

No. 766,095.

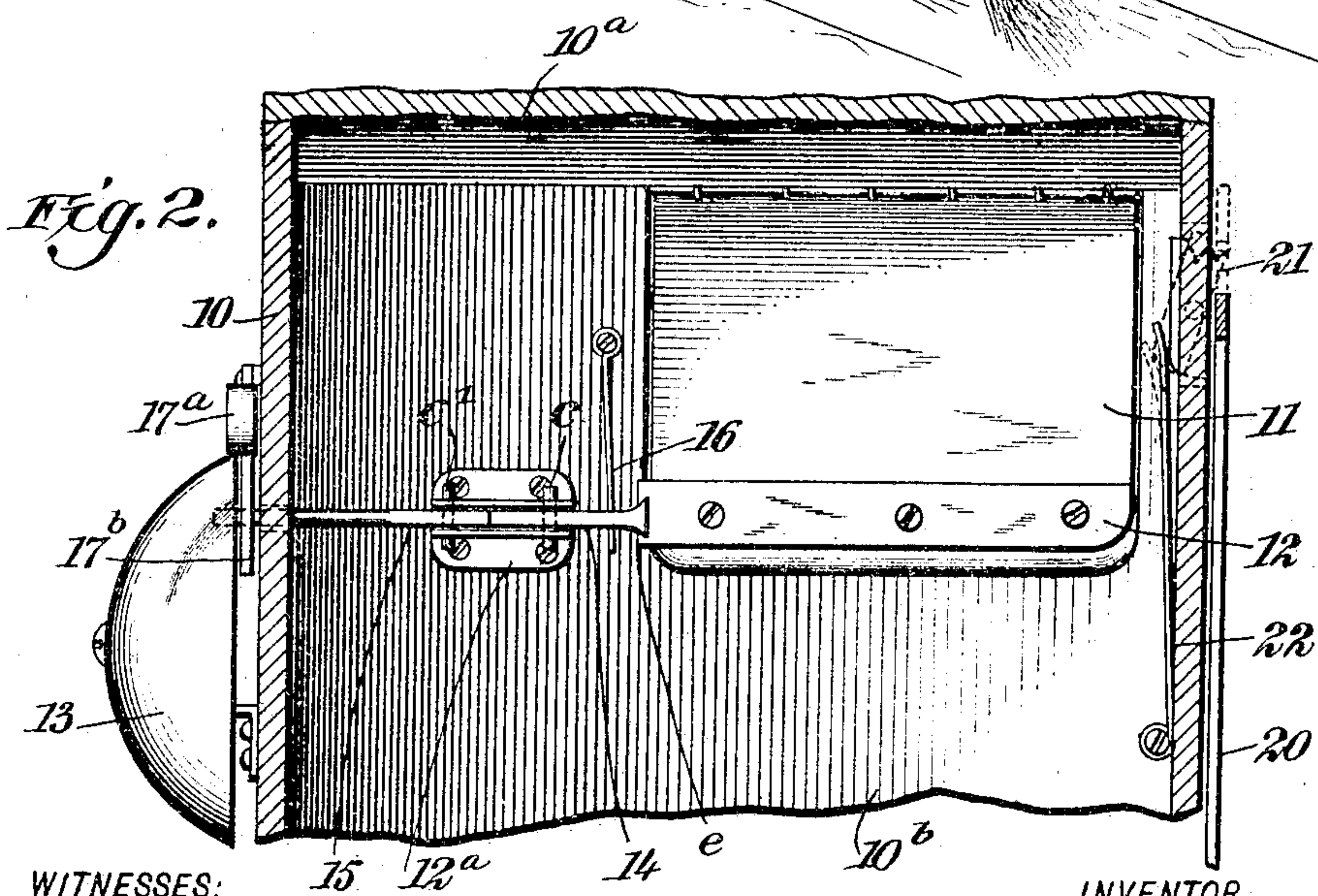
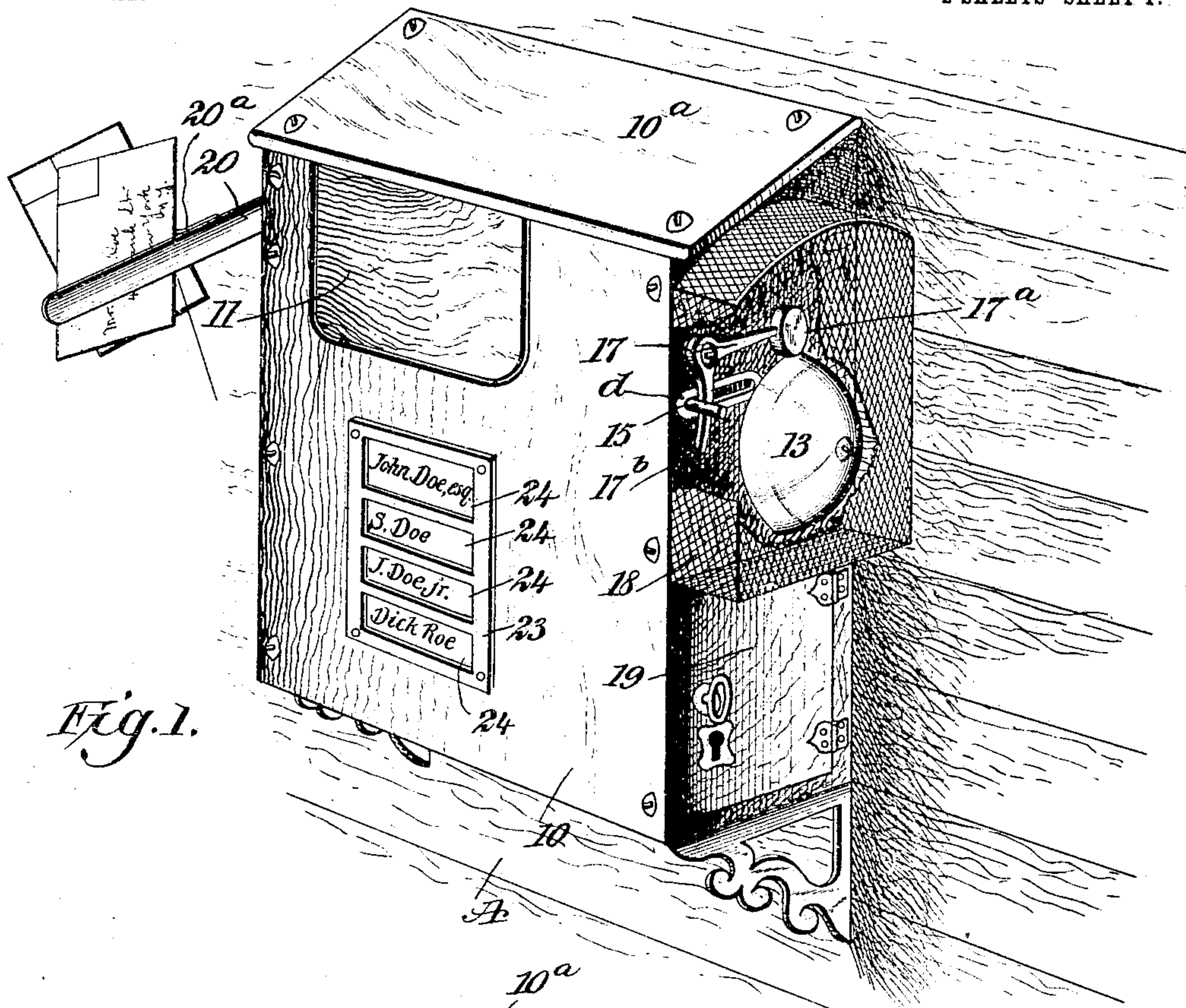
PATENTED JULY 26, 1904.

J. A. BARCLAY.
MAIL DELIVERY BOX.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 19, 1903.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS--SHEET 1.



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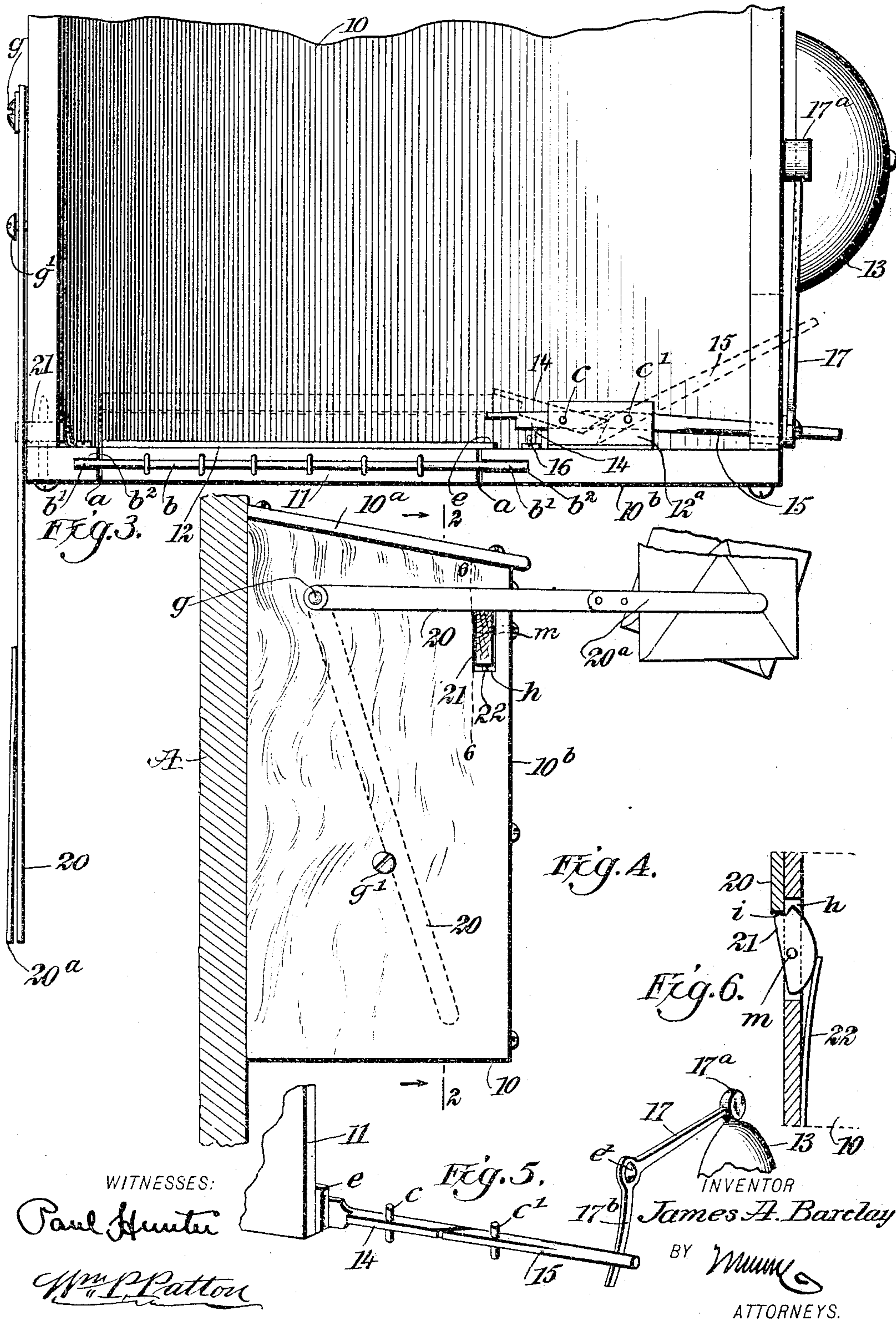
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES ALLAN BARCLAY, OF BALLENA, CALIFORNIA.

MAIL-DELIVERY BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 766,095, dated July 26, 1904.

Application filed November 19, 1903. Serial No. 181,808. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES ALLAN BARCLAY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Ballena, in the county of San Diego and State of California, have invented a new and Improved Mail-Delivery Box, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to a class of mail-boxes employed for the delivery of mail-matter at residences or places of business by mail-carriers, and has for its object to provide a mail-delivery box having novel details of construction that adapt it for the safe holding of mail-matter placed therein, that will sound an alarm when the box is opened to deposit mail or notify the owner if an attempt is made to surreptitiously remove the contents of the box, a further object being to provide means for supporting and displaying mail-matter that is to be collected by the authorized collector.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts, as is hereinafter described, and defined in the appended claims.

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 figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved mail-box in position for service. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view substantially on the line 2 2 in Fig. 4. Fig. 3 is a partial plan view of the mail-box and details of construction thereon fully exposed by a removal of the top wall of the box. Fig. 4 is an end view of the supported mail-box and a side view of the support for collectible mail arranged for service, parts being in section. Fig. 5 is a detached perspective view of the bell-strike mechanism and portions of the bell and of the deposit-door for the mail-box; and Fig. 6 is a sectional detail view taken substantially on the line 6 6 in Fig. 4, showing the spring-pressed rest-block and the mail-holding arm engaged with and supported in extended position by the rest-block.

The mail-box body 10 may be constructed of wood or metal of suitable dimensions and preferably rectangular form having an in-

clined top wall 10^a, that overhangs at the edges so as to protect the joint between it and the upright walls of the body from intrusion of the elements therethrough.

In arranging the improved mail-box for service it may with advantage be secured either on a post or upon the vertical wall of a building, as may be most convenient, the box-body having contact with its rear wall with the support upon which it is fixed, the drawings representing it as secured upon the vertical wall A of a dwelling-house. An inlet-aperture *a* is formed in the front wall 10^b of the body 10 near the upper edge of said wall or, as shown, cutting through said upper edge, this aperture being formed with vertical side edges and a lower edge substantially at right angles therewith; but preferably the corners are made curved instead of angular. The aperture *a* is designed for the use of the mail-carrier to deposit mail in the box and is of sufficient size to permit the free insertion of letters or papers therethrough.

A door 11 is hung in the aperture *a* by means of a pintle-rod *b*, which is secured upon the upper edge of the door and projects at each side thereof to afford trunnions *b'*, seated in recesses *b''*, formed in the upper edge of the front wall of the box-body, so the door may be rocked on the trunnions that are held to rock in the recesses when the top wall 10^a is secured on the box-body 10.

Near the lower edge of the door 11 and parallel therewith a batten-strip 12, of metal, in the form of an elongated plate is secured upon the inner surface of the door, and, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, one end, *c*, of said strip projects from the door at the side edge of the same, so as to have contact with the inner side of the front wall 10^b at and near the side edge of the aperture *a*, so that the door is prevented from swinging outward, and the weight of the strip 12 insures the closure of the door.

To notify the users of the mail-box when the door 11 is swung inward for the deposit of mail in the box, a gong-bell 13 of considerable size is provided and supported upon the end of the box-body 10 that is nearest to the edge of the aperture *a*, whereon the end of the strip 12 has contact. Upon the inner

side of the front wall 10^b and opposite the end *e* of the batten-strip 12 that laps on said box-wall a bracket 12^a is secured, and upon said bracket the adjacent end portions of the two
 5 levers 14 15 are pivoted, as at *c c'*, and adapted to rock in the same horizontal plane. The levers 14 15 are preferably sloped on their adjacent edges at their ends that have lapped engagement with each other and project op-
 10 positely from their points of engagement, the end of the lever 14 that extends toward the door 11 overlapping the end *e* of the batten-strip 12. The other lever, 15, extends from its pivot *c'* through a slot in the end wall of
 15 the box 10, carrying the bell 13, said slot being horizontal and preferably protected at its outer edge by the slotted escutcheon-plate *d*, secured over said slot on the box-wall, as shown in Fig. 1. The lever 14 is pressed upon
 20 by a finger-spring 16, secured by one end upon the inner surface of the front wall 10^a of the box-body, and as the lapped ends of the levers 14 15 are positioned at short distances from their pivots *c c'* it will be seen that the
 25 act of swinging the door 11 inward will cause the sloped end of the lever 14 to press upon the sloped and lapped end of the lever 15, which will rock the latter and move the opposite end of said lever in the slot that is pro-
 30 tected by the escutcheon-plate *d*.

A bell-strike is provided consisting of an arm 17, having a hammer-head 17^a on one end and a tripping member 17^b extended downwardly at or near a right angle from the op-
 35 posite end of the arm. A perforation *e'* is formed in the bell-strike at the junction of the hammer-arm with the tripping member 17^b, and said bell-strike is pivoted through the perforation *e* upon the end wall of the box-
 40 body at a point that will dispose the hammer-head 17^a above and in normal contact with the bell at its edge, as is indicated in Figs. 1 and 5, the lower portion of the tripping member or arm 17^b projecting near to and in the
 45 path of the outer end portion of the lever 15.

It will be evident that upon the application of pressure upon the outer side of the door 11 the end *e* of the batten-strip 12 will press upon the adjacent end of the lever 14 and rock said
 50 lever, which will put the finger-spring 16 under tension and in turn rock the lever 15 so that the outer end of the latter will be caused to traverse the slot in the end wall of the box-body and rock the bell-strike, correspondingly
 55 elevating the hammer-head 17^a, which will drop by gravity into contact with the bell 13 when the rocking movement of the door 11 carries the end of the batten-strip 12 away from and releases the end of the lever 14 upon
 60 which it impinged.

It will be seen that upon the release of the lever 14 from contact with the end *e* of the batten-strip 12 the stress of the spring 16 will return the end portion of the lever 14 to its
 65 normal position, and when the door 11 is per-

mitted to swing shut the gravity of the door and weight of the batten-strip 12 combined will cause a vibration of the end of the lever 14 that is impinged upon by the end of the batten-strip, so that the latter will pass for-
 70 ward and clear the adjacent end of the lever it has vibrated, whereupon the door will be closed, and the working details of the bell-strike will resume normal adjustment for a repetition of their striking action, when the
 75 door 11 is again pushed inward a sufficient distance to permit the free insertion of mail-matter into the mail-box.

To prevent tampering with the portions of the bell-strike that are on the outer side of
 80 the mail-box body 10, a substantial casing 18 may be provided therefor, and to permit the sound of the bell to escape freely this casing 18 may with advantage be formed of strong netting fabric, as shown in Fig. 1. 85

Another door 19 for the removal of mail is preferably located in an end wall of the box-body, and, as shown, this door, which is hinged to swing and open or close a suitable opening, may be placed below the bell-casing
 90 18, the door being held closed by a suitable lock thereon controlled by a key that may be used by any person who has a right to open the box and remove mail-matter therefrom.

Upon the end of the box-body opposite that
 95 carrying the bell 13 an arm 20 is pivoted, as at *g*, near one of its ends, so that the arm, which is of considerable length, may either hang pendent close to the end wall and rest upon a projection *g'* or be rocked into a hori-
 100 zontal position for an extension of its free end beyond the front wall of the mail-box. The arm 20 is designed to hold mail-matter, such as letters that are to be taken therefrom by the mail-collector, and to adapt it for such a
 105 purpose a resilient finger-piece 20^a is secured by one end upon the side of said arm at a proper distance from its free end, so that one or more letters or the like may be clasped between the opposed end portions of the arm
 110 and finger-piece thereon and held, as indicated in the drawings, for removal by the mail-collector.

The preferred means for supporting the arm 20 in an outwardly-extended position is
 115 shown in Fig. 2, 4, and 6 and consists, essentially, in pivoting a rest-block 21 in a vertical slot *h*, formed in the end wall of the box 10, whereon the arm 20 is pivoted, said slot being located near the front wall and top wall
 120 of the box-body, as shown in Fig. 4. The rest-block 21 is preferably notched, as at *i*, in its upper end for the reception and reliable support of the arm 20, which is seated in the notch *i* when it is desired to hold the arm
 125 projected beyond the front of the box for the retention of letters or the like that are to be taken to the post-office by the mail-collector. The rest-block 21, which is pivoted at *m* a short distance below the notch *i*, may be ren- 130

dered convex or otherwise adapted for contact with the free end of the finger-spring 22, which is secured by one end upon the inner side of the end wall of the box and projects over the inner edge of the rest-block, the pressure of the spring being adapted to rock the notched upper end of the rest-block into the slot *h* when the block is not engaged by the arm 20, so that the latter may be freely lowered if it is first raised from the rest-block to permit the pressure of the spring to rock the block into the slot *h*.

It will be apparent that when the arm 20 is extended and supported as described it will be capable of supporting considerable weight, so that a package of mailable matter that is to be collected by a mailman may be hung therefrom, if this is desired.

Upon the front wall of the mail-box a light metal frame 23 may be secured, having several divisions for holding name plates or cards 24, that are marked with the names of persons who use the box to receive mail, and thus afford a directory for the information of the mail-carrier, as well as persons who may desire to learn the names of occupants of the building having the mail-box attached thereto.

It is apparent that the improved mail receiving and supporting device may be employed in towns or rural districts to equal advantage and afford a great convenience, enabling the postmen to more rapidly deliver mail-matter than if it is handed to the occupants of houses, which frequently entails delay and loss of time, and as no mail can be delivered without sounding an alarm there is instant notification of the deposit of mail, so that it may be promptly removed by the party who receives the mail from a particular box, and is supplied with a key that will open the box-door.

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

1. In a mail-box, the combination with a box having an aperture in its front wall, a door hung pendent in said aperture, and a heavy batten-strip affixed upon the lower edge of the door and having a projecting end preventing the door from swinging outward, of an alarm-bell on the box, and means for sounding the bell, said means being actuated when the door is swung inward.

2. In a mail-box, the combination with a

box having a substantially rectangular aperture in its front wall, a door hinged at its upper edge so as to swing in the aperture, and a heavy batten-strip on the inner side of the door near its lower edge, said strip projecting at one end for contact with the wall of the box for preventing the door from swinging outward, of two aligned levers, pivoted near their corresponding ends upon a projection on the inner side of the front wall of the box, said ends of the levers having sloped edges that lap upon each other, a bell on the end wall of the box toward which one of the levers extends, an angular bell-strike lever having a hammer-head, and pivoted on the end wall so that said hammer may impinge upon the bell, one end of the lever that is nearest to the door being adapted for rocking movement when the door is opened and the end of the batten-strip contacts therewith, the outer end of the other lever engaging a member of the bell-strike lever for sounding the bell when the door is swung inward.

3. In a mail-box, the combination with a box having an aperture in the front wall, and a door hung pendent in said aperture and controlled to swing inward only, of a bell on the exterior of the box at one end thereof, a perforate casing over the bell and secured on the end wall of the box, a bell-crank in the casing having a hammer on one end and held to rock on the end wall of the box so the hammer may strike the bell, and means to rock the bell-crank for an impinge of the hammer on the bell when the door is swung inward.

4. In a mail-box, the combination with a box-body, of an arm pivoted by one end on an end wall of said box-body, and adapted for the projection of its free end beyond the front wall of the box, and a resilient finger-piece on the free end of the arm forming a pliers-clasp for holding mail-matter that is to be collected, and a rest-block pivoted on the end of the box-body and adapted for engagement with the arm for its support in projected adjustment.

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

JAMES ALLAN BARCLAY.

Witnesses:

THOS. JERMAN,
LEVI ZIMMERS.