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H. O. NICHOLS ET AL

MAIL BOX SUPPORT

Filed Oct. 30, 1923

Fig. 1.

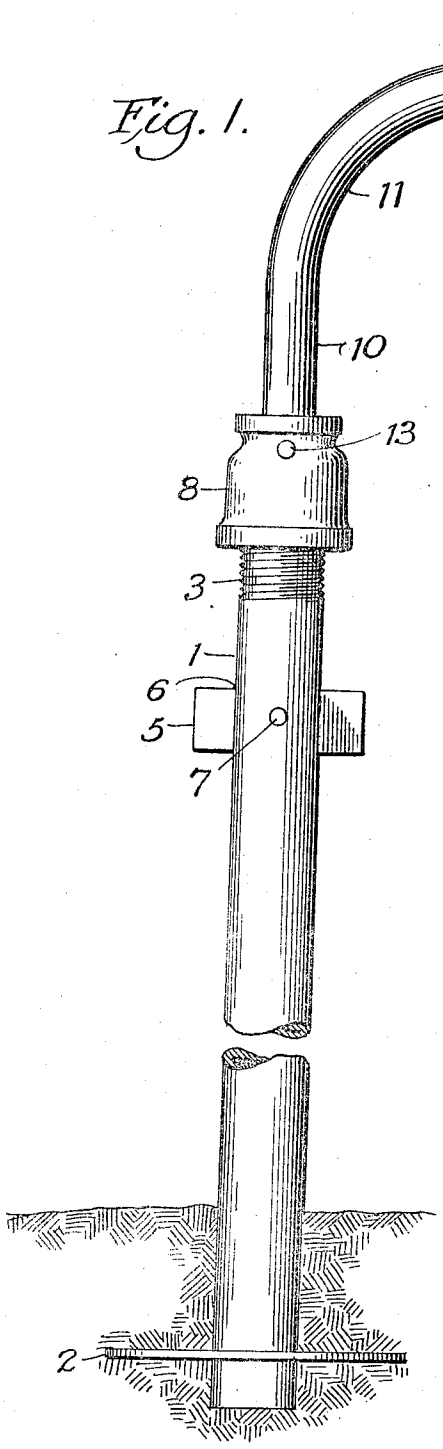
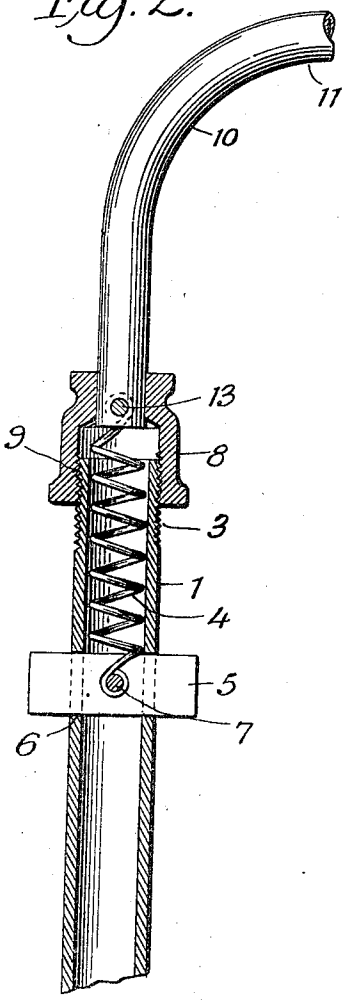


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HURON O. NICHOLS AND WHEELER J. NICHOLS, OF LOWELL, INDIANA.

MAIL-BOX SUPPORT.

Application filed October 30, 1923. Serial No. 671,673.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HURON O. NICHOLS and WHEELER J. NICHOLS, citizens of the United States, residing at Lowell, in the county of Lake and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Box Supports, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to mail boxes, and more particularly to supports therefor.

An object of the invention is to provide a support for mail boxes which shall hold the mail box in easily accessible position and which shall be particularly suitable for use on rural free delivery routes.

Another object of the invention is to provide a mail box support which will allow the mail box to yield laterally in a horizontal plane when struck by passing wagons, cattle, or other objects and thus prevent injury both to the mail box and to the object striking it.

A further object of the invention is to provide such a mail box having a laterally yieldable and swinging arm upon which a mail box may be mounted, thereby permitting the supporting post to be erected, if desired, on the inside of a fence or other inclosure, with the mail box projecting outwardly in a horizontal plane beyond such fence or inclosure and toward the road-way where it can easily be reached by the carrier and at the same time to be swung laterally in a horizontal plane until it has swung around sufficiently to extend over the inside of the fence or other inclosure, in which position mail can readily be withdrawn from the box.

A still further object is to provide such a mail box support with means for effecting its return to mail receiving position and there yieldably maintaining it.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention, and in which

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a mail box support embodying the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation of the device shown in Fig. 1.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the post or other suitable support 1 may conveniently take the form of a hollow pipe section, the bottom end of which is driven into the ground a suitable depth. If desired, the lower end of the post may be provided with laterally extending bracing means 2, to assist in maintaining the post in upright position.

The post 1 is provided at its upper end with the screwthreads 3 and may conveniently be hollow, as shown, for the reception of a coil spring 4, which is loosely retained within said end. One end of the spring 4 is affixed to the post 1 in any convenient or desirable manner, the means shown taking the form of a flat lug 5 inserted through slots 6 in the supporting post and having the pin 7 passing through the post and also through the flat lug 5 and having one end of the spring 4 secured to it, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The coupling 8 is provided interiorly with the screwthreads 9 for engagement with the exterior screwthreads 2 of the post 1. Rigidly held in the upper end of the coupling 8 is a swinging arm having the vertical portion 10 and bent substantially at right angles, as shown at 11, to form the horizontal mail box mounting portion 12. The swinging arm 10 may conveniently be fixed within the coupling 8 by means of the pin 13 which passes through the coupling, and also through the arm. This pin may also conveniently act as the means to which the upper end of the spring 4 is attached.

The coupling 8 engages the post 1 by the screwthreaded connection with sufficient looseness to permit the coupling 8 to be easily rotated upon the post 1.

Any convenient or desirable means may be provided on the horizontally extending portion 12 of the arm 10 to mount any standard or desirable form of mail box thereon. For example, the end of the swinging arm may be flattened, as shown at 14, and have mounted on its top or upper side a flat plate 15 which may be secured to the end 14 by any suitable securing means, such as the rivets 16. Suitable holes 17 may be provided in the plate 15 by means of which the mail box may be securely attached to it.

It will be seen that by the foregoing construction there has been provided a mail box support with a horizontally extending arm yieldably maintained in mail receiving position, but which is rotatably mounted to swing laterally to either side for the purpose of removing mail from the box or in

case the projecting end of the arm carrying the mail box is struck by a passing conveyance, by cattle, or by other objects which may inadvertently come into contact with it.

What is claimed is:

1. A mail box support comprising a hollow exteriorly screw threaded supporting post, an interiorly screw threaded coupling rotatably mounted thereon, a coil spring in said post having one end secured thereto and the other end secured to said coupling, an arm mounted in said coupling, and means for mounting a mail box on said arm.

2. A mail box support comprising a supporting post, an arm screw threaded and rotatably mounted thereon, and a coil spring having one end secured within said post and the other end secured to said arm, said spring allowing said arm to rotate on said post and tending to prevent disengagement of said screw threads.

3. A mail box support comprising a supporting post screw-threaded at its upper end, a mail box supporting arm having screw threads in engagement with said screw threaded upper end of said post and rotatable thereon, and a spring associated with said post and said arm and adapted to maintain said arm yieldably in position and prevent disengagement of said screw threads, while permitting relative rotation of said arm with respect to said post.

4. A mail box support comprising a screw-threaded supporting post, a mail box supporting arm having a screw-threaded portion in engagement therewith and loosely rotatable thereon, and means for maintaining said arm yieldably in position on said post and preventing disengagement of said screw threads comprising a spring within said post having one end affixed thereto and its other end affixed to said arm.

5. A mail box support comprising a screw-threaded supporting post, a mail box supporting arm having a screw-threaded portion in engagement therewith and loosely rotatable thereon, and means for maintaining said arm yieldably in position on said post and preventing disengagement of said screw threads comprising a pin passing through said arm, a pin passing through said post, and a spring within said post and said arm having its ends respectively attached to said pins.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

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WHEELER J. NICHOLS.