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OUTGOING MAIL CLIP

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Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

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This invention relates to an improved outgoing mail device, and more particularly an improved device having means by which outgoing mail and letters may be removably and conveniently suspended in protected position within the interior of the news box and associated means for giving glaring notice to the postman that the news box contains outgoing mail to be removed.

News boxes of the type disclosed in my copending application Serial No. 663,440, filed April 16, 1946, designed to commodiously deliver newspapers and magazines as well as letter mail, are a great convenience to news boys and postmen as well as to the home occupant. These commodious news boxes desirably present unobstructed and smooth interior surfaces for the convenient removal and insertion of newspapers and magazines and mail.

This invention relates to an improved and simple device by means of which outgoing mail and letters may be conveniently suspended in easily accessible and protected position within the interior of news boxes of commodious size, and which device has associated therewith a notice flag which glaringly advises the postman that the box contains outgoing mail to be removed.

This improved device comprises a resilient clamping part to which the outgoing mail may be easily and quickly attached by the home occupant, and to which is attached a flag part designed to be suspended from the upper edge of the front wall panel of the news box to provide a downwardly extending notice section to advise the postman that the news box contains outgoing mail to be removed. This improved device is so constructed so as to permit full closing of the cover part of the news box when the device is suspended on the upper edge of the front wall panel thereof, and yet which can be easily lifted from its hung position by the postman to facilitate quick removal of the outgoing mail clamped thereto. This improved outgoing mail device is simple in design and construction, lasting in use, economical to manufacture, and admirably serves the convenience of both the home occupant and the postman, without interfering with or restricting the capacity of the news box to contain newspapers, magazines and mail generally.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent as the disclosure proceeds.

Although the characteristic features of this invention will be particularly pointed out in the claim, the invention itself, and the manner in which it may be carried out, may be better understood by referring to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, in which:

Fig. I is a side elevational view of a news box showing the improved outgoing mail device suspended from the front wall thereof, certain parts of the news box being broken away to more clearly illustrate the manner in which outgoing mail and letters are suspended therein.

Fig. II is a perspective view of the improved outgoing mail device; and

Fig. III is a side elevational view of an outgoing mail device of modified construction.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views of the drawing and specification.

There is shown in Fig. I of the drawing, a news box M of commodious size, having this improved outgoing mail device F, with outgoing letters L suspended therefrom, hung in notice position from the upper edge of the front wall panel 1 of the news box. The news box is designed to be suitably suspended from a building wall W and comprises generally a front wall panel 1 whose upper edge is inclined forwardly from the bottom wall panel 2. The side wall panels 3 and the rear wall panel 4 form with the front wall panel 1 and the bottom wall panel 2, a box part of commodious size designed to contain newspapers and magazines, as well as letter mail.

The rear edges of the side wall panels 3 are designed to rest against the building wall and maintain the inset rear wall panel 4 of the news box spaced from the building wall so as to permit free circulation of air between the rear wall panel 4 and the adjacent surface of the building wall W. The front wall panel 1 is of less height than the rear wall panel 4, and the upper edges of the side wall panels 3 are inclined downwardly towards the upper edge of the front wall panel 1 when the news box is in its normal wall suspended position.

The upper end of the box part is closed by a hinged cover part which presents a top cover panel 5 hinged to the box part at the rear edge thereof, a front cover flange 6 designed to telescope over the upper top edge 1' of the box front panel 1, and side cover flanges 7 designed to telescope over the inclined upper edges 3' of the box side panels 3. The front cover flange 6 may be provided with an outwardly projecting lip portion 8 by means of which opening of the cover part may be facilitated. The front box panel 1
and the side box panels 3 are desirably provided with an outwardly bulging reinforcing rib 9, which may be pressed from the sheet metal which forms these panels.

News boxes which are conveniently commodious in size to contain newspapers, magazines, as well as letter mail, require that the box part thereof be made with a front wall depth of from 12 to 15 inches, and conveniently approximately 13 to 14 inches in depth. Outgoing mail dropped onto the bottom wall panel 2 of a news box of such depth cannot be conveniently reached by the mail carrier. Shelves or pockets arranged in the interior of the news box to receive such outgoing mail, substantially reduces the capacity of the news box to receive mail, and interferes with the convenient insertion and removal of newspapers and magazines into the news box.

This invention is directed to the provision of a device particularly designed for association with news boxes of commodious size which serves the dual purpose of suspending the outgoing mail and letters within the interior of the news box, fully protected from the elements, in a manner to be conveniently accessible for removal by the postman, and in addition, provides a clearly visible flag which unmistakably informs the postman that the news box contains outgoing mail to be removed.

This improved outgoing mail device comprises a clamping part 10 to which the outgoing mail may be conveniently and releasably secured, and a flag part 20 designed to overhang the front wall panel 1 of the news box and having a notice section projecting exterior to the news box which unmistakably informs the postman that the news box contains outgoing mail to be removed.

The clamping part of this improved device may be economically formed from a pair of metal pieces 11 and 12 designed to cooperate to clamp the outgoing mail or letters 1 therewith. The blade 11 has a stem portion 13 formed integrally therewith, and blade 12 has a stem portion 14 formed integrally therewith. Each of the blades 11 and 12 and their associated stem portions 13 and 14, may be economically stamped from flat pieces of sheet metal. A resilient split tube 15 embraces a substantial section of the blades 11 and 12 in a manner so that the split tube 15 represents gripping edges 16 which engage the adjacent faces of the blades 11 and 12. The stem portions 13 and 14 of the blades extend through spaced slits 17 cut in the body of the resilient tube 15 in a manner so that the blades 11 and 12 normally form a V angle therebetween, with the exposed clamping edges 18 of the blades normally pressed in resilient contact by the split tube 15. The split tube 15 is preferably formed of resilient steel so as to normally retain the clamping edges 18 and the blades 11 and 12 in pressed resilient contact.

The clamping edges 18 of the blades 11 and 12 may be conveniently spread apart for the insertion of mail between the blades, by pressing the stem portions 13 and 14 thereof towards each other for a sufficient distance to freely permit insertion of an edge portion of outgoing mail therebetween. When pressure on the stem portions 13 and 14 is released, the outgoing mail will be securely but releasably held by the clamping part 10.

The flag part 20 may economically be formed from a single strip or piece of resilient sheet metal bent to shape so as to present a rear leg 21 which is designed to be secured to the stem portion 13 of the clamping part as by means of a suitable rivet 22, as shown in Fig. II, or by a link connection 31 as shown in Fig. III. The rear leg 21 can be conveniently made approximately two to three inches in length, designed to extend within the news box and overlapping the inside face of the front wall panel 1 thereof. The upper portion of the rear leg 21 merges into an outer flag leg 23. The outer flag leg 23 presents a box gripping portion 24 which merges into the upper end of the rear leg 21 through a rounded edge-forming portion 25. The upper portion of the rear leg 21 and the gripping portion 24 are spaced apart sufficiently to provide an internal groove 26 therebetween designed to receive the upper edge 1' of the front wall panel 1 of the news box.

The lower edge of the box gripping portion 24 merges into an outwardly flared lip portion 27 which is so shaped and designed as to seat against the outside face of the reinforcing rib 9 extending horizontally along the upper edge of the front wall panel 1 of the news box. The front panel reinforcing rib 9 thus forms a seating seat for the lip portion 27 of the flag part. It will be further noted by referring to Fig. I, that the box gripping portion 24 of the flag part snugly hugs the outside face of the upper portion 1' of the front wall panel 1, so as to permit the front cover flange 6 to be swung in full closed position over the outside face of the upper part 1' of the front wall panel.

The lower part of the lip portion 27 of the flag part merges into a downwardly extending notice section 28 which may be of convenient length, in the nature of approximately two inches, which is clearly visible on the exterior face of the front wall panel of the news box when the cover part thereof is in closed position. The lower end of the notice section 28 terminates in an outwardly flared lip portion 29 which permits convenient grasping of the flag part 20 when mounting and removing the device onto and from its suspended position on the front wall panel of the news box.

The outer flag leg 23 can be painted or colored in a glaring color contrast to the color of the news box. The device may be economically stamped from flat pieces of sheet metal.

The resilient, split tube 5, embraces a substantial section of the blades 11 and 12 in a manner so that it immediately attracts the notice of the letter carrier. For example, the outer flag leg 23 may be painted a flaming red, in color contrast to the bright metal color or bronze color of the news box itself. The notice section 28 may also carry a visible notice indicia such as "Outgoing Mail," or "Out Mail."

This improved outgoing mail device can be constructed and assembled from sheet metal at low cost, to provide a device for suspending the outgoing mail in protected position within the news box, within convenient access to the postman. When removing the suspended mail, the postman lifts the entire outgoing mail device from its suspended position on the front wall panel of the news box, releases the suspended outgoing mail from the clamping part 10 thereof, and tosses the outgoing mail device into the interior of the news box where it may be left until the home occupant again desires to supply outgoing mail to the postman. The home occupant then attaches the outgoing mail to the clamping part 10 and saddles the outgoing mail device on the upper edge of the front wall panel 1 of the news box.

A convenient and highly effective outgoing mail device is provided which can be easily removed from the news box to detach the outgoing mail, which can be used in a manner to in no way obstruct the insertion of newspapers, magazines and other delivered papers and mail into the
Interior of the news box, which provides a positive means for notifying the postman that the news box contains outgoing mail to be removed, and which conveniently serves the purposes of both the postman and the resident.

While certain novel features of this invention have been disclosed herein, and are pointed out in the claim, it will be understood that various omissions, substitutions, and changes may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of this invention.

What is claimed is:

An outgoing mail device designed to be associated with and removably suspended from the upper edge section of the front wall panel of a commodious type of news box, said device including in combination, an outgoing mail clamping part designed to be contained within the interior of the mail box and to which the outgoing mail may be detachably secured in suspended position within the interior of the mail box, and a flag part designed to grip the free upper edge portion of the mail box front panel and retain said mail clamping part in suspended position with the mail box, said flag part comprising a relatively flat rear leg fixedly secured to said mail clamping part with the upper end section of said rear leg designed to seat substantially flatly against the upper inside face of the box front wall panel, and an outer flag leg having an upper box panel gripping section joined by a rounded edge to the upper end section of said rear leg, said box gripping section extending substantially parallel to the upper edge section of said rear leg to snugly receive and resiliently grip the upper edge portion of the box front wall panel therebetween, the lower edge of said box gripping section merging into an outwardly flared hip section, the lower edge of said hip section merging into a relatively straight notice section extending downwardly at an outwardly flared angle with respect to the relatively flat rear leg, the lower edge of said notice section terminating in an outwardly flared lip providing a convenient finger grip for mounting and removing the device to and from suspended position on the front wall panel of the news box, said notice section being colored in striking color contrast with the exterior color of the news box with which it is used to thereby unmistakably inform the postman that the news box contains outgoing mail to be removed.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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<td>Pascoe</td>
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