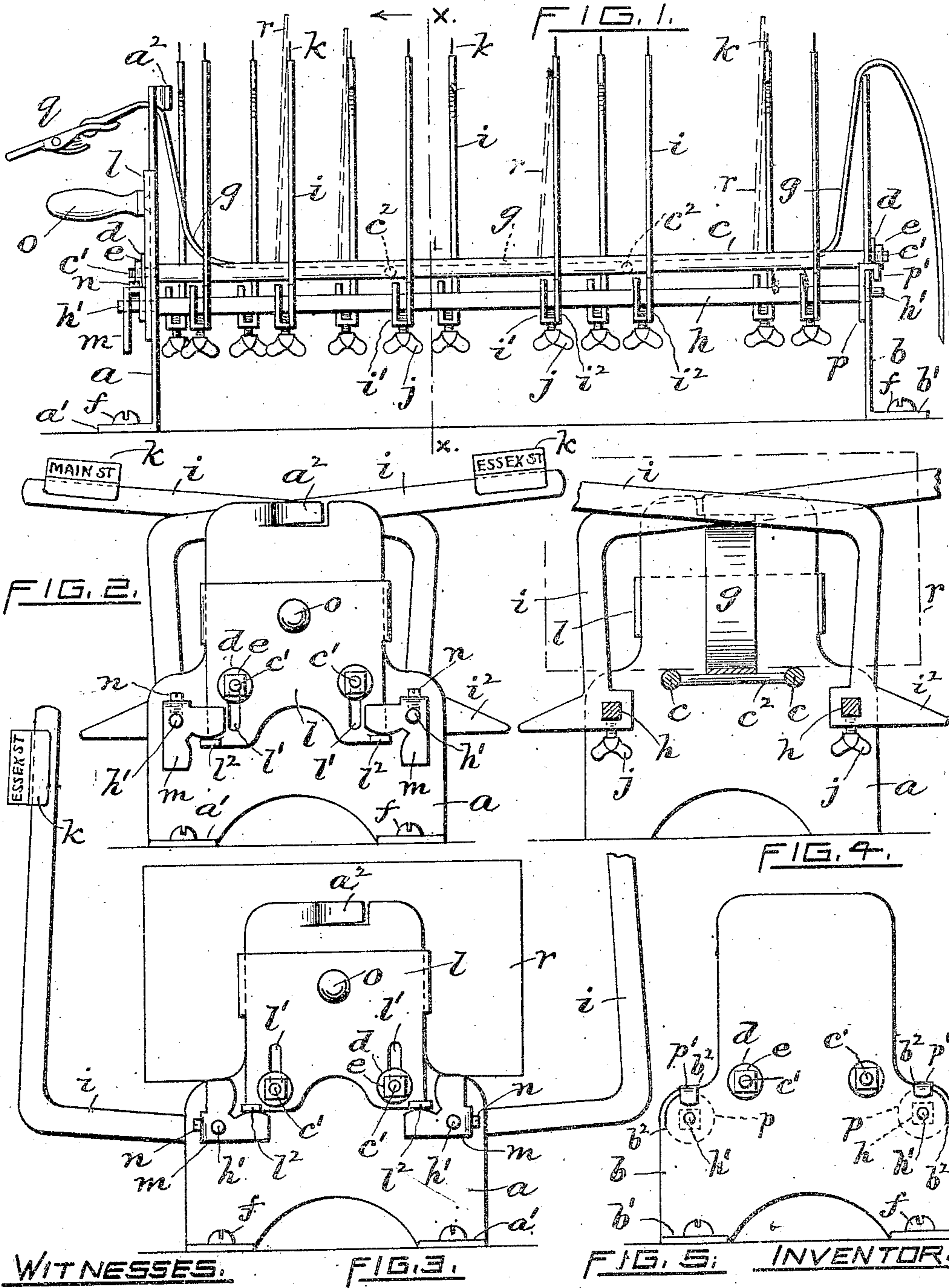


V. G. ANDERSON.
MAIL ARRANGING DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 18, 1908.



WITNESSES.

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FIG. 5. INVENTOR.

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VERNER G. ANDERSON, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

MAIL-ARRANGING DEVICE.

No. 898,164.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, VERNER G. ANDERSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Worcester, county of Worcester, State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Arranging Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a device adapted for use in the mail sorting room of post-offices; and the object is to provide means to enable the letter-carrier or post-man to quickly arrange his letters, newspapers, or other paper mail matter, in their proper order for delivery throughout his route or district.

My invention consists of a frame having a series of arms slidably mounted thereon, said arms serving to provide various compiling divisions for the mail matter, a strap to inclose the mail matter, and operating means to permit swinging the arms free of contact with the mail matter, after the same has been compiled in its respective divisions, all of the novel construction and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of my mail arranging device. Figs. 2 and 3, are front end views of the device, illustrating the closed and opened positions, respectively, of the operating parts. Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view of the device, taken on line $x-x$, of Fig. 1, and, Fig. 5 is a rear view of the device.

Like reference characters indicate like parts.

The frame of my device comprises vertical end walls a and b , and horizontal shafts c , c having concentrically reduced end portions c^1 , c^1 projecting through said walls, and which portions are screw-threaded to receive a washer d and nut e , to impinge against in holding said walls firmly to said shafts.

The walls a and b have laterally extending ears a^1 , and b^1 which are perforated to receive screws f , f for securing the said frame to a bench or table. These walls a and b , which are substantially alike, are stamped from sheet metal. The upper portion of the wall a is slitted to form a tongue a^2 which is bent inwardly of and extends parallel with said wall, to permit of passing a leather strap g beneath said tongue and over upon the slitted portion of said wall, in the manner shown

in Figs. 1 and 2. Between the shafts c , c , which extend in horizontal alinement to each other, are two rods c^2 , c^2 whose ends are secured to said shafts, and these rods serve as supports for the body portion of the belt or strap g .

On the frame, above described, is mounted two rock-shafts h , h , which are square-shaped in cross-section, and each of these shafts has its ends concentrically reduced so as to dispose cylindrical portions h^1 , h^1 to loosely enter through each wall a and b . These shafts h , h extend in horizontal alinement to each other between the walls of the frame, and on each shaft h is mounted a series of L-shaped arms or separators i , i , and each of these members are constructed alike and stamped from thin sheet metal. Each arm i has an overlapping or upturned portion i^1 , and through the two walls, formed by this portion of the arm, is provided square openings registering opposite each other and of a size to receive the flat sides of either shaft h . When the arms i are in a closed position their outer free portions project transversely over and beyond the frame of the device, in the manner shown in Figs. 2 and 4. From the upturned portion i^1 each arm has an extension i^2 which acts as a handle to slide the arm to its proper position upon either shaft h , and the bottom of each portion i^1 is provided with a screw-threaded opening to receive a thumb-screw j , to impinge against in holding the arm firmly upon its shaft. An ordinary clip k is mounted and held by frictional contact upon the outer free portion of each arm i , and each clip has the name of a street marked thereon, in the manner shown in Fig. 2.

One end of the fixed shafts c has its reduced screw-threaded portion c^1 projecting through vertically arranged slotted openings l^1 , l^1 , formed in a plate l , which is slidably mounted on the front frame-wall a of the device. The lower part of the plate l has two laterally projecting lugs l^2 , l^2 arranged to engage with knee-levers m , m , which are secured on the reduced portions of the rock-shafts h , h , by screws n , n . An operating handle o is made fast to the plate l , to cause the arms or separators i to be swung to an opened or closed position. Disks p , p are perforated to fit the flat sides of the rock-shafts h , h , and each disk has a bent portion p^1 overlapping the edge of the frame-wall b ,

to act as stops to abut shoulders b^2, b^3 , of the frame wall b , in order to limit the swing-movement of the arms or separators. The arms or separators i are adjusted a proper
 5 distance apart from each other to suit the space or division required for the average amount of mail matter to be delivered on each different street.

Each letter-carrier or post-man is sup-
 10 posed to have sole use of a mail arranging device, as above described, and after he has once arranged the members i in their proper location on the frame, these members may not require adjustment for some time.

15 Having described the parts embodying my invention, the manner of making use of the device is as follows: First, the buckle end portion q of the strap g is brought beneath the tongue a^2 of the frame-wall a and the
 20 body portion of said strap is then laid upon the supports c^2 and its opposite free portion resting upon the frame-wall b , in the manner shown in Fig. 1. Next, a downward pressure is exerted upon the handle o of the plate l , to
 25 cause the lugs l^2 of the latter to force down the knee-levers m and thereby swing each series of arms or separators i toward each other to their closed position, when the device is now ready to receive the mail matter, as in
 30 the position of parts shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The carrier then places the different addressed letter-mail in its proper street-division, formed by the space between each arm i , so that the edge of each mailing letter, designated by reference character r rests upon
 35 the body of the strap g and frame-shafts c , in the manner shown in Figs. 1, 3 and 4. After all of the mail matter has been compiled in its proper order upon the device, the carrier
 40 exerts a lifting pressure upon the handle o to force up the knee-levers m and thereby cause the arms to separate or swing free of contact with the letter-mail, to their opened position
 45 shown in Fig. 3, and, finally, the buckle portion q of the strap is removed from position on the frame-wall a and the other or free portion of said strap brought over the now compiled mail matter and secured by said buckle. Thus, after each mail matter is bundled to-
 50 gether, each letter-mail is in its proper place, one after the other, for each delivery by the carrier as he traverses from one street to another throughout his route. Instead of attaching a clip k to each arm i , the latter may
 55 be marked in any suitable manner, to indicate the name of street. The members a, b, i, l, m and p are each stamped from thin sheet metal, to not only lessen the cost in the manufacture, but also to provide a light, compact

and durable device, which is not liable to get 60 out of order.

Having described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters-Patent, is—

1. In a mail arranging device; a frame hav- 65 ing horizontal rods therebetween to serve as supports for the letter-mail; a strap to rest upon the supports of said frame; rock-shafts mounted on said frame; a series of L-shaped arms adjustably secured on each of said arms, 70 each series of arms extending toward each other to provide different divisions for the receipt of different letter-mail, and each arm having at its outer free portion a street name marked thereon, and means to operate in 75 swinging each series of arms free of contact with the letter-mail, after the latter has been compiled in its respective division between said arms.

2. In a mail arranging device, a frame hav- 80 ing a horizontal support to receive the edge of letter-mail; a strap to lay upon the support of said frame and beneath the letter-mail; rock-shafts mounted on said frame, and each shaft square-shaped in cross-section; L- 85 shaped arms having one of their ends made to fit and slide upon each shaft and their outer free portions extending toward each other in order to provide various compiling divisions for the letter-mail; means to secure 90 each arm to each shaft; and means to cause the arms to separate from contact with the letter-mail.

3. In a mail arranging device, a frame hav- ing a horizontal support; a removable strap 95 to rest upon the support of said frame; two rock-shafts mounted on said frame and each shaft square-shaped in cross-section; a knee-lever secured upon each of said shafts; a plate slidably mounted on said frame and 100 having a fixed operating handle and integral lugs, respectively, the latter to contact with each knee-lever; a series of L-shaped arms, one end of each made to fit and slide upon each of said shafts, and said arms arranged in 105 such manner that their outer free portions extend toward each other alternately throughout each series, and each arm provided with a different street name marked thereon, and means to limit the swing-movement of each 110 series of arms, substantially as shown and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

VERNER G. ANDERSON.

Witnesses:

E. M. ANDERSON,
 W. E. CORBETT.