United States Patent [19]

Pattengill

[11] **3,767,111**

[45] **Oct. 23, 1973**

[54] **AUTOMATIC MAIL BOX DOOR**

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[73] Assignee: **The Raymond Lee Organization, Inc.**, New York, N.Y.

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[21] Appl. No.: **281,825**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **232/17**, 220/29, 232/45

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B65d 91/00**

[58] **Field of Search** 232/17, 25, 44, 45; 222/29, 32

[56] **References Cited**

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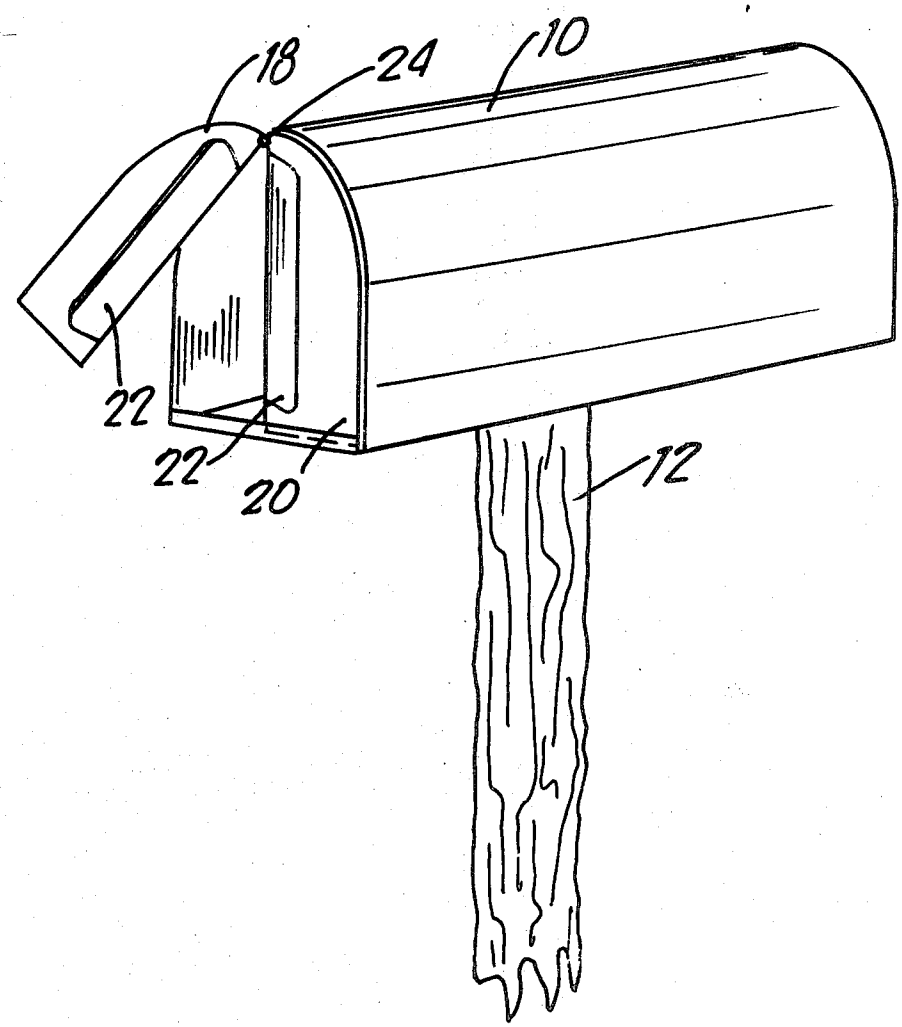
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A mail box has a door formed by split half sections which can be pushed apart for insertion of mail. The door can be swung downward as a unit to provide access for removing mail.

2 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures



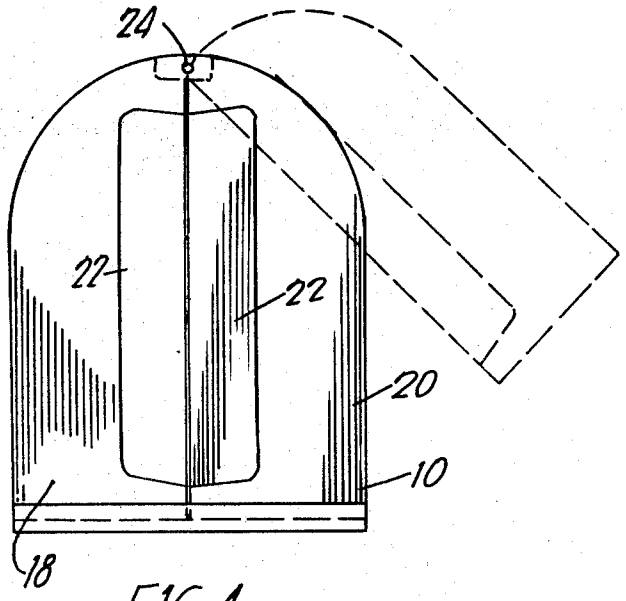


FIG. 1.

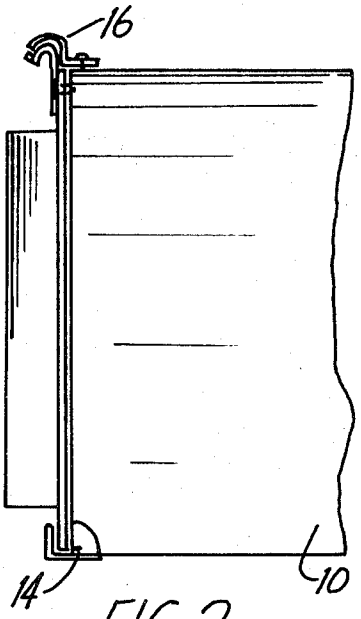


FIG. 2.

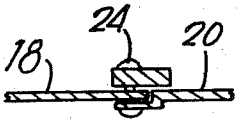


FIG. 4.

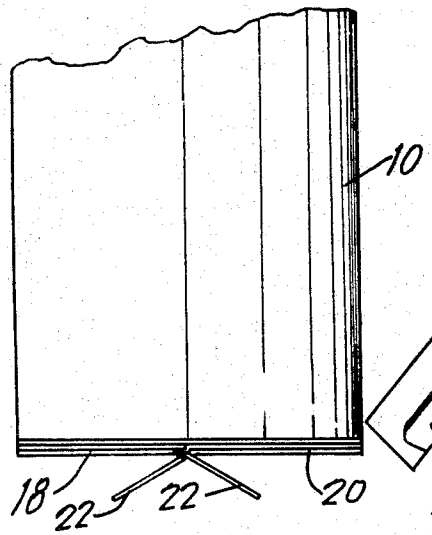


FIG. 3.

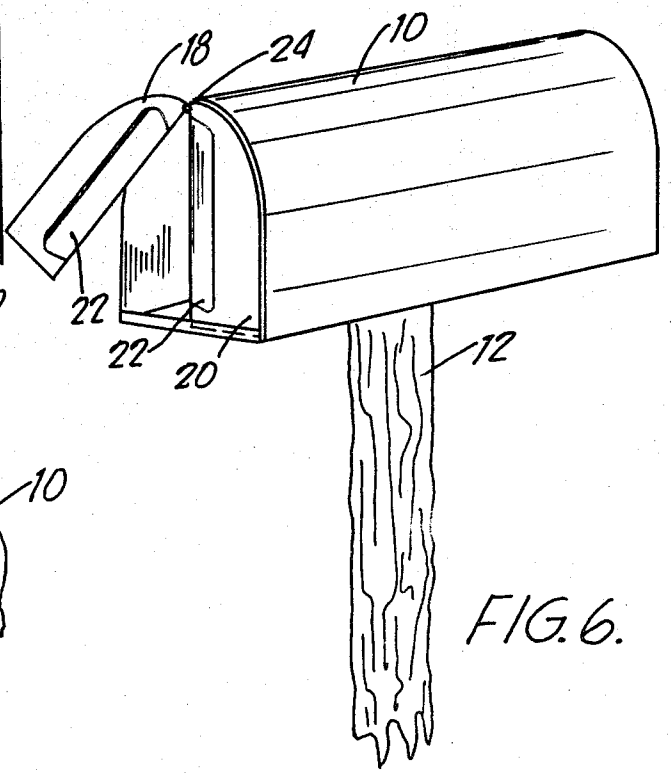


FIG. 6.

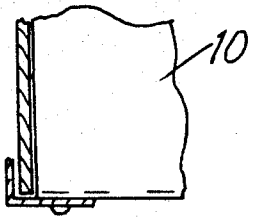


FIG. 5.

AUTOMATIC MAIL BOX DOOR

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

My invention is directed toward a mail box having a door so constructed that mail can be deposited without the door being opened in conventional manner.

SUMMARY

To this end, the door is formed of two half sections pinned pivotally together at the top whereby each section can be pivoted upward about the pin in a vertical plane. Each section has a vertical lip intersecting the body of the section at an acute angle. The lips are abutting and extend away from each other when the sections are closed.

Mail is deposited by pushing it against the lips. With slight pressure the door opens, and after the mail is deposited, the door closes by its own weight. The door can be swung downward as a unit about a hinge to permit mail to be removed in conventional manner.

My invention is particularly applicable to rural type mail boxes to prevent the vehicle used by the mailman during delivery from being struck by the door as swung open whereby damage to paint and metal is minimized.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a front elevation of my invention;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation thereof;

FIG. 3 is a top plan thereof;

FIG. 4 is a detail of a portion of the structure shown in FIG 1;

FIG. 5 is a detail of another portion of the structure shown in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 6 is a perspective of my invention in use.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS:

Referring now to FIGS. 1–6, a horizontal rural type mail box 10 rests up and is secured to a vertical post 12. A door is hingedly secured at 14 to the box and is engagable with an upper latch 16. The door consists of two half sections 18 and 20 which are disposed side by side and pivotable about a top horizontal pin 24 extending in the longitudinal direction of the box.

Section 18 is pivotable clockwise upwards in a vertical plane about the pin. Section 20 is pivotable counterclockwise upwards in a vertical plane about the pin.

Each section has a vertical lip 22 extending outward at an acute angle as for example sixty degrees. When the sections are closed, the lips are in abutting position and extend outward from each other.

When mail is pushed against the lips, the sections pivot upwards and the door is opened for deposit of mail. The sections will close by gravity action once pressure is removed. The door can be opened in conventional manner as a unit for removal of mail.

While I have described my invention with particular reference to the drawings, such is not to be considered as limiting its actual scope.

I claim:

1. In combination:

a rural type mail box; and

a door for said box, said door having two mating half sections which can be pushed apart for deposit of mail, said door being movable as a unit to open in a conventional manner for removal of mail;

wherein said sections are pivotable upwards in a vertical plane about a top disposed point of pivot, one of the sections pivoting clockwise, the other pivoting counterclockwise;

and wherein each section has a front disposed vertical lip intersecting the main portion of the section at an acute angle.

2. The combination of claim 1 wherein said lips are abutted together when the sections are closed and point outward in opposite directions.

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