate its ends with spaced openings 108 which align with the openings 90 in the upright 96 to receive the fasteners 92 and formed adjacent opposite ends of the cross arm are seats 110, each of which comprises a laterally extending concave flange 112. Formed at the junctions of the flanges 112 with the cross arm 94 mid-way between opposite side edges are openings 114. Bolt receiving openings 116 are formed in the flanges between the openings 114 and the side edges of the flanges, as will be readily understood upon reference to Figure 11. Formed mid-way between the side edges of the flanges are upwardly opening channels 118 in which the conventional seams of circular cylindrical receptacles may be received. Fastened in any suitable manner, as by rivets 120 to the seats 110, are receptacles 122 and 124 in which the newspapers are deposited.

When it is desired to mount a pair of receptacles atop a conventional mail box, brackets 86 are employed in place of brackets 30 and 32 respectively. A cross arm 94 is attached to each bracket 86 by any suitable fastening means 92 and the receptacles 22 and 24 are fixed to the seats 110 of the respective cross arms 94. The upright 86 at one end of the structure thus formed is equipped with the clamp members 66 and 78 in the manner previously described and the device is now ready for mounting on a conventional rural mail box.

The bracket at the end of the structure, remote from that carrying the clamp members 66 and 78, is slipped over the latch tongue of the mail box, as previously described, with the cross bar 102 lying beneath the latch tongue while the bridge piece 106 lies on top of the latch tongue between the rivets by which the latch tongue is fixed to the

mail box. The structure is then moved downwardly so that the receptacles **122** and **124** lie parallel with the top of the mail box in which position the upright **86** carrying the clamp members **66** and **78** will rest against the flange of the mail box so that upon tightening the bolts, the clamp members **66** and **78** will be drawn into clamping position on the flange of the mail box. In this way, the dual type of receptacle may be easily and quickly applied to a conventional rural mail box.

What is claimed is:

In a rural mail box of the type having a downwardly swinging door, a latch tongue, spaced rivets extending through the mail box and the latch tongue for holding the latch tongue in overhanging relation to the door, and upwardly projecting heads on the rivets; means for supporting a receptacle above the mail box comprising an upright, means carried by the upper end of said upright for supporting a receptacle thereon, a saddle member at the lower end of the upright for seating on the mail box, said upright having a latch tongue accommodating opening

extending therethrough at its junction with the saddle member, said saddle member having a latch tongue receiving opening extending therethrough in spaced relation to the upright and forming a bridge member, said bridge member being upwardly offset for straddling the latch tongue and seating between the rivet heads and in engagement therewith to restrain shifting of the saddle member relative to the latch tongue and said latch tongue receiving opening defining along one side thereof a cross bar remote from the upright for engagement beneath the latch tongue between the rivets and the door.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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