

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

C. H. PICKARTS.
LETTER BOX FOR COLLECTION AND DELIVERY.
No. 462,733. Patented Nov. 10, 1891.

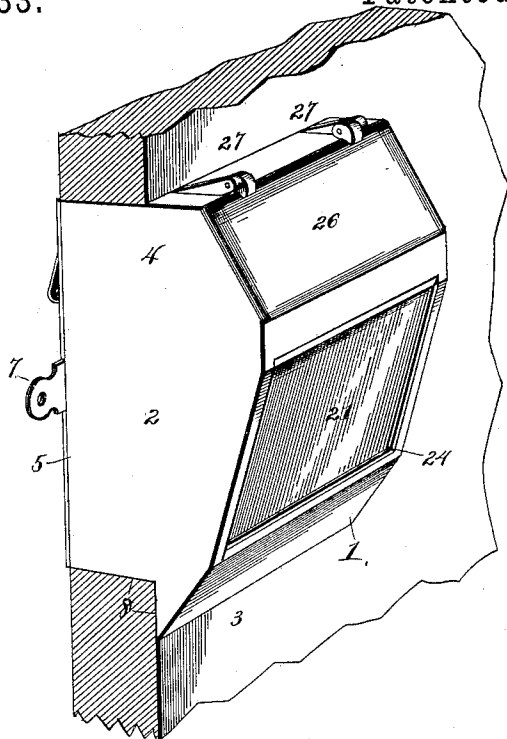
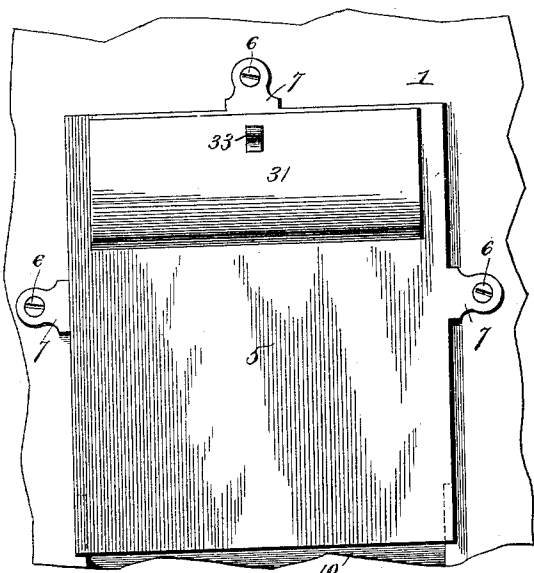


Fig. 1

Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

E. S. Hooper.
Jno. L. Condon

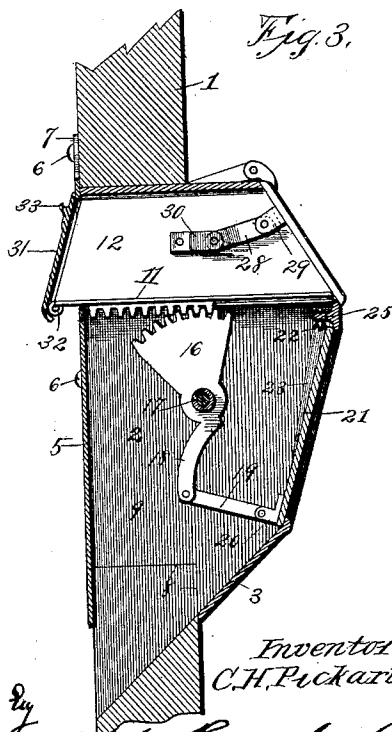


Fig. 3.

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(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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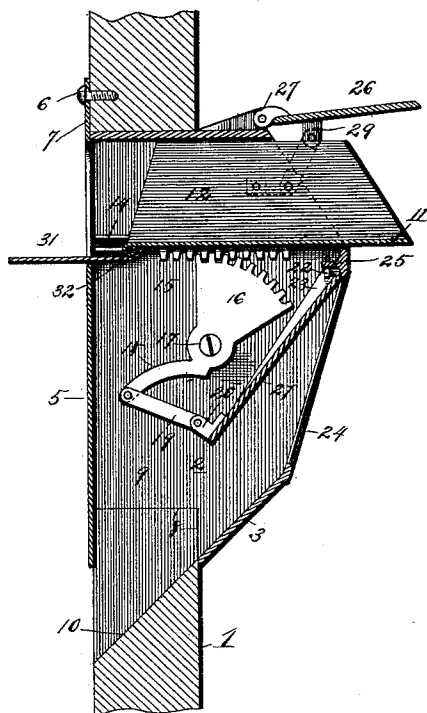


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

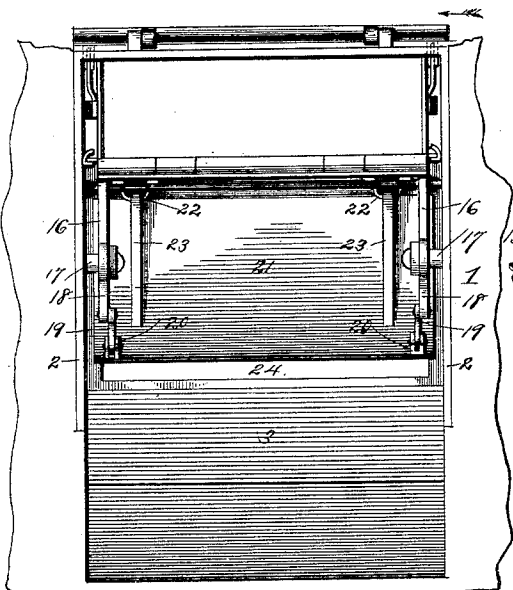
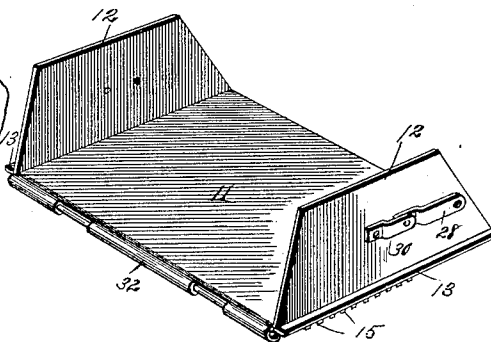


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CARL H. PICKARTS, OF LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

LETTER-BOX FOR COLLECTION AND DELIVERY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 462,733, dated November 10, 1891.

Application filed May 16, 1891. Serial No. 393,015. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CARL H. PICKARTS, of Leavenworth, Leavenworth county, Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof.

My invention relates to mail-boxes to be applied to the doors of residences, office-buildings, stores, and various other localities; and the object of my invention is to produce a mail-box which shall be simple, durable, and comparatively inexpensive in construction and which can be used both to receive mail-matter deposited by the postman for the occupants of the building and also to receive mail-matter deposited by the occupants of the building for collection by the postman.

A further object of my invention is to produce a mail-box which shall be so constructed that when the postman inserts the mail-matter to be delivered into the box this act of itself and without any other manipulation of the box causes the mail to be collected to be automatically presented to the postman.

To the above purposes my invention consists in certain peculiar and novel features of construction, as hereinafter described and claimed.

In order that my invention may be fully understood, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my mail-box applied to a door, the view being of the outer side of the box. Fig. 2 is an inner side elevation of the mail-box also in position upon a door. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section of the same on the line 3 3 of Fig. 5. Fig. 4 is a similar sectional view of the same on the line 4 4 of Fig. 5. Fig. 5 is a rear elevation of my improved mail-box in position upon a door, the inner wall or face-plate of the box being removed. Fig. 6 is a detached perspective view of the collection-slide of the mail-box.

In said drawings, 1 designates the door of a residence, an office, office-building, store, or other similar locality, and 2 designates the casing or housing of my improved letter-box. This casing or housing is of general oblong

rectangular form, its front lower part 3, however, extending downwardly and inwardly and its front upper part 4 extending upwardly and inwardly, as shown. The inner or rear side of this casing is left open, as shown in Fig. 5, and is closed by a rectangular face-plate 5, which is secured to the inner surface of the door by screws 6 or equivalent devices passing, preferably, through ears 7 of the plate and entering the door. The lower ends of the sides of the box are formed with shoulders 8, which rest against the lower part of an opening 9, formed in the door and corresponding in height and width to similar measurements of the box, the lower margin 10 of the opening being inclined downwardly and inwardly, so as to permit free passage for the mail-matter dropped by the postman. It is obvious that, if desired, the mail-matter dropped by the postman may fall into a pouch or other receptacle suitably secured to the inner side of the door, or that such mail-matter may simply fall through the opening 9 and drop upon the floor of the apartment. In the upper part of the box 2 is placed a slide 11, which is preferably of oblong rectangular form and provided at its ends with two upright pieces 12. This slide is placed horizontally in the upper part of the box and its end edges 13 work in horizontal grooves 14, extending each from front to rear of the casing or box. At each end of this slide, on the under surface thereof, is formed a horizontal inverted rack 15, with each of which engages a segment-rack 16. Each of the segment-racks 16 is pivoted, as at 17, to the inner surface on side of the casing 2 and at its lower end carries an inwardly and downwardly extending arm 18. To the lower extremity of each of these arms 18 is pivoted the inner end of a link 19, the front or outer end of which is pivoted between two ears 20 on the lower part of the inner surface of a drop-plate 21. This drop-plate is so connected at its upper edge to the casing 1 as to permit the plate to swing inward away from the delivery-opening 24 at the front of the casing 2. As shown, this connection is in the form of two U-shaped hangers 22, which pass through the upper ends of ribs 23 of the inner surface of the drop-plate, and also through a horizontal inwardly-extending flange 25 at the upper part of the

outer side of the casing 1. It is obvious, of course, that any form of hinged connection may be employed in attaching the drop-plate to the front of the casing without departing from the essential spirit of my invention.

5 Upon the upper part of the front of the box or casing 2 is hinged, as at 27, a lid 26, each end of which is connected by a link 28 with the corresponding end of the slide 11. As

10 shown, the outer end of each link 28 is pivotally connected to two ears 29 upon the inner surface of the link, and the inner end of each link 28 is pivotally connected to the outer end of a plate 30, riveted or otherwise simi-

15 larly secured to the outer surface of the corresponding portion 12 of the slide 11. Upon the inner side of the slide 11 is hinged, as at 32, a cover 31, which is arranged to turn upwardly, and thus close an opening at the upper part of the face-plate 5 and to also close

20 the inner side of the slide 11. This cover is preferably provided with a finger-piece 33 to facilitate its opening and closing by the user. Now when the occupant of the building or

25 apartment desires the postman to take mail-matter, he opens the cover 31 and lays the mail-matter upon the slide 11, generally again closing the cover 31. When the postman comes to deliver the occupant's mail from the

30 post-office, the postman simply pushes the mail-matter against the outer side of the drop-plate 21 and releases the mail-matter from his grasp, so that the mail-matter drops into the apartment or into a receptacle in

35 such apartment. At the same instant that the postman pushes the mail-matter against the drop-plate and thus swings it inward the upper part of the segment-rack 16 is moved outward, thus drawing the slide 11 outward

40 automatically and similarly raising the lid 26, so as to present the mail-matter which is to be collected. The postman now simply takes the mail-matter from the slide 11 with the same hand which he used to deliver the

45 mail with, taps upon the lid, so that the latter falls down into closed position, and returns the slide to its normal position.

It will thus be seen that the device is simple, durable, neat, and inexpensive in construction, that it is easily operated either by

50 the occupant of the apartment or by the post-

man, and that the mail-matter is fully protected by the box against injury by the weather.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new therein, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An improved mail-box comprising a suitable housing or casing, a reciprocatory collection-slide located in the upper part of the casing, a swinging drop-plate located in the front of the casing, and a pivoted gear connected to the drop-plate and engaging a rack upon the slide, substantially as set forth.

2. An improved mail-box comprising a suitable casing or housing, a swinging drop-plate located in the front part of said casing, a collection slide or carrier located in the upper part of the casing, and a pivoted arm connected to the drop-plate and engaging the slide, so as to throw the latter forward when the drop-plate is swung inward, substantially as set forth.

3. An improved mail-box comprising a suitable housing or casing, a swinging drop-plate located at the front of the casing, a collection-slide located in the upper part of the casing, a movable arm connected to the drop-plate and engaging the slide, so as to throw the same outward when the plate is swung inward, and a lid pivoted upon the upper part of the casing and closing the front of the slide and also connected to said slide, so as to be automatically opened and closed thereby, substantially as set forth.

4. An improved mail-box comprising a suitable housing or casing, a swinging drop-plate located in the lower part of said casing, a collection-slide located in the upper part of the casing, a movable arm connected to the drop-plate and engaging the slide, so as to throw the slide forward when the drop-plate is swung inward, a lid connected to the slide and pivoted upon the upper front part of the casing, and a cover hinged upon the inner edge of the slide, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CARL H. PICKARTS.

Witnesses:

J. W. DAWSON,
ADOLF LANGE.