

No. 815,770.

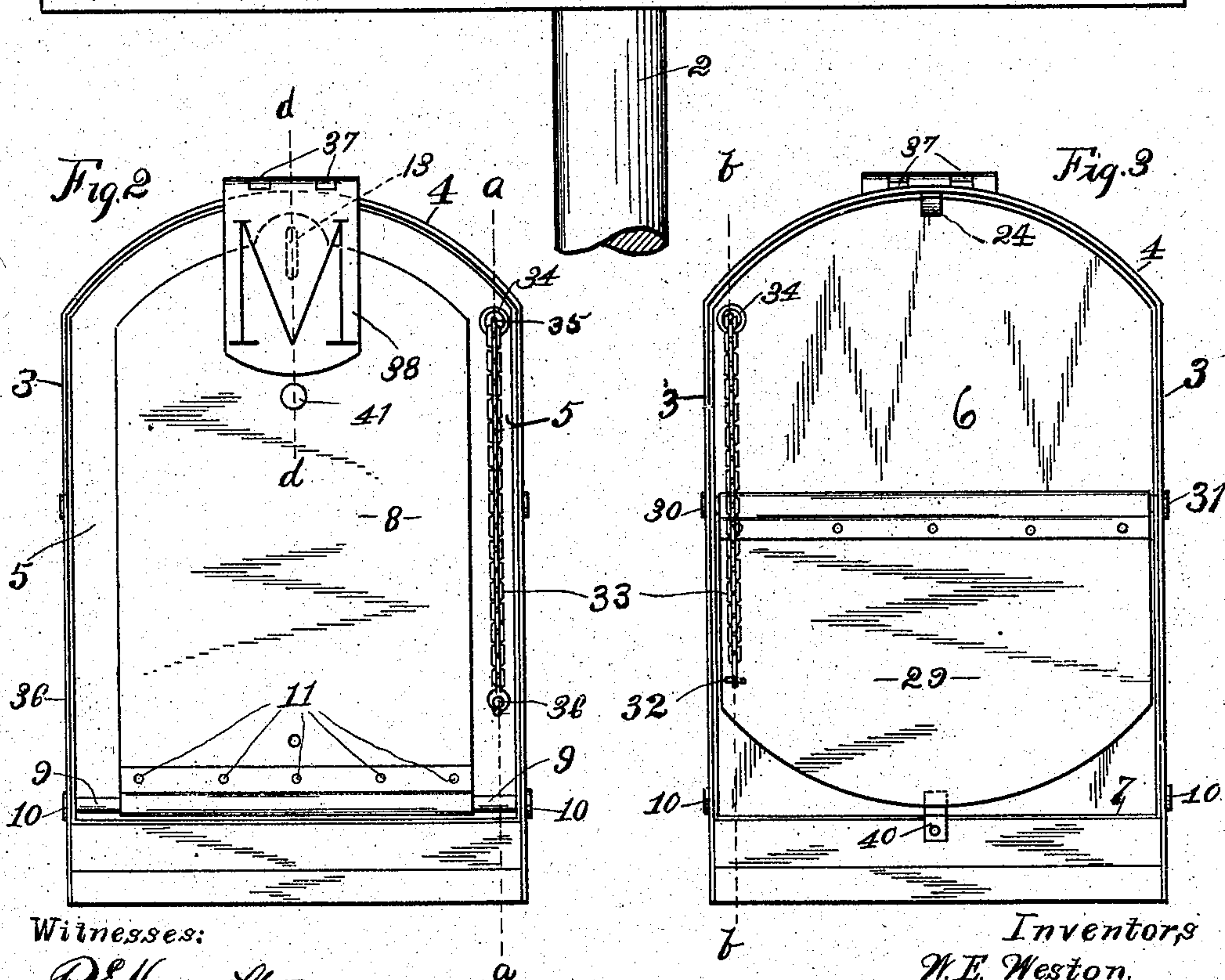
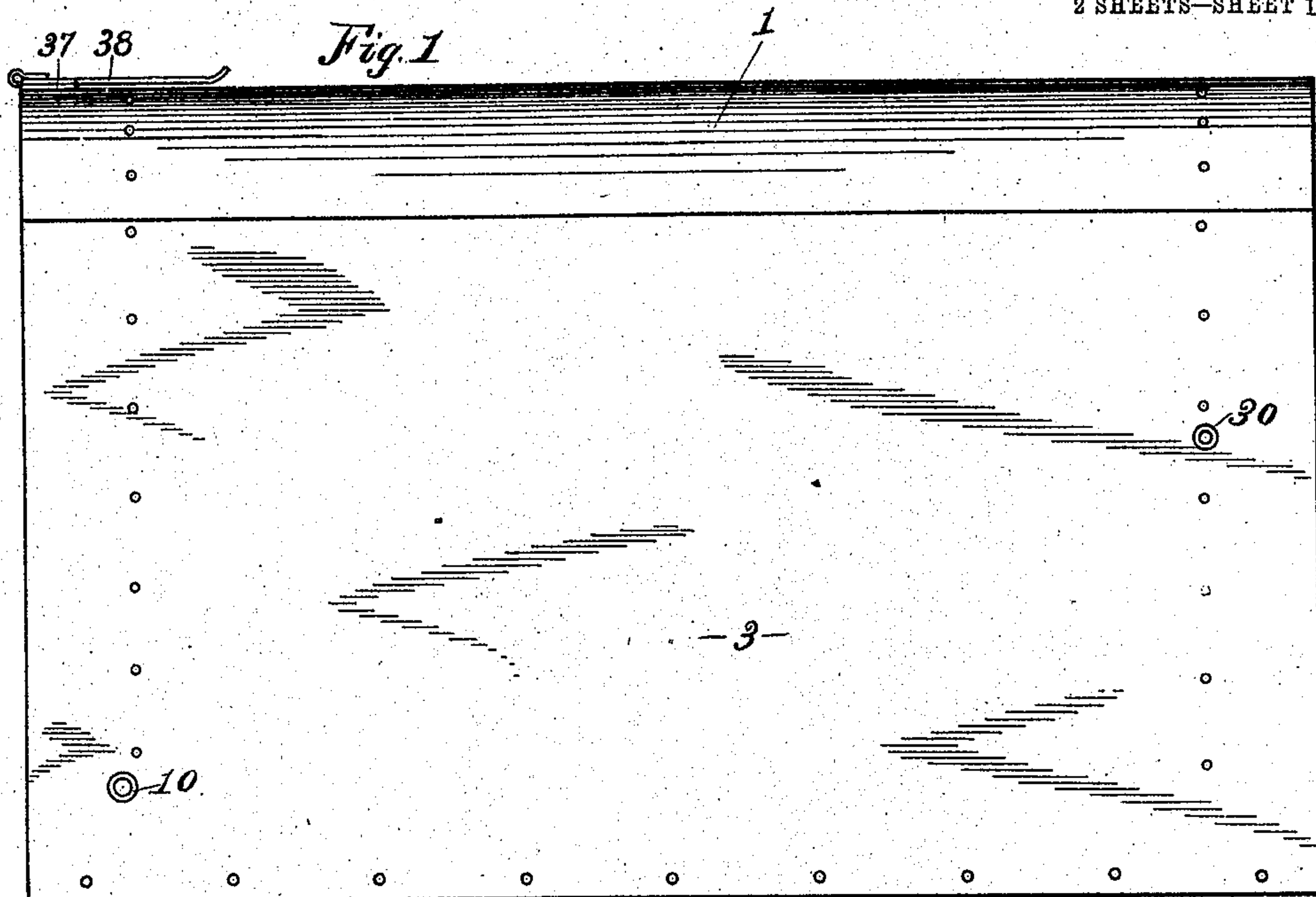
PATENTED MAR. 20, 1906.

W. E. & G. WESTON.

MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 6, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses:

R. Hamilton
M. L. Ryner

Inventors
W. E. Weston.
George Weston.

By Higdon & Higdon Attys.

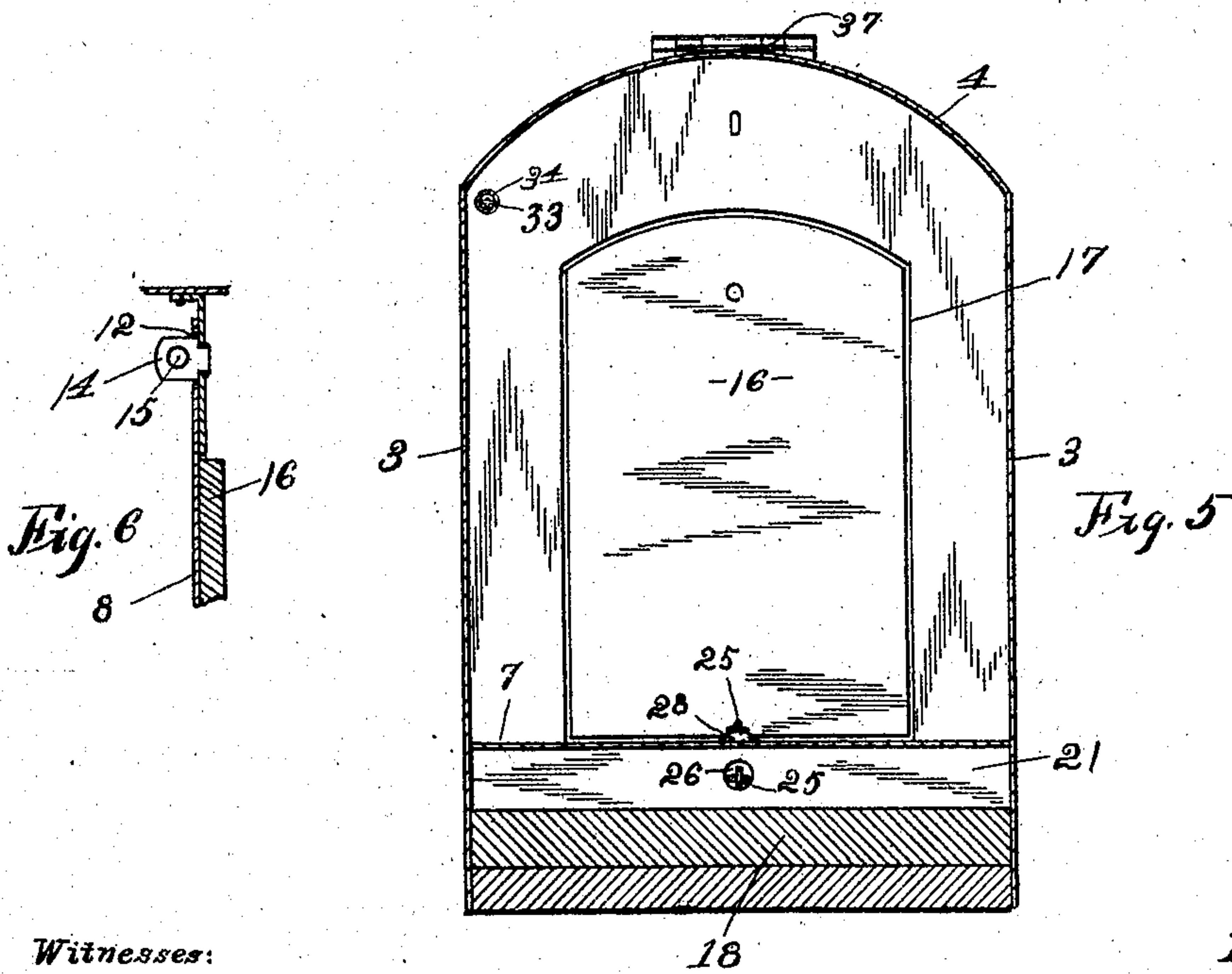
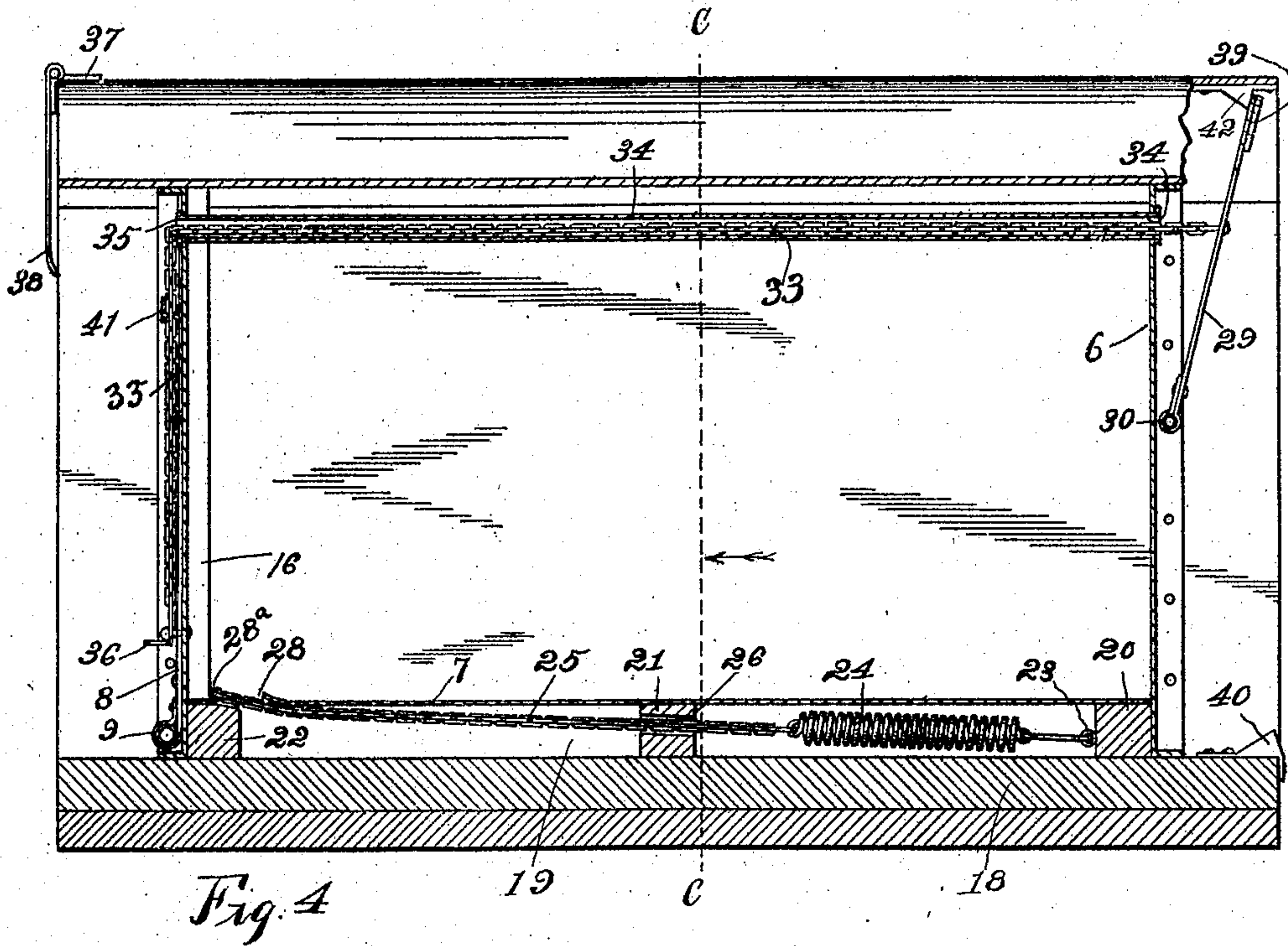
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM E. WESTON AND GEORGE WESTON, OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

MAIL-BOX.

No. 815,770.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 20, 1906.

Application filed January 6, 1905. Serial No. 239,946.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM E. WESTON and GEORGE WESTON, citizens of the United States, and residents of Kansas City, in the county of Jackson and State of Missouri, have invented new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to letter-boxes, and more particularly to that class of letter-boxes known and used as "rural" letter-boxes and which are peculiarly adapted for facilitating the distribution of mail by the mail-carrier and also greatly facilitate the time and trouble of the farmer in gathering the mail after it is deposited in the box by the letter-carrier.

To this end our invention consists, with certain novel features and combinations, of different parts, which will be hereinafter described and claimed.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the mail-box. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a rear end elevation. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section of Fig. 1 indicated on lines *a a* and *b b* of Fig. 2 and Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the box, taken on line *c c* of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a vertical section in part of Fig. 2, taken on line *d d* of Fig. 2, partly indicated in dotted lines in the rear of a flap upon which a letter "M" is shown.

Having thus far briefly described our invention, we will now proceed to more fully describe it by referring to corresponding numerals on the drawings and the specification.

1 illustrates the letter-box, mounted on a suitable support 2. Said box is constructed of any suitable material, heavy galvanized sheet metal being preferred, and is constructed, as shown, with sides 3 and oval top 4, a front end 5 and a rear end 6, and a bottom 7. The front end is provided with a suitable door 8. Said door is pivotally secured to the sides 3 by means of a horizontal rod 9, the ends of said rods passing through the sides and riveted, as indicated at 10, the lower end of said door being secured to said rod by means of bending over the rod and riveting, as indicated by rivets 11. The top of the door is provided with an opening 12, as indicated at Fig. 6, and is also indicated in dotted lines 13 in Fig. 2. The object of this opening is to engage a staple 14 when the door is closed, said staple being provided with an opening 15 to admit a seal or lock for the purpose of

securely closing. In order to add strength to our door, we have provided a thick block of wood or other material 16 as a reinforcement thereto. Said block is of corresponding size and dimensions of the opening 17 in the end of the box, as seen in Fig. 5. The sides and ends of the box extend below the bottom 7 a sufficient distance to receive a reinforced bottom or support 18, the object of which is to securely fasten the box to a proper support 2, as indicated in Fig. 1. Between the bottom 7 of the box proper and the reinforced bottom 18 is an open space 19. Mounted on said bottom are three cross-beams 20, 21, and 22. To the beam 20 is secured, by means of an eyebolt 23, a spiral or helical spring 24. Communicating with said spring and secured to the lower portion of the reinforcement 16 of the door 8 is a chain or cable 25. Said chain passes through an opening 26 of cross-beam 21, as shown. At the front end of the bottom 7 a small portion thereof is cut away at 28, which admits of the chain passing freely to its engagement 28^a to the reinforcement 8, that closes the opening 17, as shown. The rear end of the box is closed with a head or plate 6, which is riveted to the sides, top, and bottom of the box, as indicated at Fig. 1 and Fig. 4, but is set back a sufficient distance from the end to make it in a measure secure from the storm the same as the front.

A flap 29 is pivotally mounted to the rear end of the box at 30 and 31 on the outside of the head or plate 6, as shown. Secured to this flap at 32 is one end of a chain 33. From this point it extends upward, passing through a horizontal tube 34, that extends from end to end of the box, passing out at 35 in the front end, then down and detachably engaging a hook 36 at the front end of the box, as seen at Fig. 2. Secured to the top of the box at 37 is a smaller flap 38. Painted on the outer face of this flap is the letter "M," as shown. The flap 29, already described, is provided with a weight 39, secured to its inner face adjacent to the lower or curved edge. The object of said weight is to impart speedy action to the flap on its downward descent and, further, to cause it to overcome the friction incident to the dragging of the chain 33 through the tube 34. The upper half of the rear head of the box above the pivotal points 30 and 31 of the flap 29 is painted white, and the outer face of said flap 29 is also painted white, so that the end, as

seen in the position of Fig. 3, is white, or nearly so. The portion below the pivotal points 30 and 31 is painted red, and the inner face of said flap 29 is painted red also, so that the end, as seen in the position shown in Fig. 4, will appear red, or nearly so.

When there is no mail in the box, the flap 38 is tossed back and rests on top of the box, as indicated in Fig. 1, and the flap 29 is in the position as indicated at Fig. 4. In placing the box in position on the support 2 near the mail route the rear end of the box must point or stand toward the farm-house or the point that the mail is destined for and the front end of the box to stand adjacent to the road, so that it will be convenient for the carrier to deposit the mail. When the mail is deposited by the carrier, he tosses the flap 38 from the position seen in Fig. 1 to the position seen in Fig. 2 and also seen in Fig. 4, at the same time releases the chain 33 from its detachable fastening at 36, when the flap will drop from its position seen at Fig. 4 to the position seen at Fig. 3, disclosing a white rear end of the mail-box to the farmer for whom the mail is destined, so that he will know at a glance that there is mail in the box for him without making a trip to the box in pursuit of his mail, not knowing whether or not there is any mail in the box for him. If he sees the end of the box white before he starts, he is assured there is mail in the box.

When the farmer takes the mail from the box, he first tosses flap 38 to the position seen in Fig. 1, opens the door, and takes his mail out, grasps the chain 33, pulls it down, and fastens it to its fastening at 36. The door will automatically close, or nearly so, by means of the tension of helical spring 24.

We have further provided a stop 40, upon which the lower portion of flap 29 rests when it is in the position seen at Fig. 3. 41 indicates a knob secured to the door adjacent to the lower end of flap 38. The object of said

knob is for convenience in opening the door. We have further provided a stop 42, secured to the under side of the projecting end of the top of the box. The object of this stop is to be engaged by the flap 29, as shown when in the position seen at Fig. 4.

The object that we have in view in placing the initial "M" on the flap 38, as seen at Fig. 2, is to indicate to the mail-carrier in passing the box on his route that mail has been deposited by the farmer for him to deliver to the post-office.

Having now fully described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a mail-box of the character described rectangular in configuration, comprising sides, bottom and top, a front end and a rear end, a door in the front end and a signaling-flap adjustably mounted to the rear end, cross-beams supporting the bottom of the box, a helical spring secured to one of the cross-beams at one end, a chain communicating from the helical spring to the inside of the door at the front end of the box adapted to close the door when open; substantially as described.

2. In a mail-box of the character described comprising a body portion rectangular in configuration, a front end and a rear end, a door in the front end and an adjustable flap mounted to the rear end, a tube passing through and engaging the front end and the rear end of the box, a chain secured to the flap at the rear end passing through the tube to the front end; substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM E. WESTON.
GEORGE WESTON.

Witnesses:

M. L. RYNEX,
GLENN E. WOODCOX.