C. E. GLASS.

MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 12, 1914.

1,128,969.

Patented Feb. 16, 1915.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

FIG. 1.

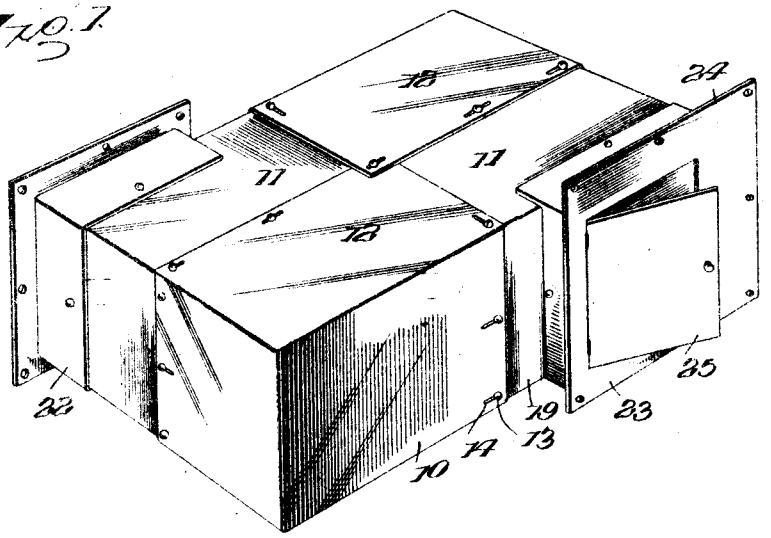
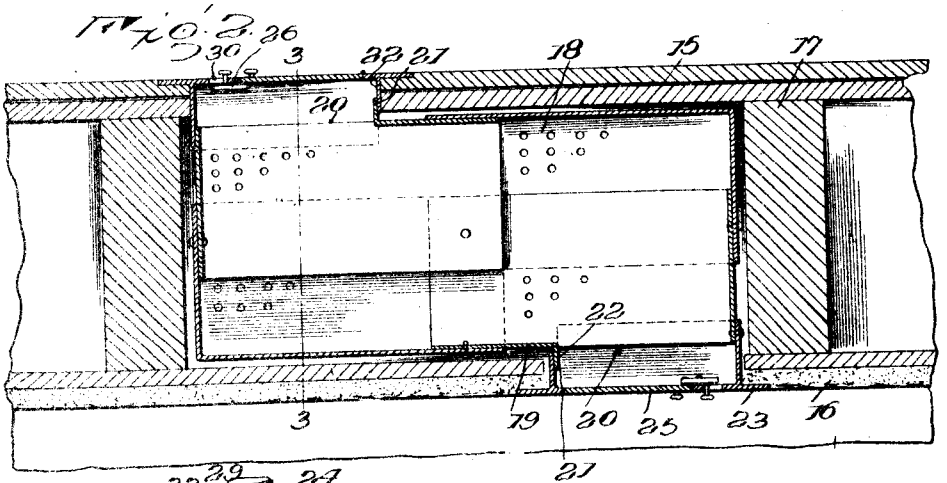


FIG. 2.



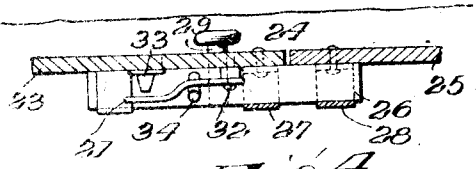


FIG. 4.

Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

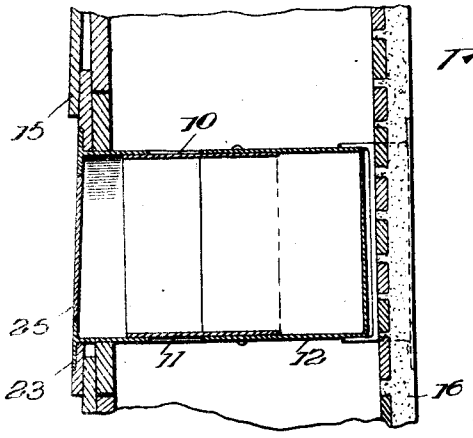


Fig. 5.

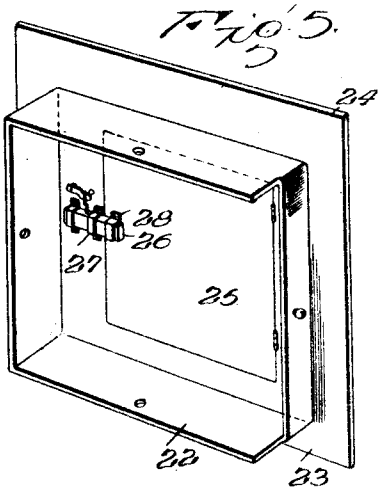
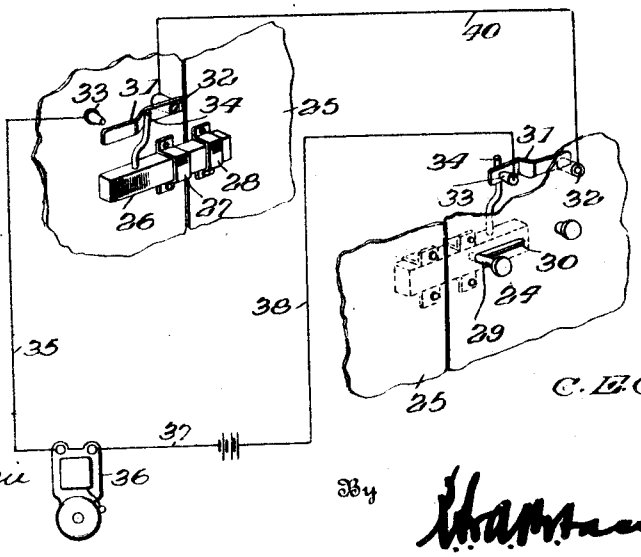


Fig. 6.



Witnesses

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MAIL-BOX.

1,128,969. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 16, 1915.

Application filed January 12, 1914. Serial No. 811,656.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. GLASS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cairo, in the county of Alexander and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mail boxes and contemplates a box designed to be positioned between the inner and outer walls of a building and accessible from both the inside and the outside of the building, the invention being particularly adapted for use in private residences.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a mail box of the above described character capable of adjustment both longitudinally and transversely to the end that the width and length of the box may be varied to suit different walls as well as to conform to the spacing of the studding of said walls.

A further object of the invention is to provide a mail box having diagonally disposed openings, such openings being arranged on opposite sides of the box adjacent the ends thereof, one of said openings communicating with the inside of the house and the other with the outside of the house.

A further object of the invention is to provide a mail box having slidable caps carrying doors opening into the box, such caps being adjustable to conform to wall coverings of different thicknesses.

A further object of the invention is to provide a mail box so constructed as to give an alarm or warning upon the opening of the box from the exterior of the building in which the box is positioned. And a still further object of this invention is to improve the construction and increase the efficiency of devices of the above described character.

With these and other objects in view, the invention will be more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and then specifically pointed out in the claims which are attached to and form a part of this application.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved mail box showing the parts thereof in assembled relation. Fig. 2 is a longitudinally sectional view showing the box in position within a wall. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detailed plan view showing the catch and electrical connections arranged upon the outer door of the box. Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing the inside of one of the door caps. Fig. 6 is a diagrammatic view showing the alarm system used in connection with my invention, the latches being in perspective.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

My improved mail box is designed to be supported between the inner and outer faces of the wall of a building and is designed to be conveniently located as, for instance, near the front door of the building.

Referring to the drawings, in which I have illustrated the preferred embodiment of my invention, the numeral 10 designates the body portion of the mail box which is preferably made in four sections slidable one upon the other and which are arranged in diagonally disposed pairs, one pair being designated 11 and other pair 12. These sections are preferably formed from suitable sheet metal and each includes side walls, a bottom wall and one end wall, the sections of each pair being identical. The sections are assembled as illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawings with their free edges over-lapping and are designed to telescope one upon the other. As will be readily obvious, the body portion of the box may be, in this way, adjusted both in width and length, to accommodate the box to walls wherein the spacing is different between the inner and outer faces thereof as well as to walls wherein the spacing of the studding is different. The over-lapping edges of the several sections may be secured by small screws designated 13, said screws being received in slots 14 formed into said sections.

In Fig. 2 of the drawings I have illustrated the box in position within a wall, 15 designating the outer face of the wall and 16 designating the inner face of the wall. As shown, the body portion of the box is extended to fit snugly between the inner faces of the wall facings 15 and 16, similar adjustment of the box being effected longitudinally so that the body portion 10 thereof may be received between the studding designated 17. Apertures 18 are preferably formed in the side walls of the sections 11 and 12, said apertures not only preventing dirt from collecting within the body portion of the box but allowing the passage of air between the walls of the building.

One wall 19 of each of the sections 11 is cut away adjacent the outer corner of the section to provide an opening 20, there being a laterally disposed and outwardly extending flange 21 formed on the wall 19 adjacent to said opening, said flange being designed to engage a flange 22 formed on one side of a face plate 23.

The flange 22 is designed to surround the opening 20, bearing against the adjacent side walls of each of the sections 11 and forming with the plate 23 a closure for the opening 20 of each of the sections 11. The caps 24 are each adjustable upon the sections 11, the portion of the flange 22 of each cap bearing against the flange 21, being cut away to allow for the movement of the cap. In this way the caps may be adjusted upon the body portion 10 of the box to accommodate wall facings of varied thicknesses so that one face plate 23 will lie flush with the outer face of the wall while the other face plate is disposed flush with the inner face of the wall. Each overlapping flange 22 may be secured to the contiguous wall of the adjacent section 11 in any suitable manner as by small screws as shown.

Each plate 23 is provided with a door opening and carries a suitable door 25, the said doors swinging in opposite directions. It may here be further noted that in constructing the improved mail box as above described, the openings in the box are disposed adjacent the opposite longitudinal ends thereof thus making it difficult for anyone tampering with the box to reach one door through the other door opening to disturb the electrical connection.

Each door 25 is provided with a suitable sliding catch 26 mounted in U shaped guides 27 which are laterally bent adjacent their extremities and secured to the inner faces of the plates 23, a similar guide 28 being secured to the inner face of the door. Each latch 26 is provided with a stem 29 which extends through the slot 30 formed in each of the face plates 23 said stem terminating in a head and being adapted to operate the latch 26 in each instance.

In order to notify the occupants of the house in which the mail box is placed that the postman has deposited mail within the box, I have provided a suitable alarm system. Accordingly, I have arranged upon the inner faces of the plates 23 adjacent each catch 26 spring contacts 31 each of which is secured at one extremity to the face of the adjacent plate 23 by a screw 32, said screw serving as a binding post. The outer extremities of the contacts 31 are longitudinally bowed to extend outwardly from the adjacent face of each of the plates 23 and it is to be here noted that the said contacts 31 are reversely disposed.

Arranged upon the inner faces of the plates 23 adjacent the outer extremities of the contacts 31 are binding posts 33 and arranged upon each catch 26 is a laterally extending longitudinally bowed arm 34 adapted to bear against the adjacent spring contact 31.

A wire 35 connects one of the contacts 33 with a bell conveniently shown at 36, a wire 37 leads from the opposite side of the bell to a battery, a wire 38 leads from the battery to the contact 33 arranged adjacent the inner door and a wire 40 connects the inner and outer spring contacts 31.

From the above description in connection with the accompanying drawings the operation of the alarm system which I employ in connection with my improved mail box will be obvious. The inner door of the box being closed, the circuit at this point will be completed by the spring contact 31 which is held against the inner contact 33 by the arm 34 carried by the inner catch 26. When the outer door is opened, the outer arm 34 will press the outer contact 31 into engagement with the outer contact 33 thus completing the circuit and ringing the bell. It will therefore be seen that when the outer catch is operated to open the outer door, the circuit will be completed and the bell will ring. If for any reason the postman wishes to call an occupant of the house to the mail box, the bell will continue to ring so long as the outer door is left open and as soon as the inner door is opened, the circuit will, of course, be broken. It will therefore be seen, that I provide a very simple and efficient structure for the purpose set forth such as may be adjusted to fit various walls and such as may be readily manufactured and put upon the market. The invention can, of course, be produced in various sizes and can be positioned within the walls of residences without marring the appearance of the building. Attention is further called to the fact that the sections forming the body portion of my improved box are interchangeable. Thus, the sections 11 may be positioned opposite each other, in which position the closures carried by the said sections will be oppositely disposed, with the sections 12 also arranged opposite each other. In thus arranging the sections, as just above described, one of the sections 11 as well as one of the sections 12 will, of course, be reversed from the position shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. This interchangeability of the sections of my improved box is a very important feature of advantage since it makes the box adaptable to conform to wall constructions, under a great variety of circumstances.

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

1. A device of the character described including a body portion formed in sections, the free edges of said sections overlapping

and slidable upon each other, the sections being arranged in diagonally disposed pairs and one pair of said sections being formed with openings, and closures for said openings.

2. A device of the character described including a body portion formed in sections arranged in pairs and slidably mounted upon each other, one pair of sections being provided with openings, and closures for said openings.

3. A device of the character described including a body portion formed in sections arranged in pairs, the free edges of said sections overlapping, one pair of sections having openings formed therein adjacent opposite longitudinal ends of the body portion, a laterally disposed flange formed on each of said sections adjacent said openings, and closures for the openings, each of said closures including a face plate having a laterally extending flange formed thereon adapted to surround the opening formed in the adjacent section, said flange bearing against the adjacent walls of the sections and engaging the flange formed thereon.

4. A device of the character described including a body portion formed in sections arranged in pairs and slidably mounted upon each other, one pair of said sections being provided with openings, and closures for said openings, said closures each including a face plate, a door hingedly connected to said plate, and a latch carried by the plate and engaging the door.

5. A device of the character described including a body portion formed in sections arranged in pairs, said sections having their free edges overlapping and being slidably mounted upon each other, diagonally opposite sections being identical and one pair of said sections being formed with openings, and a closure for each of said openings.

6. A device of the character described including a body portion formed in sections arranged in pairs and slidably mounted upon each other, the free edges of said sections overlapping and one pair of said sections being formed with openings, laterally extending flanges formed on said pair of sections, and closures for said openings, each of said closures including a face plate formed with a laterally extending flange, one portion of which is cut-away and disposed to engage the flange formed on the adacent section.

7. A device of the character described including a plurality of interchangeable telescopic sections arranged in pairs and communicating with each other, each of said sections having one open side and end, and certain of said sections being provided with openings, and closures for said openings.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES E. GLASS. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
J. F. C. BERBLING,
MIGNONNE COMINGS.