

No. 630,203.

Patented Aug. 1, 1899.

H. ELROD.
COMBINED LETTER BOX AND BELL.

(Application filed Dec. 19, 1898.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses

A. Roy Appleman
H. J. Riley

By *his* Attorneys,

Harvey Elrod, Inventor.

C. A. Snow & Co.

No. 630,203.

Patented Aug. 1, 1899.

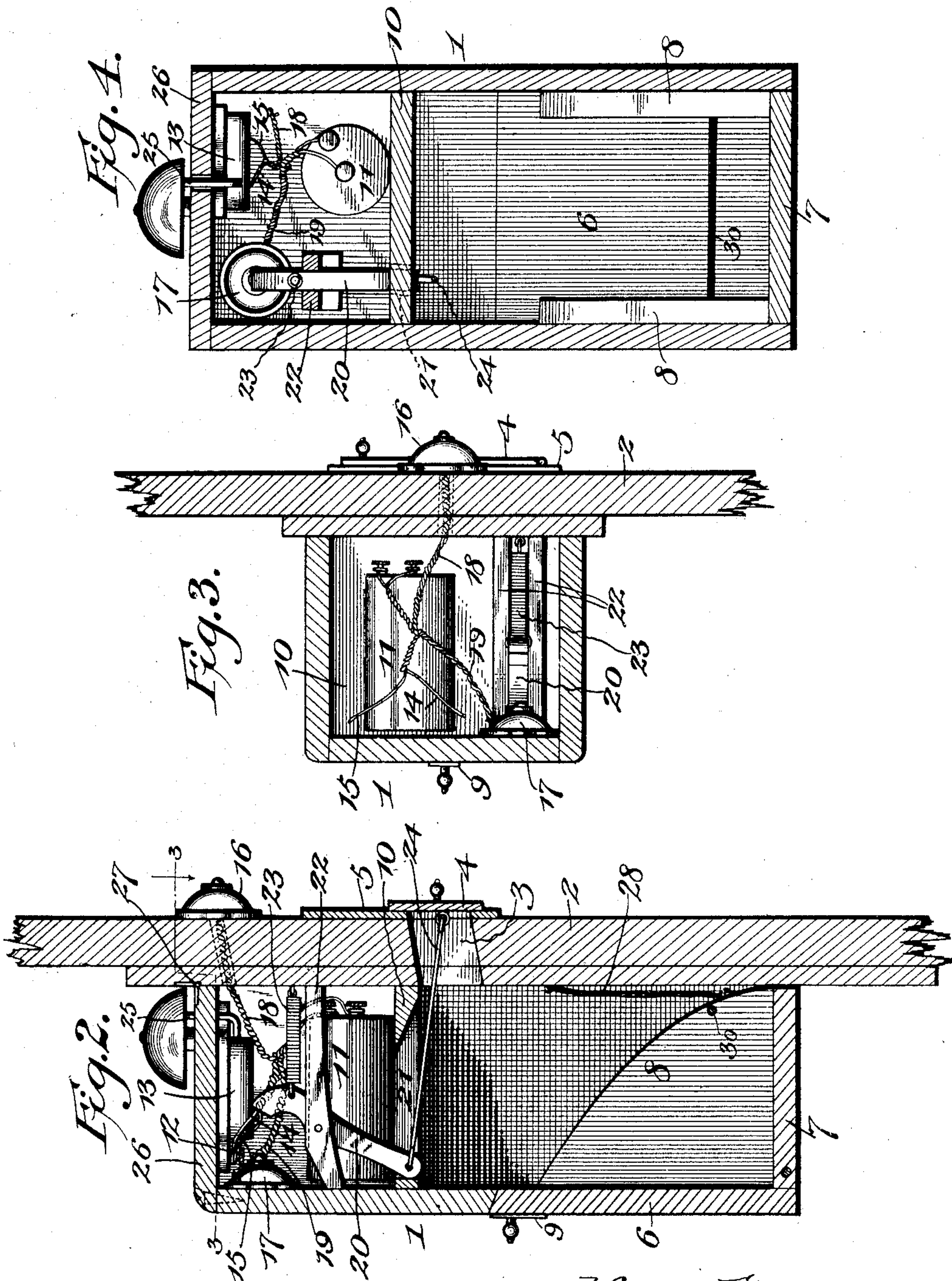
H. ELROD.

COMBINED LETTER BOX AND BELL.

(Application filed Dec. 19, 1898.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.



Witnesses

A. Roy Appleman

J. F. Riley

By his Attorneys,

Harvey Elrod, Inventor.

C. A. Snow & Co.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARVEY ELROD, OF LADOGA, INDIANA.

COMBINED LETTER-BOX AND BELL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 630,203, dated August 1, 1899.

Application filed December 19, 1898. Serial No. 699,710. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARVEY ELROD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ladoga, in the county of Montgomery and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Combined Letter-Box and Bell, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in combined letter-boxes and bells.

10 The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of combined letter-boxes and door-bells and to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient one adapted to be used as an ordinary door-bell and capable of
15 ringing the bell when mail is deposited into it from the exterior to indicate such fact.

20 The invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

25 In the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of a portion of a door provided with a combined letter-box and bell constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view on line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken at right angles to Fig. 2.

30 Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 designates a box or casing mounted on the inner face of a door 2, adjacent to a slot or
35 opening 3 thereof, which is normally covered by a hinged door or plate 4, designed to bear the word "Mail," as illustrated in Fig. 1 of the accompanying drawings, and a face-plate 5 is arranged on the outer face of the door
40 around the opening 3 thereof and is designed to bear the number of the house, the plate 5 being extended above the opening 3, so that the number will be arranged above the word "Mail," as shown. The box or casing 1, which
45 is oblong, as shown, is provided with a hinged door 6, arranged to swing in a vertical plane and carrying the bottom 7 and provided with curved sides 8 to form a drawer or receptacle for the mail. The drawer or receptacle, which
50 is adapted to be swung downward, is provided with a suitable spring-catch for securing it

in its closed position. The spring-catch preferably consists of a sliding bolt 9, having a suitable handle, which also serves as a handle for the drawer or receptacle. 55

The box or casing is provided at the top of the opening 3 of the door with a horizontal partition 10, forming an upper compartment, in which is arranged a dry cell 11, which is connected with the binding-posts 12 of an
60 electric bell 13 by wires 14 and 15 and by branch wires 18 and 19 with circuit-closers 16 and 17, consisting of push-buttons. The circuit-closer 16 is located on the exterior of the door at a point above the letter-box opening and is designed to be used as an ordinary
65 door-bell. The other circuit-closer 17 is arranged within the upper compartment of the box or casing in position to be operated by a spring-actuated lever 20, which is connected
70 with the hinged door or plate 4. The lever 20, which extends through a slot 21 of the partition 10, is fulcrumed between suitable supports 22, and its upper end, which is bent slightly, is arranged to engage the circuit-
75 closer 17 and is connected with a coiled spring 23, secured to the lever and to the inner face of the door, as shown. The lower end of the lever is connected by a wire 24 with the door or plate 4, which is arranged to swing hori-
80 zontally, and when it is opened by a letter-carrier or other person it draws the lower end of the lever outward, causing the upper end thereof to push the button of the circuit-
85 closer.

The bell proper is mounted upon the top of the box or casing. The casing of the bell is secured to the inner face of the top of the letter-box, and the bell-hammer 25 extends through a slot thereof; but it will be readily
90 apparent that the bell can be arranged at a point remote from the letter-box, if desired. The top 26 of the letter-box is hinged at 27 and is provided with a suitable fastening device adapted to hold the top normally closed and
95 to permit the same to be opened to afford access to the interior of the upper compartment.

The outward movement of the pivoted drawer or receptacle is limited by a suitable flexible connection 28, having one end secured
100 to one of the curved sides 8, and its other end is fastened to the front of the box. By this

construction the pivoted door 6 is supported in a horizontal position while the mail is being removed from the box. The sides 8 are connected by a transverse wire or rod 30, which is adapted to throw the mail forward when the pivoted drawer or receptacle is swung downward.

The invention has the following advantages: The combined bell and letter-box is simple and comparatively inexpensive in construction, and it is adapted to be employed as an ordinary door-bell, and it is capable of sounding an alarm when the hinged door 4 is opened for depositing mail into the box, thereby notifying persons within a house of the same.

Changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

What is claimed is—

1. In a device of the class described, the combination with a door having a slot for the introduction of mail, of a box mounted on the inner face of the door and adapted to receive the mail, a movable cover mounted on the exterior of the door and arranged over the slot, an electric bell, a circuit-closer located within the box and connected with the bell and provided with a push-button, a lever fulcrumed within the box and arranged to engage a push-button, a spring for holding the lever normally out of engagement with the push-button, and a connection between the movable cover and the lever, said connection extending through the mail-receiving slot, and arranged to carry the lever into en-

gagement with the push-button when the cover is open, substantially as described.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination with a door having a slot, of a box mounted on the inner face of the door and provided with a horizontal partition forming an upper compartment and having a slot, an electric bell, a battery arranged within the compartment and connected with the bell, inner and outer circuit-closers mounted on the door and in the said compartment and connected with the bell, a lever arranged to engage the inner circuit-closer and extending through the slot of the partition, and a plate or cover arranged over the slot of the door and connected with the said lever, substantially as described.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination with a box having a horizontal partition provided with a slot, of supports located above the partition and arranged adjacent to the slot, a lever fulcrumed on the supports and extending through the slot, an electric bell, a circuit-closer connected with the same and arranged to be engaged by the lever, a spring connected with the lever and holding the same normally out of contact with the circuit-closer, and a lid or cover connected with the lever and adapted to operate the same, substantially as described.

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

HARVEY ELROD.

Witnesses:

HARRY E. DOUGHERTY,
A. M. SCOTT.