July 29, 1958 F. G. JACQUES 2,845,217

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY RECEPTACLE

Filed April 14, 1955 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

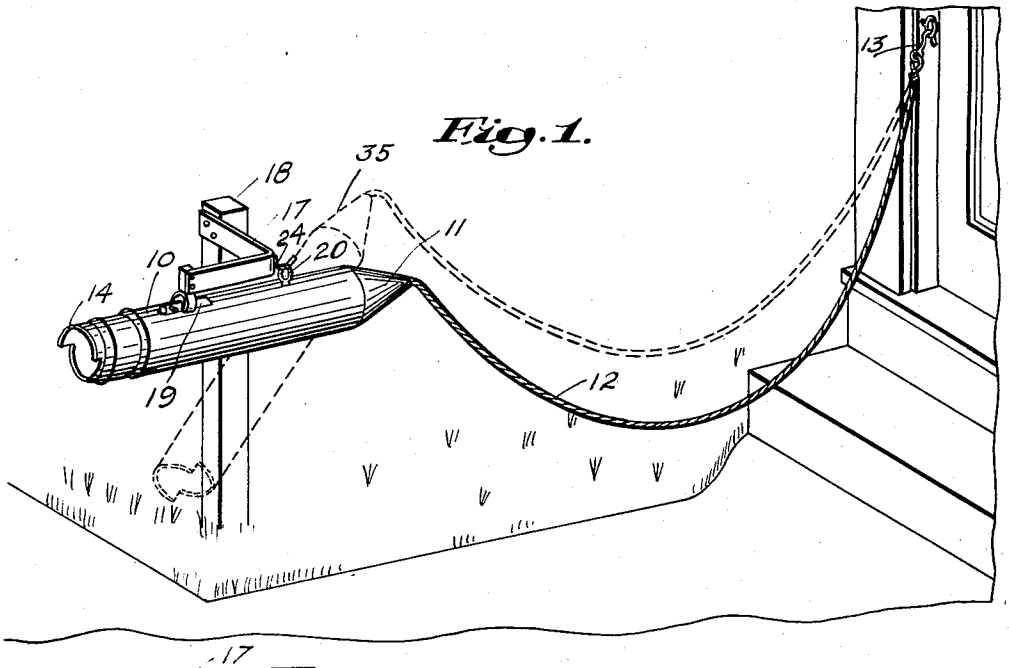


Fig. 4.

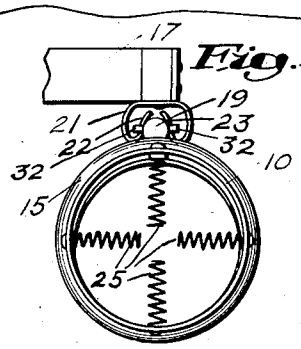


Fig. 5.

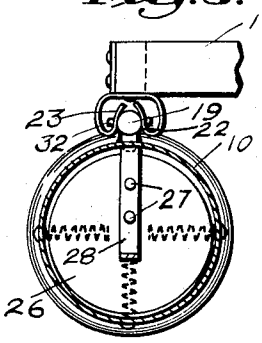


Fig. 6.

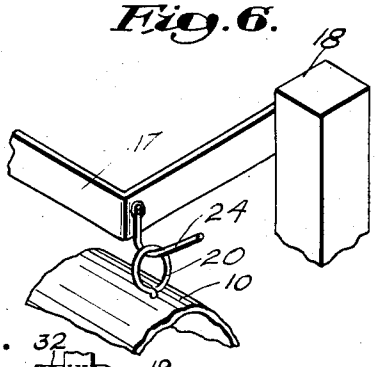


Fig. 7.

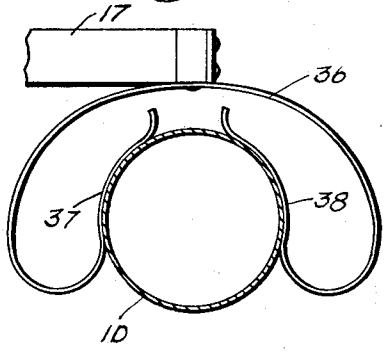
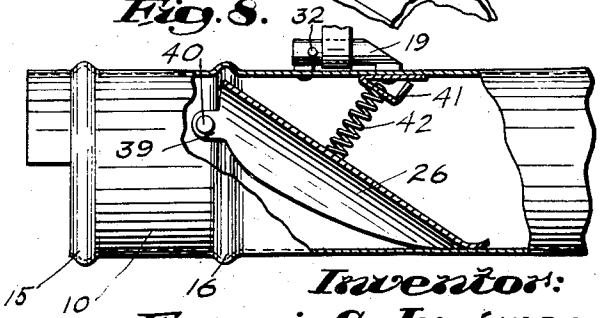


Fig. 8.



Inventor:
Francis G. Jacques,
by Arthur D. Thomson
Attorney

July 29, 1958 F. G. JACQUES 2,845,217

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY RECEPTACLE

Filed April 14, 1955 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

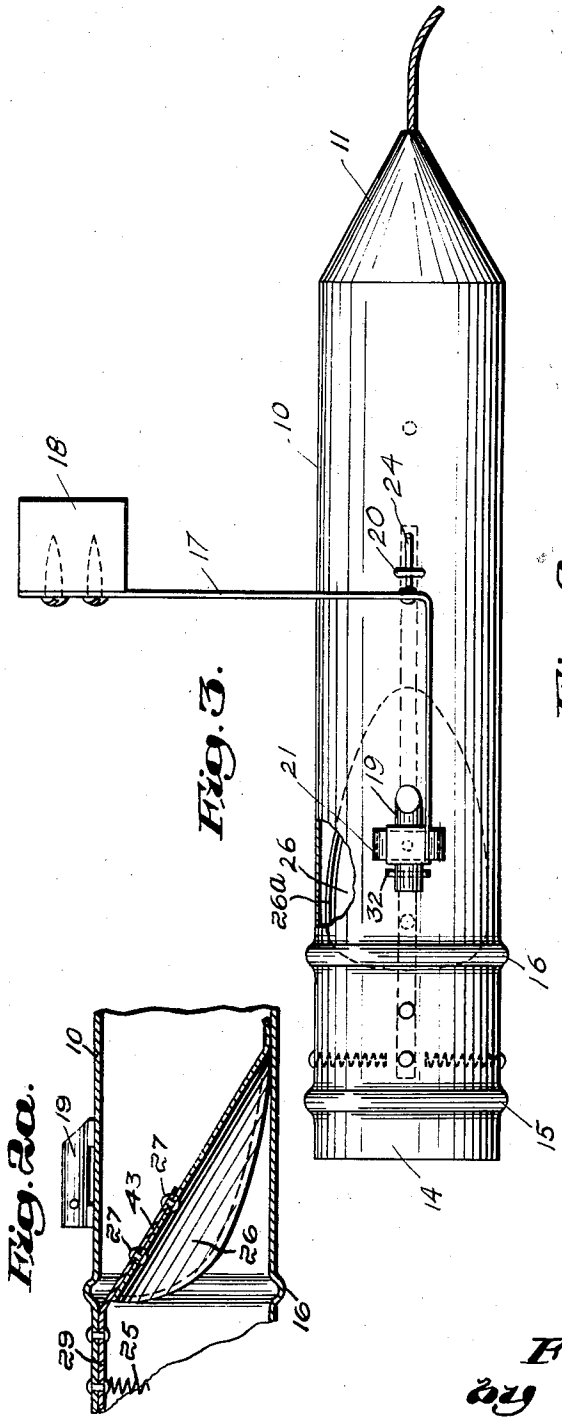


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2a.

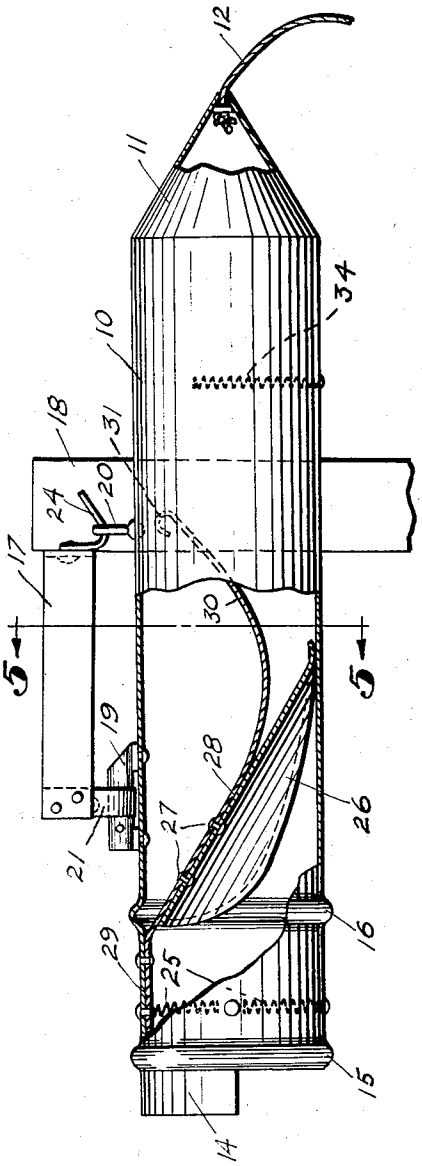


Fig. 2.

Inventor:
Francis G. Jacques,
by Arthur D. Thomson
Attorney

United States Patent Office

2,845,217

Patented July 29, 1958

2,845,217

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY RECEPTACLE

Francis G. Jacques, West Roxbury, Mass.

Application April 14, 1955, Serial No. 501,243

5 Claims. (Cl. 232—39)

The subject of this invention is a receptacle which is primarily suitable to facilitate home delivery of newspapers, but also adaptable to receive mail, pamphlets, and small packages.

In towns and suburban areas, where houses are close enough together to make direct delivery of newspapers to subscribers' homes practicable, a delivery boy ordinarily covers his route on a bicycle or on foot. Where a house is close enough to the street he deposits the paper in front of the door. If a house is set back some distance from the street he often attempts to throw the rolled paper as close to the house as possible instead of taking the time to go up to the door. In either case the paper is left exposed to the weather until the householder picks it up. As a result papers frequently are received by the subscriber in wet and mutilated condition, and subscribers often have to go out in stormy weather to look for a paper which has been blown away or carelessly thrown.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a receptacle which can be mounted outdoors in a location convenient for delivery of newspapers and similar articles, and which holds the articles securely and keeps them dry and intact until the householder picks them up.

Other objects are to provide a receptacle which gives an indication when a delivery has been made, and which the householder can bring into the house without having to go outdoors. Other advantages and novel features of the device will be apparent from the description which follows.

The device consists in general of a container, preferably of tubular shape, having an open end, and a closed tapered end, and having means in its interior for gripping a newspaper or similar article securely. The container is mounted by separable connections on a post convenient to the street or side walk, with a cord or chain attached to its tapered end and leading to the house.

In the drawings illustrating the invention:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the receptacle mounted outside a house;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the receptacle, portions being shown in longitudinal cross-section;

Fig. 2*a* shows an alternative form for the holder spring;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the receptacle;

Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the receptacle;

Fig. 5 is a cross-section taken along line **5—5** of Fig. 2;

Fig. 6 is a perspective detail of the rear connection;

Fig. 7 is a front view of a modified form of connection for mounting the holder; and

Fig. 8 is a side view, partly in section, of the receptacle with a modified form of holder.

The container, which may be made of any suitable weather-resistant material, such as sheet metal or plastic, has a tubular body **10**, open at the left-hand end, and a conical right-hand end **11**. The body is shown as cylindrical in cross-section but may be elliptical or other suitable shape affording a relatively smooth junction with a tapered end. A cord **12** is attached to end **11**, and runs

in to some location near the house, where it may be attached, for example, by means of a hook **13** engaging an eye on the door frame. A shield **14** overhangs the open end of the body, and the body has a pair of circumferential corrugations **15** and **16**, which serve the dual purpose of stiffening the container near its open end and providing internal troughs to trap any water which might enter the open end. The corrugations also deflect water running down the outside so that it will not tend to flow into the open end.

An angular bracket **17**, which supports the container, is mounted on a post **18**, or may be mounted on a tree or gate post. Mounted on the top of the container body is a short piece of rod **19**, disposed longitudinally on the body, and a ring **20**, disposed transversely of the body. A leaf spring **21**, having bowed side portions and reentrant legs **22** and **23**, is attached to the forward end of the bracket, and a rearwardly projecting hook **24** is attached to the rear part of the bracket. When the container is in place, ready to receive delivery, rod **19** is engaged between legs **22** and **23**, and ring **20** engages over hook **24**. A pin **32** is mounted in rod **19** with its ends projecting to keep the receptacle from sliding back with respect to the bracket. It is understood that the bracket is so mounted that the open end of the container will face toward the street, or sidewalk, which is referred to as the front or forward direction. The container when thus in place on the bracket, may be horizontal, but preferably has a slight downward tilt toward the front so that water entering the open end will run out. Weep holes may also be provided in the bottoms of corrugations **15** and **16**.

A number of coil springs **25** are mounted to project across the open end of the container, and have free ends disposed toward its central axis. Four springs are here shown, but more or fewer may be employed. These springs will readily bend back to allow a newspaper or other article to be pushed into the container, but are sufficiently stiff to keep light objects such as letters from falling out. Further back in the container is disposed a holder **26**, of metal or other stiff material, which is shaped something like a shoe horn and has a curvature approximately conforming to that of a rolled newspaper. The rim **26***a* of the holder is curved back all around, except at the top, to avoid tearing the paper as it is pulled out. The rim lies close to the inner wall of the body all around when the container is empty. In Figs. 2 and 5 this holder is shown as attached by means of a pair of rivets **27** to a leaf spring **28**, the forward end **29** of which is attached to the container. The spring **28** slopes downward toward the bottom of the container and has a rear leg **30** which projects upward. The free end **31** of this leg is normally spaced a short distance from the top of the container and is bent forward parallel to the container wall, so that it will slide back easily along the wall when it engages the latter. When a rolled newspaper is pushed in from the front it engages the holder **26** and turns it upward toward a horizontal position. The end **31** of the spring strikes the top wall of the container and slides back as the spring is flattened. As the pressure of the holder on the newspaper becomes progressively greater as the spring is flexed, this arrangement gives a firmer grip on large papers than on smaller ones and will thus securely hold a fairly heavy newspaper.

In Fig. 2*a* the holder **26** is connected to the container body by a short leaf spring **43** which is similar to spring **28** with the bowed portion **30** omitted.

Toward the rear of the holder a coil spring **34** is mounted in somewhat the same manner as one of the springs **25**, and acts as a stop for short newspapers so that they will not be pushed too far back in the holder and become jammed in the container. A long news-

paper can be pushed past spring **34** by applying a little extra force.

In preparation for receiving deliveries, the container is connected to the bracket **17** by engaging ring **20** over hook **24** and snapping rod **19** into position between legs **22** and **23** of spring **21**. As the delivery boy inserts articles in the container, the ends of pin **32** will engage spring **21**, so that the receptacle will not slide back and drop off. After the paper is inserted, the boy gives the receptacle a slight downward push, disengaging rod **19** from the legs of spring **21**. The container will then rotate on hook **24** to hang in the position indicated by the dotted line **35** in Fig. 1, because of the fact that the longer part of the container and the major weight of the contents lie forward of ring **20**. In this position the contents are well shielded from rain or snow. Holder **26** retains the newspaper, and springs **25** serve to retain mail and small packages which are too short to be gripped by the holder, as previously explained. Spring **34** prevents short papers from going back too far and upsetting the balance of the device. The tilted position of the container indicates to the householder that a delivery has been made. By pulling on cord **12** he disengages ring **20** from hook **24** and pulls the container into the house. The tapered end **11** permits the container to be dragged easily along the ground without catching on stones, grass or other irregularities. Obviously, the container could be pulled up in the same manner to a window or entrance above the first floor.

In the modification shown in Fig. 7, a large spring **36**, similar in shape to spring **21** and having bowed, reentrant legs **37** and **38**, is mounted on the forward end of bracket **17**. The legs of this spring grip the body **10** of the receptacle. Preferably the bracket is so proportioned that the spring legs embrace the receptacle just back of corrugation **16**. The latter will thus serve as a stop to keep the receptacle from sliding back as the newspaper is inserted. The receptacle can be disengaged from the spring by a slight downward push.

In Fig. 8 a modified form of attachment for the paper holder is shown. The holder **26** is hinged to the receptacle body, for example by lugs **39** rotatably engaging pins **40**. A bracket **41** is attached to the top of the body, and a coil spring **42** is attached to the bracket and bears against the back of the holder. Other spring arrangements may also be employed to press the holder down.

This device insures that the newspaper is received by the subscriber in good condition and spares the householder the inconvenience and discomfort of going outdoors in stormy weather. Furthermore, the receptacle results in a considerable saving to a concern delivering newspapers. One delivery boy can cover a larger territory as he need not take time to go into long driveways or entrance walks. If the rectacle is placed at the proper height, he can insert the paper without dismounting from the bicycle. Likewise, if deliveries are made by automobile, proper placing of the receptacle close to the road allows the driver to make deliveries without getting out of the car. In areas where houses are too scattered and far from the road to be serviced economically at present, use of devices such as that here disclosed will materially reduce the cost of deliveries, so that delivery service can be profitably extended into such areas.

What is claimed is:

1. A supported receptacle for receiving deliveries of articles such as newspapers, envelopes and the like, comprising an elongate container having an open end and a closed end, a support for said container, first co-acting means on said support and container for detachably pivotally mounting the closed end portion of the container on said support, second co-acting means on said support and container for releasably mounting the open end portion of the container on the support with the longitudinal axes of the container generally in a horizontal plane, whereby said container may swing by gravity about the pivot at said first co-acting means to a position in which the closed end of the container becomes disposed at a substantially higher elevation than the open end in response to release of the container at said second co-acting means, and a resilient clamp within said container for clamping an article inserted within said container through the open end thereof and for holding said article against dropping out of the container when its said open end swings downwardly.

2. A supported receptacle as defined in claim 1, wherein said first co-acting means consists of a hook on one and an eye on the other of said support and container, and said second co-acting means comprises resilient arms on one of said support and container for yieldingly gripping a portion of the other one of said support and container and releasable by downward pressure on said open end portion of the container.

3. A supported receptacle as defined in claim 1, wherein said container has generally cylindrical form, and said closed end thereof has generally tapering form, and a flexible linear element connected to said closed end and leading to a remote location for detaching the container from said support at said first co-acting means in response to pull on said element at said remote location, said container being then free to drop from the support to the ground and to be drawn along the ground to said remote location by means of said element with said tapered end constituting a nose for guiding the container past obstacles in the path of travel of the drawn container.

4. A supported receptacle as defined in claim 1, wherein said container has generally cylindrical form, with its said closed end tapering generally to a point, and wherein said first co-acting means consists of a hook fixed on said support and an eye fixed on said closed end portion of said container, said second co-acting means comprising a resilient clamp on said support for releasably gripping a portion of said container, and a flexible linear element connected to the point of said closed end of the container and leading to a remote location, the open side of said hook being open generally toward said remote location whereby said eye on the container may be drawn off said hook in response to a pull on said element at said remote location when said open end portion of the container is preliminarily released from said clamp, said container being then free to drop from the said support to the ground with its said pointed end constituting a nose for guiding the container past obstacles in its path to said remote location.

5. A supported receptacle as defined in claim 1, wherein said first and second co-acting means are coordinated for mounting said container on said support with its said open end slightly lower than its closed end whereby any water getting into the container will drain out through said slightly lower open end of the container in its mounted generally horizontal condition.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

307,761	Harger	Nov. 11, 1884
714,409	Shuttleworth	Nov. 25, 1902
917,428	Graham	Apr. 6, 1909
926,613	Sheets	June 29, 1909
998,194	McGloudy	July 18, 1911
1,904,448	Hampden	Apr. 18, 1933
2,102,620	Gilman	Dec. 21, 1937
2,532,289	Cahill	Dec. 5, 1950