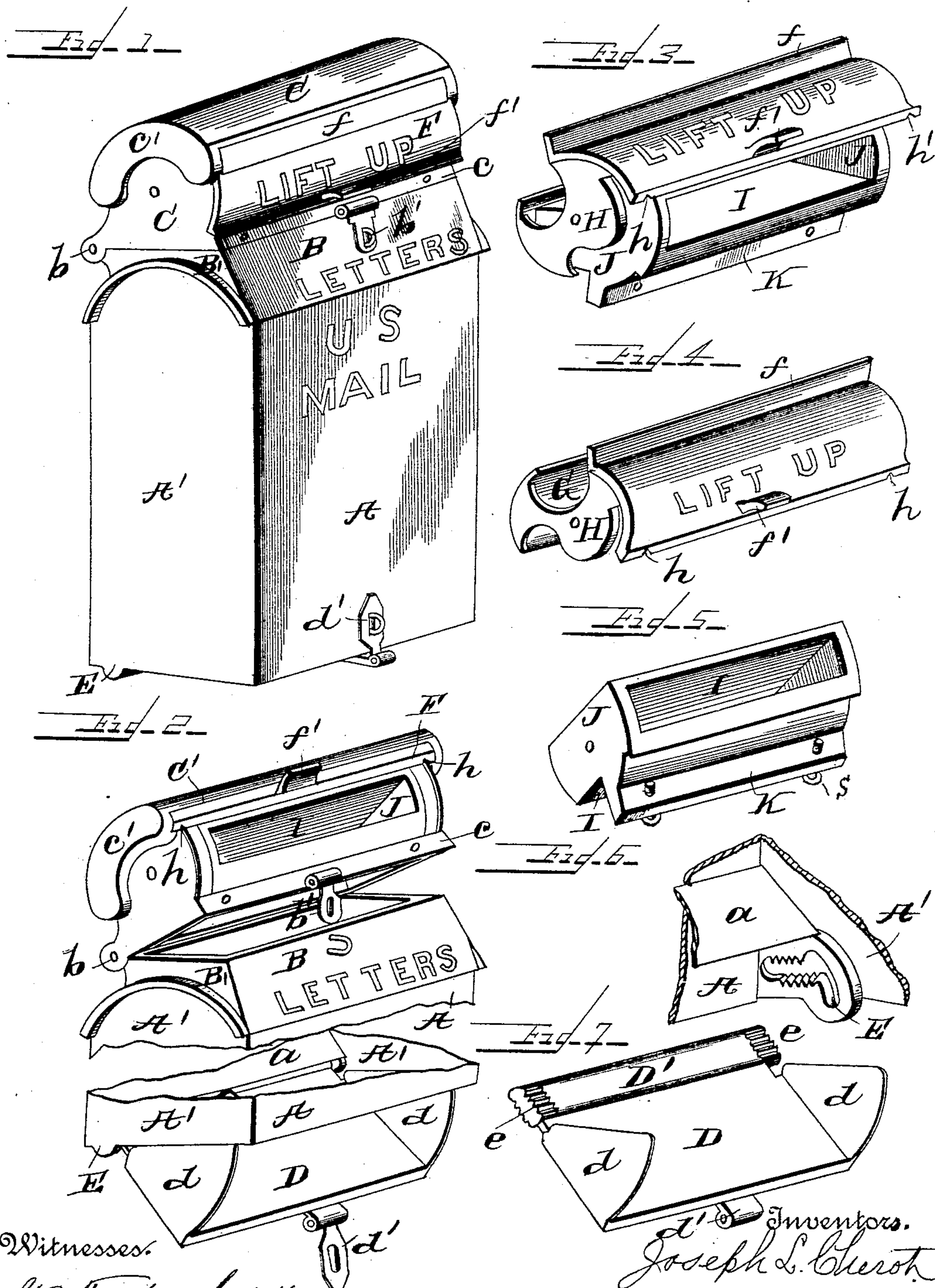


(No Model.)

J. L. CHEROT & J. N. CLOUSE.
LETTER BOX.

No. 494,976.

Patented Apr. 4, 1893.



Witnesses.

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ASSIGNORS OF ONE-FOURTH TO WM. V. ANDERSON, OF SAME PLACE.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 494,976, dated April 4, 1893.

Application filed March 31, 1892. Serial No. 427,303. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOSEPH L. CHEROT and JOSEPH N. CLOUSE, citizens of the United States, residing at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented new and useful Improvements in Street Mail-Boxes, small boxes for general use and large ones for accumulation-boxes, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to an improved street mail box for general city use, small ones for the general street corner boxes, and large ones for the accumulation boxes.

The objects of our improvements are to provide a box that is simple and durable and practically rain and dust proof in its construction. A box also having a pocket through which to deposit mail into it, an upper opening secured by hinges and a pad lock through which to deposit large quantities of mail into the box, and a drop bottom provided with hinges and a pad lock, through which the contents of the box can be quickly emptied out. The whole box in its construction being practically burglar proof, except by violence. We attain these objects by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the exterior of the box complete. Fig. 2, is a perspective view of the exterior upper and lower portions of the box showing the pocket or port open, the hinged upper section open and the drop bottom open, and the shell or body of the box removed to shorten the view. Fig. 3, is a perspective view showing the oscillating cover to the pocket or port with the pocket or port inside of it. Fig. 4, is a perspective view of the oscillating cover separate from the other parts. Fig. 5, is a perspective view of the pocket or port separate from the other parts. Fig. 6, is a perspective broken sectional view enlarged so as to show the internal construction of one corner of the box with the hinge for the adjustable drop bottom. Fig. 7, is a perspective view of the drop bottom showing it separate from the other parts.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The shell or body of the box is composed of sides A, A, and ends A' A' as shown in Fig.

1. This shell or body of the box we design to construct of sheet metal, or to cast in parts and to join the parts together at the corners in a strong and suitable manner by bolts or rivets. To the upper end of this shell or body of the box A, A, and A', A', is secured by means of bolts or rivets a cap frame composed of sides B, B, and ends B', B', and is provided with lugs b, b for hinges and a staple to be used in connection with a hasp and pad lock as shown. This cap frame we design to vary in form and size to make it suitable for casting. To the top edge of this cap frame B, B' is hinged a housing having ends C, C, and a curved top and back C', C', which is also provided with lugs b, b, for hinges, and a hasp to be used in connection with a staple and pad lock to secure the cap frame and the housing together, when it is adapted to the use of an accumulation box but when used for the regular street box this cap frame and housing will be made solid or secured permanently together.

A more detailed description of the housing is necessary to show its special construction and relation to the working parts inside of it. The top and sides of the housing have a rounded circular form the top and back being of a larger circle and higher and covered over solid while the front is of a less circle and open having an offset above from the one circle to the other both sections of circles being struck from a common center on the ends C, C, the same center forming the axis of the internal oscillating parts and the center of curvature of the internal fixed parts, as shown and hereinafter described. The ends C, C, of the housing are further provided with circular projecting portions C', C', built out so as to allow the projecting ends of the oscillating front cover F, to turn inside of the housing, the front cover F, being provided with V shaped grooves h, h, on its under sides which fit the front edges of the ends C, C, which are shaped the same from the offset above down to the break in the curve below formed by the cross rail c, in the front of the housing at its base, as shown in Fig. 2.

On the inside of the housing are arranged an oscillating cover Fig. 4 which is pivoted to the housing and inside of the oscillating

cover is a pocket or port Fig. 5, which is secured by means of rivets screws or bolts to the cross rail C, of the housing through its projecting flange K, thus holding the pocket or port in an extended position in the center of the housing. This pocket or port consists of thin flat sides I, I, and thin flat ends J, J, having center holes common to the center holes of the oscillating cover and the ends of the housing, and having its top and bottom edges cut to a circle from its centers so that the oscillating cover will revolve closely over them alternately covering them and uncovering them, as further shown.

The oscillating cover Fig. 4, is constructed with curved back and front covers permanently joined to irregularly shaped ends or heads. The back cover G, is made light and thin and short enough to oscillate freely inside of the housing ends C, C. The front cover F, is made wide and thick and longer than the housing so that it projects over its ends C, C, and fits onto their edges with V-shaped grooves *h, h*, on its under side. This front cover F, is provided with an outward projecting flange *f*, across its top edge which forms a stop against a shallow rib on the under side of the top of the housing C'. It is also provided with a lifting lug *f'* on its lower front edge. The irregular shaped ends or heads H, H, are cut on a circle struck from the center of each head, which center forms the pivot on which the whole cover oscillates. These heads H, H, are the connecting parts for the back cover G, and the front cover F, and are made solid thereto. That portion of the heads back of the center is made light and thin, while that portion in front of the center is made thick and heavy and swelled out as shown in Fig. 4, so as to get a preponderance of weight on the front side to always make it self closing after it has been opened to deposit mail. When the housing is in position on the box and the pocket or port is secured inside of it as shown and the oscillating cover is placed in its position with the pivots in each end passing through the three heads or ends C, H, and J, it is plainly seen that by lifting up the front cover F, the front of the pocket or port is opened and at the same time the back cover G, closes the bottom of the pocket or port, mail may then be deposited in the pocket then as the front closes the back or bottom of the pocket opens and the mail deposited in the pocket drops down into the body of the box. Then for a carrier to deposit large quantities of mail he takes off the pad lock and opens the box between the housing and the cap frame as provided for.

Next, in order to facilitate the work of emptying the boxes of the mail deposited in them we find it necessary to provide an adjustable drop bottom which is arranged and operated as follows, and shown in the lower section of Fig. 2, and Figs. 6 and 7. This adjustable drop bottom which is shown separate in Fig.

7. consists of a flat plate D, which is fitted loosely to the inside of the bottom of the shell or body of the box and provided with an enlarged portion D' on one side at the back edge which is rounded over the edge and terminates at each end in an oblong rounded projecting portion *e, e*, which forms the pin of the hinge upon which the bottom hangs. It is also grooved on its top and bottom sides and a notch cut in the plate D, to relieve it so that it will pass into the other part of the hinge. From this bottom plate D, at each end rise up flat irregular guard plates *d, d*, which form the sides of a chute when the bottom is down as shown in Fig. 2, lower section. The front edge of the bottom plate D, is provided with a hasp which works in connection with a staple and pad lock to secure it when closed as shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a broken sectional view of the inside of one of the lower back corners of the shell or body of the box, in which is shown a portion A, of the back of the shell of the box and a portion A' of the end of the shell of the box, to which is secured or made solid with the raised irregular shaped socket portion of the hinge E. Its socket or cavity has a peculiar rounded oblong angular shape which is provided with grooves on its bottom side around the angle and its top side back. The back portion of this cavity receives the oblong portion *e*, of the bottom plate D, where it lies loosely and is free to slide forward (when so desired) and turn down into the front portion when the bottom D, is dropped as shown in the lower section of Fig. 2. The grooves in the top and bottom of the cavity are designed to engage into the grooves on the top and bottom sides of the oblong portion *e* of the bottom plate D, and retain it dropped to any angle desired. When it is closed the bottom sets up into the shell a little against a stop rib on the front inside. *a* is a thin strip of metal or other suitable material which is secured at an angle to the back of the shell over the hinges to protect the opening back of the bottom when it is drawn forward to dump it.

The joining and securing of the various parts of the box together will be done in such a way that the mail can not be taken out of it without removing the locks or breaking some portion of the box by violence. Also all joints and openings will be so protected as to exclude rain and dust from the interior of the box.

Having thus described the various parts of our invention and their working relation to each other, so that one skilled in the arts could make and use it, what we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a street mail box, the combination of an ordinary box or shell having an ornamental cap frame above to which is hinged a round topped housing having projecting end portions, and an offset and opening in front,

with an open ended port or pocket fixed on the interior of said housing and extending backward and downward from its opening around which port or pocket, and inside of
5 said housing is pivoted an oscillating cover the front of which is heavy and covers at the same time the front opening of the port and the opening in the front of said housing and alternately covers the back opening of the
10 port when it is lifted to uncover the front of the port to deposit mail therein, substantially as described and specified.

2. In a street mail box, the combination of an ordinary box or shell, with a drop bottom
15 having a flat plate with end guard plates extending up so as to form a chute when it is open, its back edge being thickened up so as to form a hinge with oblong projecting pivots on its ends which are grooved above and be-
20 low, which pivots work in connection with the two socket portions of the hinge which are secured to the inside of the shell at the bottom back, which sockets are extended forward and then downward at an angle and are
25 provided with grooves also, so that by dropping the front edge of the bottom a little it may be drawn forward and dropped little or much as desired, the grooves engaging with each other as described and set forth.

3. In a port or pocket through which to de- 30
posit mail in a street mail box, the combination of a housing forming the top of the box and hinged or pivoted thereto with a fixed port or pocket secured therein the back and front openings of which are opened and
35 closed alternately by an oscillating cover pivoted between the said housing and port, the front cover being made heavy so that it closes the outside by gravity when opened, substantially as specified. 40

4. In a street mail box the combination of a box or shell with a pivoted drop bottom secured by means of a hasp staple and pad lock, a cap frame secured to a housing by means of hinges or pivots and a hasp staple and pad
45 lock, said housing having secured in it a port or pocket and pivoted in it an oscillating cover for the back and front of the port the front cover projecting over the ends of the housing as described and set forth. 50

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH L. CHEROT.
JOSEPH N. CLOUSE.

Witnesses:

PAUL F. COSTE,
GUSTAV F. DECKER.