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A. A. NEWMAN.
PATROL BOX FOR WATCHMEN'S TIME KEYS.
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Fig. 1

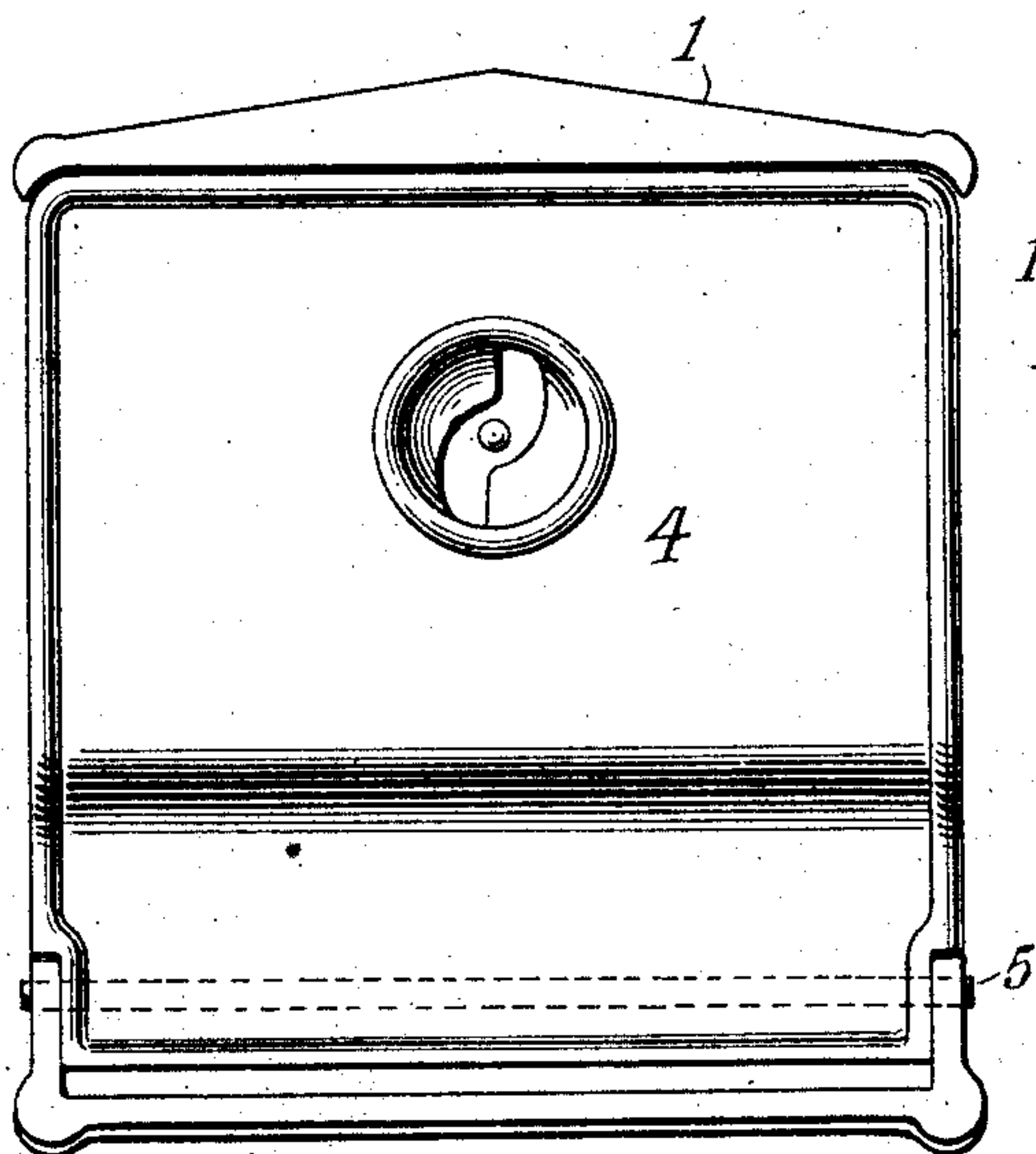


Fig. 2

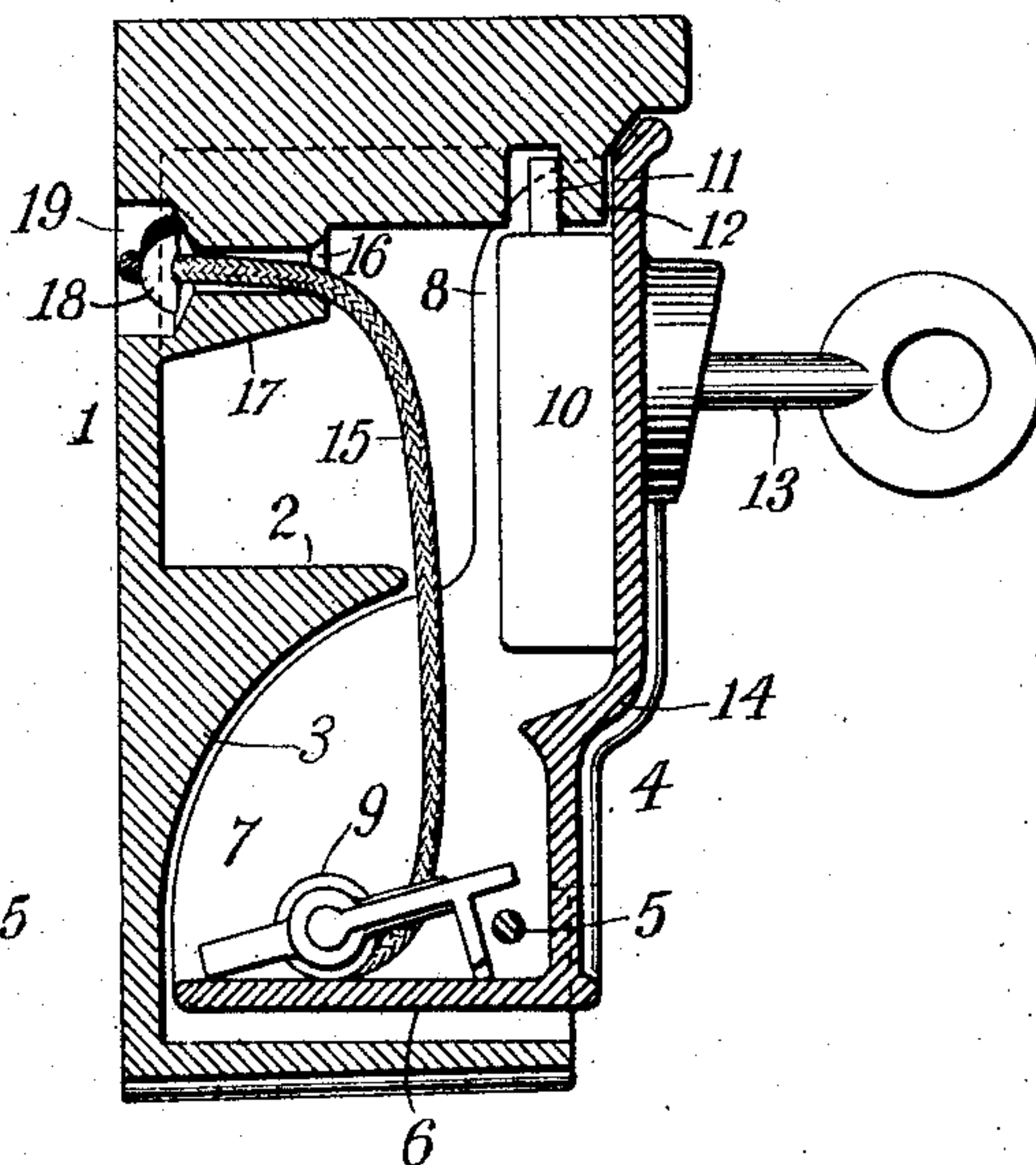
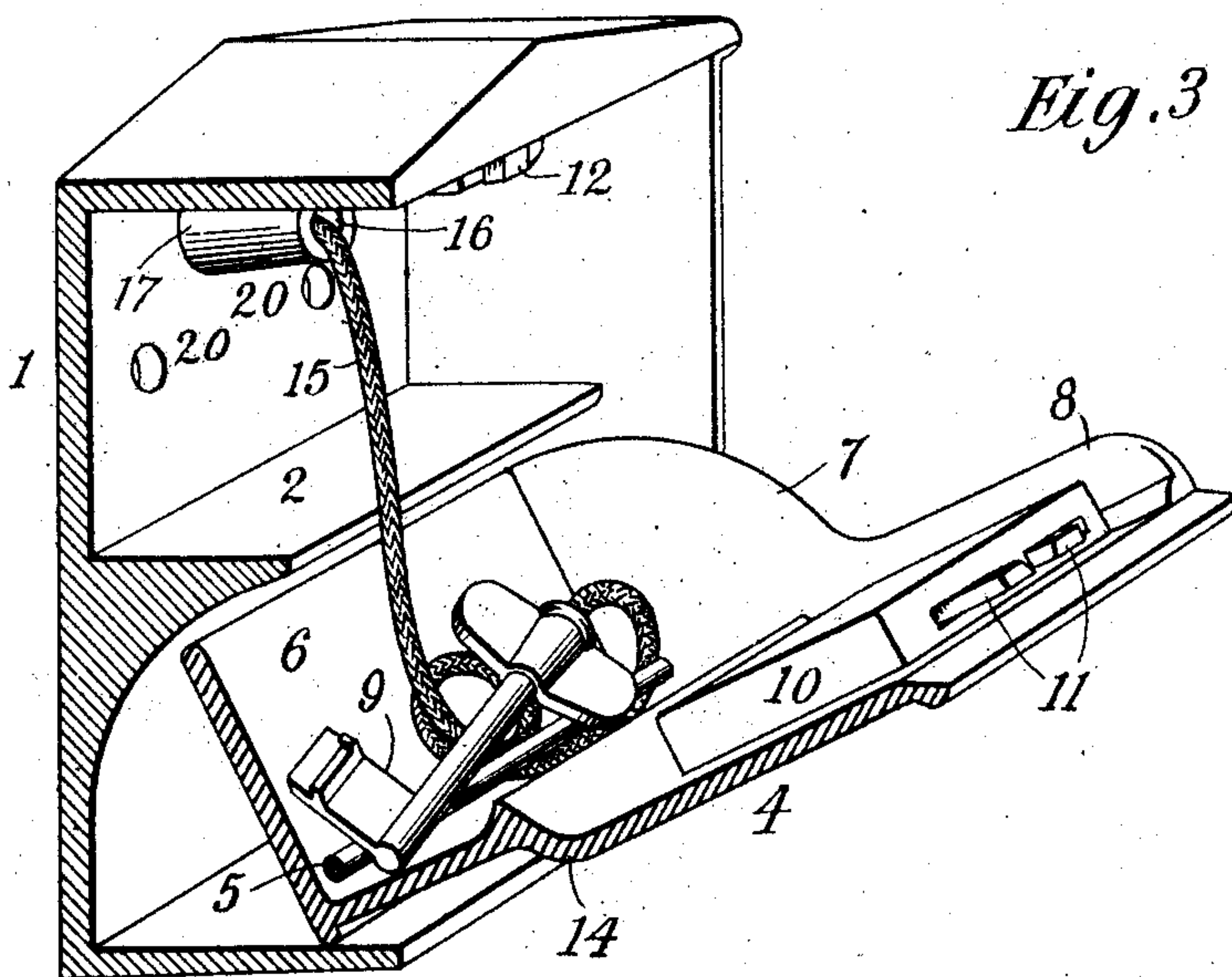


Fig. 3



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PATROL-BOX FOR WATCHMEN'S TIME-KEYS.

No. 883,736.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ABRAHAM A. NEWMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Patrol-Boxes for Watchmen's Time-Keys, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the drawing accompanying and forming part of the same.

In a well-known system for recording watchmen's time the watchman is provided with a portable time-recording clock, which he carries with him on his rounds. At one or more points in his route are time-keys, permanently fastened to a wall or other object, and adapted when inserted in the clock and properly actuated to produce an identifying imprint on the chronographic record card or sheet within the clock. As the different key stations are visited by the watchman the keys are used as just described, and a complete time-record of the period during which the watchman is on duty is thus made, so that the record card will show the times at which the key-stations were visited in the watchman's tour of duty.

In order to prevent unauthorized persons from meddling or tampering with the time-keys it is customary to provide locked receptacles or patrol boxes therefor, the key or keys for unlocking the boxes being carried by the watchman, who, after using a time-key, restores it to its box and locks the same. It is to the improvement of these patrol boxes that my present invention is directed, and the chief object of the same it to provide a box of simple, strong construction, from which the time-key may be readily removed and in which it may be readily deposited without the exercise of special care, so as to minimize the time which the watchman must spend in merely making his time-record.

The nature of the invention, by which the aforesaid object is attained, will be more readily understood from a description of the preferred type of patrol-box constructed according to the invention, and for that purpose reference may now be had to the annexed drawing, in which such preferred type is illustrated.

In the drawings, Figure 1 shows the box closed, in front elevation. Fig. 2 is a vertical section at right angles to the plane of Fig. 1,

showing the interior construction of the box, 55 and the time key inside the same. Fig. 3 is a perspective view, partly in section, showing the box with its door or closure in open position.

The box, indicated by 1, is preferably a single casting, and may be of any suitable size and proportions having top, bottom, and rear walls, and an open front portion.

The novel features embraced by my invention reside chiefly in the interior construction of the box, and are designed to permit quick deposit of the key in practically any position without liability of being jammed when the door is closed. For this purpose the box and its closure are constructed preferably as follows:

Extending inward from the rear wall of the box is a shelf 2, of about half the depth of the box and extending from one side to the other of the same. The underside of the shelf curves downwardly and rearwardly in an arc of a circle, from the edge of the shelf to the rear wall, as at 3. The door or closure 4 is mounted loosely on a horizontal pivot rod 5 extending across the box at the front of the same near the bottom, and is provided at its lower portion with a rearward extension or shelf 6, preferably at such angle to the closure as will make the said shelf or extension lie substantially parallel with the bottom of the box when the door or lid is closed. This extension or shelf 6 is of such depth, and the curvature of the underside of the shelf 2 is so proportioned, that as the closure or lid 4 swings on its pivot the edge of the extension 6 will always be close to the said curved underside. At the sides of the closure are segmental or quadrant-shaped flanges, one of which is shown at 7, the edges of which are formed on an arc concentric with the curvature of the shelf 2. The flanges 7 are preferably extended upwardly on the closure by narrower portions, as at 8. The closure, its bottom extension and side flanges, are by preference made of a single casting, as shown, for the same purpose as in the case of the box, namely, for the sake of cheapness of manufacture, durability and strength. Means is also provided for limiting the opening movement of the door or closure so that the latter will be held in such a position when open, that a key deposited thereon will be prevented from falling off the same, and will be

carried into the box when the door is closed. An efficient and simple manner of accomplishing the result stated consists in so pivoting the closure that a part thereof, such as the front lower edge 5^a, will abut the bottom of the box and arrest the opening movement of the door and hold the latter in an inclined position as shown in Fig. 3. It will be apparent that the inclined position of the door, when open, relative to the other parts serves to prevent the key from dropping therefrom when once deposited thereon, and that the key will be carried into the box when the door is closed.

From the foregoing the advantages of the box will be readily seen. When the watchman has used the time-key, indicated by 9, he may toss it back into the box, without regard to the position it may take therein. If the key lands on the shelf 2 it is, on reopening the box on the next round, instantly accessible. If the key lands on the closure shelf 6, as in Fig. 2, for example, it is, on reopening the door, presented in convenient position for removal. It will therefore be seen that in no case need any time be wasted in groping for the key, the latter being seen by the watchman the instant the door is opened or felt by him as soon as he puts his hand in the box, whatever position the key may occupy. At the same time, the parts between which there is any relative movement, as the flanges 7, 8, and the sides of the box, the shelf 2 and the extension 6, are always in such close approach to each other that the key cannot be caught between such parts, with consequent damage to the same or to the key, and cannot interfere with the quick opening and closing of the door.

To prevent access to the time-key by unauthorized persons, the door is provided with a suitable lock 10, preferably of the type shown, in which a pair of bolts 11 engage at their inner side edges a lug 12 depending from the top of the box and are separated or spread apart by the key 13. The lock is preferably of the spring or self-locking type, so that merely slamming the door shut will lock it.

In order to insure that the door is always locked when closed, as well as to cause it to open instantly when unlocked, the door is constructed in such manner that its center of gravity is not behind or directly over the pivot on which the door turns, but in front of the latter. This is secured preferably by offsetting the upper part of the door forwardly, as at 14, Figs. 2 and 3, so that the weight of the metal in front of the pivot will overbalance the extension 6 and flanges 7 behind the pivot. The result is that if the lock-bolts are not behind and engaging the stud 12 the door will drop open as soon as released by the hand, thus warning the watchman that the door was not properly closed and locked.

Also, the door remains open while the time-key is being used and does not require to be held open while the key is being returned.

The time-key is preferably connected to the box by a flexible connection, so as to permit the key to be used conveniently, but prevent it from being carried away or lost. For this purpose the key may be secured to one end of a cord or chain 15, the other end of which passes through an opening 16 in a lug or boss 17 depending from the top of the box and terminates in a retaining knot or button 18 to prevent withdrawal of the cord, as will be readily understood. The back of the box is countersunk or recessed, as at 19, where the opening in the boss 17 terminates, to receive the retaining button 18, so that the box may lie flat against the wall to which it is secured. The box may be conveniently fixed in position by means of screws, not shown, passing through holes 20 in the rear wall of the box.

It will of course be understood that the patrol-box herein specifically shown and described is merely the preferred form, and may be modified to a considerable extent without departure from the proper scope of my invention as defined by the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. In a patrol-box for a watchman's time key, a body portion having a closed rear wall and an open front, a part projecting forwardly from said rear wall to a point within the body portion, a closure for the front of the body portion pivoted adjacent the bottom front portion of the latter, and having a transverse shelf projecting within the body portion said shelf being of depth but slightly less than the distance from the closure to the innermost portion of said projection.
2. In a patrol-box for a watchman's time key, a box having a closed rear wall and an open front, a part projecting forwardly from said rear wall and having a downwardly and rearwardly curved under surface, a closure for the front of the box pivoted adjacent the lower front portion of the latter, and having a transverse shelf projecting within the box to a point closely adjacent said curved surface and arranged to traverse the same during the opening and closing movement of the closure.
3. In a patrol-box for a watchman's time key, a box comprising a top, bottom, and rear walls cast integral, and having an open front, a part formed integral with the rear wall and projecting forwardly therefrom, said part having a downwardly and rearwardly curved under surface, a closure for the front of the box and pivoted transversely at the lower front portion of the latter, said closure having a transverse shelf which closely approaches and traverses said curved surface during the opening and closing movements of the closure.
4. In a patrol-box for a watchman's time key, a box comprising top, bottom and rear

walls cast integral, and having an open front, a part formed integral with the rear wall and projecting forwardly therefrom, said part having a downwardly and rearwardly curved under surface, a closure for the front of the box and pivoted at the lower front portion of the latter, said closure having a transverse shelf cast integral therewith and joined at its end portions to said closure by flanges, said shelf being arranged to closely approach and traverse said curved under surface during the opening and closing movements of the closure.

5. In a patrol-box for a watchman's time key, a box comprising top, bottom and rear walls, and having an open front, a part projecting forwardly from the rear wall and having a downwardly and rearwardly curved under face, a flexible key retainer within the box, and a closure for the front of the box pivoted at the lower front portion of the latter, said closure having a transverse shelf which closely approaches and traverses said curved under face during the opening and closing movements of the closure.

6. In a receptacle of the character de-

scribed, a box comprising top, bottom and rear walls, and having an open front, a shelf projecting forwardly from the rear wall and having a downwardly and rearwardly curved under face, a closure for the front of the box pivoted horizontally at the lower front portion of the latter, said closure having a transverse shelf which closely approaches and traverses said curved surface during the opening and closing movements of the closure.

7. In a patrol-box for a watchman's time key, a box including a rear wall having a forwardly projecting part extending transversely thereof, and a closure horizontally pivoted at the front lower portion of said box, said closure having a transverse shelf projecting within the box to a point closely adjacent said projection, and means to limit the opening movement of the closure and maintain the latter in an inclined position when open.

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