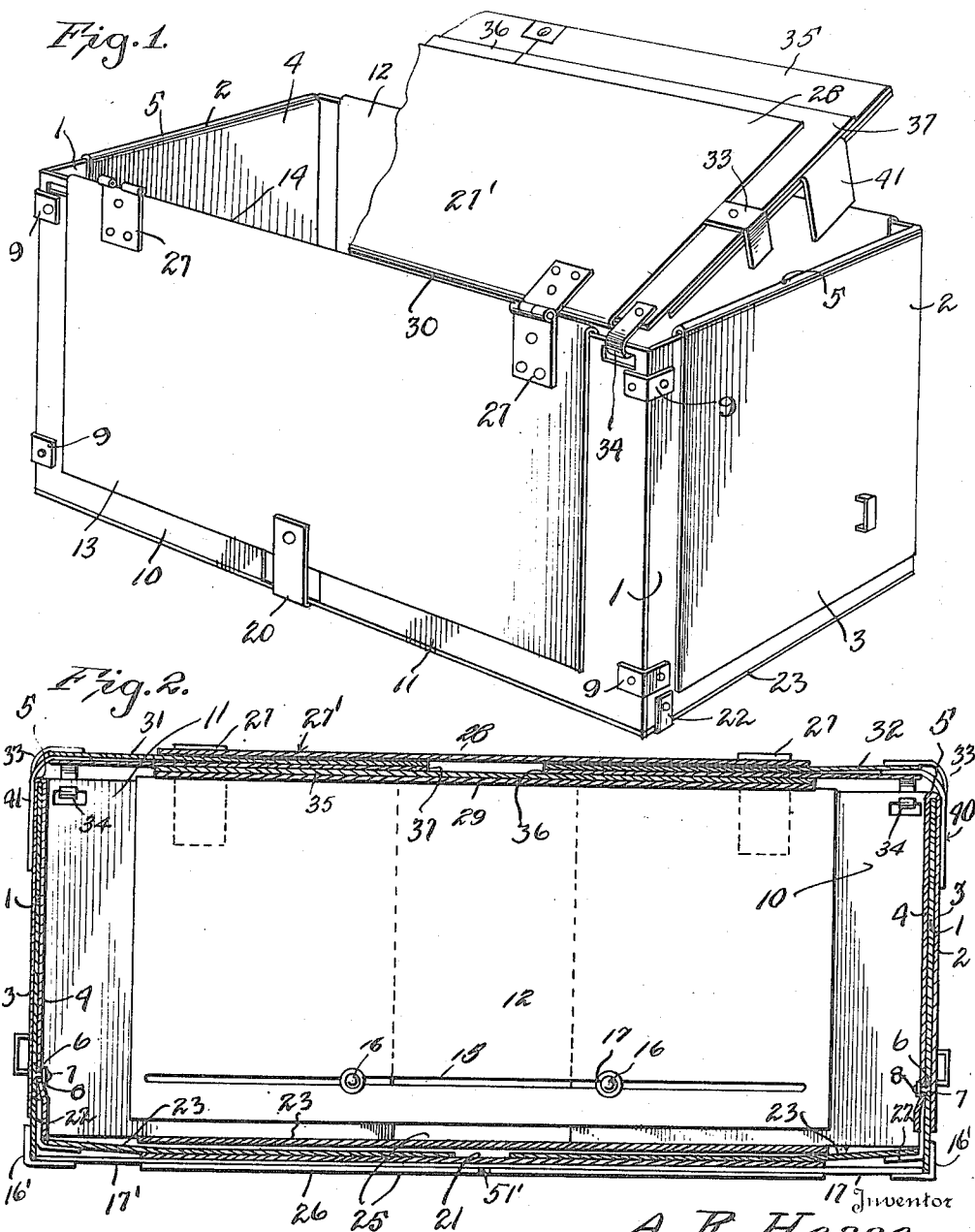


A. R. HESSE.
 PARCEL POST MAIL BOX.
 APPLICATION FILED MAY 11, 1914.

1,212,948.

Patented Jan. 16, 1917.
 3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



A. R. Hesse.

Witnesses

R. J. MacArthur
D. W. Morris

By *Charles Charles*
 Attorney

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Fig. 3.

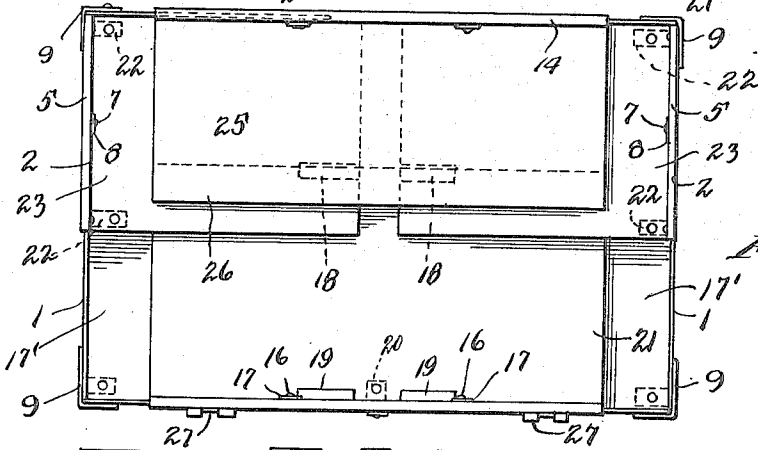
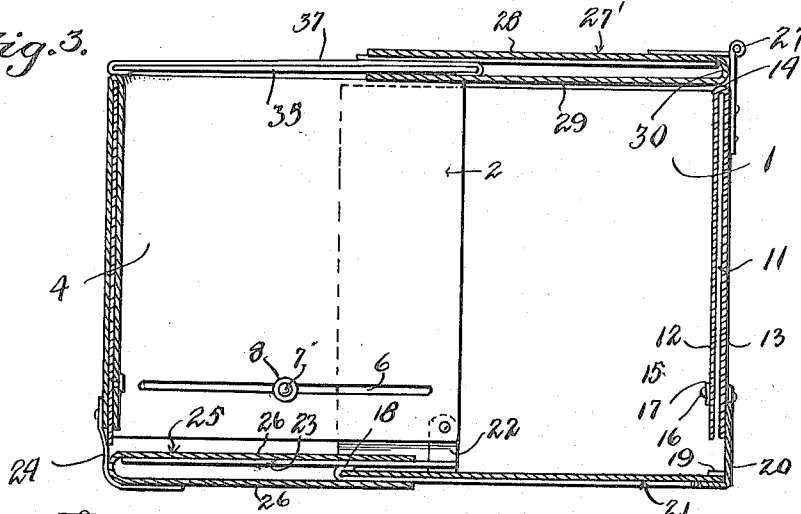


Fig. 4.

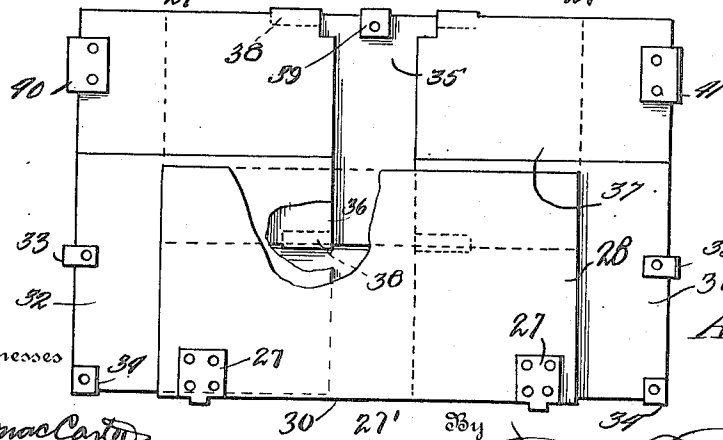


Fig. 5.

Witnesses

J. MacCartney
D. H. Morris.

Inventor
A. R. Hesse

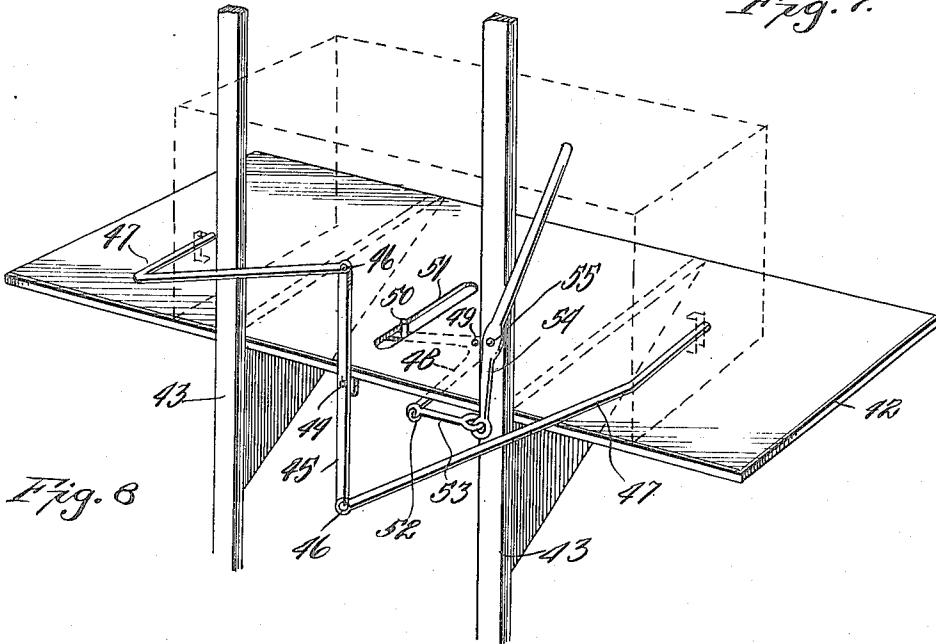
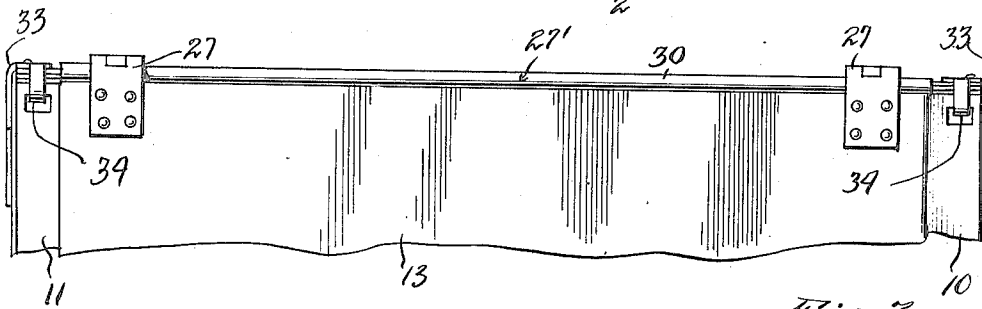
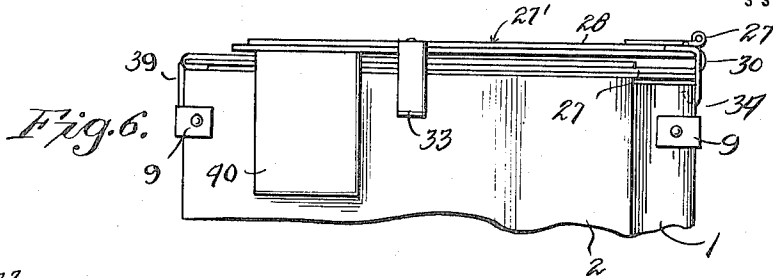
Charles Attorney

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Witnesses

J. MacCarte
D. L. Morris

Inventor
A. R. Hesse

By *Charles H. Hesse*
 Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ALBERT R. HESSE, OF KELSO, MINNESOTA.

PARCEL-POST MAIL-BOX.

1,212,948.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 16, 1917.

Application filed May 11, 1914. Serial No. 837,814.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT R. HESSE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kelso, in the county of Sibley, State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Parcel-Post Mail-Boxes; 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 parcel post mail boxes.

An object of the invention is to provide a box which is expansible either transversely or longitudinally or in both directions.

A further object of the invention is to provide a box which may be adjusted to different sizes so that it may be made just large enough to accommodate the particular package which is to be shipped.

A still further object of the invention is to provide means for expanding the said box in either or both directions.

With the above and other objects in view such as will appear as the description progresses, my invention comprises the combination and arrangement of parts as hereinafter set forth and subsequently claimed.

Referring to the drawing: Figure 1 is a perspective view of a part of the cover thereof broken away. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section showing the construction of the inside of the front of the box in elevation and the construction of the sides, cover and bottom in section. Fig. 3 is a section taken at right angles to Fig. 2, showing the box partly expanded transversely. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the box with the cover removed, showing it partly expanded. Fig. 5 is a similar view of the cover. Figs. 6 and 7 are detail views, showing the members for engaging the sides of the box to expand the cover when the box is expanded. Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the means for expanding the box, with a box shown in dotted lines in place thereon.

Referring to the drawings by reference characters wherein similar parts are indicated by similar characters, the box is made preferably of metal, but may be made of any suitable material possessing the de-

sired degree of rigidity. Each end of the box is composed of a slide member 1, and a guide member 2, the latter being composed of spaced parallel plates 3 and 4 joined at their upper edges by a transverse portion 5, the member 1 is slidable between the plates 3 and 4 for adjusting the ends of the box. On the inside plates 4 and adjacent the lower edge thereof are slots 6. On the plates 1 and extending inwardly therefrom and through the slots 6 are pins 7 having on their inner ends washers 8 to hold them in said slots 6. These pins and washers cooperate with the slots to hold the members 1 and 2 of each end together and also limit the movement of said members when the box is expanded transversely, that is by the engagement with the pins 7 with the ends of the slots 6.

Attached to each of the end plates 1 at the rear edge thereof by angular members 9 are slides 10 and 11. On the inside and outside of these slides are plates 12 and 13 respectively, joined at their upper edges by a transversely extending member 14. The said slides 10 and 11 are adjustable to slide between these plates 12 and 13 on the inside plate 12 and adjacent and parallel to the lower edge thereof is a slot 15 and on each of the slides 10 and 11 is a pin 16 extending through the said slot 15 and held therein by the washers 17. These pins and slots are adapted to cooperate in such a manner as to limit the movement of the slides 10 and 11 with relation to the plates 12 and 13 when the box is being expanded longitudinally.

The construction of the front of the device is practically identical with the construction of the back thereof with the exception that the slides corresponding to the slides 10 and 11 are attached at their ends to the members 2 instead of to the plates 1.

Attached to each of the end plates 1 by angular members 16' and extending inwardly therefrom are plates 17' having on their longitudinal edges clips 18 and 19 bent over and parallel with the said plates. Attached to the rear member 13 by an angular member 20 and extending inwardly therefrom at its lower edge is a plate 21, the longitudinal edges are arranged to fit under the members 18 and 19 of each of the plates 17 and be guided thereby. Attached

to the portions 4 of the end members of the device by angular members 22 at the lower edge of the said portions 4 are inwardly extending plates 23 and on the front of the box secured to the member 13' at its lower edge by angular members 24 is an inwardly extending member 25 U-shaped in transverse cross section and having spaced parallel plates 26 between which plates the members 23 are adapted to slide and be guided.

The relationship as brought out of the several members constituting the bottom of the box is such that they will overlap each other when the box is in its contracted position and will be fully expanded when the box is expanding and the movement of the said members will be limited by the same means which limits the movement of the members which constitute the sides, front and back of the box.

Hinged to the back of the box by hinges 27 at its upper edge is a member 27' having upper and lower plates 28 and 29 joined at their hinged edge by a portion 30. This member is of the same length as the portion 13 of the back of the device and is hinged thereto. Slidably mounted within the aforementioned member are plates 31 and 32 arranged to slide longitudinally of the said member 27' and be automatically operated by the engagement of the outwardly extending clips 33 at the side edges of the said plates which engage the sides of the box. Extending outwardly from the rearmost corners of the plates 32 are clips 34 which pass through the slots 34' in the back of the box to hold the said plates in place when the box is being explained transversely. Slidably mounted between the plates 28 and 29 of the member 27' is a plate 35 having two plates 36 and 37 slidably mounted thereon and guided in their longitudinal movement by clips 38 which prevent any movement transversely of the member 35. This member 35 is adapted to slide between the members 28 and 29 transversely of the said member and carry with it the plates 36 and 37 which are then adapted to slide longitudinally of the plate 35 when the box is expanded longitudinally.

In order that the cover may be automatically expanded the member 35 has at its front edge a downwardly extending member 39 to engage the front of the box to move the said member transversely thereof, while the members 36 and 37 having downwardly extending members 40 and 41 which engage the ends of the box to expand the said members longitudinally of the member 35.

From the foregoing construction it may be readily seen that I have provided a box which may be expanded so as to increase its length greatly, or one which may be ex-

panded so as to increase its width, or which may be expanded to increase both the width and length at the same time, and one wherein the cover and bottom thereof will be automatically expanded when the size of the box is increased.

In order that I may successfully expand the box with relation to any of its dimensions I have provided a shelf 42 supported by brackets 43 on which the box is adapted to rest. On the rear edge of this shelf 42 is pivoted at 44 a lever 45, to each end of which is pivotally secured, as at 46, an angular arm 47 which is adapted to extend around the corner of the box to engage the same at its ends. When the lever 45 is rotated about its pivot the arms 47 by virtue of their engagement with the ends of the box both of said ends extend outwardly and thus expand the box longitudinally.

When it becomes necessary to expand the box or to increase its dimensions transversely I have provided on the under side of the shelf 42 a bell crank lever 48 pivoted at 49, and having on one end a pin 50 extending upwardly through the slot 51 in the shelf 42, and is adapted to engage the hole 51' in the bottom of the box. To the other end of this lever, as at 52, is attached a link 53 which is at its other end pivotally supported by a lever 54 pivoted to the bracket 43 at 55. When this lever is rotated about its pivot in one direction the pin 50 engages the bottom of the box and moves the same so that the transverse dimension of the box is increased.

It is to be understood that when the levers 45 and 54 are moved in directions opposite to those which have been described that an expanded box will be contracted.

I do not wish to be limited to the particular construction of my device shown for it is obvious that numerous changes may be made within the scope of the invention without departing from the language of the claims.

What is claimed is:—

1. A mailing box comprising an expandible body portion and a cover hinged thereto, the said cover consisting of a member comprising upper and lower plates, a pair of plates mounted between the plates of the said member and slidably longitudinally thereof, each of said last mentioned plates having a clip on one end thereof arranged to engage the adjacent end of the box, a second pair of plates slidably mounted between the plates of the said member and movable relatively thereto, the said last mentioned plates having clips on the ends thereof arranged to engage the ends of the box, and an additional clip arranged to engage the forward side of the box.

2. In a mailing box, the combination with an expandible body portion including a back

which consists of a pair of spaced plates and a pair of slides mounted between said plates and movable with relation thereto, of a cover including a pair of spaced plates
5 hinged to the first mentioned pair of plates a pair of sliding plates mounted between the last mentioned pair of plates and hinged to the aforementioned slides and an addi-

tional pair of sliding plates mounted between the last mentioned pair of plates. 10

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

ALBERT R. HESSE.

Witnesses:

JACOB GISH,
S. S. STRIKER.