

No. 675,753.

Patented June 4, 1901.

C. P. MYER.
MAIL BOX.

(Application filed Feb. 4, 1901.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

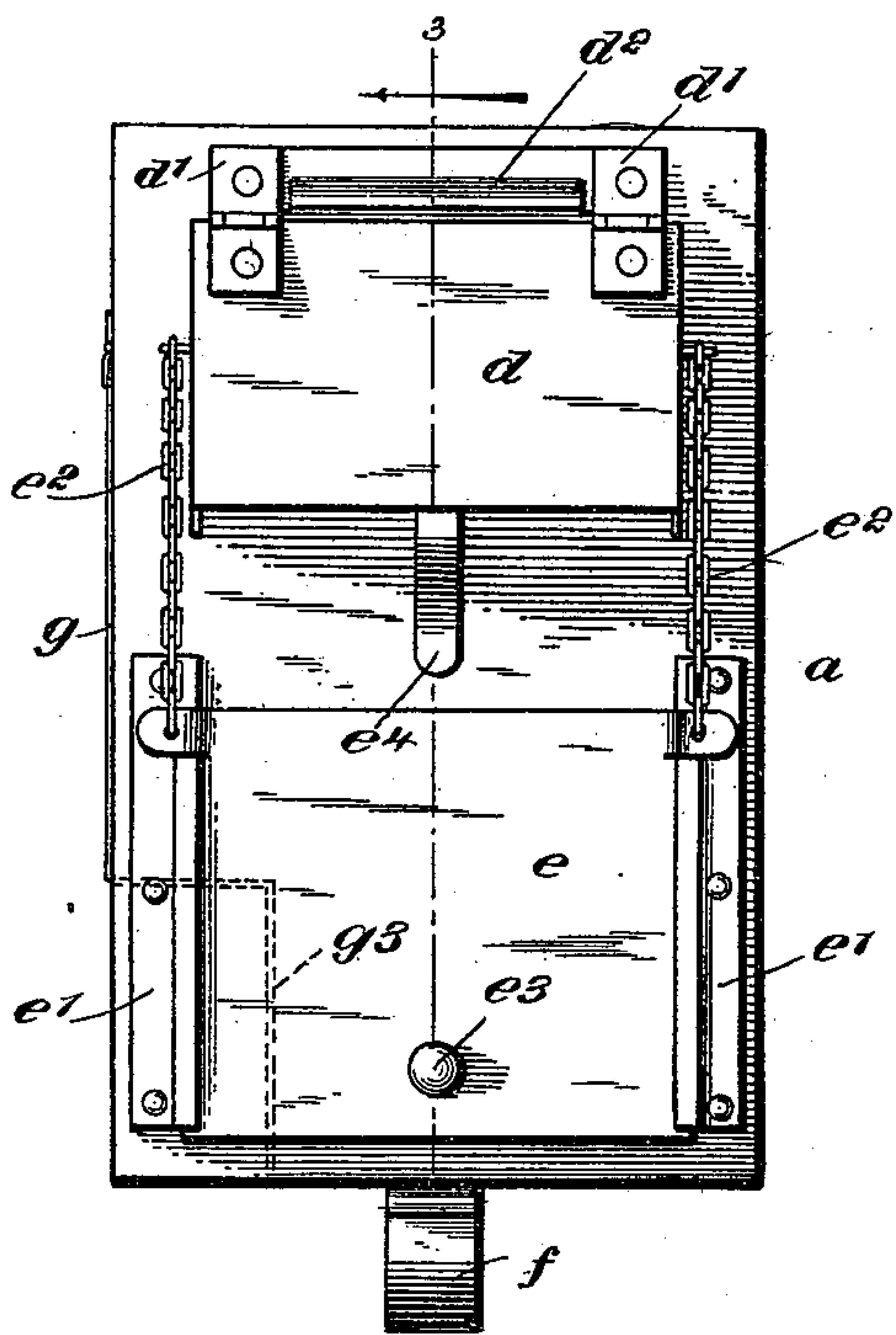


Fig. 2.

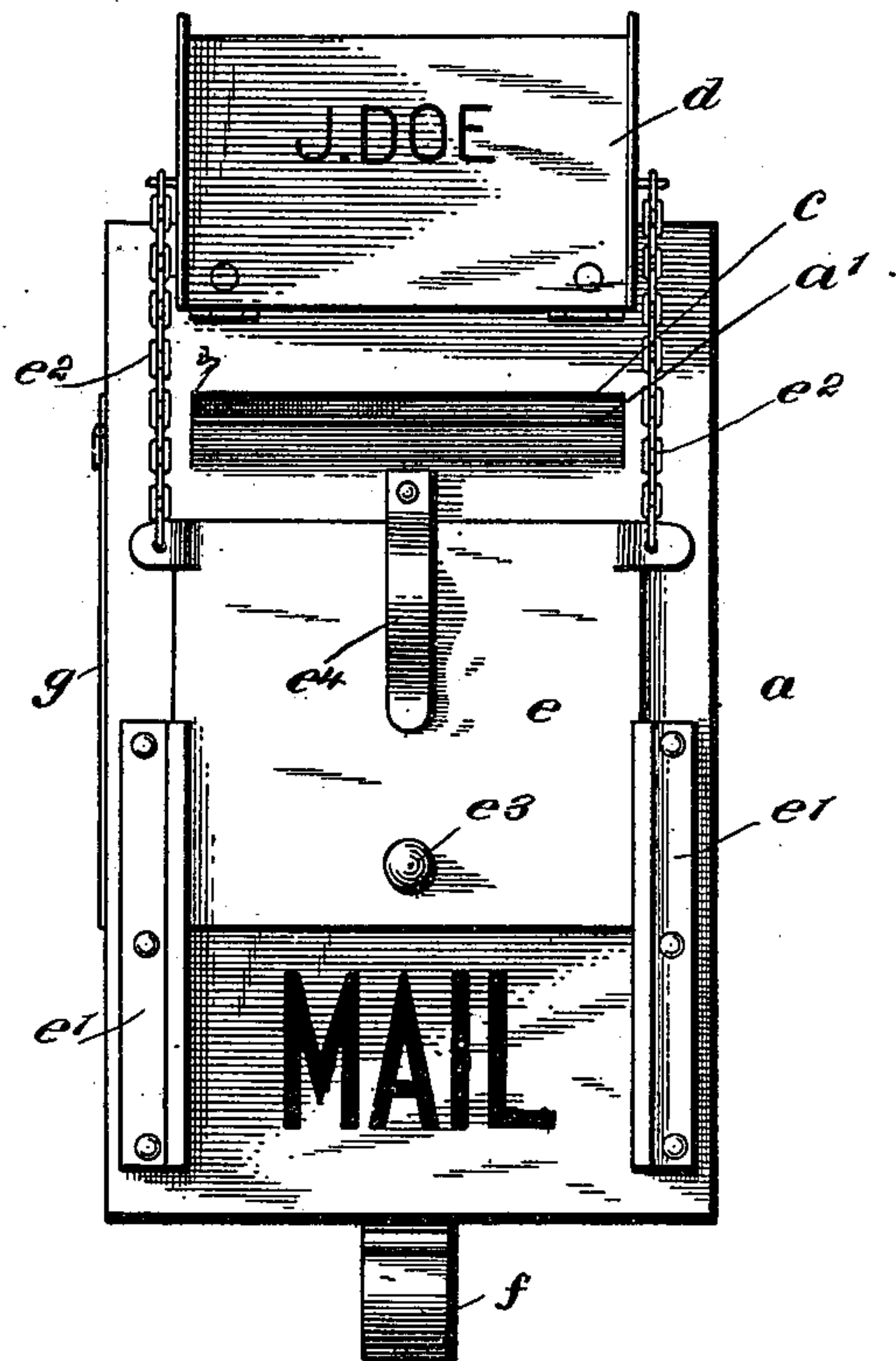
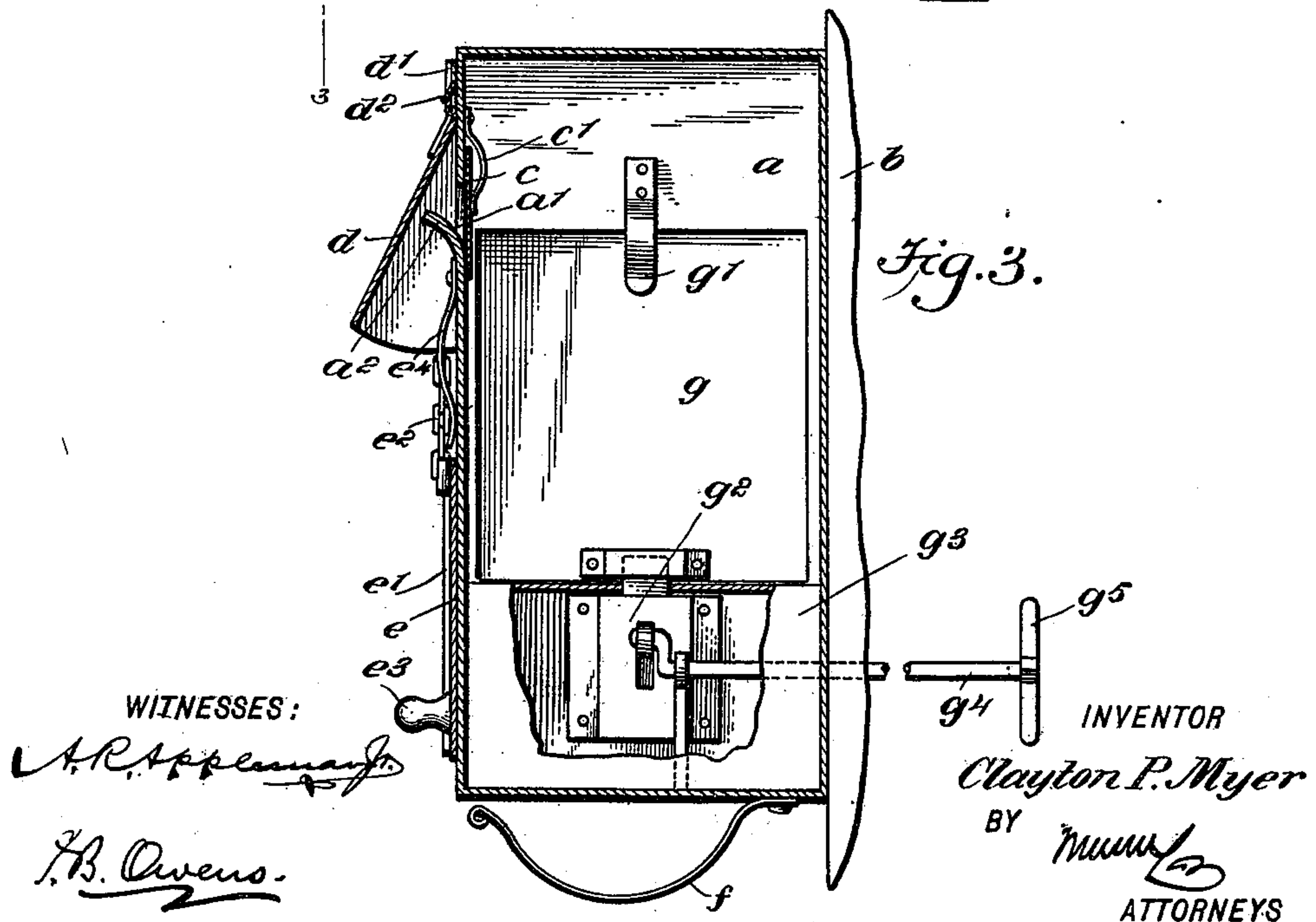


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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CLAYTON PITTINGER MYER, OF SILSBEE, TEXAS.

MAIL-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 675,753, dated June 4, 1901.

Application filed February 4, 1901. Serial No. 45,911. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLAYTON PITTINGER MYER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Silsbee, in the county of Hardin and State of Texas, have invented a new and Improved Mail-Box, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to a mail-box adapted to be placed at or on the house of the person receiving the mail, so as to facilitate a house-to-house delivery.

It comprises principally a box or casing with a hood for the letter-receiving slot, which when lifted to permit the introduction of the letter or letters operates a slide to expose the word "Mail" or the equivalent, thereby showing that mail of some sort has been delivered to the box.

The invention also comprises a door on the box to facilitate the removal of the mail, which door is controlled from the inside of the house, thus making it impossible for any one to open the box without first going into the building.

This specification is a specific description of one form of the invention, while the claims are definitions of the actual scope thereof.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a front view of the invention. Fig. 2 is a front view of the invention with parts in different position, and Fig. 3 is a section thereof on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1.

a indicates the box, which, as shown in Fig. 3, is supposed to be fastened to the door or other part b of the building. The box a has a slot a' in its front wall for the introduction of the letters, and this slot is covered on the inside of the box by a flap c , pressed into position by a spring c' . In forming the slot a' the material of the box is struck outward to produce a lip a^2 , serving to guide the letters into the box. Mounted over the slot a' is a hood d , which lies normally as in Figs. 1 and 3. This hood is hingedly mounted on the box by means of straps d' , which are attached to the upper part of the box. The straps d' carry an apron d^2 , which serves to prevent the rain, sleet, snow, or dirt passing under the hood.

Mounted in guideways e' , fastened to the front of the casing a , is a slide e , which is connected to the hood d by chains e^2 , so that when the hood is raised the slide also will be raised. (See Fig. 2.) On the front of the mail-box is produced the word "Mail," which is in such position that it is covered by the slide e when the same is in its lower position and uncovered when the slide is raised. The slide e has attached thereto a button e^3 to facilitate moving the slide back manually to its lower position, and for holding the slide raised a spring e^4 is attached to the front of the box above the slide and engaged by the slide when the latter is raised. The frictional contact between the spring and slide holds the latter raised until the slide is moved down by hand. The spring e^4 also serves to hold letters for collection by the postman when he calls. For the purpose of holding letters, papers, and other bulky mail a spring-arm f is attached to the bottom of the box. If desired, the name or names of the person or persons receiving mail at the box may be printed on the under side of the hood d , so that when the postman lifts the hood up he will be reminded of the mail to be delivered into the box.

The opening in the box a , through which the mail is taken from the box, is commanded by a door g , hinged at its upper end and engaged by a spring g' within the box, so that when the door is released it will instantly fly open. The door is held closed by a lock g^2 engaging its bolt with a keeper at the lower end of the door. This lock is situated within the box and is covered by a case g^3 , which prevents the mail-matter from engaging the lock or its operating parts or the box being opened in any way except as intended. The lock is operated by a crank-shaft g^4 , which is suitably connected with the lock and projected through the rear wall of the box a and also through the wall or door b of the house, and the inner end of the rod is fitted with a handle or other device g^5 to facilitate its operation. Other means may be employed for operating the lock, if desired.

Now it will be seen that to open this box the shaft g^4 must be turned from within the house, and, if desired, this shaft may be concealed, so that no one but persons acquainted with its position may open the letter-box.

Further, various devices may be connected with the shaft for operating it from a distance, thus adapting the box to apartment and tenement houses by permitting the opening of the box from any floor of the building. After the box is opened the mail may be taken out and the door *g* closed; also, the slide *e* should be drawn down to cover the word "Mail," and the box will then be in the normal position shown in Fig. 1.

The mail-box has the following merits and advantages: It can be manufactured at small cost, is neat in appearance, protects its contents against rain, sleet, snow, and dirt, furnishes absolute security against removal of its contents by thieves and against the removal of exterior boxes from walls or doors, is simple in its manner of operation, requires the use of but one hand to deposit mail-matter, has an attachment for the reception of papers and bulky mail-matter, has an attachment to hold mail-matter to be taken up by a mail-carrier for mailing, and discloses the presence of mail-matter without opening the box.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A mail-box, having an opening in its front wall for the passage of the mail, a hood movably mounted on the outside of the box over the opening to cover the same when in one position, and a slide mounted on the outside

of the mail-box and connected with the hood to move in unison therewith, for the purpose specified.

2. A mail-box, having an opening to receive the mail, a hood hingedly mounted on the outside of the mail-box and normally covering the opening, a slide mounted on the outside of the mail-box subjacent to the hood, a chain connecting the hood with the slide to move the latter upward upon the upward movement of the former, and a spring-arm mounted in front of the box and engaged by the slide as it moves upward, whereby to hold the slide in raised position.

3. A mail-box, having an opening therein adapted to permit the passage of the mail, a member commanding said opening, and a slide mounted outside of the mail-box covering normally a part of the wall of the mail-box, on which part of the wall a word or legend is produced, and a connection between said member for commanding the opening in the box, and the slide, to operate the slide and expose said word or legend upon the introduction of the mail.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CLAYTON PITTINGER MYER.

Witnesses:

W. P. MAYO,

R. J. MAXWELL.