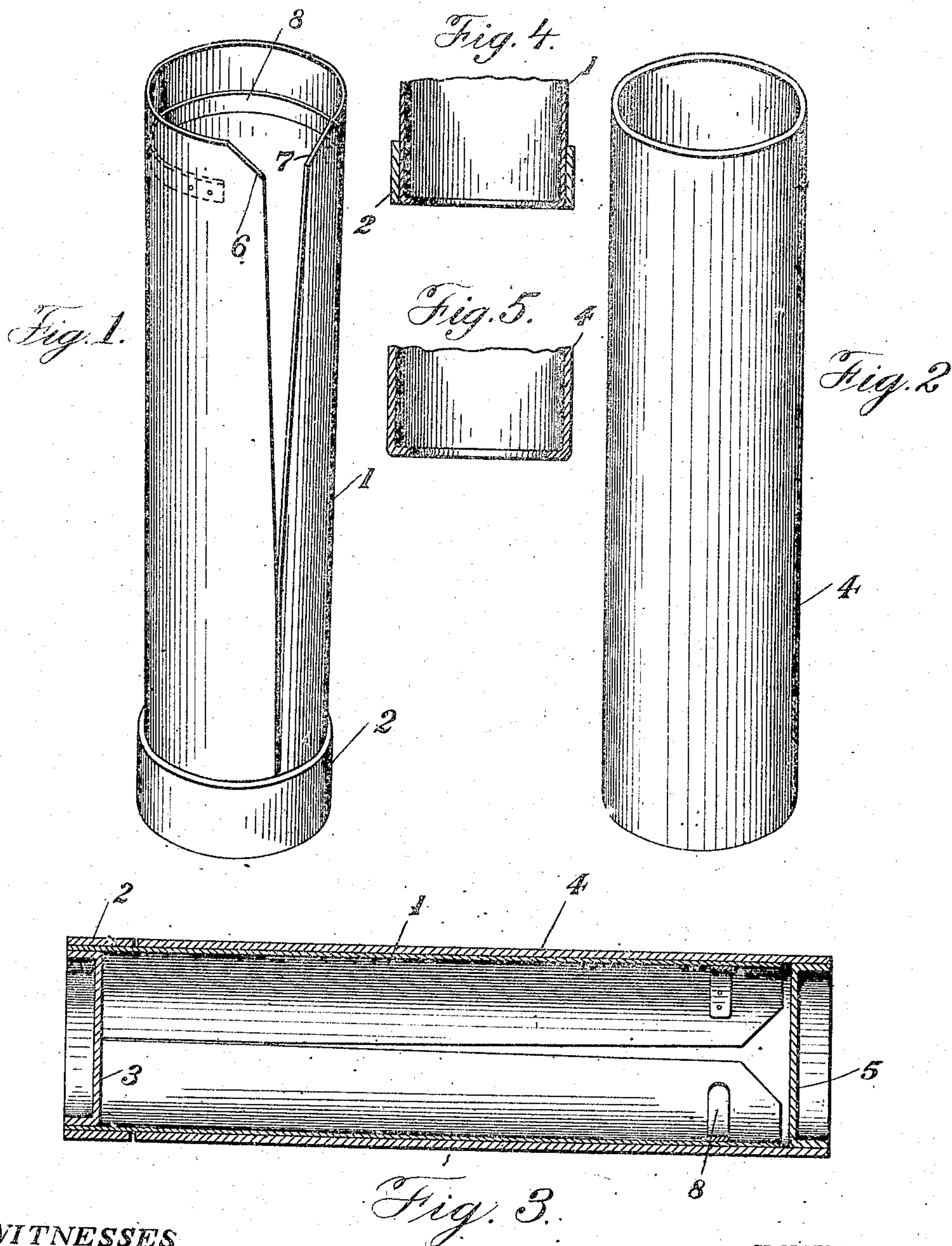


H. L. GRAY.
MAILING TUBE.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 18, 1908.

919,715.

Patented Apr. 27, 1909.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HOMER LOUIS GRAY, OF STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, ASSIGNOR TO THE TELESCOPE MAILING
TUBE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, A CORPORATION OF CALIFORNIA.

MAILING-TUBE.

No. 919,715.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 27, 1909.

Application filed February 18, 1908. Serial No. 416,560.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HOMER LOUIS GRAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Stockton, in the county of San Joaquin and State of California, have invented a new and useful Mailing-Tube, of which the following is a specification in such full and clear terms as will enable those skilled in the art to construct and use the same.

This invention relates to mailing tubes for the carriage of articles that are liable to be injured in transit through the mails or express companies, the tube being closed in such a manner as to prevent the loss of the inclosures and at the same time being open for inspection to provide means to examine the contents as required by the rules of the Post Office with respect to second, third and fourth class matter, or should it be desirable to seal the package all that is necessary is to place a stamp across the part of the tube which joins the main portion and the tube is perfectly sealed for the use of first class mail matter.

Another object of the construction of the tube is to make with as small amount of material as possible a tube which will be closed at every point thus making certain that there will be no loss of the materials carried.

Another object of the tube construction is to prevent the ends of the tube from being crushed, thus making the entire tube more substantial, since when one end has been broken the entire tube will in a short time get flattened throughout its entire length.

In the drawings in which the same numerals are applied to the same parts throughout Figure 1 is a view of the inner tube in perspective, Fig. 2 is a view of the outer tube in perspective, Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the two tubes assembled, and Figs. 4, and 5 show sectional views of modified forms of ends of the tubes.

The numeral 1 is applied to the inner tube which has a short outer tube 2 around it at one end and inside the inner tube the cap 3 is secured, said cap having its edges turned outwardly and being secured to the tube in any suitable manner, as by glue or otherwise.

The inner tube is cut in such a manner as to form a cylinder at one end, the end near the ring 2 and for a short distance away from that end, this cylinder being large enough to cause the tube to fit very tight in the heavy

outer tube 4, said latter tube having a cap 5 in its end similar to the cap 3 in the end of the inner tube.

In order that articles may be easily placed in the inner tube, the outer end thereof is left open as shown in the drawing and since the paper or other material from which the inner tube is made will have considerable resiliency that part of the tube tends to stay flat, thus leaving a wide mouth for the placing of any articles in the inner tube, and to increase this effect, the corners of the inner tube are cut away as shown at 6 and 7 to make the mouth still wider than it would be if the pattern of the inner tube formed a perfect cylinder. Another advantage accruing from this pattern, is that when it is desired to insert the inner tube in the outer tube all that is necessary is to compress the inner tube in the hand and it closes up to form a smaller circle at the outer end than the outer tube thereby making it easy of insertion in the outer tube.

In order that the outer end of the inner tube may spread as much as possible when the same is out of the outer tube, and that it may hold on the outer tube as tightly as possible when the same has been inserted in its place the inner tube has a strip of spring material 8 secured to its inner side near the end thereof. When the tube has been properly constructed it will hold a very considerable weight without any further securing means than the spring inner tube. If it is desired to make a tube that will be very tight all that is necessary is to make the cylindrical part of the pattern for the inner tube extend farther from the ring 2 than is shown in the drawing when it will fit very tight. To remove the contents of the tubes simply pull them apart.

Having thus described my invention in such full and clear terms as will enable those skilled in the art to construct and use the same what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is as follows:

1. A mailing tube comprising an outer cylindrical tube and an inner cylindrical tube, said inner tube being split substantially throughout its length, the edges of said inner tube being in engagement for a portion of their length, and the remainder being separate and forming a longitudinal V-shaped opening.

2. A mailing tube comprising an outer cylindrical tube closed at one end, an inner cylindrical tube closed at one end and cleft at its other end, and a partially circular
5 spring within said cleft end for expanding the same.

In testimony whereof I have set my hand

this 8th day of February A. D. 1908, in the presence of the two subscribed witnesses.

HOMER LOUIS GRAY.

Witnesses:

FRANK P. MEDINO,
J. M. C. MURPHEY.