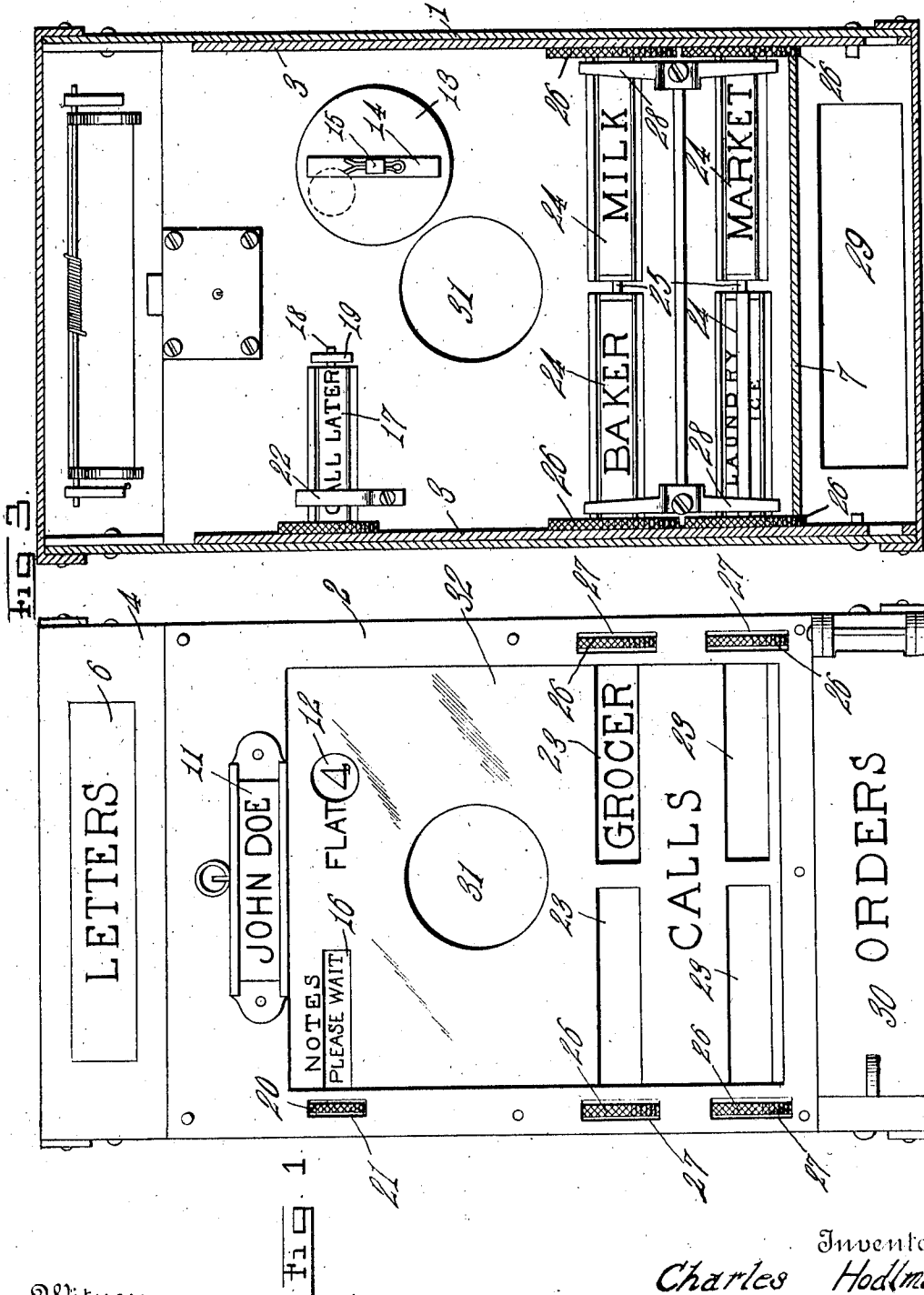


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APPLICATION FILED AUG. 9, 1909.

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Patented Aug. 13, 1912.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.



Witnesses
C. R. Hardy
C. H. Giesbauer

Inventor
Charles Hodlmair
By *A. B. Wilson & Co.*
Attorneys

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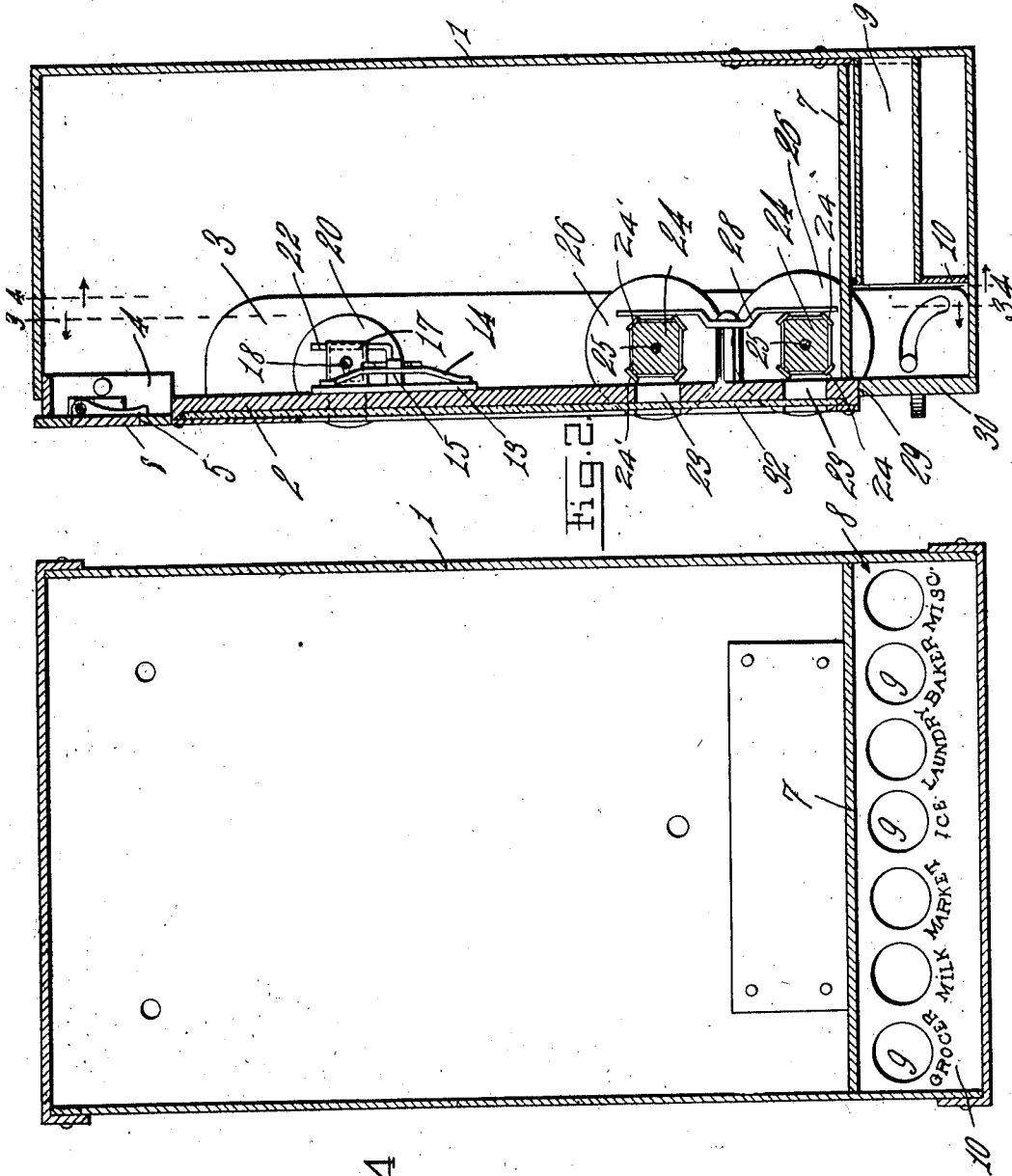


FIG. 4

Witnesses
 C. R. Hardy.
 C. H. Giesbauer.

Inventor
 Charles Hodlman

by A. B. Wilson & Co.
 Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES HODLMAIR, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

COMBINED MAIL AND ORDER BOX.

1,035,347.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 13, 1912.

Application filed August 9, 1909. Serial No. 511,947.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES HODLMAIR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Mail and Order Boxes; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in combined mail and order boxes.

The invention consists in the construction and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter described and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of the invention; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the same; Fig. 3 is a similar view taken at right angles to and on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; looking toward the inner side of the door; Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view, similar to Fig. 3 on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2, looking toward the rear wall of the box.

In the embodiment of my invention, I provide a box or casing 1 which may be of any suitable size and shape and constructed of any suitable material. The box is here shown and is preferably of rectangular oblong form and constructed from heavy sheet metal. Hingedly connected to the lower edge of the front side of the box is a door 2 having on its opposite sides inwardly projecting flanges 3, which when the door is in closed position fit into the box and closely engage the inner walls of the opposite sides of the box, as shown. On the front side of the box, at its upper end, above the door 2, is arranged a locking plate 4 to which the upper end of the door is locked in closed position. In the plate 4 is formed a letter receiving slot 5 which is normally closed by a spring actuated cover plate 6. Near the bottom of the box is arranged a transversely disposed partition 7 below which is arranged an order holder 8, consisting of a series of horizontally disposed tubes 9 connected at their outer open ends with a face plate 10, on which, below each tube, is indicated the name of the order to be placed in that respective tube.

On the outer side of the door, at a suitable position, is arranged a card holder 11 with which is adapted to be engaged a

name plate or card, indicating the ownership of the box. In the cover plate at a suitable position, is formed a circular aperture 12 through which is displayed the number of the apartment occupied by the owner of the box. On the rear side of the cover over the aperture 12, is pivotally mounted a disk 13 on the face of which is arranged an annular series of numbers indicating the apartments in the building and which are adapted to be brought opposite the aperture 12 by turning the disk in one direction or the other. The disk 13 is held in frictional engagement with the inner side of the cover by a flat spring 14 arranged on the pivot stud 15 of the disk and secured in position by a cotter pin or other suitable fastening device. The outer edge of the disk 13 is preferably provided with notches to facilitate the turning of the disk.

In the upper portion of the door, adjacent to one edge is formed a slot 16 behind which, on the inner side of the door, is revolvably mounted an indicating device which is preferably in the form of an oblong block 17 having on its opposite ends trunnions 18, one of which is pivotally mounted in a bearing lug 19 formed on the inner side of the door, while the trunnion on the opposite end is pivotally mounted in the adjacent side flange of the door. On the end of the block, adjacent to the side flanges of the door, is arranged a milled operating wheel 20 which works through a slot 21 in the door, whereby the block may be turned from the outer side of the box to bring its various sides into a position opposite to the slot 16. On the different sides of the block are arranged cards containing notes or such information, as "Will be back soon," "Please wait," "Call later." The block is preferably engaged by a flat spring 22 which is secured to the inner side of the door and serves to hold the block in its adjusted position.

In the lower portion of the door is formed a series of side openings 23, in the rear of which, on the inner side of the door, are arranged indicating devices in the form of oblong blocks 24 which are similar to the block 17 and are pivotally mounted on transversely disposed shafts 25 arranged in the opposite side flanges of the door, as shown. On the ends of the blocks 24, adjacent to the inner walls of the opposite side flanges of the door, are milled operating disks or wheels 26, the edges of which project

through slots 27 formed in the adjacent portions of the door, whereby said wheels and the blocks connected thereto may be turned from the outer side of the box. On the 5 blocks 24 are arranged cards containing the name of the merchant or tradesman having dealings with the owner of the box and said names when displayed through their respective slots are to indicate that there is an 10 order for the tradesman or merchant in the order holder tube 9, bearing his name. The blocks 24 are held against casual rotation, after being properly adjusted to display the desired information, by means of flat springs 15 28 arranged, as shown. The adjacently mounted card carrying oblong blocks or members 24, are similarly constructed, and as clearly shown in Fig. 2 are rectangular shaped in cross section, and secured to the 20 mitered edges of the blocks are metal strips 24' the opposite longitudinal edges of which project beyond the flat card receiving surfaces of said blocks, whereby the cards are removably held upon the latter, and further 25 the projecting longitudinal edges of the strips are adapted for frictional contact with the opposite projecting arms of the spring 28, whereby the blocks are held in an adjusted position and the arms of the spring 30 held out of contact with the cards carried by the blocks. By means of the indicating devices, as herein shown and described, the owner of the box may indicate thereon the call for the tradesman or merchant who will 35 understand upon seeing his card displayed through one of the slots 27 that an order has been placed in his order tube in the box.

In the lower portion of the door opposite to the row of order holding tubes, is formed 40 an opening 29 through which access is had to the tubes of the order holder whereby the orders may be inserted or removed from the tube. The opening 29 is normally closed by a hinged cover 30 on the outer side of which

is preferably placed the word "Orders." In 45 the cover above the slots 27, is formed a view opening 31, whereby a view of the interior of the body portion of the box may be had to ascertain whether or not mail has been deposited in the box. The guide slots 50 and apertures in the cover of the box are covered and protected by a glass or other transparent plate 32 which is arranged in and secured to the door in any suitable manner. 55

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction and operation of the invention will be readily understood without requiring a more extended explanation. 60

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

In a device of the character described, a casing having view openings in the front thereof, a pair of indicating polygonal 65 shaped members revolubly mounted in parallel relation in the casing adjacent to and closing said openings, strips secured to the longitudinal edges of the said members, and projecting beyond the flat surfaces thereof, 70 whereby indicating cards may be removably secured to the members, a spring secured to the casing and having opposite flat projecting arms yieldingly contacting with the longitudinal projecting edges of the strips 75 and out of contact with the indicating cards carried by the revoluble members, and disks fixedly secured to the latter, said casing being provided with a second set of openings 80 through which the disks project.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES HODLMAIR.

Witnesses:

JOHN F. ENGLE,
HUGO ENGEL.