

MAIL RACK.

925,347.

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MAIL-RACK.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN C. KINSMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Manawa, in the county of Waupaca and State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and useful Mail-Rack, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to racks for use particularly by carriers employed for delivering mail in rural districts.

The postal regulations require that carriers, before leaving the distributing offices, shall arrange the mail in such a manner as to enable it to be promptly and accurately delivered, it being also necessary to route together mail of the first, second, third and fourth classes for each patron and in the order in which the respective boxes along the route are reached. In order to meet these requirements it has been customary to assort the mail in pigeon-holes and subsequently tie it together by means of a strap. This however has been found undesirable because of the difficulty of obtaining prompt access to the mail belonging to any one patron without danger of disarranging all of the other mail contained within the package.

The object of the present invention is to provide a simple form of rack in which the mail, after being assorted, can be placed and firmly held, the mail for the first patron on the route being arranged at the top, and the mail belonging to the other patrons being disposed in the order in which the boxes are reached.

Another object is to provide a device of this character which firmly holds the mail after any portion of it has been removed and without the necessity of adjusting any of the parts, the holding means being designed to automatically bind upon the stacked mail irrespective of the quantity thereof within the rack.

A further object is to provide a rack of this type which is simple in construction, durable and efficient and will occupy the minimum amount of space within a vehicle.

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

In the accompanying drawing, which is a perspective view of the device, the preferred form of the invention has been shown.

Referring to the drawing by characters of

reference 1 designates a base having up-standing U-shaped holders 2 thereon disposed in parallel relation, the terminals of each holder diverging as indicated at 3 so as to permit articles of mail to be readily inserted between them. The holders are so arranged that each article of mail will project into both of them.

Hingedly connected to one end portion of the base 1 and extending upwardly therefrom is a supporting strip 4 the upper end of which is preferably forked as indicated at 5 so as to receive one end of an arm 6 which is pivotally mounted therein, the other end of the arm being enlarged to constitute a presser head 7 disposed between the holders 2 and designed to rest upon the articles of mail contained within the holders. A coiled spring 8 is secured at its ends to the arm 6 and the strip 4 respectively, and another spring 9 is secured to said strip 4 and to the base 1 at a point between the strip and the holders. The spring 9 serves to hold the strip 4 normally drawn in the direction of the holders, the movement of the strip in this direction being limited by the square lower end 10 of the strip 4 which is designed to rest upon the base 1. The spring 8 exerts a constant downward pull upon the arm 6 so as to press the head 7 constantly upon the mail contained within the device.

In using the rack herein described the carrier places together the mail of all classes intended for each patron and routes the mail, and then places it within the holders 2 so that the mail intended for the box approached by him is always at the top of the stack. The head 7 is shifted downwardly into the notch 11 which is formed in the base and will be held in engagement with one wall of the notch by the springs 8 and 9. After the mail has been placed within the holders 2 the arm 6 is elevated so as to bring the head 7 above the stack of mail and the spring 8 draws the arm downwardly and clamps the head 7 upon the stack of mail so as to firmly hold it in place. When the mail intended for the first box along the route is removed from the top of the rack the head 7 will move downwardly automatically into contact with the top of the remaining portion of the stack, and therefore it will be seen that the mail is constantly held firmly at all times without the necessity of adjusting any of the parts, as, for example, where a strap is used for tying the mail together.

The device is very simple in construction and compact, and will not therefore occupy an undesirable amount of room within a vehicle, nor will it be difficult to carry should the carrier be mounted upon horseback.

Obviously various changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit or sacrificing the advantages of the invention.

10 What is claimed is:—

1. A device of the class described comprising spaced mail-holding members, a mail-pressing device there-between, and separate means for automatically producing longitudinal and swinging movement of said device to bear upon mail stacks of different heights.

2. A device of the class described comprising a mail-holding member, a pivoted pressing device for bearing upon mail contained within the holder, a swinging support for the pivot and separate elastic means for actuating the support and the pressing device.

3. A device of the class described comprising a mail-holding member, a spring-controlled pivoted support adjacent thereto, a pressing member pivotally connected to the support and a controlling spring for said member.

4. A device of the class described comprising a base, spaced mail-holding members thereon, a pivoted support upon the base, a pressing device movably connected to the support, and separate means for controlling the movements of the support and pressing device.

5. A device of the class described comprising a base, spaced mail-holding members

thereon, a support pivotally mounted on the base, a mail pressing device pivotally connected to the support and extending between the members, and separate elastic means for controlling the movements of the support and pressing device.

6. In a device of the class described a base, spaced mail-holding members thereon, a support hingedly connected to the base and upstanding therefrom, a pressing device pivotally connected to the support, an elastic connection between said support and the pressing device, and an elastic connection between the support and the base.

7. A device of the class described comprising a base, spaced U-shaped mail-holding members upstanding from the base, the terminals of said members diverging, and stack-pressing means extending between the members.

8. A device of the class described comprising a base, spaced U-shaped mail-holding members upstanding from the base, the terminals of said members diverging, and stack-pressing means extending between the members and mounted for longitudinal and swinging movement relative to a stack, and means for automatically adjusting said device to stacks of different heights.

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

JOHN C. KINSMAN.

Witnesses:

B. F. STRONG,
T. GARRITY.