

May 15, 1951

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2,552,915

RURAL MAILBOX SUPPORTING BRACKET

Filed April 6, 1950

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

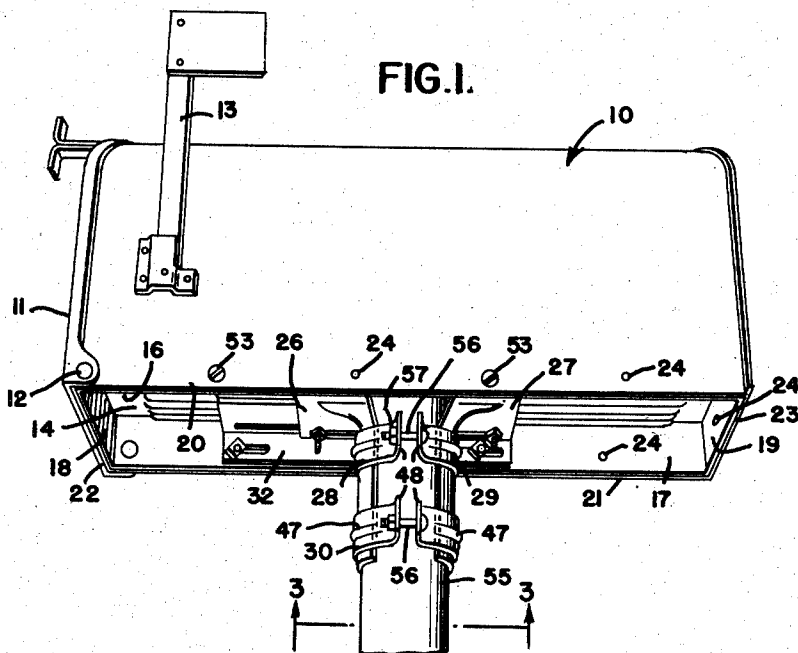


FIG. 2.

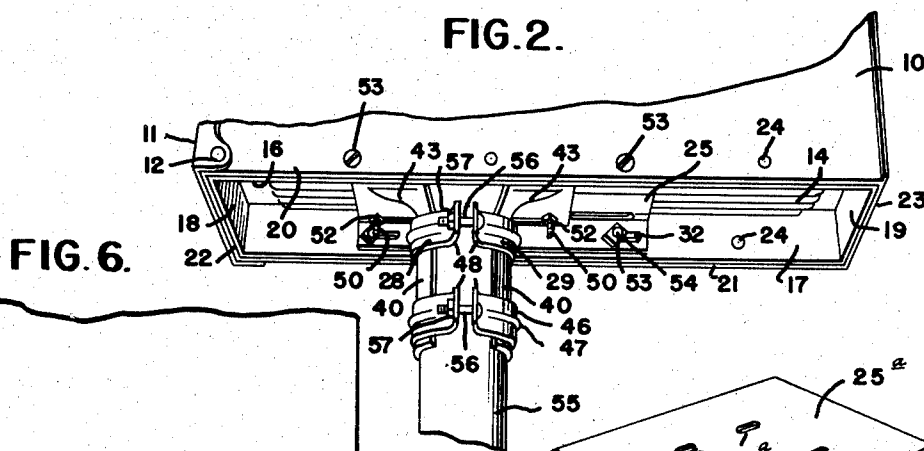


FIG. 6.

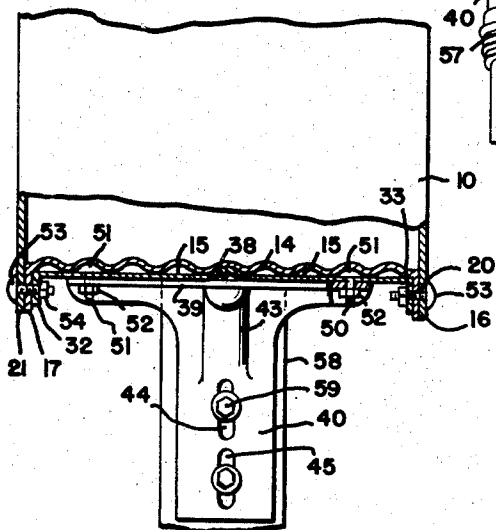


FIG. 8.

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 3.

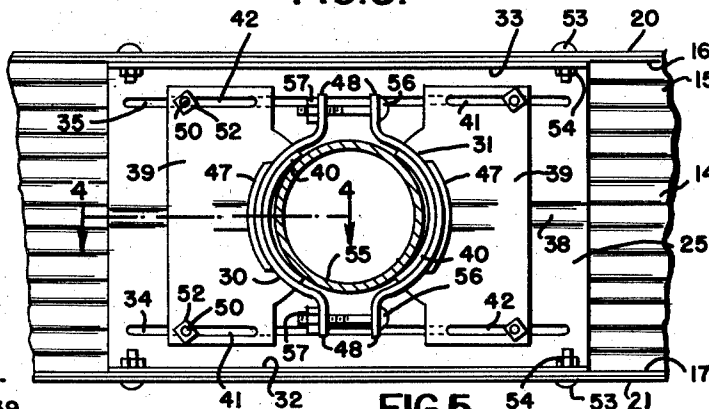


FIG. 4.

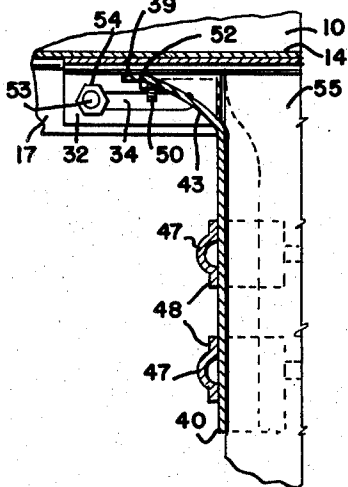


FIG. 5.

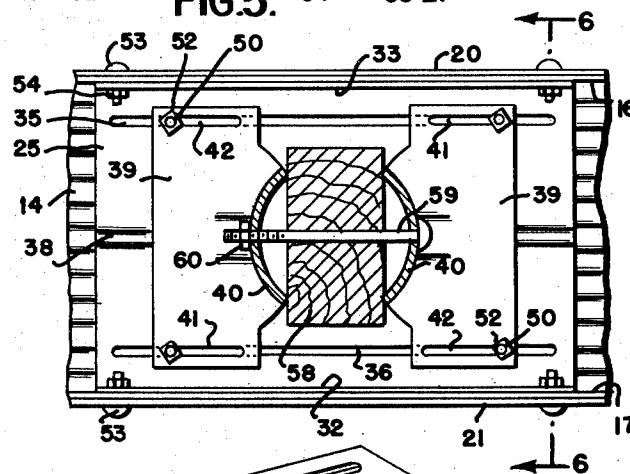
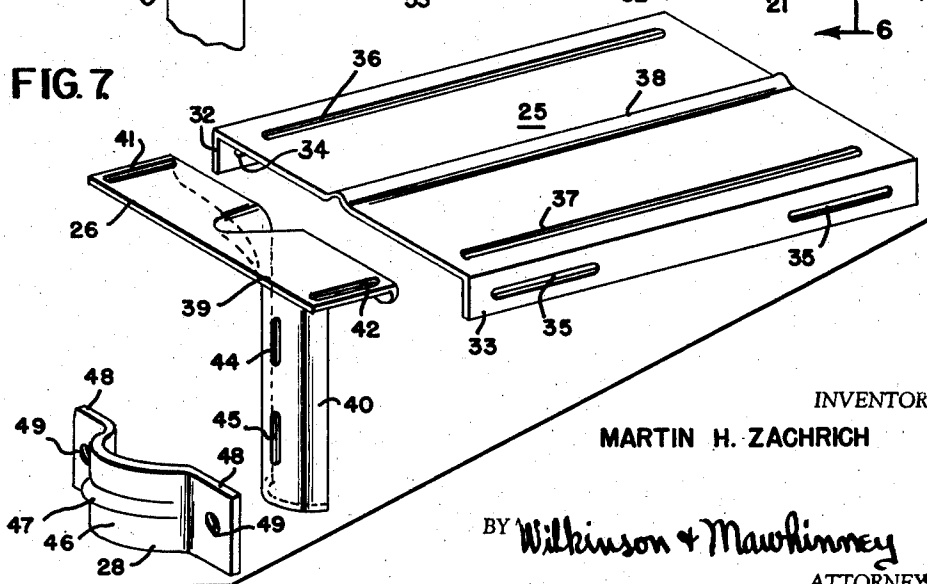


FIG. 7.



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2,552,915

RURAL MAILBOX SUPPORTING BRACKET

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Application April 6, 1950, Serial No. 154,261

4 Claims. (Cl. 248—221)

1

The present invention relates to improvements in a rural mail box supporting bracket and has for an object the provision of an improved bracket of this type which can be used for mounting any U. S. Government approved rural mail box or parcel post box on its supporting post.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved bracket which is adjustable so that it will fit metal and wooden posts of various diameters.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved device of this character which is capable of being adjusted to fit wooden and metal posts of various shapes, such as, round, square, hexagonal and L-shaped.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide an improved rural mail box supporting bracket which permits of the proper adjustment of the mail box so that the mail man will have easy access thereto over a drainage ditch or the like at the edge of the road.

The present invention aims to provide an improved bracket of this kind which allows the mail box to be positioned back of the fence along the road to provide clearance for a snow plow.

The present invention also aims to provide an improved structure which permits of the mounting of the mail box on its post so that it will clear nearby objects, such as trees or the like.

The present invention contemplates the provision of an improved bracket of this nature which comprises relatively few parts, is economical to manufacture and which can be easily and quickly mounted by an unskilled person.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention will be hereinafter more fully described and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, in which the same parts are denoted by the same reference numerals throughout the several views,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a rural mail box and the improved bracket constructed in accordance with the present invention illustrating one position of mounting of the mail box on its post,

Figure 2 is a fragmentary perspective view similar to Figure 1 but showing another position of mounting of the mail box,

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows,

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3 and looking in the direction of the arrows,

2

Figure 5 is a fragmentary bottom plan view of a mail box and the improved bracket as shown applied to a wooden post,

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 5 and looking in the direction of the arrows,

Figure 7 is an enlarged exploded view of the base plate, one of the bracket members and one of the clamps, and

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a modified form of the base plate.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 10 indicates a conventional type of rural mail box having a door 11 which is pivotally mounted as at 12 to the box 10. A conventional type of signal flag 13 is mounted upon the box 10. The bottom 14 of the mail box 10 is corrugated to provide downwardly opening longitudinally extending grooves 15. The opposite side edge portions of the bottom 14 are bent downwardly to form flanges 16 and 17 and the opposite end portions are also bent downwardly to form end flanges 18 and 19. The sides and ends of the mail box 10 extend downwardly below the bottom 14 to provide flanges 20, 21, 22 and 23 which engage the outer faces of the flanges 16, 17, 18 and 19, respectively. The bottom 14 may be secured in place by rivets or the like 24 which extend through the respective flanges of the box 10 and bottom 14.

The improved bracket comprises a box or base plate 25, a pair of bracket members 26 and 27 and two pairs of post clamps 28, 29, 30 and 31. The box or base plate 25 may be of any desired shape but in the present illustration is shown to be substantially oblong. The opposite side portions of the base plate 25 are bent downwardly to form lateral flanges 32 and 33. Adjacent each end portion the flanges 32 and 33 are provided with elongated slots 34 and 35, respectively. The base plate 25 adjacent its opposite side edges is provided with elongated slots 36 and 37. The base plate 25 has a substantially centrally disposed upstanding rib 38 extending longitudinally thereof.

The bracket members 26 and 27 are similar in construction and each comprises a substantially oblong shaped plate portion 39 and a depending substantially semi-circular leg 40. The plate portion 39 has at its opposite end portions transversely extending slots 41 and 42. The intermediate portion of the plate 39 is depressed to form a substantially semi-circular reinforcing rib 43 which merges into the leg 40. Intermediate its side edges the leg 40 is provided with vertically spaced apart elongated slots 44 and 45.

The post clamps 28 to 31 are similar in construction and each has a main body portion 46 which may be substantially semi-circular and has a reinforcing bead or rib 47. Ears or lugs 48 extend outwardly from the opposite side edges of the body portion 46 and are provided with substantially centrally located openings 49.

In Figure 8 of the drawing is illustrated a modified form of base plate 25a which is primarily adapted for use with a parcel post box. The plate 25a has its opposite sides bent downwardly to form flanges 32a and 33a. The flanges 32a and 33a have elongated slots 34a and 35a. The base plate 25a is provided with slots 36a and 37a which are disposed substantially in the central portion of the plate 25a in the form of a square.

In order to assemble the device the user will insert fastening elements 50, such as round head carriage bolts, through the slots 36 and 37 of the base plate 25 and through the slots 41 and 42 of the bracket members 26 and 27 with the heads 51 of the bolts engaging the upper surface of the plate 25. The bolts 50 will extend downwardly below the plate portion 39 of the clamps 26, 27 and nuts 52 will be threaded upon the extended lower ends of the bolts 51. The base plate 25 will be inserted between the side flanges 16 and 17 of the bottom 14 so that the upper face of the plate 25 will engage the crest of the lower face of the corrugations of the bottom 14 and the rib 38 of the base plate 25 will be received by the centrally disposed groove 15 of the bottom 14. The heads 51 of the bolts 50 will be received by other grooves 15 of the bottom 14 as shown in Figure 6 of the drawing.

The flanges 32 and 33 of the base plate 25 will snugly engage the respective flanges 16 and 17 of the bottom 14. Fastening elements 53, such as round head stove bolts or the like, will be inserted through aligned openings in the flanges 16 and 20 of the bottom 14 and the slots 35 of the flange 33 of the base plate 25. Similar fastening elements 53 will be inserted through aligned openings in the flanges 17 and 21 of the bottom 14 and the mail box 10 and the slots 34 of the base plate 25. Nuts 54 are screwed upon the bolts 53. Before tightening the nuts 54 the mail box 10 may be adjusted with respect to the base plate 25 within the limits of the length of the slots 34 and 35. Before tightening the nuts 52 on the bolts 50 the bracket members 26 and 27 may be adjusted longitudinally of the base plate 25 within the limits afforded by the slots 36 and 37 of the base plate 25. This adjustment will be for the purpose of determining the relative position of the mail box 10 with respect to its supporting post 55 and surrounding objects, such as a fence or the like. Further adjustment of the bracket members 26 and 27 may be made within the limits of the slots 41 and 42 of the plate portions 39 of the bracket members 26 and 27. This second adjustment of the bracket members 26 and 27 is for the purpose of fitting the bracket members to supporting posts of different sizes and configurations.

When the mail box is being mounted upon a metal post the bracket members 26 and 27 are placed over the upper end portion of the post 25 and are moved into engagement with the opposite sides of the post. The pairs of clamps 28 to 31 are then placed about the legs 40 of the members 26 and 27 and drawn into tight engagement therewith by fastening elements 56, such as square head machine bolts or the like and nuts

57. The nuts 52 will then be tightened on their bolts 50.

If it is desired to mount the mail box on a wooden post, as indicated at 58 in Figures 5 and 6 of the drawings, the clamps 28 to 31 may be omitted and lag bolts 59 or the like will be passed through the slots 44 and 45 of the legs 40 of the bracket members 26 and 27 and through the post 58. The lag bolts will be securely held in position by nuts 60.

The fact that the rib 38 of the base plate 25 and the heads 51 of the bolts 50 are received by the grooves 15 of the bottom 14 will supplement the clamping action of the bolts 53 to prevent lateral and pivotal movement of the base plate with respect to the bottom 14.

The use of the modified form of base plate 25a, illustrated in Figure 8 of the drawing, is substantially the same as that described in connection with the base plate 25. The bolts 50 are received by the slots 36a and 37a of the base plate 25a. The bolts 53 are received by the flanges 34a and 35a of the base plate 25a.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made in the details of construction and design of the above specifically described embodiment of this invention without departing from the spirit thereof, such changes and modifications being restricted only by the scope of the following claims.

What I claim is:

1. For use with a rural mail box supporting post and a rural mail box having a corrugated bottom provided with downwardly opening grooves, an improved supporting bracket comprising a base plate adapted to be attached to the mail box and having a longitudinally extending rib adapted to be received by one of said grooves in the bottom of the mail box, fastening elements adapted to secure said base plate to said mail box, bracket members adjustably mounted on said base plate and adapted to engage the supporting post, and fastening elements adapted to secure the bracket members to the supporting post.

2. In combination with a rural mail box supporting post and a rural mail box provided with a bottom having downwardly extending side flanges and side walls having downwardly extending flanges in engagement with the flanges of the bottom, an improved supporting bracket comprising an elongated base plate adapted to be attached to the mail box and having downwardly extending lateral flanges adapted to engage the flanges on the bottom of the mail box when the base plate is attached to the mail box, fastening elements adapted to extend through said flanges for attaching the base plate to the mail box, said base plate having elongated slots therein, a pair of bracket members having slots therein, fastening elements extending through slots in said base plate and said bracket members for adjustably mounting said bracket members on said base plate, pairs of clamps for embracing said bracket members and said post, and fastening elements for securing said clamps in embracing engagement with said bracket members.

3. An improved bracket as claimed in claim 2 characterized by the fact that each of said bracket members comprises a substantially oblong plate portion in which said slots are located, a substantially centrally disposed depressed portion and a leg extending downwardly from said depressed portion, said leg having elongated vertically spaced apart slots therein.

4. For use with a rural mail box and its supporting post, an improved supporting bracket comprising a base plate adapted to be attached to the mail box, fastening elements for attaching the base plate to the mail box, a pair of bracket members adapted to grip the supporting post, said base plate having four centrally located slots, said bracket members having slots therein for alignment with the slots in said base plate, fastening elements extending through the slots on the base plate and the bracket members for adjustably mounting said bracket members towards and from each other, and clamping ele-

ments for urging said bracket members into clamping relation with the supporting post.

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