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MAIL BOX SWITCH

Filed March 6, 1929

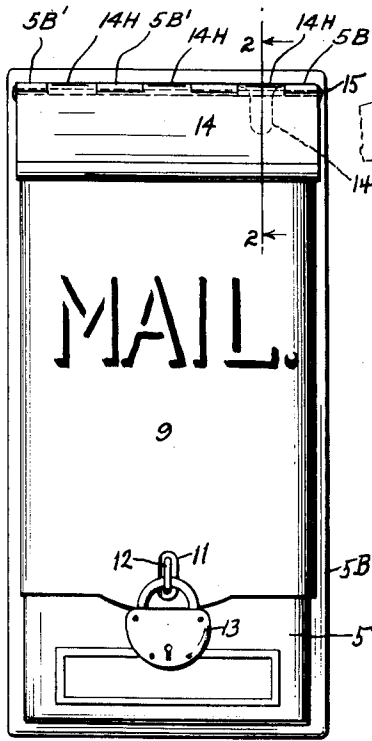


FIG. 1.

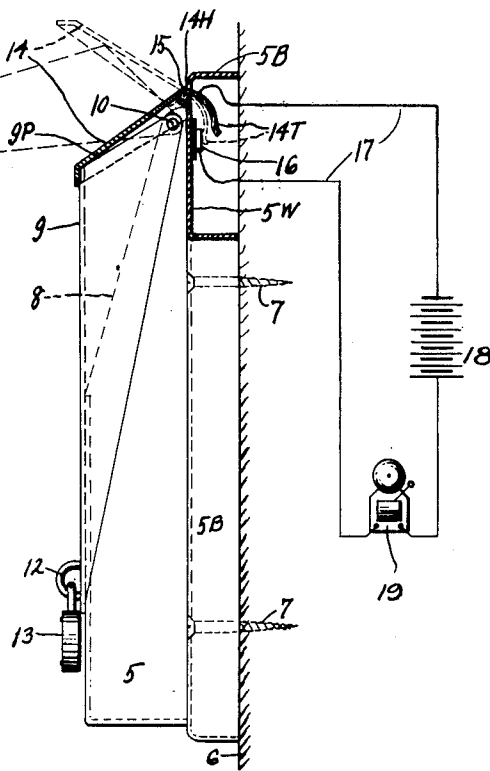


FIG. 2.

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MAIL BOX SWITCH

Application filed March 8, 1929. Serial No. 344,697.

My invention relates to electric signal means for mail boxes of the type mounted on the wall of a house and the main object of the invention is to provide a simple, efficient, inaccessible and inexpensive device of said kind which may be attached or mounted to operate on mail-boxes already in use or incorporated in the mail-box structure when manufactured. The simplicity and effectiveness of the device are herein after fully set forth reference being had to the accompanying drawings showing a preferred construction, in which,

Fig. 1 is a front view of a mail-box of the type in which my signal means are most adaptable.

Fig. 2 is a right hand edge view of Fig. 1 and its base and top lid shown in section about as on line 2—2 in Fig. 1 to reveal the circuit closing means.

Referring to the drawings by reference numerals, I have illustrated an all metal mail-box comprising a main upright receptacle 5 formed integral with a shallow base 5B with a continuous quadrangular flange said base being placed against a wall 6 (see Fig. 2) and fixed thereto by means of screws 7 insertible in the back wall 5W of the receptacle as shown. The upper portions of the side walls of the receptacle may be cut back as on line 8 (Fig. 2) said part being normally covered by an upright main lid 9 hinged as at 10 and extending down to cover the major front part of the receptacle as shown. Said lower part of this main lid is provided with an aperture 11 located to straddle a fixed staple 12 in the main receptacle and the said lid thus adapted to be locked in closed position by means of a pad-lock 13 or the like. It will be understood that the upper edge of said main lid is in an angular plane 9P providing a corresponding opening for insertion of mail in the receptacle.

The latter opening is normally closed by a top-lid 14 hinged on a hinge-bar 15 above the hinges 10, and to said bar 15 the top-lid 14 and base 5B are pivotally secured by piano-type hinge members 14H and 5B' respectively (see Fig. 1).

One of the hinge members 14H is provided with a tongue extension 14T extending inwardly and downwardly within the base 5B toward the wall 6 and terminating in spaced relation to a fixed contact plate 16 secured on and properly insulated with relation to the back wall 5W of the receptacle, said plate 16 and tongue 14T being in electric circuit 17 having a source of current 18 and an electric alarm 19 represented as a bell in Fig. 2 but which may be either a bell, a buzzer or a light.

It will now be readily understood that when either the top lid 14 or lid 9, or both, are raised for insertion of mail or opening of the receptacle, or for removal of mail, the top lid 14 is raised and will swing arm 14T into contact with 16 as shown dotted in Fig. 2 and thus close circuit and operate the signal 19. Occupants of a house will thus be warned by the signal when a postman is putting mail in the box or when any other person is tampering with the box. Thus the device serves as a useful, automatic signal not only when mail is put in the receptacle but when any unauthorized person is attempting to extract mail from the box. The mechanical and electrical means described may of course be affixed and connected to mail-boxes already in use but the circuit closing means are preferably designed to be incorporated in the manufacture of new mail-boxes. Modifications of structure and details may be embodied without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention.

I claim:

In a mail box comprising an elongated upright receptacle provided with a mail receiving aperture at its upper end, a hinged lid normally closing said aperture, the receptacle comprising further a large closure hinged below the hinge means of the said lid, the upper end of said large closure formed to provide the mail inserting opening and said lid normally resting thereon, an electric switch within the receptacle comprising a stationary contact fixed in proximity to said hinge means, a hinge circuit closing member comprising a tongue inte-

gral of the hinged part of said lid and normally with its free end in spaced relation to the fixed contact and arranged to close circuit by upward movement of the said lid, and said lid arranged to also be raised by
5 opening of the large closure.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

SIGISMUND LANG.

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