No. 347,035. PATENTED MAR. 12, 1907.

F. S. WHITE & J. F. STAFFORD.

MAIL CONVEYER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 13, 1906.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

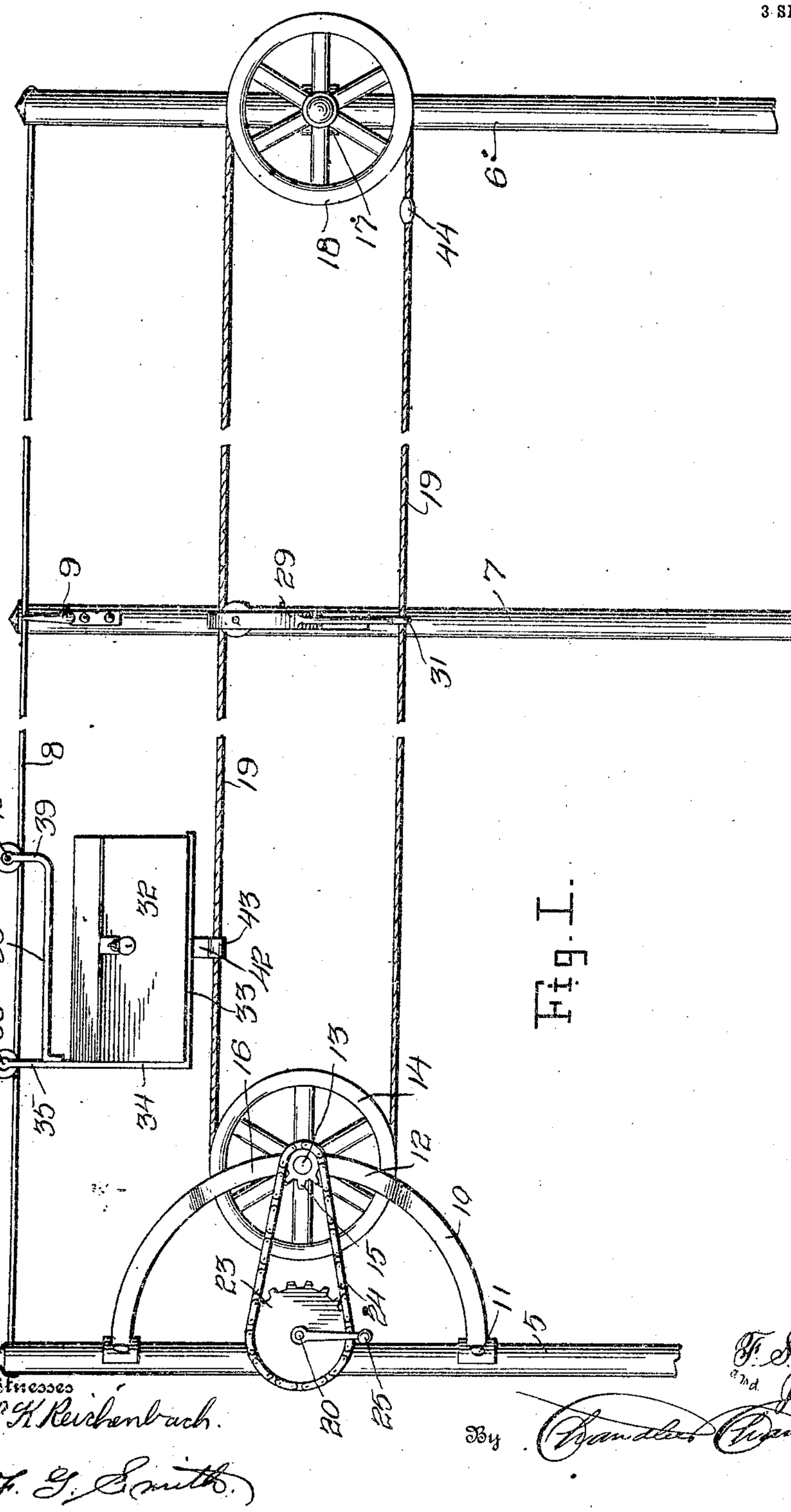

Fig. 1.

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

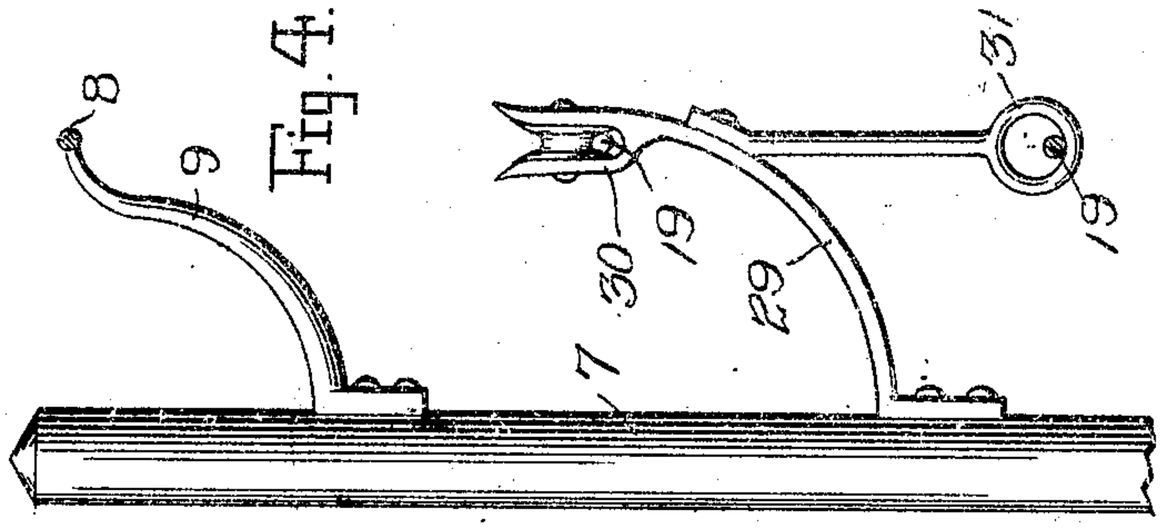


Fig. 3.

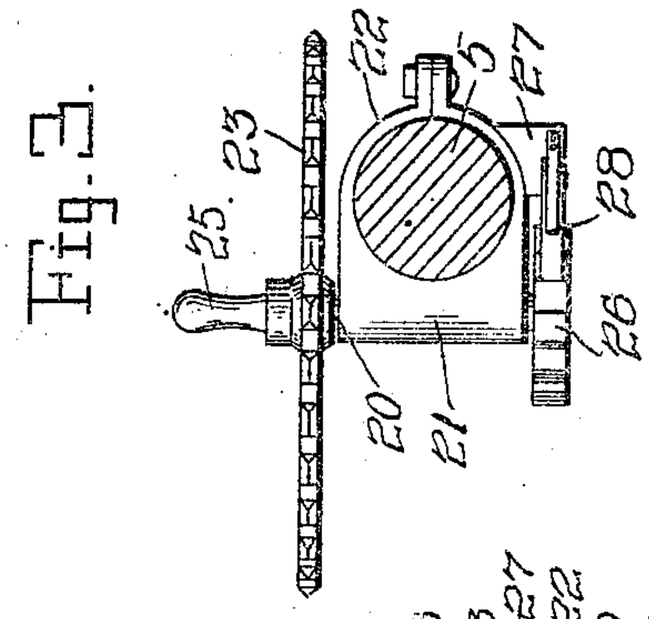
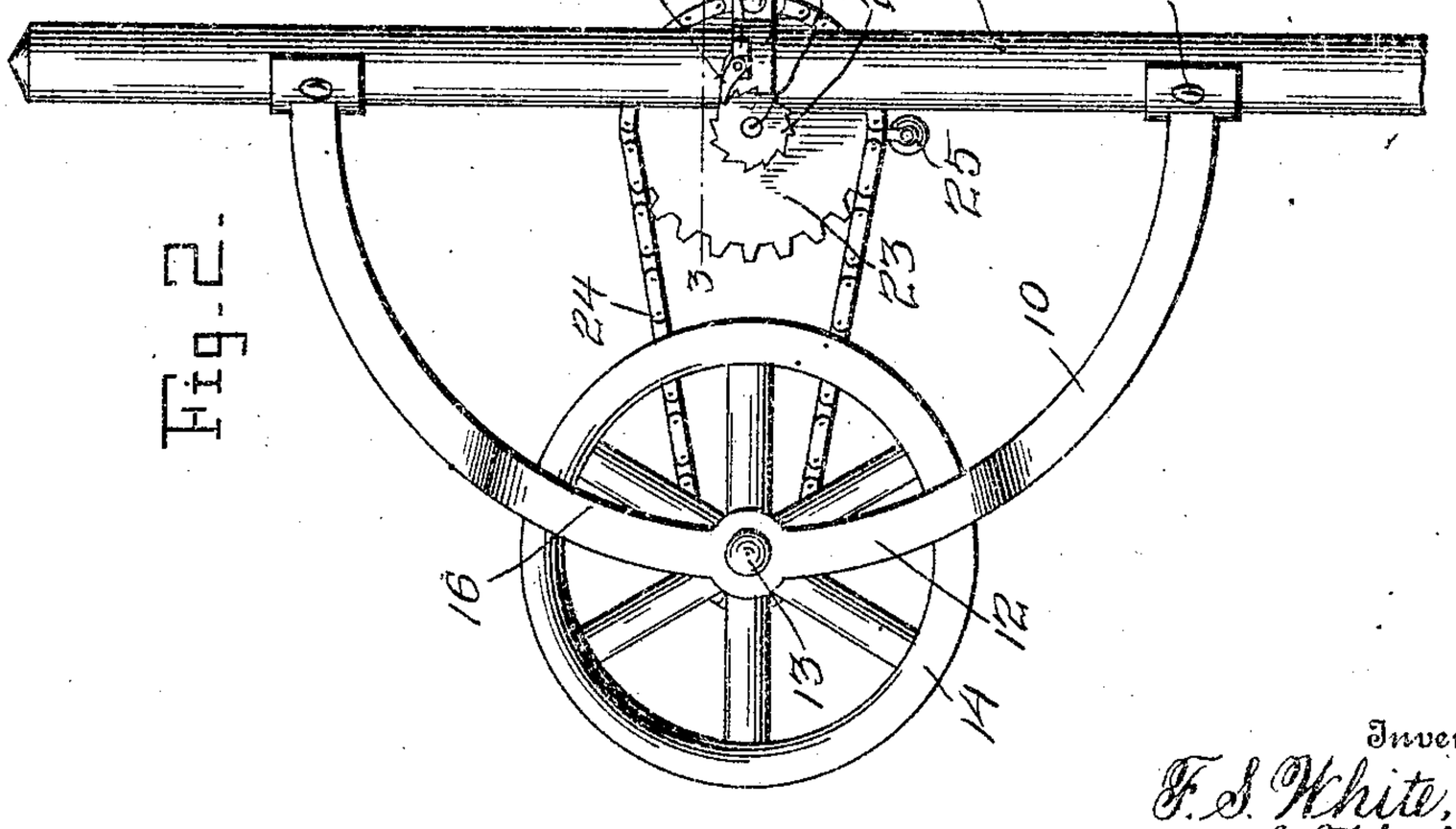


Fig. 2.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

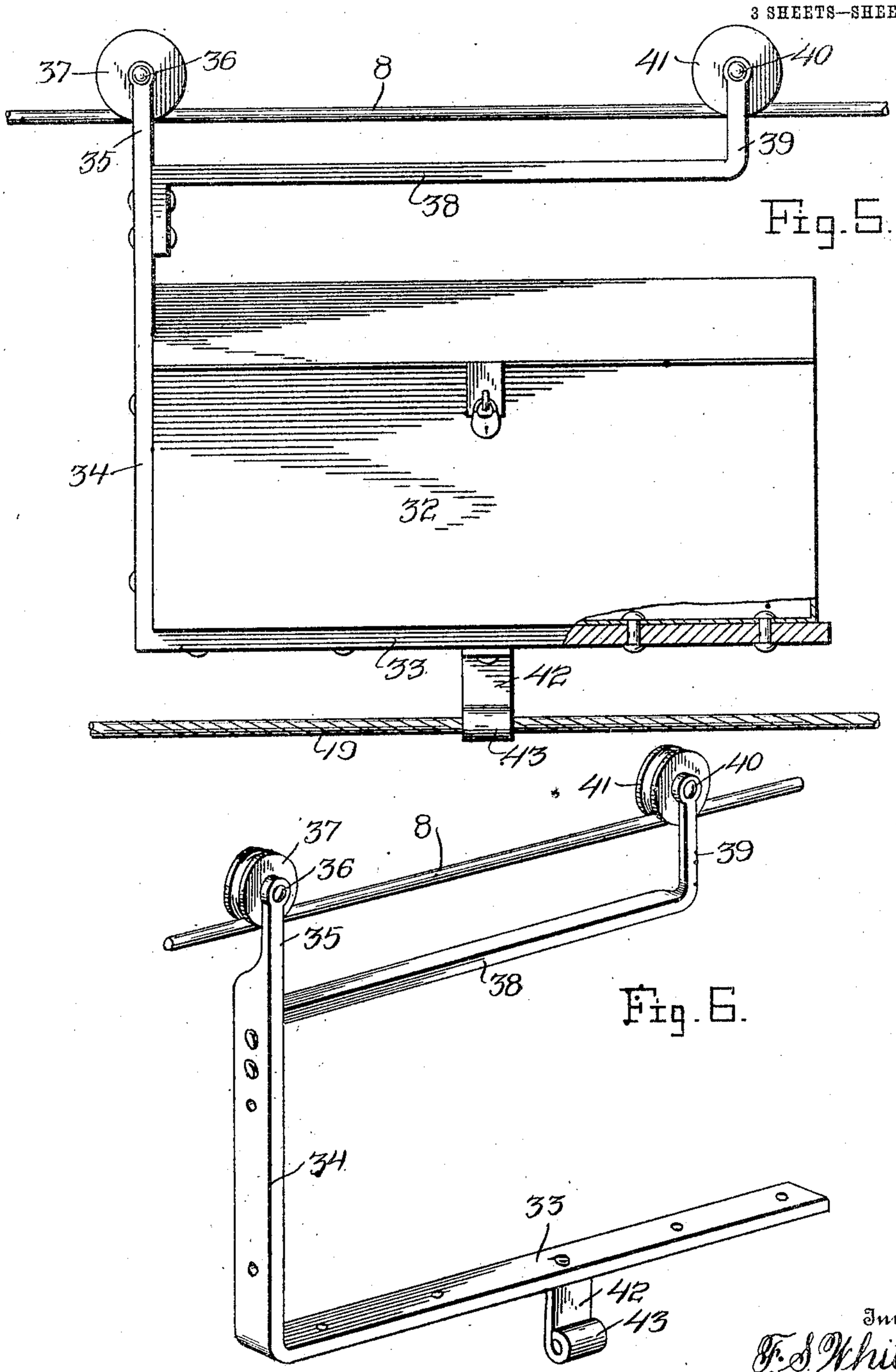

Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK S. WHITE AND JEROME F. STAFFORD, OF MINNEAPOLIS, KANSAS.

MAIL-CONVEYER.

No. 847,035. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 12, 1907.

Application filed September 13, 1906. Serial No. 334,478.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FRANK S. WHITE and JEROME F. STAFFORD, citizens of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Ottawa, State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Conveyers; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to mail-conveyers, and more particularly to that class which are designed for use to transport mail from some point along the route of delivery to the house of the person for whom the mail is intended.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a device of this character of simple construction which will transport a box of mail or other packages from one point to another and which will be under the control of the operator at all times during its transit, and the device includes means whereby the operator may know when the box is at or near its destination.

A common disadvantage in devices of this nature which are now on the market is that the operator is never sure when the box or carrier has reached its destination, and hence does not know when to slacken the speed of the cable, the result being that the boxes are very often torn from the cable and have to be repeatedly repaired.

A further feature of the invention resides in the provision of a novel form of bracket for the mounting of the box or carrier, the said bracket being supported from a stationary wire or cable and repeatedly connected with a traveling cable, by means of which the box carried by the bracket may be moved from one point to another.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in elevation of our system, showing the arrangement of the terminal and intermediate posts of the same and the manner of mounting the mail-box upon the cables. Fig. 2 is a view in elevation of the opposite side of the terminal post, which is located at the house of the user. Fig. 3 is a detail horizontal sectional view on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a view in side elevation of one of the intermediate posts. Fig. 5 is a detail view, in side elevation and partly in section, of the mail box or receptacle and showing the bracket for supporting the same. Fig. 6 is a detail perspective view of the said bracket.

Referring more specifically to the drawings, the numeral 5 denotes one of the terminal posts of the system, which is located at the house of the user of the system, 6 the other terminal post, which is located at any suitable point along the route, and 7 the intermediate posts of the system.

A wire or cable 8 is connected at one of its ends with the house terminal post 5 and at its opposite end to the route terminal post 6 and is supported intermediate its ends at various points by arms 9, which are located upon the intermediate posts 7 adjacent their upper ends. The purpose of this wire or cable 8 will be presently explained.

A bracket 10 is secured to the terminal post 5, as at 11, and extends laterally and upwardly therefrom and has its upper end forked to form spaced arms 12, at the upper ends of which is journaled a shaft 13, carrying a pulley 14, which is located between the said arms, and a sprocket-gear 15, which is located upon one end of the shaft and outwardly of one of the arms. A second bracket-arm is secured to the post 5 above the plane in which the pulley 14 is located and is of substantially the same construction as the arm 10, having a similar forked end which results in spaced arms 16, the said arms being connected loosely with the shaft 13 outwardly of the corresponding ends of the arms 12. It will thus be seen that the shaft 13 is firmly supported upon the post, but at a slight distance therefrom or in advance of the same.

Journaled in a bearing-bracket 17 upon the post 6 is a shaft carrying a second pulley 18, and over the said pulleys is engaged an endless cable 19, which serves as a means for moving the receptacle for the mail from one of the posts to the other in a manner to be hereinafter explained.

In order that the cable 19 may be driven, a shaft 20 is journaled in a bearing-sleeve 21, which is connected with the post 5 by means of an integral clamping-collar 22, and upon one end of the shaft is keyed or otherwise secured a sprocket-gear 23, with which and the sprocket-gear 15 is engaged a sprocket-chain 24, there being a crank-handle 25 provided upon the said shaft 20 to serve as a means whereby the same may be rotated to cause

the shaft 13 to rotate, and consequently move the cable 19. In order that the cable may be held at any desired point in its line of travel, a ratchet-wheel 26 is also engaged upon the shaft 20 at the opposite end thereof to the sprocket-gear 23, and arranged upon the post 5 is an arm 27, which carries a spring-pawl 28 in position for engagement with the teeth of the ratchet-wheel 26 to permit of rotation of the shaft 20 in but one direction.

To prevent sagging of the cable 19 intermediate the pulleys 14 and 18, each of the intermediate posts is provided with a bracket-arm 29, which projects laterally and upwardly therefrom and has its upper end bifurcated, as at 30, to receive the upper stretch of said cable, there being an eye member 31 formed upon the arm adjacent its lower end for the passage therethrough of the lower stretch of the cable.

The numeral 32 denotes the mail box or receptacle, which may be of any desired construction and which is preferably of such a size that it may receive not only mail, but small packages. The box or mail-receptacle 32 is supported by means of a bracket, which comprises a bar of metal bent to form right-angularly-extending portions 33 and 34, the portion 33 being secured by means of screws or other suitable fastening devices at the under side of the box or receptacle 32 and the portion 34 being secured in a similar manner to one end thereof. Projecting upwardly from the upper end of the portion 34 of the bracket is an arm 35, carrying at its upper end a stub-shaft 36, upon which is journaled a grooved wheel 37, and an arm 38 extends rearwardly from the said portion 34 of the bracket above the box and is thence bent upwardly at right angles, as at 39, and is also provided with a stub-shaft 40, upon which is journaled a grooved wheel 41, it being understood that the major portion of the weight of the box is sustained by the cable 8, upon which the wheels 37 and 41 travel. Formed integral with one of the longitudinal edges of the portion 33 of the bracket is an ear 42, which projects downwardly from the said portion 33 at an angle and has its lower end turned over upon itself, as at 43, and around the cable 19, it being understood that movement of the cable serves also to move the bracket and the box supported thereby and that the box may be caused to travel either toward or from the post 5 by rotating the crank-handle 25 in one direction or the other.

In order that the operator of the system may know when the box is near the post 6, and thus enable him to slacken the speed of the cable, a button 44 is formed upon the cable at such a point that when the button 44 is adjacent the post 5 the box or receptacle 32 will be adjacent the post 6.

What is claimed as the invention is—

1. A mail-conveying system comprising terminal uprights, a cable rigidly supported by the uprights, a traveling cable mounted beneath the first-named cable, a bracket including arms, wheels carried by the arms and arranged to travel upon the fixed cable, a clip carried by the bracket and connected with the traveling cable, and a carrier supported by the bracket.

2. A mail-conveying system comprising terminal uprights, a cable rigidly supported by the uprights, a traveling cable arranged beneath the first-named cable, a bracket formed of a bar of metal bent to form right-angularly-extended portions, a wheel journaled at the end of one of the portions, an arm connected with the said portion, a wheel journaled upon the arm, said wheels being arranged to travel upon the fixed cable, and a clip carried by the other portion and connected with the traveling cable.

3. A mail-conveying system comprising terminal uprights, a cable rigidly supported by the uprights, an endless cable mounted for travel beneath the first-named cable, a bracket having a portion secured to the endless cable and arranged for travel upon the fixed cable, and a carrier supported by the bracket.

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

FRANK S. WHITE.
JEROME F. STAFFORD.

Witnesses:
E. C. SWEET,
S. T. STULL.