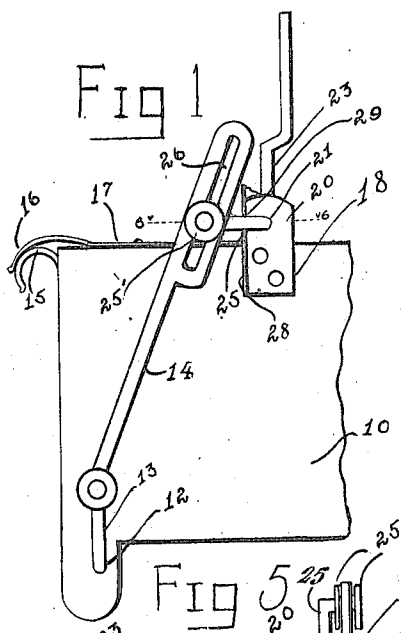
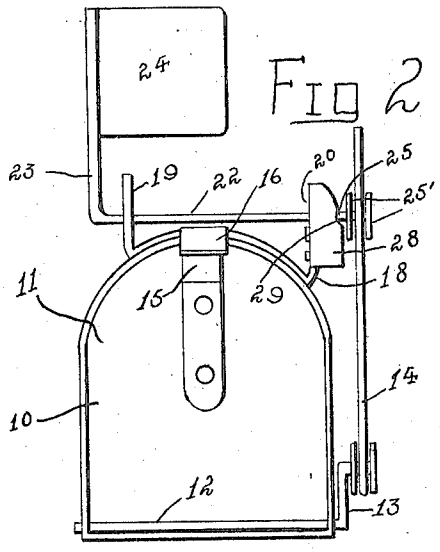
W. D. KLEES.

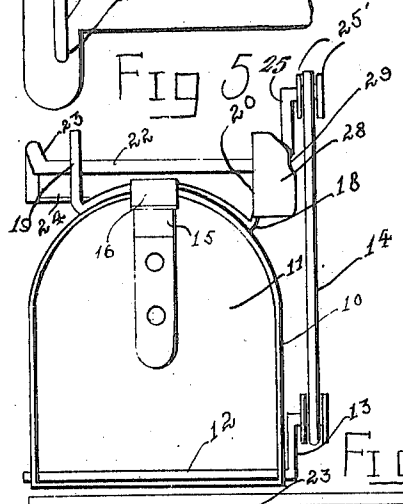
MAIL BOX SIGNAL.

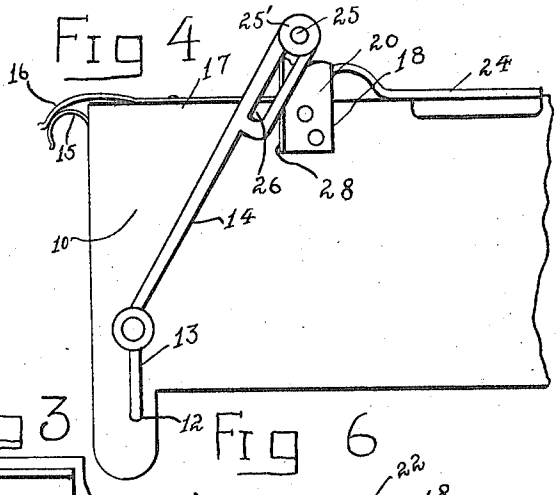
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 19, 1917.

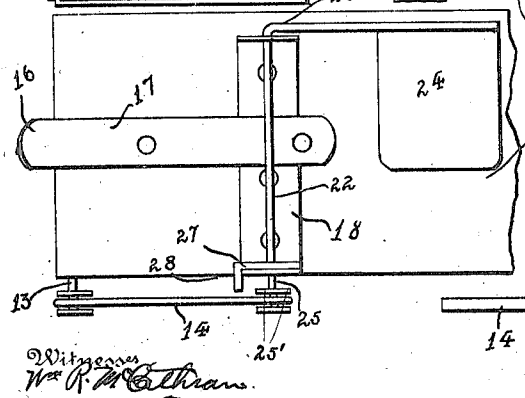
1,264,093. Patented Apr. 23, 1918.

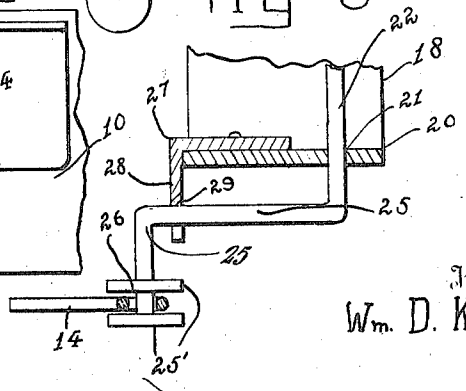












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MAIL-BOX SIGNAL.

1,264,093. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 23, 1918.

Application filed June 19, 1917. Serial No. 175,650.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM D. KLEES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Plainview, in the county of Wabasha, State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Box Signals; 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 improvements in mail boxes and particularly to boxes used in rural communities.

One object of the present invention is to provide a novel signal for the box which is arranged to be elevated by the opening movement of the door through which the mail man inserts the mail.

Another object is to provide novel means for holding the signal in elevated position after the mail has been deposited in the box and the door closed.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a mail box equipped with my signal, the latter being in elevated position.

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the box, the signal being in elevated position.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the same.

Fig. 4 is a side elevation showing the signal in lowered position.

Fig. 5 is a front elevation showing the signal in lowered position.

Fig. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1.

Referring particularly to the accompanying drawing 10 represents a mail box of the type in common use in rural communities. In one end of the box there is mounted a downwardly swinging door 11 which permits access to the interior of the box, the door being rigidly secured to a transverse shaft 12 rotatably supported in the side walls of the open end of the box. One end of this shaft is formed with a crank 13, to which is pivotally connected a vertically extending rod 14.

Mounted on the outer face of the upper or free end of the door is a hook-shaped member 15, the upper or hooked end of which is arranged to snap under the downwardly curved projecting end 16 of a strip 17, which is secured to the top of the mail box.

Secured across the top of the box is a strip 18, the ends of which are turned upwardly, as indicated at 19 and 20, respectively, each of said ends being formed with a transverse opening 21. Disposed through these openings for rotary motion, is a shaft 22, one end of which is turned at right angles, at 23, and carries a metal flag 24, while the other end is turned at right angles, at 25, and carries a pair of spaced disks 25′. The said end 25 is disposed through a longitudinal slot 26 formed in the upper end of the before-mentioned rod 14, the said disks bearing on each side of the said end of the rod to prevent disengagement of the end 25 from the slot.

Secured to the upturned end 20 is an angle plate 27, the portion 28 of which extends outwardly from the side of the box and is formed with a notch 29 for the reception of the crank 25, as will be more clearly explained hereinafter. It will be noted that the upper portion of this angle plate is not secured to the end 20, thus permitting a flexing movement of said portion of the plate when engaged by the crank 25. By reason of this flexibility of the upper portion of the angle plate, the crank 25 will be effectively retained in the notch. It will be noted that the crank portions of the shaft 22 are disposed in planes at right angles to each other, so that when the crank 25 is disposed in the notch, the other crank portion which carries the flag will be in a vertical position, and when the flag portion lies flat on the top of the box, the crank 25 will stand in a vertical position, at the upper end of the slot 26.

In normal condition the flag is disposed on the top of the box and the crank in a vertical position. When the mail man grasps the hook 15 and pulls the door into open position, the rod 14 will be pulled downwardly so that the upper end wall of the slot 26 will exert a corresponding pull on the crank 25 and rock the shaft 22 thus moving the flag into vertical position. The crank 25 will engage with the angle plate 27 and seat itself in the notch thereof, whereby the flag will be held in its vertical position after the door has again been closed. By reason of the length of the slot 26 the crank 25 will not

be moved when the rod 14 moves upwardly during the closing of the door. After the mail has been removed by the owner of the box, the flag is lowered by hand.

What is claimed is:

1. The combination with a mail box having a swinging door, of a signal mounted on the box and arranged for movement into horizontal and vertical positions, a rod operatively connected to the door and movable therewith when the door is opened and closed, a crank member carried by the signal and slidably engaged with the rod for movement by the rod when the door is opened, and means for engagement with the crank member to hold the same from movement by the rod when the door is closed.

2. The combination with a mail box having a pivoted door carrying a crank shaft, a shaft mounted on the box and carrying a signal on one end and a crank on the other end, a rod pivotally connected to the first crank and slidably connected to the other crank, the second shaft being adapted to be moved by the rod when the door is opened, and a resilient detent for engagement with the second crank to render the rod inoperative with respect to the crank.

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

WILLIAM D. KLEES.

Witnesses:

ALBERT H. SENST,

WILLIAM DITTRICH.