June 7, 1949. R. CARTER 2,472,192

AUTOMATIC SIGNAL MAILBOX

Filed Jan. 20, 1948

Fig. 2.

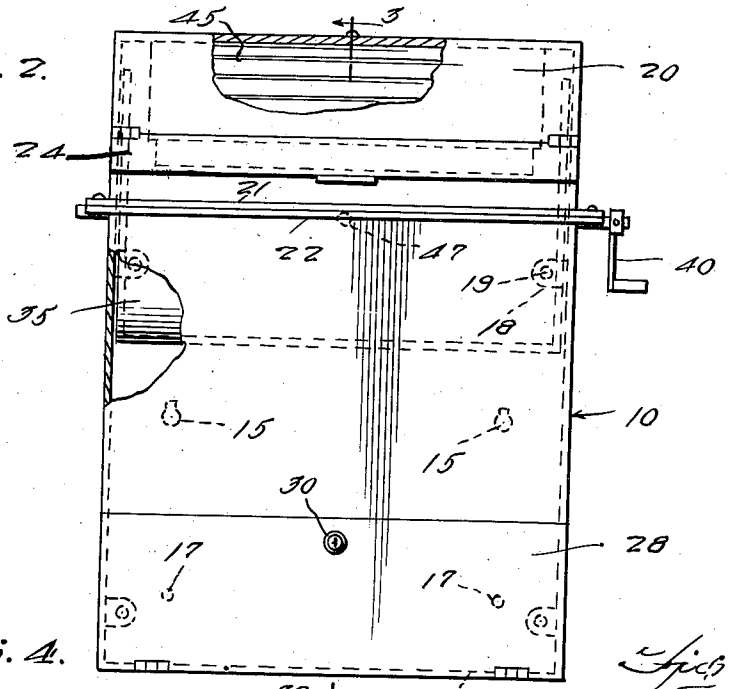


Fig. 4.

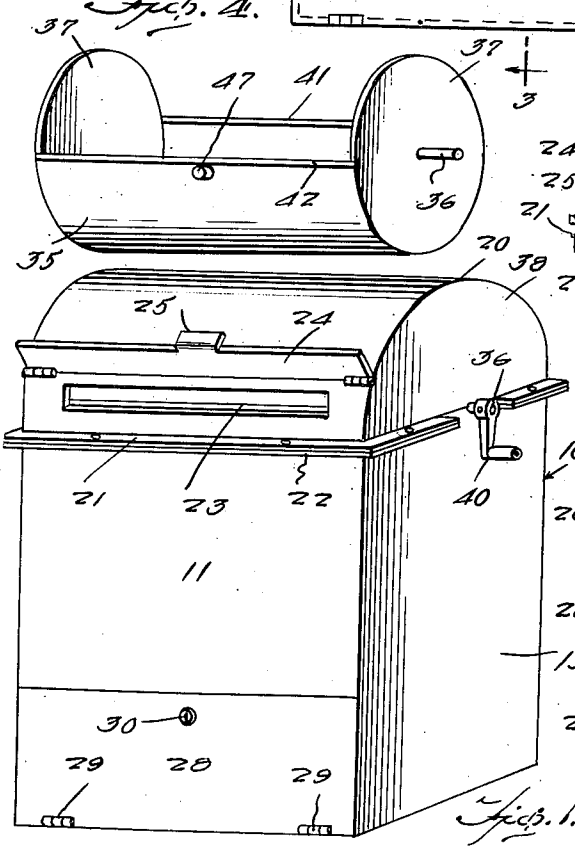
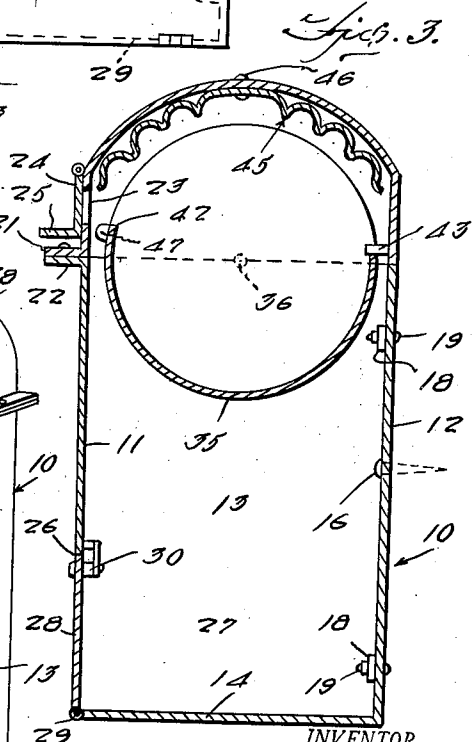


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 1.

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AUTOMATIC SIGNAL MAILBOX

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Application January 20, 1948, Serial No. 3,190

2 Claims. (Cl. 232—17)

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This invention relates to mail boxes.

An object of the invention is the provision of a mail box that will not only prevent unauthorized persons from removing mail from the box, but for warning the occupants of a home that mail has been delivered, an alarm being operated by a movable letter receptacle when the receptacle is actuated to discharge the letters into a concealed compartment.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a mail box that will not only shift letters from a position adjacent an entrance slot to a remote compartment, but will warn the occupants of a home that mail has been delivered, a bell within the housing of the mail box being struck by a clapper fixed to a rotatable receptacle initially receiving the letters which are discharged into the remote compartment when said receptacle is partially revolved.

The invention consists in the novel construction, arrangement and combinations of parts hereinafter more particularly described and claimed.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of my mail box.

Figure 2 is a front view in elevation of the mail box with parts broken away.

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical section taken along the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a view in perspective of a receptacle for the initial reception of letters shown detached from the box.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 10 designates a housing having a front wall 11 connected to a rear wall 12 by side walls 13 and a bottom 14. The rear wall has spaced bayonet slots 15 to receive screws 16 mounted on a fixed part of a building. Openings 17 in said wall may receive nails or screws. The rear wall may be removably connected to the side walls by tongues 18 and bolts 19. In other words, the rear wall may be secured in position on the fixed part of the building and the side walls 13 together with the connected front wall and bottom, as a unit, may be attached to the rear wall by the tongues and bolts.

A curved top 20 has flanges 21 at the lower peripheral edge resting on similarly-positioned flanges 22 at the upper periphery of the housing 10. The flanges are bolted or riveted together. Said top is provided with a horizontal entrance slot 23 in the front wall and said slot is normally closed by a hinged cover 24 having a lip 25 for raising or lowering said cover.

The front wall 11 is provided with a rectangular opening 26 at the lower end thereof for the removal of mail which has been discharged into a compartment 27 located above the bottom 14 and confined by the side walls, the rear wall and a door 28. The door is hinged at 29 on the front edge of the bottom of the housing. A lock 30 secures the door against unauthorized entry.

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A substantially semi-cylindrical receptacle 35 has horizontally-aligned axles 36 projecting from circular end walls 37 which are adjacent semi-circular side walls 38 of the top 20. These axles rest in bearings formed in the upper edges of the side walls 13. A crank 40 is secured to the projecting end of one axle for rotating the receptacle 35 for a purpose which will be presently explained. It will be noted from Figure 3 that the rear edge of the receptacle is adjacent a horizontal plane passing through the axles 36 while the front edge 42 is located sufficiently above the plane that it will align with the lower edge of the slot 23 to insure the admission of letters directly to the receptacle. A stop 43 projecting from the inner face of the rear wall of the top 20 is adapted to be engaged by the rear edge 41 of the receptacle for maintaining the front edge 42 in alignment with the lower edge of the slot 23.

An alarm 45 in the form of a corrugated semi-cylindrical member, preferably made of brass or other bell metal, is secured at 46 to the top 20 and housed therein. A clapper or lug 47 in the form of a projection is carried by the receptacle 35 adjacent the front edge 42 so that when the receptacle is revolved by the crank 40, the corrugated portions of the bell will be struck, successively, by the clapper and thus warn the occupants of the building that mail has been deposited in the box.

The operation of my device is as follows: The mail is inserted through the slot 23 so that it will fall into the receptacle 35. The postman will turn the crank 40, whereby the receptacle will be revolved until the edge 42 engages the stop 43. Said receptacle will be turned over so that the mail will be discharged into the compartment 27 from which it cannot be withdrawn except through the opening 26 at the lower end of the front wall 11. A key held by the owner of the box is employed for releasing the lock 30.

During the rotation of the receptacle, the lug 47, which acts as a clapper, will contact the corrugations of the bell 45 successively and thus sound an alarm to attract the occupants of the dwelling. The postman will return the crank 40 and likewise the receptacle to their normal positions and will repeat the alarm, since the

lug 47 will strike the corrugations of the bell 45 in reverse order.

What I claim:

1. A signal for a slotted mail box comprising a housing with a receptacle rotatably mounted therein and having means for manually rotating the receptacle, said signal including a closed arcuate top upon the housing, an arcuate and corrugated sonorous member secured at the intermediate portion thereof to the interior of the arcuate top of said housing with the ends of said sonorous member directed downward and the latter being substantially concentric as a whole to the axis of rotation of the receptacle, and a clapper secured upon one portion of said receptacle in effective position to be brought successively against the corrugations of said sonorous member upon rotation of said receptacle.

2. A signal for a slotted mail box comprising a housing with a receptacle rotatably mounted therein and having means for manually rotating the receptacle on a horizontal axis, said signal including a closed arcuate top upon the housing arched about the horizontal axis, an arcuate sonorous member secured at the intermediate portion thereof to the upper concave interior portion of the arcuate top of said housing in a substantially concentric relation to the axis of rotation of the receptacle and transversely corrugated throughout the entire extent thereof in substantial parallelism to said horizontal axis, and a clapper secured upon one portion of said receptacle in effective position to be brought successively against the corrugations of said sonorous member upon rotation of said receptacle.

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