

No. 825,339.

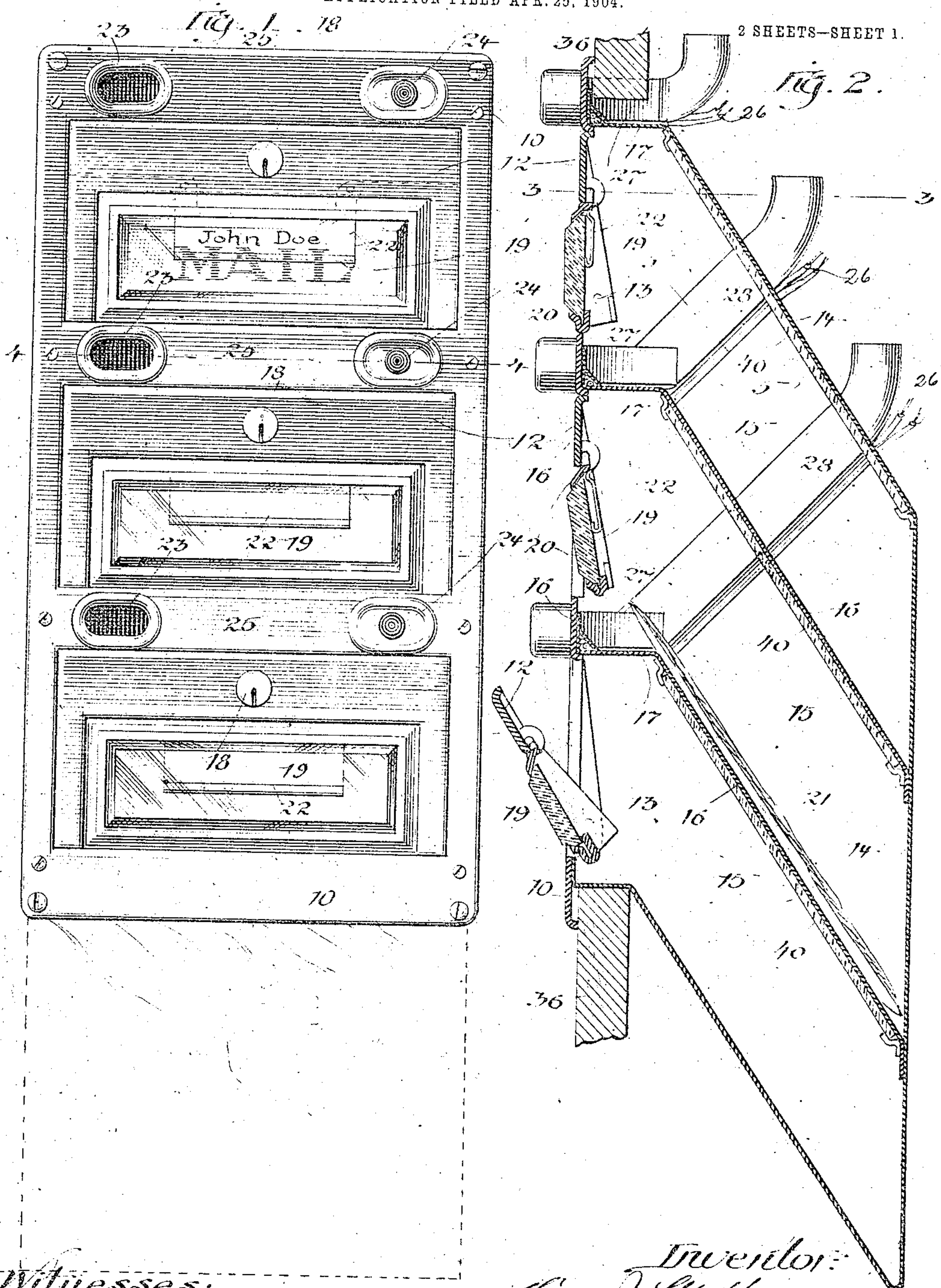
PATENTED JULY 10, 1906.

W. J. McWADE.

COMBINATION MAIL BOX, SPEAKING TUBE, &c.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 25, 1904.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses:

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Inventor:

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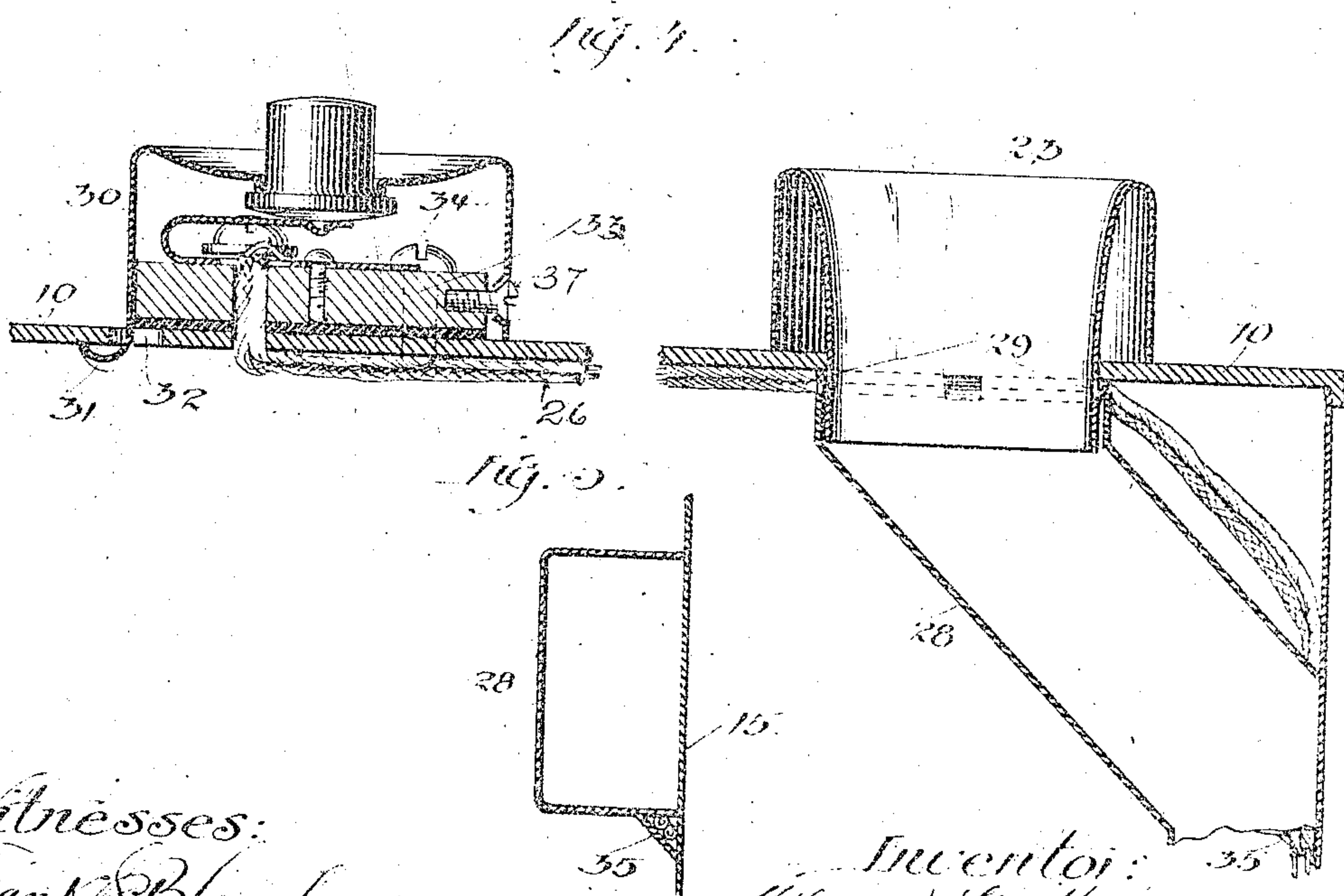
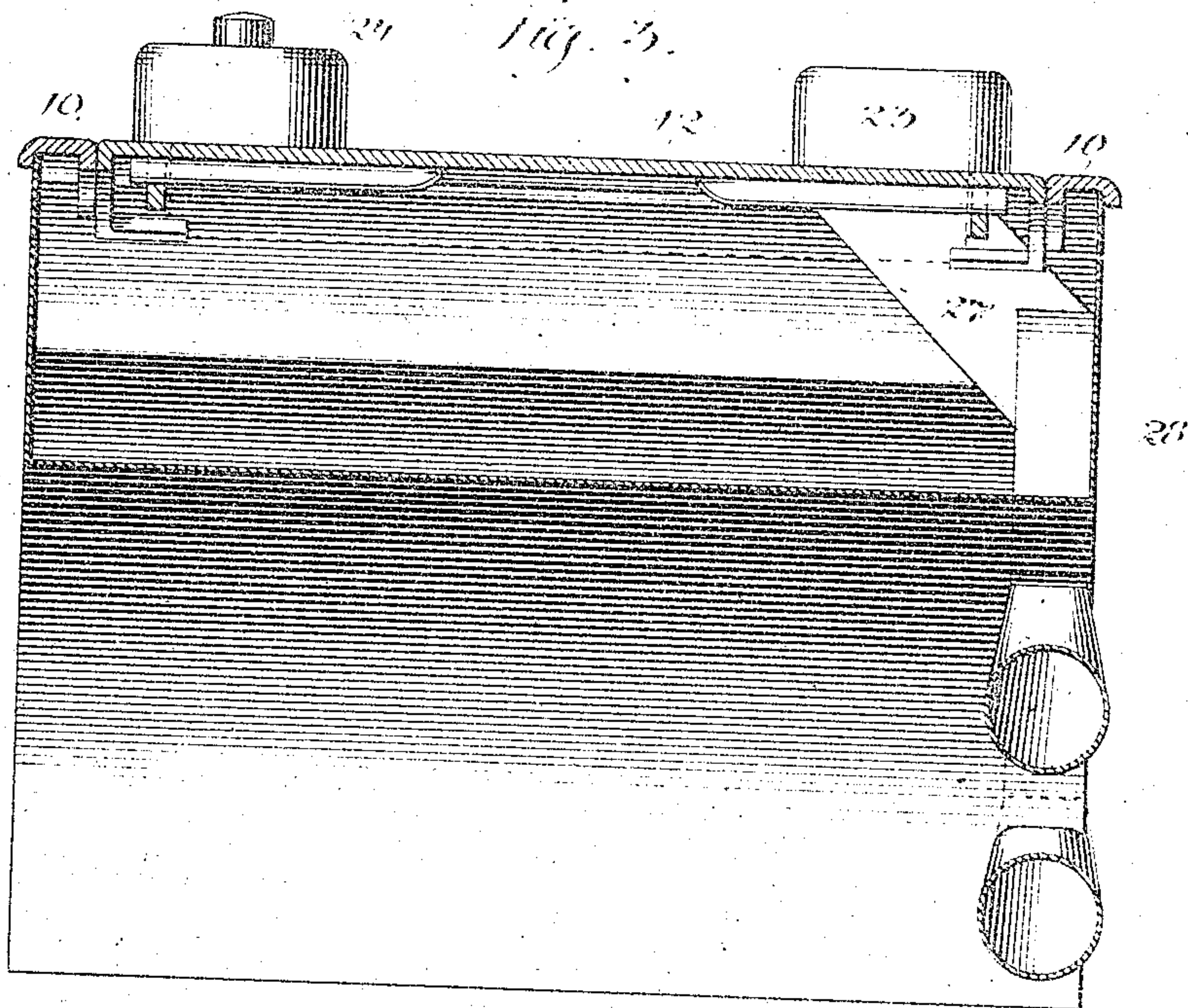
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. McWADE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

COMBINATION MAIL-BOX, SPEAKING-TUBE, &c.

No. 825,339.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 10, 1906.

Application filed April 25, 1904. Serial No. 204,694.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. McWADE, a citizen of the United States, residing in Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Combination Mail-Boxes, Speaking-Tubes, &c., of which the following is a specification.

In my present invention I aim to reduce the amount of wall-room and to bring the mail-boxes, together with their speaking-tubes and electric calls, in a very much more compact form than heretofore without detracting in any way from their utility and also to cheapen the construction. The main feature of the invention is found in the arrangement hereinafter described of the mail-boxes with the tubes and calls. The invention also embodies other details of importance, which are fully set forth below and shown in the accompanying drawings.

Referring to said drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a series or battery of mail-boxes with their accompanying tubes and calls. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same. Figs. 3, 4, and 5 are detail sections on lines 3-3, 4-4, and 5-5 of Figs. 1 and 2.

In said drawings, 10 represents a metal plate or frame forming the front of a series or battery of three mail-boxes and their corresponding speaking-tubes and electric calls. The mail-boxes instead of being formed wholly in the front of the battery, as in the old construction, are now let into the wall of the buildings in a downwardly-inclined direction, so that the portion of the box exposed at the front of the battery is but little larger than a cross-section of the box. The boxes are arranged in vertical series, one on top of another, and in the exposed ends are located the doors 12, whereby the tenant gains access to the boxes for withdrawing the mail. These doors swing down from the top on end pivots 13. The bodies of the boxes are formed of sheet metal and are largely integral with one another. Thus the strip 14, which forms the top of the upper box, extends downward, forming a back for all of the series and also the lower side of the lower box, and the side walls 15 of the series may each be formed from a single sheet. The division-plates 16 each form the bottom of one box and the top of an adjacent one, and they are united to the side walls and to the back, and at their front ends they are made hori-

zontal for a short distance, as seen at 17, and from such horizontal portion they extend downwardly in accordance with the inclination given the bodies. By projecting the bodies inwardly and downwardly, as thus described, I am enabled to insert the boxes in recesses ordinarily formed in four-inch partitions or readily formed in walls of that thickness, and the wall-space covered is only about one-third of that usually required; also, by superposing the boxes and constructing them as described I am enabled to greatly economize the manufacture, as the number of joints in the sheet metal is greatly reduced.

The doors are provided with locks 18 and may be swung open far enough to enable the insertion of the hand. They are also provided with swinging sections, consisting of the glass window 19 and its swinging frame 20, adapted to be swung inward at the bottom for the insertion in the box of the mail. A letter 21 is shown in one of the boxes as having been inserted in this way, the hinged window being slightly open. The hinged window may also be provided with a card-holder 22, if desired.

Immediately above each door 12 is located the mouthpiece 23 of the speaking-tube and the push-button 24 of the flat or apartment to which the mail-box is allotted. These devices are attached to the cross members 25 of the plate 10, and the push-buttons are provided with electrical connections 26 in the usual manner. The mouthpiece 23 of each speaking-tube connects with a diagonal pipe or passage-way 27, extending laterally and horizontally to a junction with the inclined tube 28, extending upwardly through the box or boxes in the case of all except the upper box. The tubes are adapted to be embodied in the boxes without, however, interfering with the mail-matter, inasmuch as they are located close to one of the side walls 15, and by thus locating them I avoid any necessity of separating the boxes from each other or widening the structure to obtain room for the tubes. The tubes 28 project from the boxes in any suitable manner which will permit them to be joined to the pipes of the building, and those portions of them located within the boxes may be formed against the side wall 15, which may and preferably does form one side of the tube, as shown at Fig. 5.

The mouthpiece 23 is preferably formed of

sheet metal, and tongues 29 are punched in it and turned outward in such manner that when the inner end of the mouthpiece is pushed through the opening in the plate 10 these tongues will as soon as they have passed the plate 10 spring out and lock the mouthpiece in position. The push-button is provided with a sheet-metal guide or cap 30, which is provided with a hook 31, adapted to be inserted through the opening 32 in the plate 10 and to lock against the inner surface of the plate, as seen at Fig. 4. At the side opposite to this hook the part 30 is secured to the block 33 by the screw 37, and the block is rigidly held to the plate 10 by the screw 34, this form of attachment permitting the very ready attachment and detachment of the push-button. The electric wires are preferably supported in the passage-way under the tubes 28, formed by the diagonal strip 35, secured to the side wall 15 and the under side of the tube 28. 36 represents the marble or other finish employed for the surfacing of the partition or wall to which the mail-boxes are applied.

While I have shown a battery of three boxes with their accompanying tubes and calls it will be understood that I do not wish to be limited to any number, as many features of the invention are adapted to be used with a greater number of boxes and with a less number. I contemplate using it in private residences where only a single box is needed. The face-plate 10 is made, as will be understood, to fit the number of boxes employed and may be stamped from sheet metal.

In order that the mail-matter may be clearly observed through the window of the boxes, I provide within the boxes mirrors or reflectors 40, as seen at Fig. 2. These reflectors need to be applied only to the under surfaces of the division-plate 16 and the tube 14.

I claim—

1. The combination of a series of inclined letter-boxes arranged in rows or banks, and a series of speaking-tubes arranged with their mouthpieces in immediate proximity to the corresponding boxes, a portion of the tubes passing upwardly through the boxes at the sides of the latter, essentially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The battery of letter-boxes and speaking-tubes, consisting of a series of letter-boxes arranged in rows or banks, a corresponding series of speaking-tubes and a front plate for the battery, the tubes having their mouthpieces secured in the cross members of the plate and passing within and through the boxes at the sides of the same.

3. The combination with the wall of the building, of the battery of mail-boxes and speaking-tubes, the boxes being arranged one above another with their bodies projecting inwardly and downwardly in the wall,

and the tubes being arranged within the boxes and passing through them at an angle upward and backward.

4. The combination with the wall of the building, of the battery of mail-boxes and speaking-tubes, the boxes being arranged one above another with their bodies projecting inwardly and downwardly in the wall, and portions of the tubes being formed in part by the metal of the boxes and being arranged within the boxes, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination with the wall of the building, of the battery of mail-boxes, speaking-tubes and call-buttons, the boxes being arranged one above another with their bodies projecting downwardly into the wall, and the tubes and button-wires being arranged between the doors of the adjacent boxes at the front and passing through the interior of the boxes, the tubes passing at an angle upwardly and backwardly through the boxes, substantially as set forth.

6. The mail-box for apartment and other buildings arranged in an inclined position in the wall of the building and having a window at its upper end, and a reflector at the back of the box adapted to catch the light from the window and illuminate the lower end of the box, said window being also arranged for observation of the interior of the box and to receive from the bottom of the box and from the reflector the return rays of light.

7. The combination with the wall of the building, of the mail-box for apartment and other buildings arranged in an inclined position in the wall of the building and having a door at its upper end, with a speaking-tube passing through the upper end of the box, such tube being positioned in the box at the side thereof and at an angle, substantially as set forth.

8. A series or set of inclined letter-boxes each having an observation-opening, the dividing partitions between upper and lower boxes having reflectors, and the inclination of the boxes being of the proper angle to direct light, by means of such reflectors, from such openings to the bottoms of the boxes and from the bottoms of the boxes to such openings, substantially as and for the purposes described.

9. A series or set of letter-boxes inclined as described, and a speaking-tube arranged within and at the side of each box, each tube extending inward for the same distance, and extending thence transversely of the boxes to the top of the series where their connection ends are in line one behind the other at different distances from the front of the boxes, substantially as set forth.

WILLIAM J. MCWADE.

Witnesses:

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