July 14, 1931. A. LUTZ 1,814,941

INDICATOR FOR MAIL BOXES

Filed May 27, 1930

Fig. 1.

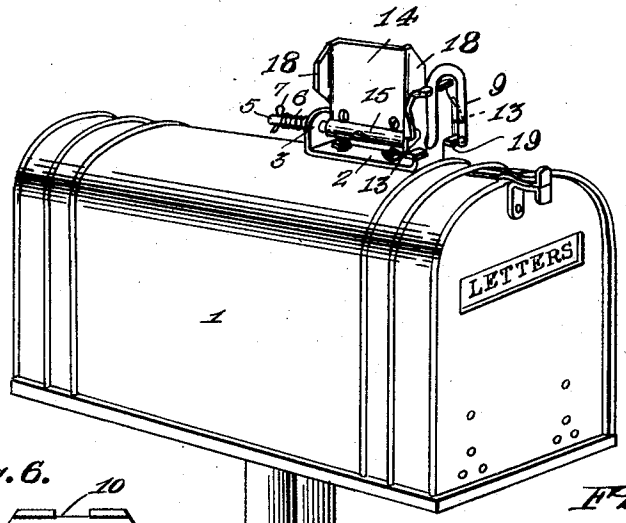


Fig. 6.

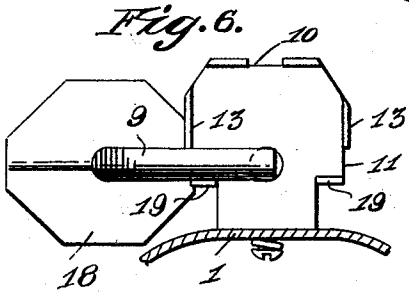


Fig. 5.

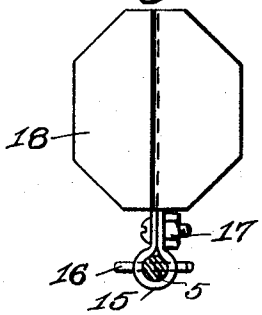


Fig. 2.

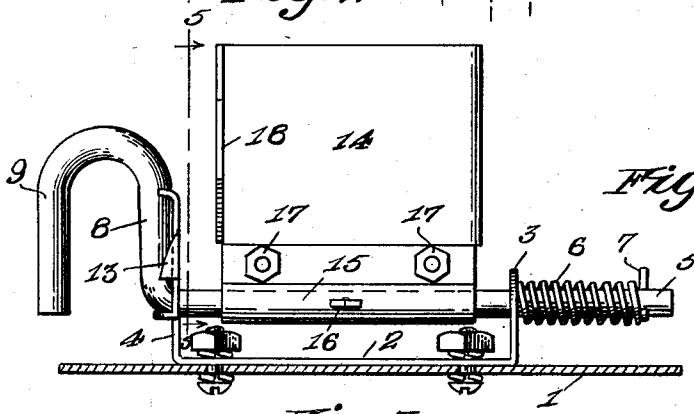


Fig. 4.

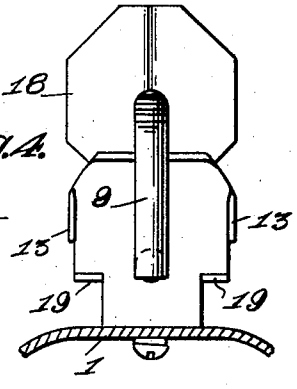
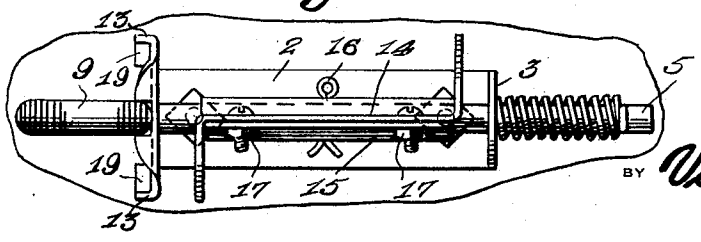


Fig. 3.



Alvin Lutz, INVENTOR

BY Victor J. Evans

ATTORNEY

Patented July 14, 1931 1,814,941

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ALVIN LUTZ, OF EDINBURG, VIRGINIA

INDICATOR FOR MAIL BOXES

Application filed May 27, 1930. Serial No. 456,157.

My present invention has reference to a flag or symbol for rural mail boxes and my primary object is the provision of a device for this purpose which can be easily and quickly secured on the top of any ordinary rural mail box construction and which can be readily actuated to signaling and non-signaling position and which will be held from weather influence when either in its signaling or non-signaling positions.

A still further object is the provision of a signaling device for this purpose that shall embody the desirable features of simplicity in construction coupled with ease and accuracy in operation.

To the attainment of the foregoing the invention consists in the improvement hereinafter described and definitely claimed.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improvement in applied position.

Figure 2 is a side elevation thereof with the top of the mail box in section.

Figure 3 is a top plan view thereof.

Figure 4 is an end view thereof with the signal in signaling position.

Figure 5 is a sectional view approximately on the line 5—5 of Figure 2.

Figure 6 is an end view of the signal in non-signaling position.

As the description progresses it will be noted that my improvement may be readily attached to any ordinary rural mail box construction and obviously the signal may be made in various sizes. In the drawings the numeral 1 designates an ordinary construction of rural mail boxes. To the top of this box I secure the base plate 2 of a substantially U-shaped bracket. The securing means are preferably in the nature of bolts having nuts screwed thereon and between the nuts and heads of the bolts there are spring washers, the outer washers contacting with the base plate of the bracket 2. The bracket is arranged longitudinally on the top of the box 1. One of the angle ends of the U-shaped bracket is for distinction indicated by the numeral 3 and the second end is indicated by the numeral 4. The arm 4 projects a suitable distance beyond the arm 3, but both of the arms have alining round openings therethrough for the reception of a shaft 5. The shaft is of a desired length and has arranged around one of its ends a coil spring 6 which contacts with the outer face of the end 3 of the bracket. The second end of the spring contacts with a cotter pin or like element that is passed through the shaft. The spring 6 influences the shaft 5 longitudinally through the openings in the ends 3 and 4 of the bracket 2, causing the offset or angle end 8 of the said shaft to be brought against the outer face of the end 4 of the bracket. The end 8 is rounded outwardly and merges into a depending portion that affords the same with a finger grip or handle 9.

The top of the end or side 4 of the U-shaped bracket 2 is widened and has its top portion, as well as its edges and its bottom flanged outwardly at predetermined intervals, the said flanges being provided therebetween with notches, the top notch being indicated for distinction by the numeral 10 and the lower or end notches by the numeral 11. Preferably the flanges formed upon the top of the end 4 of the U-shaped bracket are cut angularly from the notches 11 to their juncture with the end 4 as indicated by the numeral 13 in the drawings.

The signal is in the nature of a metal plate 14 and as a matter-of-fact the elements heretofore described are all of metal. The plate 14 has one end rounded upon itself to form the same with a barrel 15 that receives the shaft 5 therethrough and an element such as a cotter pin 16 holds the barrel and consequently the plate 14 in one position on the shaft. The projecting ends of the rounded portion of the plate which I have termed the barrel are secured to the plate proper by means 17 such as bolts engaged by nuts. The edges of the signal plate 14 are flanged in opposite directions as indicated by the numeral 18.

The signal 14 and its oppositely directed sides or flanges 18 are suitably covered with a weather resisting paint of a color which renders the signal conspicuous. The oppositely directed flanges 18 of the plate 14

preferably have their edges cut angularly from their ends to points adjacent their center. The spring 6 is of a sufficient strength to hold the offset end of the shaft 5 in the upper notch 10 or in either of the lower notches 11 and as the end 8 contacts with the side walls provided by these notches as well as rests upon the upper faces of the lower flanges, indicated for distinction by the numeral 19, the signal cannot be accidentally swung to either signaling or non-signaling position regardless of the velocity of wind which contacts with the said signal. It is merely necessary to grasp the handle 9 to move the shaft 5 longitudinally to bring the end 8 thereof out of say the notch 10 when the signal is in signaling position and to turn the shaft to bring the said offset end 8 into either of the notches 11 to bring the signal to non-signaling position.

The construction is simple and will not be affected by weather conditions. The device can be easily and quickly attached to any ordinary rural mail box and may be readily and quickly swung to either signaling or non-signaling position or positively retained in either of such positions.

It is thought from the foregoing that the advantages and novel features of the invention will be readily apparent. I desire it to be understood that I may make such changes in the construction and arrangement of parts as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Having described the invention, I claim:

1. A signal for rural mail boxes, comprising a substantially U-shaped bracket fixed on the box, a shaft swingable and longitudinally movable through the arms of the bracket, one arm of the bracket having upper central and lower side notches therein, the shaft having an offset portion to be received in either of such notches and to be held therein by a spring, a handle on the said end of the shaft and a signal plate fixed on the shaft between the arms of the bracket.

2. A signal for rural mail boxes and the like comprising a U-shaped bracket removably fixed on the box, a shaft revoluble and longitudinally movable through the ends of the bracket, spring means on the shaft for influencing the same in one direction, one end of the bracket being widened and formed with notched lower side flanges and a notched upper flange, said shaft having an offset portion designed to be received in any of the notches and to be sustained therein by the influence of the spring, the offset portion of the shaft merging in to a handle and a signal plate fixed on the shaft between the ends of the bracket.

3. A signal for rural mail boxes and the like comprising a U-shaped bracket removably fixed on the box, a shaft revoluble and longitudinally movable through the ends of the bracket, spring means on the shaft for influencing the same in one direction, one end of the bracket being widened and formed with notched lower side flanges and a notched upper flange, said shaft having an offset portion designed to be received in any of the notches and to be sustained therein by the influence of the spring, the offset portion of the shaft merging into a handle, a signal plate fixed on the shaft between the ends of the bracket, said signal plate having a lower barrel end through which the shaft passes, a securing element passing through the barrel for the shaft and said plate having its edges formed with oppositely directed flanges.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ALVIN LUTZ.