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2,668,657

MAILBOX SIGNAL

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Fig. 1

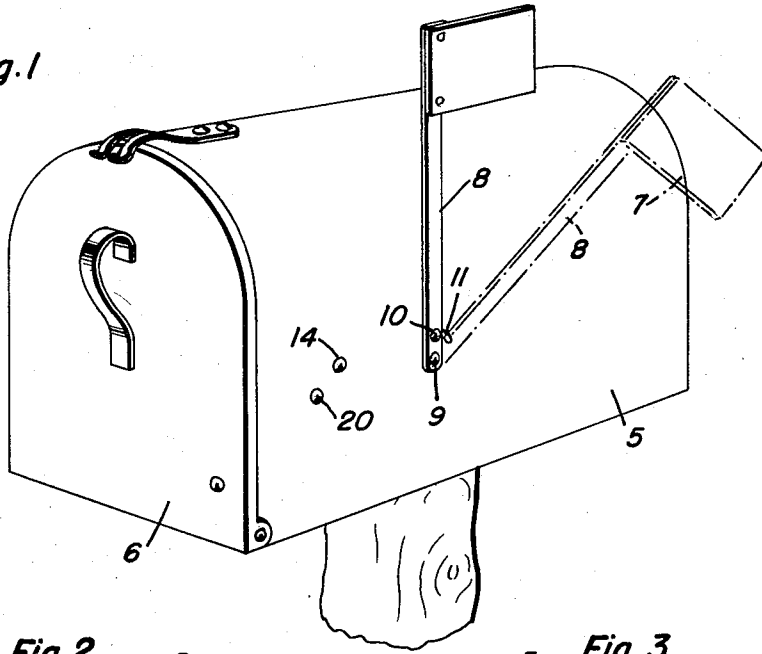


Fig. 2

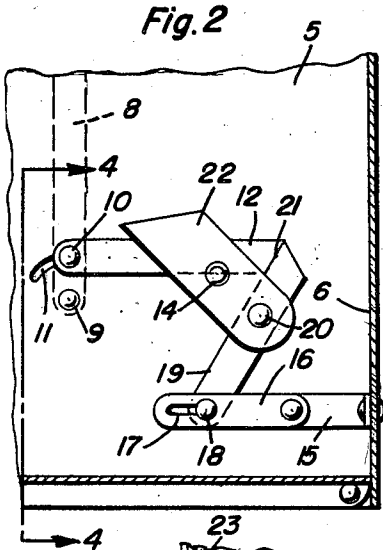


Fig. 3

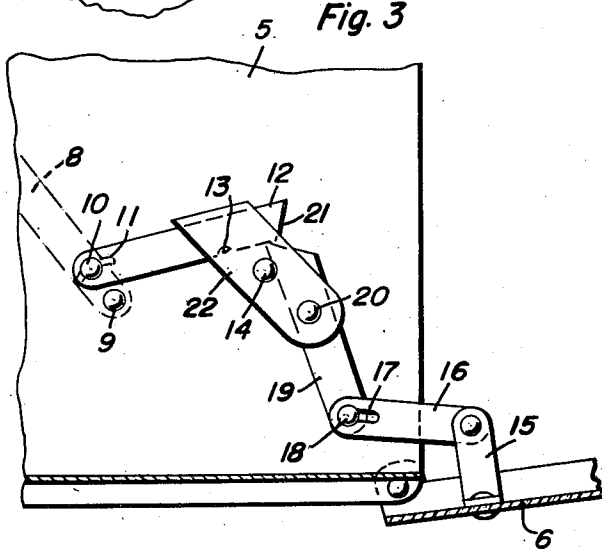
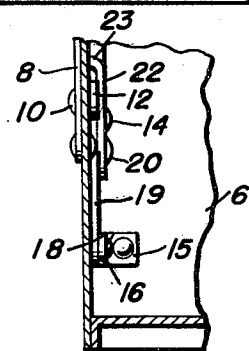


Fig. 4



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MAILBOX SIGNAL

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1 Claim. (Cl. 232—35)

1

The present invention relates to new and useful improvements in rural mail boxes and more particularly to a signal flag operating mechanism.

An important object of the invention is to provide door actuated means for releasing and lowering the flag upon an opening movement of the door and wherein the door may be closed while the flag remains in its lowered position.

Another object is to provide a device of this character of simple and practical construction, which is efficient and dependable in operation, relatively inexpensive to manufacture and otherwise well adapted for the purposes for which the same is intended.

Other objects and advantages reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view showing the mechanism in position with the flag raised and the door closed;

Figure 3 is a similar view showing the flag lowered by the opening of the door and the flag holding the door in a horizontal position; and,

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken on a line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, wherein for the purpose of illustration I have disclosed a preferred embodiment of my invention, the numeral 5 designates a rural mail box having a door 6 pivoted at its lower portion to the lower front portion of the box for vertical swinging opening and closing movement.

A flag 7 includes a strap metal staff 8 which is pivoted at its lower end to a side of the box on the outside thereof by a pivot pin 9 and a stop pin 10 is carried by the staff and projects through an arcuate slot 11 in the side of the box to limit movement of the flag from a perpendicular raised position, as shown by full lines in Figure 1, to an inclined lower position as shown by dotted lines.

A locking bar or catch 12 is pivoted at one end on the inner end of pin 10 and extends forwardly in the box and is formed at its lower edge with a notch 13 adapted to receive a locking pin 14 in the box to hold the flag in its raised position.

A bracket 15 is secured to the inside of door 6 and to which one end of a link 16 is pivoted, while the other end of the link is formed with a slot 17 engaging a pin 18 carried at the lower end of a vertically swingable lever 19 which is pivoted at an intermediate portion to the box by a pin or rivet 20 in a position with one upper longitudinal edge of the lever engaging the front inclined end 21 of locking bar or catch 12. A stop bar 22 is attached to both the pins 14 and

2

20 and the upper end of the bar 22 is formed with a lip or flange 23 which overlies the upper edge of locking bar or catch 12 to limit raising movement of the latter.

In the operation of the device, when door 6 is in its closed position, as shown in Figure 2, locking bar 12 is then free to drop downwardly to engage pin 14 in notch 13 by the raising of the flag to lock the flag in a raised position. An opening movement of door 6 will swing the upper end of lever 19 inwardly and push against the inclined front end 21 of locking bar 12 to raise the latter free of pin 14 and swing flag staff 8 rearwardly into its lowered position, as shown in Figure 3. Locking bar 12 is held in a raised inclined position by the upper end of lever 19 riding under the locking bar. The lowering movement of the flag is limited by pin 10 in slot 11 and door 6 is held in a horizontal open position by lever 19 striking locking pin 14. Locking bar 12 is limited in its upward swinging movement by lip or flange 23 of bar 22.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings it is believed that a clear understanding of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

It is to be understood, however, that even though there is herein shown and described a preferred embodiment of the invention the same is susceptible to certain changes fully comprehended by the spirit of the invention as herein described and the scope of the appended claim.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

In a mail box, the combination of a vertically swingable flag and a vertically swingable door, a locking bar pivotally connected at one end to the flag, said bar having a locking notch in its lower edge, a locking pin carried by the box and engaged in the notch of the bar to hold the flag in a raised position said locking bar having an inclined free end, a vertically swingable lever pivoted to the box and having its upper end slidably engaging the inclined end of the locking bar to initially raise the bar for releasing the latter from the pin and to subsequently move the bar in a direction to lower the flag, and means connecting the lower end of the lever to the door to actuate the lever in a locking bar releasing and flag lowering movement upon an opening movement of the door.

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