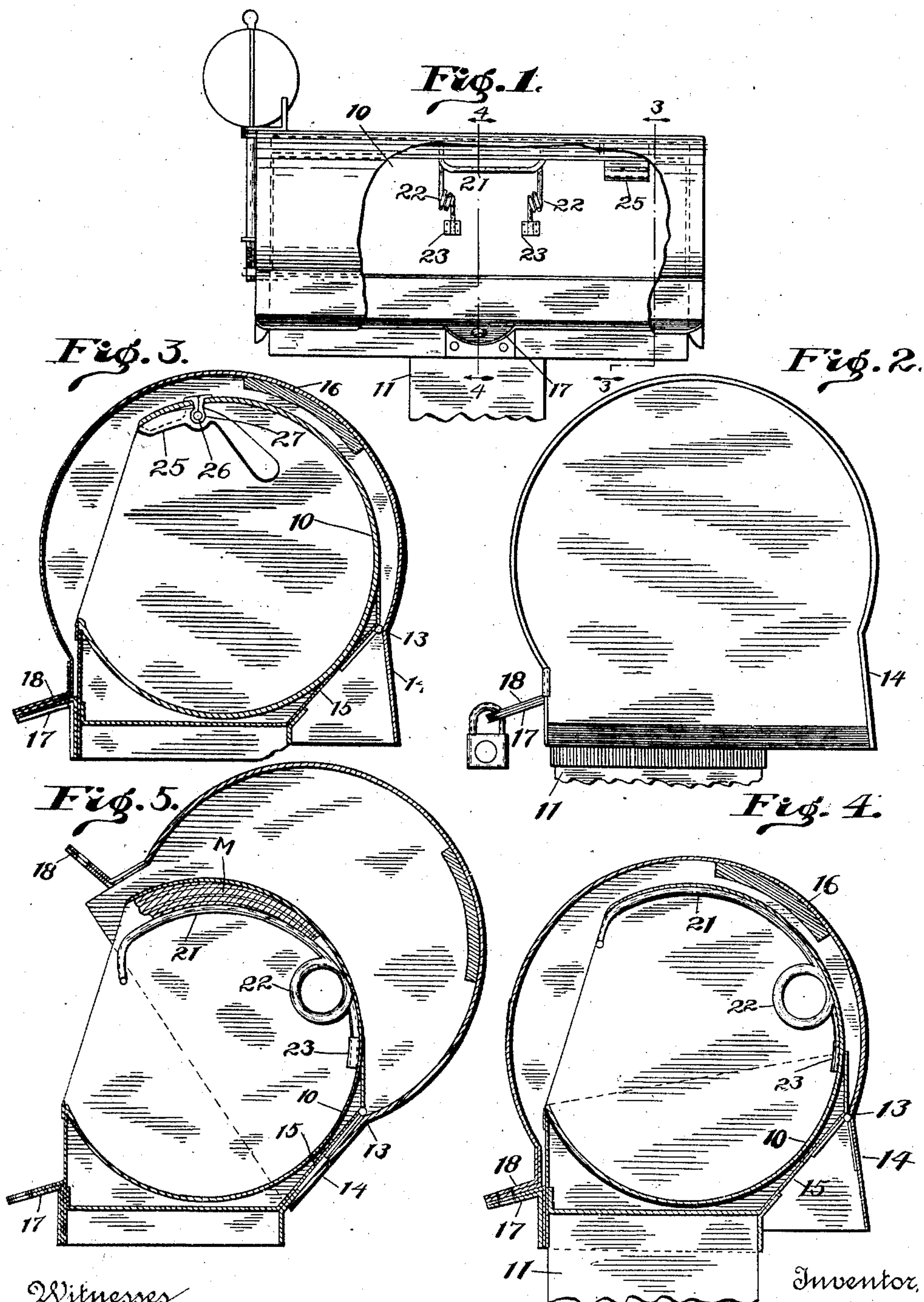


No. 868,590.

PATENTED OCT. 15, 1907.

G. A. WIRT.
MAIL BOX.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 31, 1907.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE A. WIRT, OF GREENSBURG, INDIANA.

MAIL-BOX.

No. 868,590.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 15, 1907.

Original application filed September 17, 1906, Serial No. 334,832. Divided and this application filed January 31, 1907.
Serial No. 355,097.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE A. WIRT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Greensburg, in the county of Decatur and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that variety of mail boxes which are designed especially for rural route service. Experience has demonstrated that such boxes need to be provided with separate means for holding the incoming and outgoing mail, and also any money which may be deposited by the patron for the purpose of purchasing postage stamps. Otherwise the labor of the carrier is much increased, and the dangers of mistakes are multiplied.

It is the object of my invention to provide a box having the facilities indicated, and in the use of which the least possible time need be employed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, which are made a part hereof, and on which similar reference characters indicate similar parts, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a box of the character in question, a considerable portion of the cover being broken away to show the interior and otherwise covered parts; Fig. 2 an end elevation; Figs. 3 and 4 transverse sectional views as seen when looking in the direction indicated by the arrows from the dotted lines 3 3 and 4 4, respectively, in Fig. 1, and Fig. 5 a view otherwise similar to Fig. 4, but with the cover in its open position, and also illustrating the holding of mail by the spring shelf.

The box 10, as is common, should be secured upon a post or other suitable support 11, and the cover 12 is secured thereto by suitable hinges, as 13. As illustrated by Fig. 5 the form of the lower rear portion 14 of the cover (and of the adjacent portion 15 of the box) is such that when the cover is raised just sufficiently to expose the receiving opening in the side of the box it will come in contact with said adjacent portion of the box, and its further movement be thus prevented. The cover is provided with a weight 16 which passes beyond the hinge center so as to hold the cover to its open position by its own gravity when raised. Upon the front edge of the box is a projection 17, against which a flange 18 of the cover rests when the box is closed, and through these two parts are perforations to receive a lock by means of which the box may be locked when desired.

The main chamber of the box is intended for the reception of incoming mail. The carrier in delivering such mail simply unlocks and opens the box and deposits the mail therein. If there be outgoing mail to be taken, the carrier will find it supported upon the

spring shelf 21, which I have shown and prefer to make in the form of a U-shaped spring, bent to conform substantially to the adjacent wall of the box, and having coils 22 near its end by which it is given greater resiliency, the extreme ends entering sockets 23 provided for the purpose and secured to the back wall of the box or chamber, while the middle forms a handle-bar which the user can easily grasp in bending down the shelf to insert or withdraw mail. The patron who may have outgoing mail will open the box and place it upon this spring shelf, from which, as will be readily seen, the carrier may take it quickly and easily, without in any way interfering with the incoming mail which he has to deposit. In other words, he may first throw the incoming mail into the main receptacle, and then immediately, with the same hand, take the outgoing mail from the spring shelf.

It also frequently happens that the patron desires to deposit a small sum of money for the purchase of postage stamps to be affixed to the outgoing mail. I have designed a very convenient means for receiving and holding such money in easy reach of the mail carrier. The means in question consists of a pivoted counterbalanced tray 25, which is suspended to the roof of the box by means of pivots 26 and bearings therefor 27. The weight portion of this counterbalanced tray is sufficiently heavier than the receptacle portion so that when the mail box is in position it will keep the tray closed by causing it to rest against the roof of the receptacle. When, however, the coins are to be removed from said tray it is done by the carrier simply reaching his hand in far enough to push the weight portion of the tray upwardly, which will tip the front or receptacle portion "downwardly" and the coins will immediately slide off into the carrier's hand. As will be seen, therefore, I have provided a mail-box in which the incoming and the outgoing mail and the postage money may all be kept separate, and may be handled with the utmost rapidity.

This application is a division of an application of my pending application, Serial No. 334,832, filed September 17, 1906, wherein the particular construction of the box and its cover is claimed.

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

1. The combination, in a mail box, of a main receptacle, a movable cover inclosing said receptacle, a pivoted counterbalanced tray suspended from the roof of said receptacle, the receiving portion of said tray being in front of its suspending pivot and its weight-extension extending to the rear of said pivot in position to be pushed

upon by the hand of the operator simultaneously with placing said hand in position to receive the contents of the tray.

2. A mail box having a main receptacle and a counter-
5 balanced tray pivotally secured therein beneath the upper part of the box so that its mouth normally bears against and is closed by that part.

3. A mail box having a main receptacle and a counter-
balanced tray pivotally secured therein beneath the upper
10 part of the box so that its mouth normally bears against and is closed by that part, the counterbalance of the tray

being extended downwardly lower than the base of the tray and accessible from the receiving opening of the receptacle.

In witness whereof, I, have hereunto set my hand and
15 seal at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 12th day of January, A. D. one thousand nine hundred and seven.

GEORGE A. WIRT. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

ARTHUR M. HOOD,

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