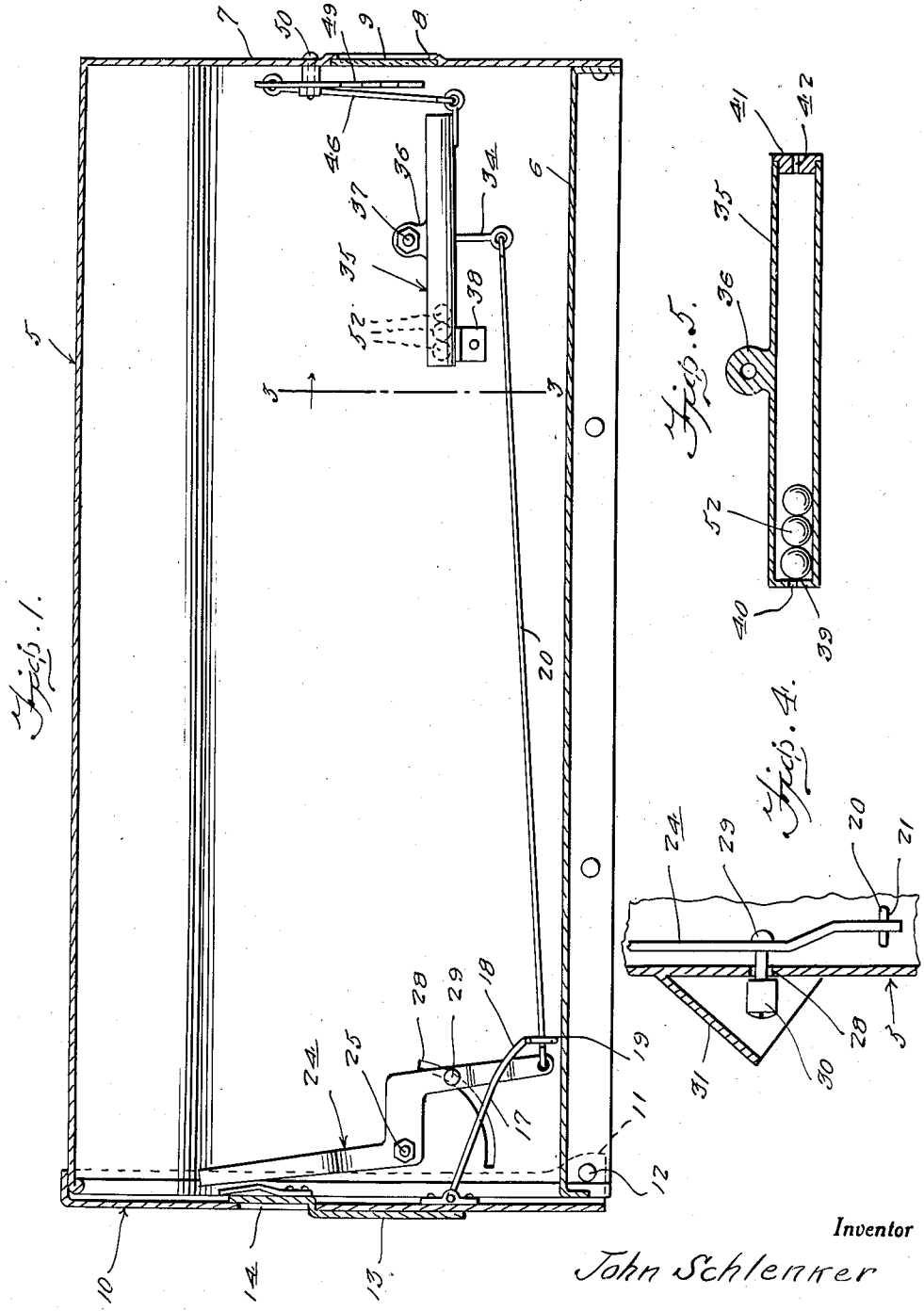
Feb. 5, 1935. J. SCHLENKER 1,990,003

MAIL BOX AND THE LIKE

Filed Aug. 27, 1934 3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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MAIL BOX AND THE LIKE

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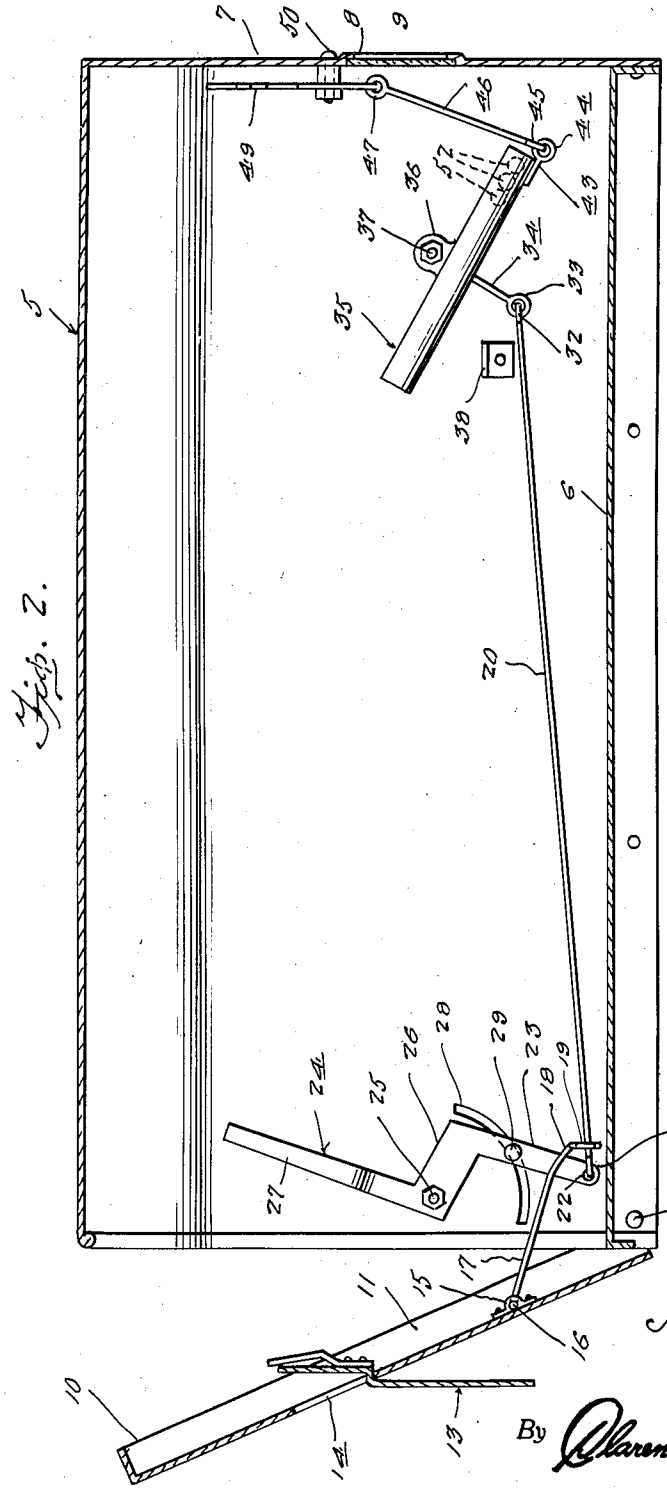


Fig. 2.

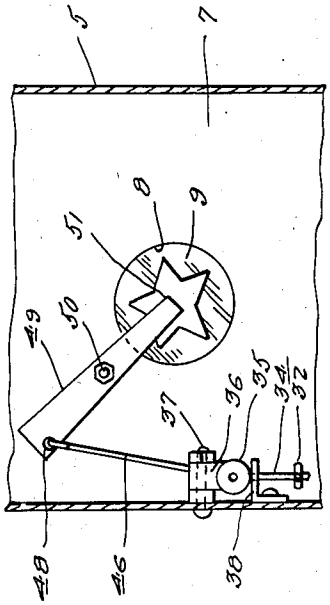


Fig. 3.

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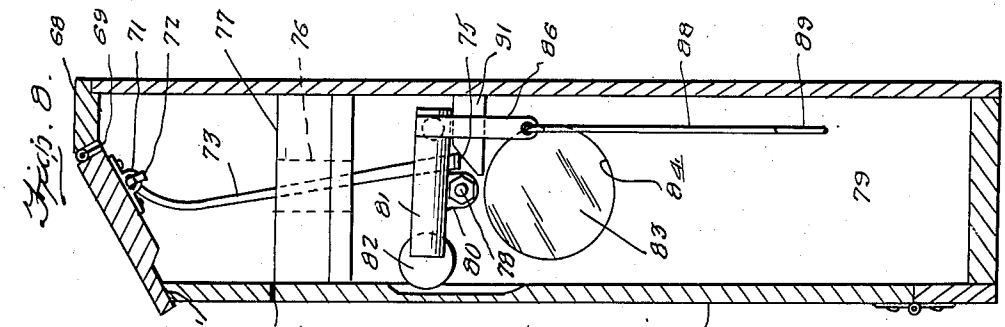


Fig. 6.

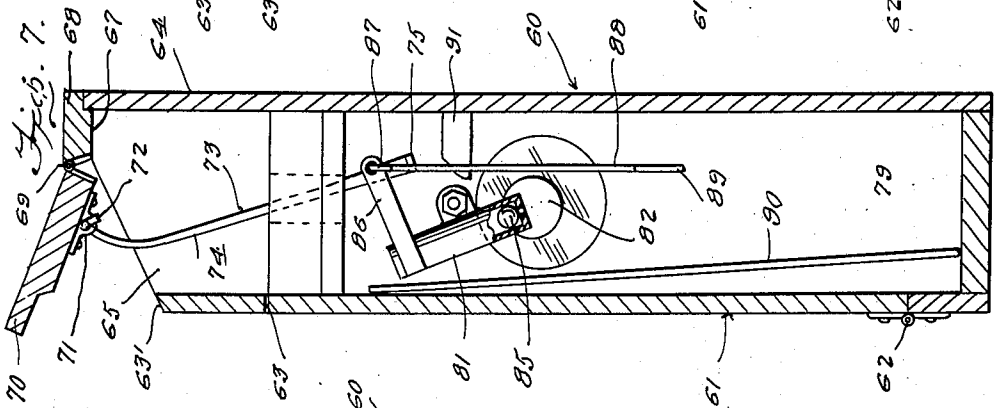


Fig. 7.

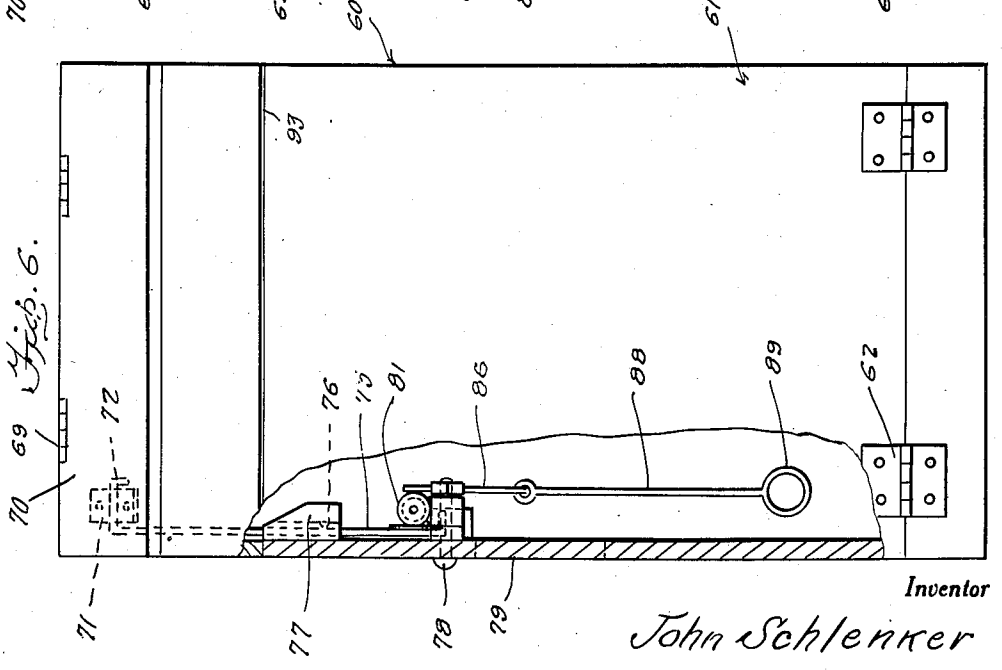


Fig. 8.

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1,990,003

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,990,003

MAIL BOX AND THE LIKE

John Schlenker, Los Angeles, Calif.

Application August 27, 1934, Serial No. 741,676

2 Claims. (Cl. 232—35)

My invention relates generally to receptacles arranged to receive and register the presence therein of parcels, packages, letters, and the like, and particularly to mail boxes especially adapted for rural delivery use, and an important object of my invention is to provide mail boxes of the character indicated which will indicate at a distance to the owner thereof the fact that a letter or package has been deposited therein, and an important object of the invention is to provide simplified and efficient devices of this character which do not readily get out of order and which unfailingly indicate the presence or absence of packages or letters therein.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will be apparent from a reading of the following description in connection with the drawings, wherein for purposes of illustration I have shown preferred embodiments of my invention.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view through one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 but showing the door and the mechanism in the open position.

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken through Figure 1 approximately on the line 3—3 and looking rearwardly in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 4 is a transverse vertical sectional view through the forward part of Figure 1 showing the lever operating knob.

Figure 5 is a longitudinal sectional view through the over-balancing element.

Figure 6 is a front elevational view of another embodiment having a portion thereof broken away to show the interior mechanism.

Figure 7 is a vertical transverse sectional view through Figure 6 showing the door and the operating mechanism in the open positions.

Figure 8 is a view similar to Figure 7 showing the door and the operating mechanism in the closed positions.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the numeral 5 refers generally to the horizontally elongated type of rural mail box casing having the upset riveted bottom 6, the rear wall 7 provided with the flanged opening 8 holding the transparent glass 9, and the front door 10 hinged by flanges 11 on opposite sides of the front of the box on the rivets 12, the front door being provided with the sub-door 13 which swings in the opening 14 which is the slot for receiving letters and small or flat packages.

Attached to the back of the lower part of the door is a journal bracket 15 in which is pivoted a lateral portion 16 on a rod 17 which has its rear end bent slightly downwardly as indicated at 18 and provided with an eye 19 which is loosely circumposed on the straight elongated rod 20. The front end of the rod 20 is provided with an eye 21 which is looped loosely through the hole 22 on the lower arm 23 of the tiltable lever 24 which is pivoted on a bolt 25 which passes through the left hand side of the mail box. The portion 23 of the lever 24 depends from the foot portion 26 of an L-shaped portion 27, the pivot bolt 25 being located at the junction of the foot portion 26 and the standard portion of the lever. An arcuate slot 28 in the same side of the mail box slidably receives a bolt 29 which projects therethrough and has on its outer end outwardly of said side of the mail box a finger knob 30 which is arranged under a canopy 31 as shown in Figure 4 which protects the knob 30 and prevents the weather from reaching the slot 28.

The rear end of the rod 20 is provided with another eye 32 which is loosely looped through the eye 33 on the lower end of the arm 34 which is fixed to the tiltable member 35 which has fixed thereto an ear 36 which is pivoted on the bolt 37 which is mounted in the left hand side of the mail box. A stop in the form of an L-shaped bracket 38 attached to the same side of the interior of the mail box is arranged in such a position under the element 35 so that it forms a rest to hold the element 35 in a horizontal position as shown in Figure 1.

The element 35 is tubular and has closed ends as shown in Figure 5, one end being solid as indicated at 33' and provided with a small opening 40 and the opposite end being closed by a plug 41 likewise provided with an air opening 42. The ear 36 is located approximately at the gravitational center of the element.

Attached under the rear end of the said element 35 is an arm 43 provided with an eye 44 through which is loosely looped the eye 45 on the lower end of the link 46 whose upper end is provided with an eye 47 likewise loosely looped through a hole 48 in the left hand end of the signal arm 49 which is pivoted to the back of the casing by the pivot 50 and has on its right hand end the signal star 51 which is adapted to appear through the glass 9 in the opening 8 as shown in Figure 3 when the mail box is empty, and is adapted to have a position out of said opening when there is mail in the mail box. The position of the signal star 51 shown in Figure 3 corresponds to the position thereof shown in Figure

1, whereas Figure 2 shows the star in the position in which it is not in the opening 8, and the owner of the mail box can then tell by the absence of the star that there is mail in the mail box.

The signal is set by pushing the finger knob 30 rearwardly which causes the lower part of the lever 24 to swing rearwardly and the upper part of this lever to swing forwardly. This movement of the lever 24 is communicated by the rod 30 to the tiltable element 35 so that the tiltable element 35 is tilted rearwardly and the ball weights 52 therein rolled to the rear end thereof and have the tendency to maintain the position shown in Figure 2 wherein the signal star 51 is elevated out of the position shown in Figure 3, and the parts changed from the position shown in Figure 2 to the position shown in Figure 1 wherein the tiltable member 35 is in a horizontal position and the weighting balls 52 are at the forward end thereof and the signal star 51 is in front of the window 8. It will be observed that the door 10 is, because of the sliding mounting of the eye 19 of the arm 17 on the rod 20, independent of the movement of the rod 20 and its connections until the door 10 is closed as shown in Figure 1. If the door 10 be opened while the parts are in the positions shown in Figure 1 it is obvious that the link 17 will pull against the lower end of the lever 24 if the door be opened, so as to cause tilting of the tiltable member 35 into the position shown in Figure 2, with consequent withdrawal upwardly of the signal star into a position out of the sight opening. Closing of the door subsequent to this does not have any effect upon the disposition of the parts, so that absence of the star in the sight opening indicates to the owner of the mail box that there is mail therein.

In the embodiment shown in Figures 7 and 8, the casing 60 is of the vertically elongated type having the hinged front 61 hinged as indicated at 62 and stopping as indicated at 63 at a level below that of the rear wall 64. The top edges of the side walls 65 slant downwardly and forwardly as indicated at 66 except for the horizontal portion 67 on which is a cross piece 68 to the forward angulated edge of which is connected the hinge 69 which mounts the flap or door 70 the outer edges of which are arranged to rest on the upper edges 66 and the angulated top edge 63a when in the closed position as indicated in Figure 8.

Depending from the bottom of the door 70 is the journal bracket 71 which has journals therein a lateral portion 72 on the upper end of a depending link 73 which has a curved upper portion indicated at 74 and a lateral arm 75 on its lower end. The arm 75 works loosely in a slot 76 in a retainer member 77 in the upper part of the box at the left hand side thereof. Pivoted on a bolt 78 anchored to the side 79 as indicated is the ear 80 on the lower side of the tiltable member 81 which in the closed position of the cover or door 70 has the horizontal position indicated in Figures 6 and 8 wherein the signal disk 82 attached to the front end of the element 81 is remote from the transparent window 83 suitably supported in an opening 84 in the side of the box. In the open position of the cover or door 70 the tiltable element 81 is in the position shown in Figure 7 wherein the signal disk 82 is located before the sight opening to indicate to the owner of the box that mail is in the box. Like the tiltable element in the first described embodiment the tiltable element 81 contains weighting balls 85 which shift toward one end or the other of the element 81 according as the same is tilted. The tiltable member has on its rear end a right angularly related arm 86 to whose lower or outer end is loosely looped the eye 87 on the upper end of the resetting rod 88 which has the large finger loop 89 on its lower end. It is obvious that by opening the front 61 by hinging the same forwardly that the re-setting rod 88 will be exposed and may be drawn downwardly so as to place the parts in the position shown in Figure 8, wherein the arm 75 of the depending link 73 is under the tiltable element 81. If with the parts in the positions shown in Figure 8 the mailman opens the top or door 70, the result will be that the link 73 will draw the rear end of the tiltable member 81 upwardly and cause the balls 85 therein to run to the front end thereof and tilt the tiltable member downwardly into the position shown in Figure 7, whereat the signal disk 82 will be in full sight before the sight opening and the owner of the mail box will be advised of the presence of a letter or the equivalent in the mail box.

Although I have shown and described herein preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be definitely understood that I do not desire to limit the application of the invention thereto, and any change or changes may be made in material and structure and arrangement of parts, within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the subjoined claims.

What is claimed is:—

1. In a device of the character described comprising a casing, a swingable door on the casing, a pivoted indicator for indicating exteriorly of the box the presence and absence of articles in the box which the box is arranged to receive through the opening thereof closed by said door, and means connected to the door and connected to said indicating means for operating said indicating means into indicating position when the door is opened from an initial closed position, said indicating means comprising a tiltable cylindrical member including gravitationally operated means therein for holding the tiltable member in either of two general positions.

2. In a device of the character described comprising a casing, a swingable door on the casing, a pivoted indicator for indicating exteriorly of the box the presence and absence of articles in the box which the box is arranged to receive through the opening thereof closed by said door, and means connected to the door and connected to said indicating means for operating said indicating means into indicating position when the door is opened from an initial closed position, said indicating means comprising a tiltable cylindrical member including gravitationally operated means therein for holding the tiltable member in either of two general positions, and means connected to said pivotal member for manually re-setting the same to said initial position after operation out of said initial position.

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