

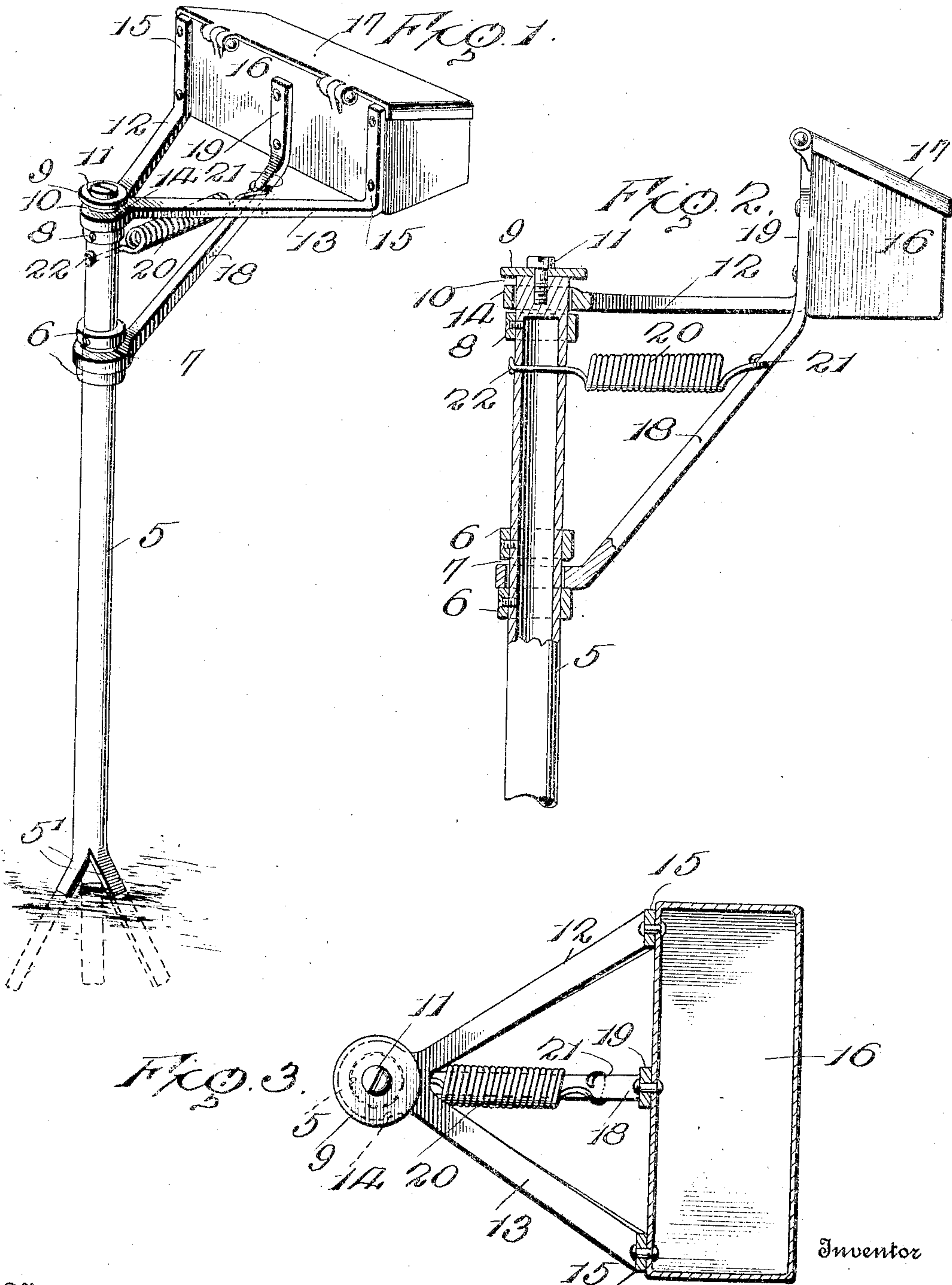
J. E. SHANK.

MAIL BOX.

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963,329.

Patented July 5, 1910.



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MAIL-BOX.

963,329.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH E. SHANK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Little River, in the county of Rice and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mail boxes and more particularly to a box or receptacle especially designed for use on rural free delivery routes.

The object of the invention is to provide a mail box, free to swing laterally in a horizontal plane, thereby to prevent injury to the box by contact with the wheels of a mail wagon when approaching said box to receive or deliver mail.

A further object is to provide a mail box having laterally extending arms for pivotal connection with a supporting post or standard, there being a coil spring operatively connected with the post and one of said arms for yieldably supporting the mail box in normal position.

A still further object of the invention is generally to improve this class of devices, so as to increase their utility, durability and efficiency.

Further objects and advantages will appear in the following description, it being understood that various changes in form, proportions and minor details of construction may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claim.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail box constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same partly in section; Fig. 3 is a top plan view partly in section.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

The device comprises a post or standard 5 preferably cylindrical in shape, as shown, and having its lower end split to form diverging anchoring members 5' adapted to be driven or otherwise embedded in the ground or secured to a suitable support, as desired.

Secured to or formed integral with the

post or standard 5 are spaced collars 6 defining a circumferential seating groove 7, there being a similar collar 8 spaced from a cap piece 9 to form a corresponding groove 10. The cap piece 9 engages the upper end of the standard 5, and is preferably secured to the latter by a bolt or similar fastening device 11.

Extending laterally in a horizontal plane from the upper end of the post or standard 5 are diverging arms 12 and 13, having their converging ends united to form a head 14 fitting within the groove 10 and provided with an eye for the reception of the standard, thus to permit the arms to swing laterally on said standard. The diverging ends of the arms 12 and 13 are bent upwardly to produce spaced vertically disposed fingers or straps 15 for attachment to a mail box 16, the latter being of any suitable construction and provided with a pivoted lid or cover 17.

Disposed beneath the supporting arms 12 and 13, is an inclined brace 18 having its lower end fitting within the groove 7 and provided with an eye for the standard 5 and its upper end bent to form an attaching finger or strap 19, which latter is riveted or otherwise rigidly secured to the rear wall of the box between the attaching straps or fingers 15, as best shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

Disposed beneath the arms 12 and 13 is a coil spring 20, one end of which is passed through an opening 21 in the upper end of the brace 18, while the other end of said spring is extended through transversely disposed eyes 22 formed in the post or standard 5 between the collars 6 and 8. Thus it will be seen that the spring 20 serves to yieldably support the mail box 16 in normal position so that should the wheels of a mail wagon strike the mail box when approaching the latter to receive or deliver mail, the box will swing laterally on its pivotal axis to either side of the standard without injury thereto, the spring 20 serving to form in effect a cushion for the mail box and also serving to return the box to normal position after each swinging movement.

It will of course be understood that the mail box may be mounted for swinging movement in either a horizontal or vertical plane and attached to any suitable support. It will also be understood that the device may be attached to any style of standard 5.

and instead of being formed of metal may be constructed of wood in which event the top of the post or standard will be provided with a metallic cap.

5 Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

The combination with a standard having spaced circumferential seating grooves, of a mail box, diverging supporting arms having
10 their outer ends rigidly secured to the opposite ends of the mail box and their inner ends united to form a head pivotally mounted on the standard at one of the seating grooves, an inclined brace secured to the

rear wall of the mail box between the diverging supporting arms and provided with a similar head pivotally mounted in the other groove of the standard, and a spring having one end thereof secured to the standard and its other end connected with the inclined brace. 15 20

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

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