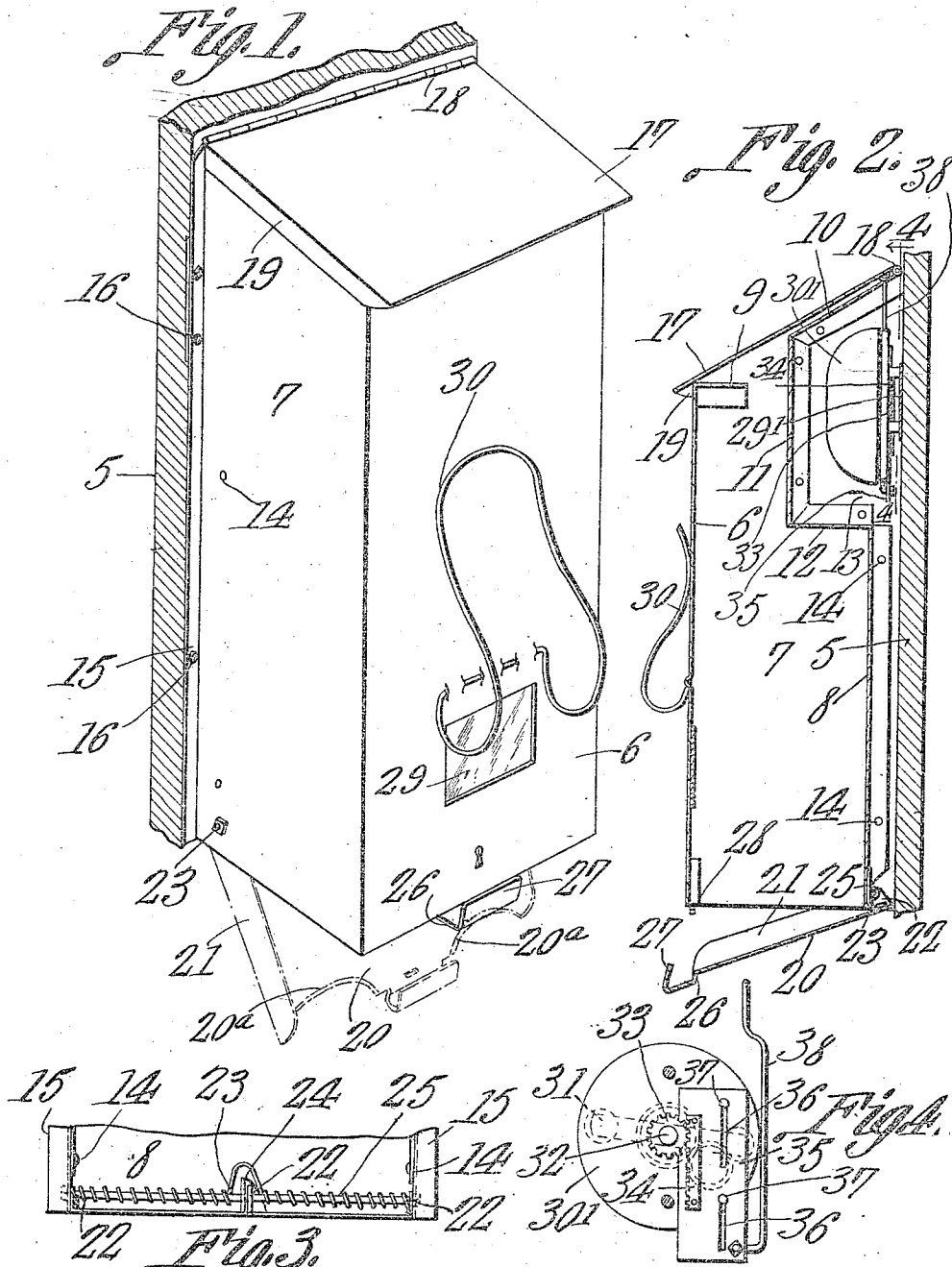


J. W. HENRY.
MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 11, 1910.

1,041,788.

Patented Oct. 22, 1912.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. HENRY, OF CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA.

MAIL-BOX.

1,041,788.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 22, 1912.

Application filed July 11, 1910. Serial No. 571,468.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. HENRY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Crawfordsville, in the county of Montgomery and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Mail-Box, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mail boxes designed to be mounted on a house door, or at any other suitable location, and in which the mail matter for the owner of the box is deposited by the carrier.

The invention also has for its object to provide a mail box embodying certain novel features of construction to be hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail box constructed in accordance with the present invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the box. Fig. 3 is an elevation of the lower rear end of the box. Fig. 4 is a sectional detail on the line 4-4 of Fig. 2.

Referring specifically to the drawing, 5 denotes the part to which the mail box is secured. This part may be the house door, or the box may be mounted at any other convenient location so as to be readily accessible to the carrier. The box is substantially rectangular in form, and has a front wall 6, side walls 7, a rear wall 8, and a top comprising fixed front and rear portions 9 and 10 respectively, the latter of which is slanting. The parts 9 and 10 are spaced from each other to form a slot through which the mail matter is inserted into the box but which is too small to admit a hand to remove mail matter once dropped into the box. At its front end, the portion 10 of the top is bent downwardly as indicated at 11 to form the upper portion of the rear wall of the box. At the lower end of the portion 11, a rearward bend 12 is made to join the wall 8. By this arrangement of the parts forming the slanting top and rear wall of the box, a recess 13 is formed at the back of the box, which is for a purpose to be presently described. The parts 10, 11, 12 and 8 are flanged at their ends as shown in Fig. 2, on which flanges the side walls 7 fit, and by means of rivets or other fastening means 14 passing therethrough, the parts are rigidly connected. The side walls 7 have outstanding flanges 15 which are perforated to receive screws or other fastening means 16 for

securing the box to the door or other support 5.

The top of the box is provided with a closure comprising a lid 17 which is hinged to the rear portion of the top wall 10 as indicated at 18. The side edges of the lid have depending flanges 19 which overlap the corresponding side walls 7 of the box. The lid extends forwardly sufficiently so as to completely cover the slot or space between the walls 9 and 10.

The bottom of the box is closed by a downwardly swinging door 20 having upstanding flanges 21 at its side edges which extend into the box when said door is in closed position. The door is hinged to the rear portion of the box, it being formed with outstanding ears 22 through which passes a rod 23 mounted in the side walls 7 of the box, and extending therebetween. An ear 24 struck up from and bent outward at right angles to the wall 8, and having an opening through which the rod 23 passes, serves to brace the same midway between its ends. A spring 25 is coiled around the rod, looped at its center over said ear, and connected at its ends to the door in such a manner that it is normally held closed.

From the front edge of the door 20, midway between its ends, extends a ledge 26 having an upstanding flange 27 at its extremity. The purpose of this ledge and the flange is to support the mail matter, and to prevent the same from dropping on the ground when the door 20 is opened. It will be seen that the mail matter slides downwardly on the door when it is opened, and it comes to a rest on the ledge 26, and is supported by the same and the flange 27 in convenient position for removal. The flange 27 is located in front of the box when the door 20 is in closed position, and therefore also affords convenient means for taking hold of the door and swinging the same open. The front edge of the door, on opposite sides of the ledge, has notches 28, to facilitate taking hold of the mail.

The door 20 will be provided with a suitable lock 28, a detailed description of which is not deemed necessary as it forms no part of the present invention. The front wall of the box is also provided with a glazed opening 29 so that the contents of the box may be visible from the outside. Above the opening 29 the front wall carries a spring clip 30 to hold outgoing mail, also for hold-

ing papers and other matter too large to pass into the box.

Extending across the recess 13, and secured to the flanges 15 is a plate 29' which carries a bell 30', said bell being located within the recess and the base of the bell being secured to the plate 29'. The bell is sounded by a revolving clapper 31 which is geared to a shaft 32 extending through the base of the bell, and being fitted, on the outside of the latter with a pinion 33 which is in mesh with a rack 34 carried by a slide plate 35 mounted on the bell base, said plate having alined longitudinal slots 36 into which extend guide pins 37 carried by the bell back and which support the plate. A rod 38 connects the plate 35 to the lid 17, so that when said lid is opened, the rack 34, through the pinion 33, the shaft 32, and the gearing connecting said shaft to the clapper, operates the latter to sound the bell. A signal is therefore given when the mail carrier opens the lid 17 to deposit mail matter in the box. The bell also rings when the lid is closed. The door 5 or other part on

which the mail box is supported entirely closes the recess 13, so that the bell may not be tampered with.

What is claimed is:

In combination with a mail box having a hinged closure, a bell arranged therein and including a base, a rotary clapper and a shaft for the clapper extending through the base, the base being secured to the mail box, a pinion on the shaft outside of the base, a sliding plate on the base and having alined slots therein, pins carried by the base and extending into the slots of the said plate to support the plate, a rack bar carried by the plate and meshing with the said pinion, and a rod connecting the closure and the said plate.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN W. HENRY.

Witnesses:

MABEL HAMILTON,
CHARLES L. THOMAS.