

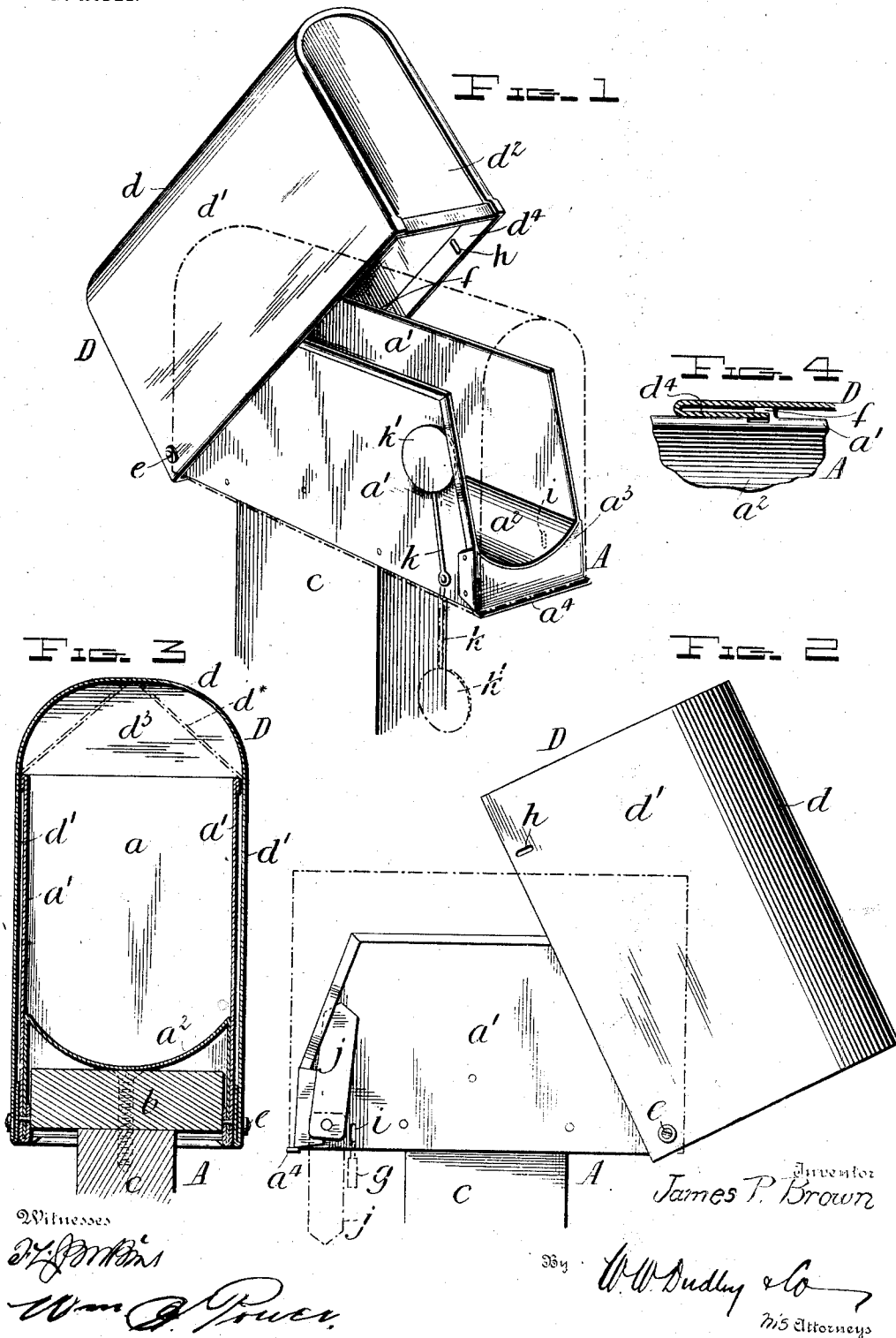
No. 736,815.

PATENTED AUG. 18, 1903.

J. P. BROWN.
MAIL RECEPTACLE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 3, 1902.

NO MODEL.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES PARK BROWN, OF HILLSBORO, ILLINOIS.

MAIL-RECEPTACLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 736,815, dated August 18, 1903.

Application filed November 3, 1902. Serial No. 129,960. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES PARK BROWN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hillsboro, in the county of Montgomery and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Receptacles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to mail-receptacles, and contemplates the production of a collection and delivery box adapted more especially for use in rural free-delivery districts. The box to this end being waterproof and dust-proof is readily opened and closed and while open affords protection to the contents against rain or snow.

Other advantages possessed by my improved mail-box are set forth in the following description of the construction and operation, in connection with which attention is called to the accompanying drawings, illustrating the invention in its preferred form, it being understood that various changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail-box embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation. Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail view showing the means for limiting the opening movement of the lid.

Referring to the drawings by letter, A denotes the body of the box, having a back a , sides a' a' , and a bottom a^2 , which latter may be of flat form, but is preferably transversely concave, as shown, to facilitate the removal of the contents. The bottom has depending side portions, and the box sides are upturned at the lower end for connection with the side portions, and rivets are employed to securely fasten these parts together. The body has a front a^3 below the bottom which terminates in a lower outwardly-projecting lip a^4 .

As shown more clearly in Fig. 3, a recess is provided below the bottom for a block b , which is first nailed or screwed to the top of a post or upright c and is then nailed or screwed to the box-body. As the lid, presently to be described, when in closed position completely covers the box-body, the securing

nails or screws are covered and protected from rust and from being withdrawn to unlawfully remove the box.

The lid D has a top d , sides d' d' , a front d^2 , and a back d^3 . The top, which may be curved or A form, as indicated at d^* , Fig. 3 in cross-section, is integral with the sides, and the front and back are jointed by a double seam to the sides and top to render the lid completely water and dust proof. The lid is pivoted at its lower rear corners to the lower rear corners of the box-body by bolts e , and the forward ends of the box sides a' are formed to permit the lid to be swung to completely cover the body, the lid in its closed position resting at its front on the lid a^4 . The opening movement of the lid is limited by hooks f , struck from the downturned upper edge of the sides a' , engaging the upturned lower edge d^4 of the lid sides d' . The lid when closed completely covers the box-body and effectually protects the contents thereof, and even while the box is open during collections and deliveries the contents is protected from rain or snow and also from winds. The lid is easily and quickly opened and is self-closing.

Any suitable locking means, including a key-released spring-catch, may be provided; but I prefer to employ a padlock g , the shackle of which is passed through an opening h in the lid and a registering opening i in the box-body. Pivoted to one side a' of the box-body, close to the opening i , is an arm j , constituting the carrier's signal. The folded and extended positions of the arm are shown and indicated in Fig. 2, and it will be noted that in either position the arm is locked by the padlock-shackle, thereby preventing unlawful movement of the signal. In its folded position the arm engages at its free end the downturned edge of the side a' , and thereby does not obstruct the closing of the lid. At the opposite side is pivoted an arm k , carrying a disk k' , which constitutes the patron's signal. Fig. 1 shows this signal in folded and extended positions.

In operation, supposing the lid to be lowered, a slight pressure is sufficient to lift the lid and expose the contents, if any, of the box. The lid may be raised to any desired angle and mail may be deposited or with-

drawn without allowing rain or snow to enter the box, and by reason of the end opening the mail can be readily removed by a gloved hand.

5 The box is very simple in construction, and hence may be inexpensively made. Moreover, the simplicity of structure and freedom from exposed joints, rivets, and the like insure durability and unimpaired usefulness.

10 I claim as my invention—

1. A mail-box consisting of a body having a bottom, sides, a back and an open front, and a lid pivoted at its rear end to said body and completely covering the sides, back and
15 front of the body in its closed position.

2. A mail-box consisting of a body having a bottom, sides, a back and an open front, and a lid pivoted at its rear end to said body

and completely covering the sides, back and front of the body in its closed position, a shoulder on the body forming the support for the lowered free end of the lid, and means for limiting the opening movement of the lid. 20

3. A mail-box having a body and a pivoted lid completely covering the body in its closed position, registering openings in the body and lid for the shackle of a padlock or the like, and a signal-arm pivoted to the body side to be engaged and locked by the shackle in folded or extended position. 25

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses. 30

JAMES PARK BROWN.

Witnesses:

THOS. P. MARTIN,

T. C. WHITE.