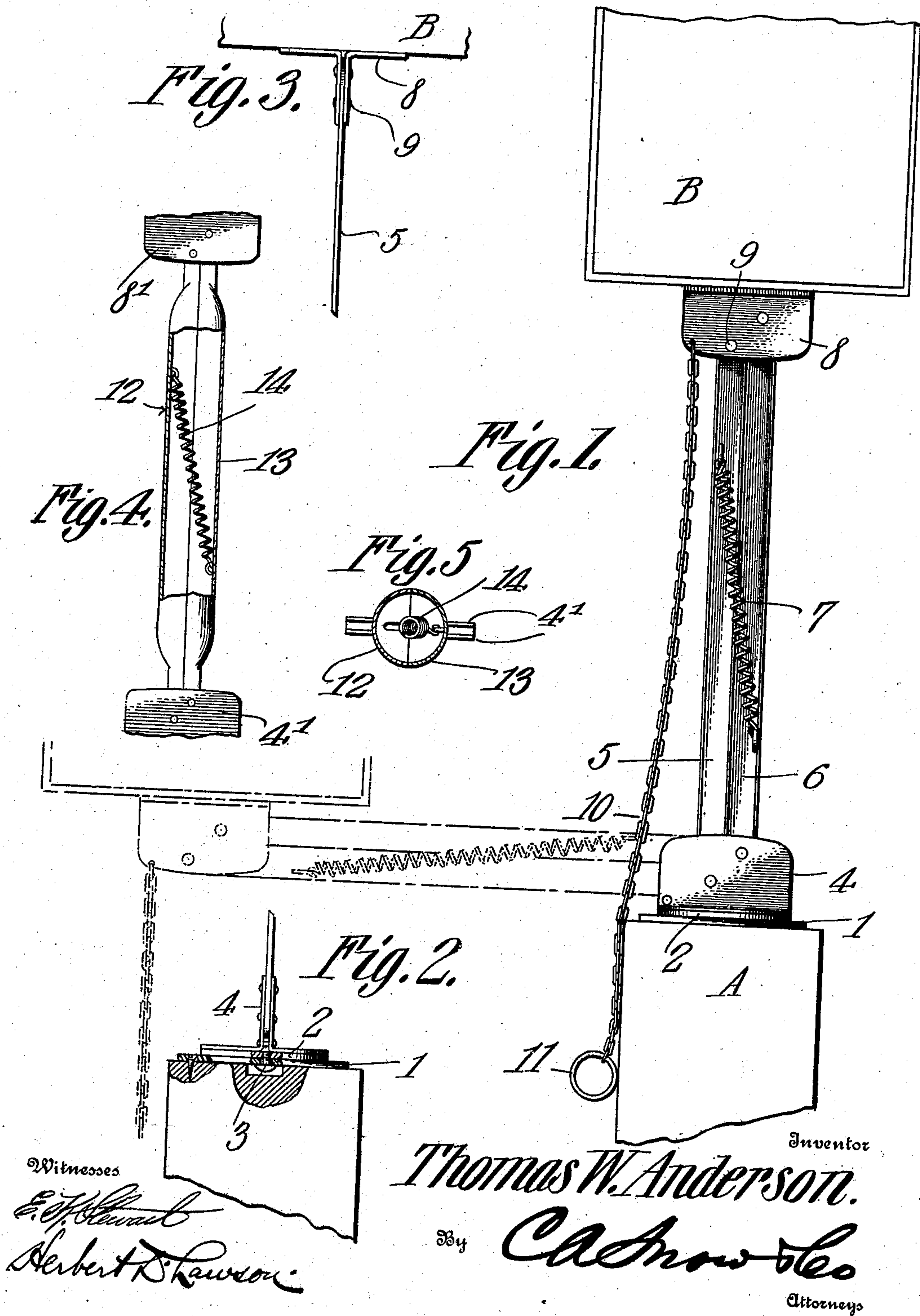


899,781.

T. W. ANDERSON.
MAIL BOX.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 13, 1908.

Patented Sept. 29, 1908.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS W. ANDERSON, OF SEALE, ALABAMA.

MAIL-BOX.

No. 899,781.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 29, 1908.

Application filed May 13, 1908. Serial No. 432,677.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS W. ANDERSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Seale, in the county of Russell and State of Alabama, have invented a new and useful Mail-Box, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mail boxes such as used upon rural free delivery routes, and more particularly to supports for the boxes.

The object of the invention is to provide a box support designed to normally hold the box at a predetermined elevation but which can be drawn downward to permit the box to be swung into the vehicle in which the carrier is located. It thus becomes possible to remove mail from and place it into the box in wet weather without requiring the carrier to leave the vehicle and thus become exposed to the elements.

Another object is to provide a box support which shall automatically return the box to raised position as soon as the carrier releases it.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts which will be hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings is shown the preferred form of the invention.

In said drawings—Figure 1 is a side elevation of a support embodying the present improvements, the same being shown in dotted lines in lowered position. Fig. 2 is an edge view of the base portion of the support, parts thereof and of the post being broken away. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the upper portion of the support and its connection with the box. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section through the arms of a modified form. Fig. 5 is a transverse section therethrough.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference, A designates a post, preferably three or four feet in height, and designed to be located at the side of a road. The mail box B, which can be of any preferred construction, is designed to be connected to the post by means of the support constituting the present invention. This support consists of a base plate 1 secured by means of screws or in any other suitable manner to the top of post A, and resting upon this base plate is a disk 2 having a stud 3 extending downward from the center thereof and mounted to rotate in the center portion of the plate 1.

Secured upon this disk 2 are oppositely-disposed angular brackets 4 spaced apart a suitable distance to receive parallel arms 5 and 6. These arms are disposed in the same plane and are of the same length. The arm 5, however, is pivoted to the brackets 4 at a point nearer the disk 2 than is the arm 6. Both of the arms are held normally in contact by means of a coiled spring 7 arranged diagonally upon one face of the two arms and connected to said arms in any preferred manner adjacent opposite ends thereof. This spring is constantly under stress and therefore tends to hold the two arms pressed together and consequently in an upright position. Secured to the bottom of the box B are oppositely-disposed angular brackets 8, and the two arms 5 and 6 project between the brackets and are mounted on pivots 9, the pivot of the arm 6 being arranged nearer the box than the pivot of the other arm. In other words, the distance between the two pivots of each arm is the same. A chain or other flexible actuating device 10 is secured to the brackets 8 and is preferably provided at its free end with a ring 11.

As heretofore stated, the spring 7 holds the arms 5 and 6 normally pressed together and the box B is therefore normally supported by the arms directly above the post A. When the mail carrier desires to place the mail within or remove it from the box without, however, leaving the vehicle in which he is seated, he may reach out and pull downward on the chain 10. This will cause the two arms 5 and 6 to swing down on their respective pivots thus increasing the stress of the spring 7 but maintaining the box B in an upright position, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1. The lowered arms and the box can then be swung into the vehicle, and after the interchange of mail has been effected the carrier can swing the box out of the vehicle and push upward on the arms, whereupon the tensioned spring 7 will draw the arms back to their normal or upright positions. The support herein described is also advantageous because it serves to hold the box at a greater elevation than would otherwise be possible and, therefore, the danger of injury to the box by passing vehicles is reduced to the minimum.

If preferred, in lieu of forming arms 5 and 6 of flat strips of metal each arm may be formed of a hollow semi-cylindrical member such as one-half of a split tube. The two

arms, which have been indicated at 12 and 13 in Figs. 4 and 5, when upright, contact so as to form a tubular housing in which the spring 14 is located. This spring is fastened at opposite ends to the respective arms. Otherwise the arms operate in the same manner as do those shown in Figs. 1 and 2. This construction is advantageous because the spring 14 is housed at all times except when the box 10 is in lowered position.

What is claimed is:—

1. A support for mail boxes comprising rev-
olubly supported base brackets, box-engag-
ing brackets, normally vertical parallel arms
15 pivotally connected at their ends to the base
and box-engaging brackets, and an elastic
connection between the arms for holding said
arms normally in contact and in vertical
position.
- 20 2. A support for mail boxes comprising
bottom brackets mounted to rotate in a com-
plete circle, box engaging brackets, parallel
arms pivotally connected to the brackets,
said arms and brackets being so connected as
25 to maintain the box-engaging brackets at a
predetermined angle to the horizontal irre-
spective of the movement of the arms, and
an elastic connection between the arms for
maintaining said arms normally vertical and
30 in contact.
3. A support for mail boxes comprising a
disk mounted to completely rotate, brackets
upstanding therefrom, box-engaging brack-
ets, parallel arms pivotally connected to the
35 brackets and disposed to maintain the box-
engaging brackets at a predetermined angle
to the horizontal irrespective of its elevation
and the movement of the arms, and elastic
means for connecting the arms for maintain-
40 ing them normally vertical and in contact
and means connected to and extending from
one of the brackets whereby the support may
be actuated.
- 45 4. A mail box support comprising upper
and lower brackets mounted to completely
rotate, parallel arms pivotally connected to
the brackets and mounted to swing vertically,
said arms and brackets being so disposed as
to maintain the upper bracket in a prede-
50 termined relation to the horizontal irrespec-
tive of the movement of the arms and of the
elevation of the upper brackets, and means
for maintaining the arms normally vertical
and in contact.

5. A mail box support comprising a base, a 55
disk mounted to completely rotate thereon, a
bracket upstanding from the disk, parallel
arms pivotally connected to the bracket,
yieldable means for holding the arms nor-
mally vertical and in contact, and means 60
pivotally connected to the arms for engaging
a box.

6. A mail box support comprising a base,
parallel pivoted arms mounted to rotate
above the base, elastic means for maintaining 65
the arms normally vertical and in contact,
said arms being movable against the action
of said means in a downward direction, and
box-engaging means pivotally connected to
the arms and maintained thereby in a prede- 70
termined relation to the horizontal during
the movement of the arms, the pivots of said
means being normally disposed in vertical
alinement with the lower pivots of the arms.

7. The combination with a support; of a 75
base plate secured thereon, a disk mounted
to rotate upon the plate, a bracket on the
disk, parallel arms pivotally connected to the
bracket and mounted to swing vertically, a
box-engaging bracket pivoted to the arms 80
and cooperating with the first-mentioned
bracket to maintain the arms parallel during
their swinging movement, elastic means con-
necting the arms for maintaining them nor-
mally vertical and in contact, the pivots of 85
the box engaging bracket being normally
disposed in vertical alinement with the lower
pivots of the arms, and means connected to
one of the brackets to facilitate the actuation
of the arms. 90

8. A mail box support comprising base and
box engaging brackets, parallel hollow arms
pivotally connected to the brackets and nor-
mally contacting at their longitudinal edges,
and a spring normally housed between the 95
arms and secured at its opposite ends thereto,
said spring constituting means for holding
the arms normally vertical and in contact,
said arms when in normal position com-
pletely concealing the spring. 100

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as
my own, I have hereto affixed my signature
in the presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS W. ANDERSON.

Witnesses:

R. H. HOLLAND,
FRANK M. DE GRAPPENRIED.