

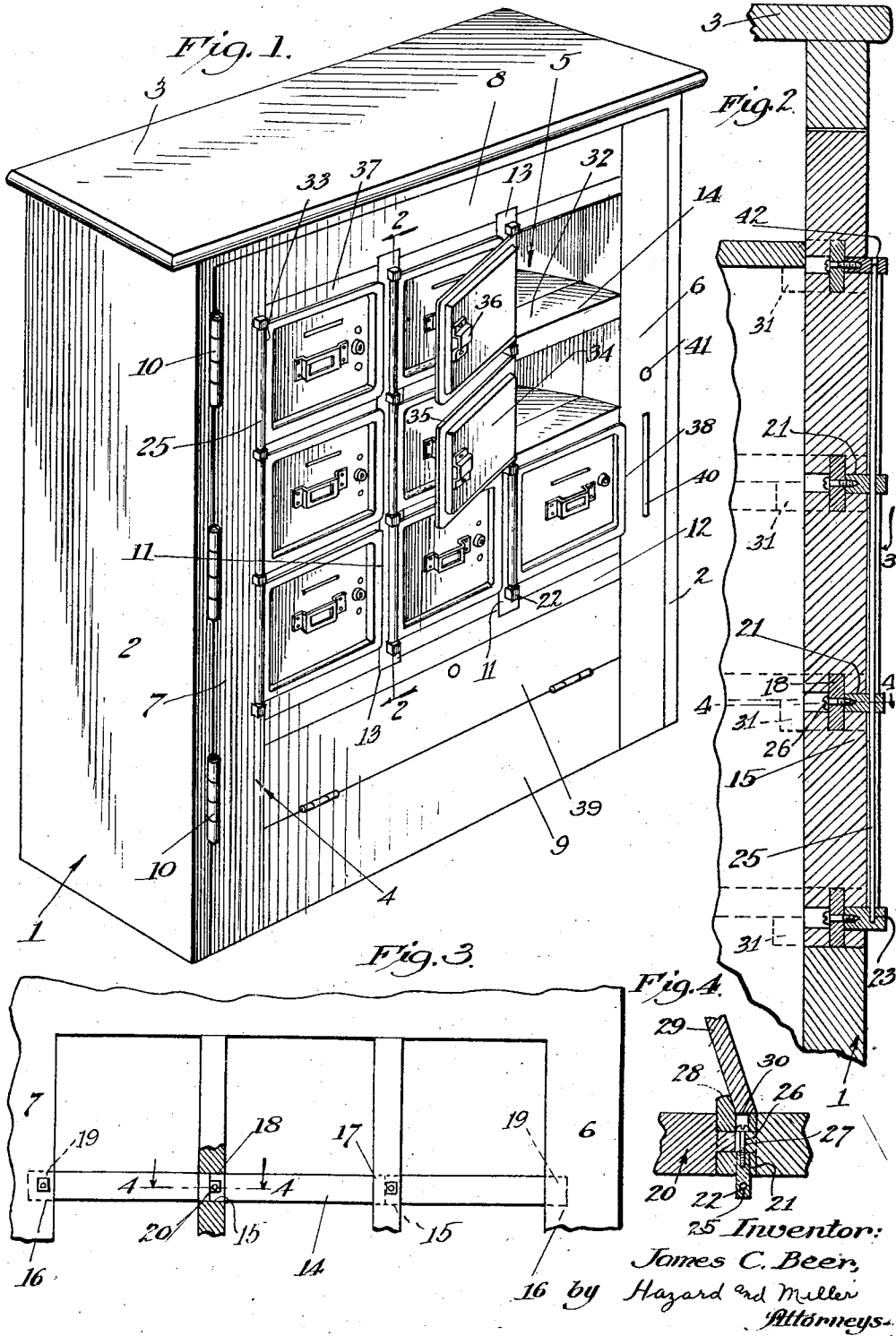
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J. C. BEER

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MAIL BOX

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES C. BEER, OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA.

MAIL BOX.

Application filed January 28, 1926. Serial No. 84,338.

My invention is a mail box particularly adapted for stacks of individual boxes suitable for apartment houses or hotels and in which the mail carrier or the manager of the apartment house or hotel may place the individual mail in place for the occupants of the building.

An object of my invention is in the form of cabinet structure supporting the boxes and forming this structure in such a manner that the hardware used for securing and hinging the doors also functions to bind the elements of the cabinet work together. The type of mail box particularly set forth herein is designed for wooden or metal construction with wood boxes, the boxes having metal doors with locks.

Another object of my invention is to construct the framing forming the front of the individual boxes and the supports for the individual doors for such boxes in such manner that the structure may be incorporated in a large cabinet by being built into or secured to the door of the large cabinet, this cabinet having an arrangement for insertion of mail in bulk by the postman to be distributed by the manager of an apartment house or hotel and also having provision for mailing of letters or the like to be collected by the postman.

My specific invention set forth herein may be considered as setting forth a type of mail box construction which may be used to form the mail box of my application, Serial No. 25,260 filed April 23rd, 1925.

My invention will be more readily understood from the following description and drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cabinet having my mail boxes incorporated therein.

Fig. 2 is a detail vertical section on the line 2—2 showing the framing stile and connection of the hardware for securing the metal doors thereto.

Fig. 3 is a detail front view of part of the cabinet as if taken in the direction of the arrow 3 of Fig. 2, with the doors and their hinge elements removed.

Fig. 4 is a detail horizontal section on the line 4—4 of Figs. 2 and 3, showing the manner of fitting the partitions, stile and cross rails.

The mail box is preferably enclosed in a cabinet which is designated generally by the numeral 1, having side walls 2, a top 3 and

a hinged door 4 on the front. The door supports a stack of individual boxes designated generally by the numeral 5. The door structure is built up substantially as follows:

Two side stiles 6 and 7 extend preferably from the floor up to the top. A cross rail 8 is fitted across these stiles. A panel 9 is positioned across the lower end of the stiles and hinges 10 support the door from the side frame. Intermediate stiles 11 extend between the cross rails 8 and the cross rail 12 which is positioned above the panel 9 and preferably mortised therein as indicated by the numeral 13. These intermediate stiles together with the side stiles form a means for supporting the boxes together with intermediate sectional cross rails 14. The intermediate stiles have a rectangular mortise 15 extending from side to side and the side stiles 6 and 7 have a recessed mortise 16. These mortises are preferably of greater dimensions in a vertical direction than horizontal. The intermediate cross rail sections are formed with a tenon 17 and a tenon 18 fitting in the mortises 15 and adjacent the stiles 6 and 7 suitable tenons 19 are fitted therein.

By this construction the sections of the cross rail abut inside the tenon of the intermediate stiles as indicated by the numeral 20 in Figs. 3 and 4. This construction builds up a solid structure in the open space in the door between the stiles 6 and 7 and the cross rails 8 and 12.

The intermediate stiles have squared holes 21 extending therethrough from front to back across the mortises 15 as indicated in Figs. 2 and 4, these squared holes being positioned in front of and behind the tenon 18. Squared nuts 22 are fitted in these squared holes 21 on the outside and the lowermost nut has a socket 23 and the intermediate and top nut have vertical apertures 24 extending therethrough. These apertures and the socket 23 are to receive the pintle rod 25 on which the doors of the individual boxes are swung as hereunder set forth.

Bolts 26 are inserted in the squared holes 21 from the rear and are threaded into the nuts 22 thereby securing them firmly in place. These bolts extend through a bored hole 27 in the tenon 18. If desired the hole on the inside of the stile may be circular and of merely sufficient size to allow insertion of the bolt and the bolt head. It will be un-

derstood that the nuts fitted in the side stile 6 are secured in a similar manner to that above described.

The individual boxes are then built up substantially as follows:

Vertical beads 28 are either formed integral with or secured to the back of the intermediate stile 11. Partitions 29 are fitted close to these beads and are positioned to cover the open end 30 of the holes 21 on the inner side of the intermediate stile thus closing in the bolts 26. Cross rails 31 are secured to the inner side of the stiles between the partitions 29 and between the intermediate stiles and the side stiles 6 and 7. These form a front support for the floor 32 of the boxes, the floor of one box forming the ceiling of the box below.

The doors for the individual boxes are preferably made of sheet metal and have a bead 33 through which the pintle rod 25 extends, the doors being designed with a pressed-in portion 34 with an edge flange 35, this flange being adapted to fit flat against the front surface of the stiles and the sectional cross rails. A lock 36 is secured to the doors by means of which the individual boxes may be locked.

From the above construction it will be seen that I provide a door which may be readily swung on its hinges and is built of a substantial construction readily assembled for holding the lock boxes. In the illustration I show three tiers of boxes 37 and three rows 38 to a tier, but it is manifest that a larger or smaller number of boxes could be built into the hinged door. The above described construction allows the doors to be made in sections and to be fitted together according to the size desired for any particular installation, utilizing substantially standard parts throughout.

The panel 9 is provided with a door 39 leading to a compartment underneath the stack of lock boxes for the apartment house owner to take out and deliver the parcel post packages which may be deposited on the inside by the mail carrier. A postage slot 40 is provided in one side of the door and a postal department lock 41 to allow access to the interior of the cabinet which interior arrangement would preferably be substantially the same as set forth in my patent application as above mentioned. If desired a plug 42 of some nature may be inserted in the uppermost squared nut to prevent removal of the pintle rod 25 upwardly and as it cannot be forced downwardly through the socket 23 it is manifest that the doors for the individual boxes are secured to the main door in a substantial manner.

It will be understood that if desired the stack of lock boxes may be built into a strong structure or any suitable supporting arrangement independent of the cabinet

construction, in which case access to the boxes for inserting mail may be either through the front individual doors as shown or through a single door or individual doors at the back, these latter being under the control of an officer of the building in which the mail box is located.

Although my mail box construction is of a simple character, it will be apparent that it could be modified in general construction and in specific details to suit different installations and that such changes would be within the spirit of my invention as set forth in the description, drawings and claims.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A mail box comprising in combination a stack of individual boxes having intermediate stiles and sectional cross rails between the stiles, doors hingedly connected to the stiles for individual boxes, means connecting part of the hinge, stiles and sectional cross rails thereby binding the stiles and sectional cross rails together.

2. A mail box as claimed in claim 1, the hinge including a continuous vertical pintle rod for a plurality of box doors in a tier, securing members bolted through the intermediate stiles and sectional cross rails securing the pintle rod in position.

3. A mail box comprising in combination a door structure having side stiles, top and bottom cross rails, intermediate stiles extending between the cross rails, sectional cross rails extending between the intermediate stiles and between such stiles and the side stiles, hinges connected to the vertical stiles, means connecting said hinges, stiles and sectional rails to bind the intermediate stiles and the sectional rails together and individual box doors supported on said hinges.

4. A mail box as claimed in claim 3, in which the hinges comprise supporting elements extending outwardly from the stiles and being bolted through the sectional cross rails and through the stiles, a continuous vertical pintle rod at each of the intermediate stiles and at one of the side stiles extending through said supporting elements, the doors being supported on said pintle rods.

5. A mail box structure comprising in combination side framing and top and bottom framing members, intermediate vertical stiles having horizontal mortises there-through from side to side, said stiles fitting between the top and bottom framing members, sectional cross rails fitting between the intermediate stiles and the side framing members, some of the sectional rails having tenons fitting in the mortises and abutting end to end, doors hingedly connected to the intermediate stiles, a hole extending through

the stiles from front to back across the mortises, nut-like supporting elements mounted in said hole on the outside of the stiles, bolts extending through the tenons from the inside into said nut-like elements and continuous pintle rods extending vertically on the face of the stiles through the supporting elements, the doors being mounted on said pintle rods.

6. In a mail box structure, stiles having horizontal mortises therethrough from side to side, sectional cross rails each having a tenon on opposite ends, the tenon of adjacent rails abutting in a mortise, holes through the stiles from front to rear, nut-like supporting elements fitting in said holes

on the outside face of the stiles, bolts extending through tenons from the inside face of the stiles, pintle rods extending vertically in front of the stiles through a plurality of the nut-like supporting elements and individual box doors mounted on said rods.

7. In a mail box structure as claimed in claim 6, having in addition beads on the inside face of the stiles, vertical partitions extending rearwardly from the stiles adjacent the beads, said partitions covering the holes from the inside face of the stiles and closing in the bolts.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

JAMES C. BEER.