

Sept. 4, 1928.

1,683,217

J. H. WARD, JR

MAIL BOX

Filed April 21, 1926

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

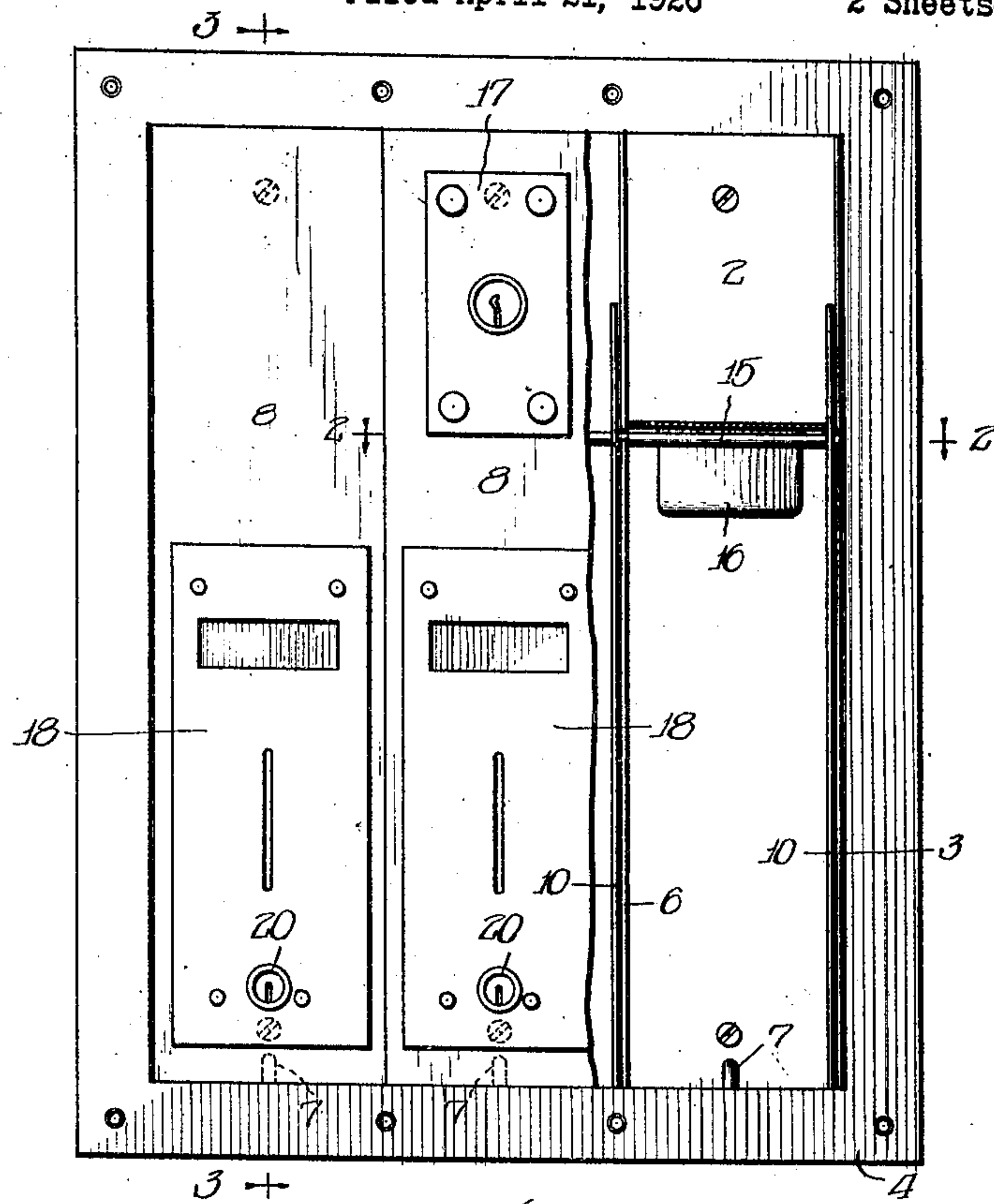
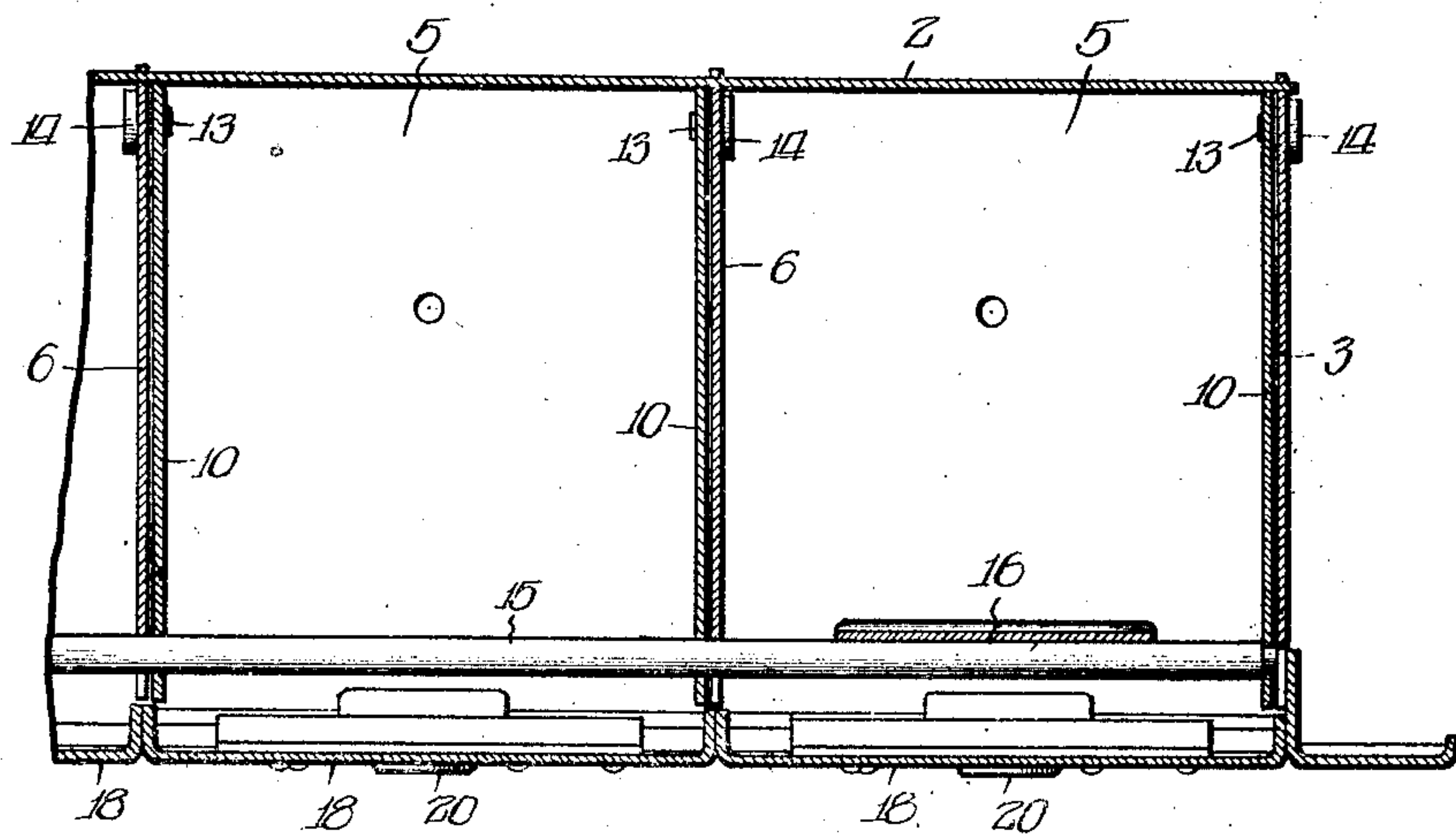


Fig. 2



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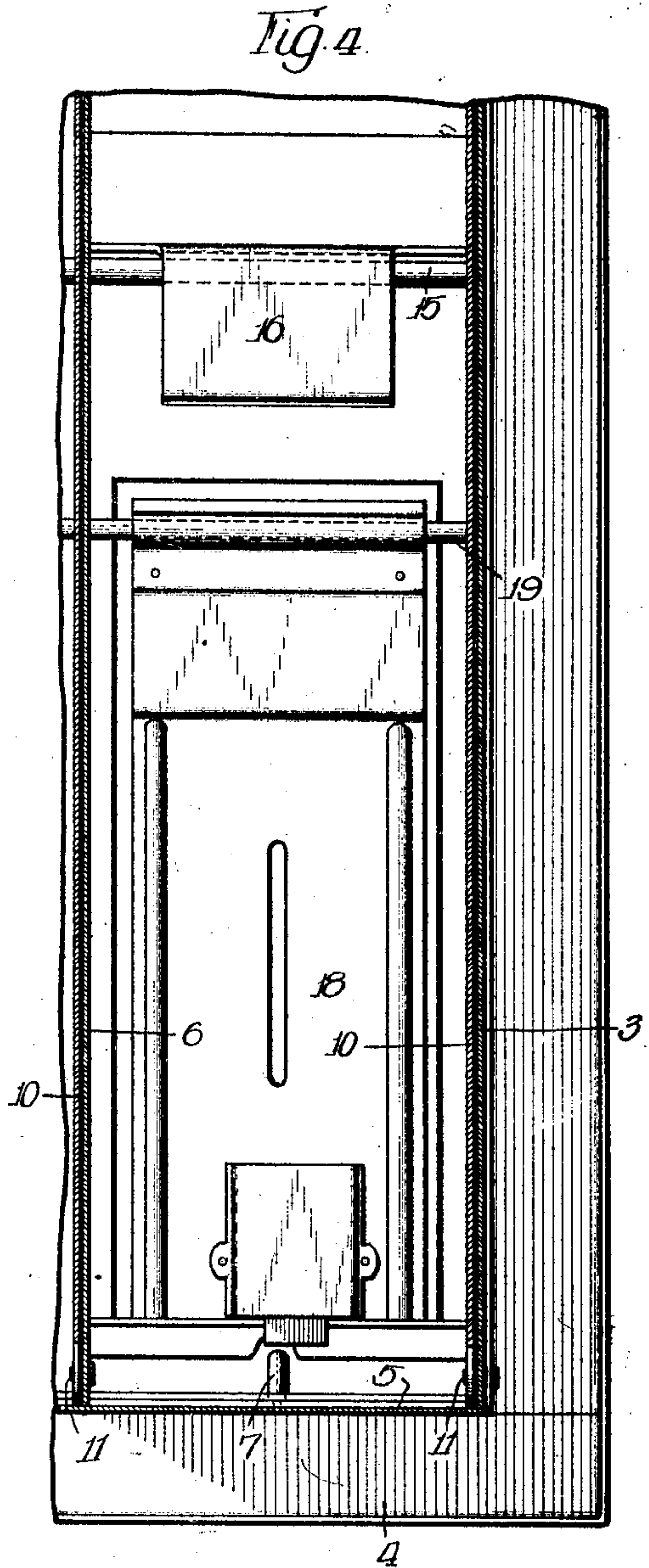
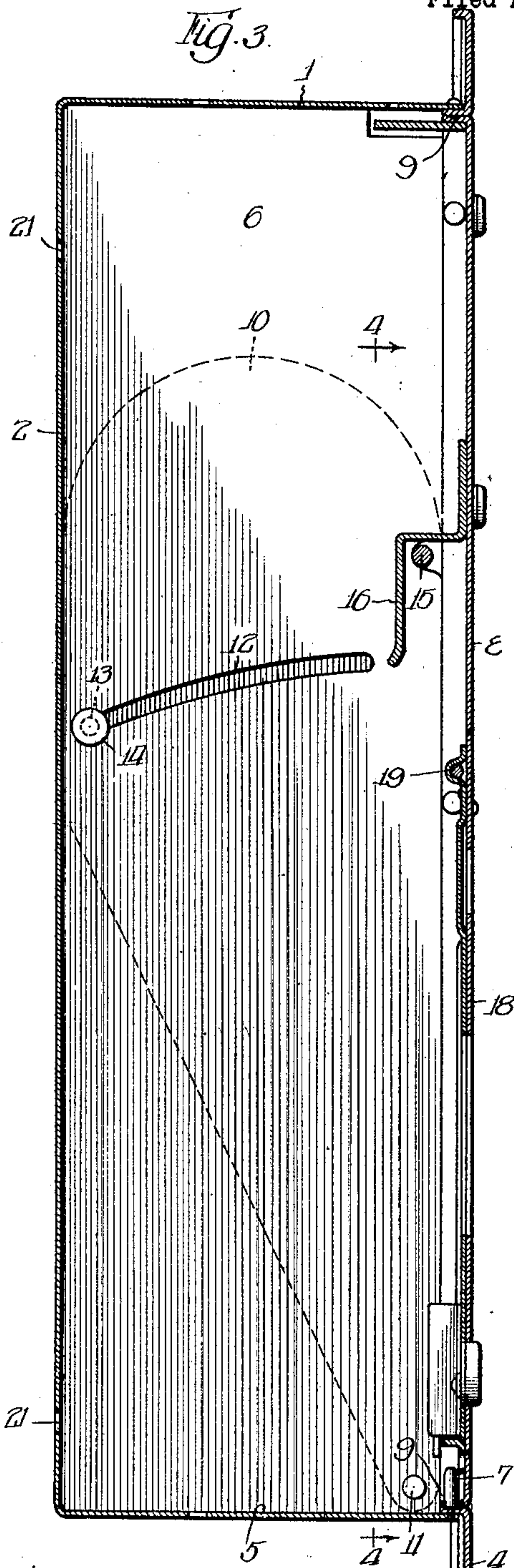
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MAIL BOX.

Application filed April 21, 1926. Serial No. 103,445

The present invention relates to mail boxes.

More particularly the present invention relates to receptacles suitable for use in apartment buildings or in other places where it is desirable to have a battery of receptacles which may be opened simultaneously by a person having the proper key and which permits the selective opening of each of said receptacles by a person having the key to that particular receptacle without permitting access to the others of said receptacles.

An object of the present invention is to provide a mail box of sturdy construction which will comply with the requirements of the United States Postoffice Department, and which will involve a minimum of space for that purpose.

A further object is to provide a mail box from which the cover may be readily removed to simplify the matter of assembly of the box within the wall or other supporting member upon which it is mounted, which mail box will effectually resist any attempts at tampering.

A further object is to provide a mail box which will simplify the job of the postman in depositing mail and which permits the convenient removal of said mail by persons having access to the individual mail boxes.

A further object is to provide a mail box having a removable hinged cover portion which cooperates in novel manner with the remainder of the mail box to provide a structure well adapted to meet the needs of commercial service.

Further objects will appear as the description proceeds.

Referring to the drawings—

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation, parts being broken away, illustrating one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a horizontal sectional view taken along the plane indicated by the arrows 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view taken along the plane indicated by the arrows 3—3 of Figure 1; and

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken along the plane indicated by the arrows 4—4 of Figure 3.

The numeral 1 indicates a casing which may be made up of sheet metal. According to the illustrated embodiment of the present

invention, said casing 1 comprises the sheet metal member 2, which is bent in U-shape to form the back member and the top and bottom members of said casing 1. The two side walls of said casing 1 are sheet metal members, one of which is indicated in Figure 2 by the numeral 3. The members 2 and 3 may be joined and riveted together to provide a casing open on one side. Bounding the casing 1 on its open side is the face plate 4, which may be of brass or other material having a presentable appearance. Said face plate 4 may be riveted or otherwise secured to the casing 1, preferably having a flange extending into said casing. As will be referred to hereinafter, the rivets for securing the lower portion of the face plate 4 to the bottom wall of the casing 1 will preferably have the added function of providing hinge pins for removably swingingly mounting a closure member. The casing 1 is divided into a plurality of compartments, indicated by the numerals 5—5, the dividing walls between said compartments being preferably sheet metal members 6—6 arranged in parallel relationship with the side walls 3—3 of the casing 1. Said sheet metal members 6—6 may be joined to the casing 1 in any preferred manner, being preferably riveted thereto.

As indicated above, the rivets for connecting the face plate 4 to the casing 1 along the bottom wall of said casing 1 at the front thereof preferably serve the added function of providing pivot pins. As clearly shown in Figure 3, the pivot pins 7 serve the double function of securing the face plate 4 to the bottom wall of the casing 1 and forming hinge members for the closure member 8. A number of said pivot pins 7 may be provided along the width of the mail box. The closure member 8 comprises a substantially flat wall having inwardly turned flanges 9—9 along its four sides, the lower flange 9 being provided with apertures adapted to loosely receive the upstanding pins 7. The closure member 8 will fit within the outline defined by the innermost portions of the face plate 4, so that said closure member 8 cannot be removed when said closure member 8 is in its closed position, in which position the outer face of the closure member 8 is substantially flush with the outer face of the face plate 4. When said closure member 8 is swung outwardly, how-

ever, so that the upper extremity thereof is free of the adjacent portion of the face plate 4, said closure member 8 may be readily lifted from the pins 7 and separated from the casing 1.

It will be clear that by swinging the closure member outwardly from its closed position, access will be had to the several compartments 5—5. In order to provide chutes down which the postman may drop the mail matter to be deposited in the several compartments, the present invention contemplates the provision of chute walls 10—10 lying in parallel relationship with the walls of said compartments 5—5. According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, each sheet metal member 6 has a chute wall 10 mounted adjacent thereto. Each side wall 3 of the casing 1 also has a chute wall 10 mounted adjacent thereto. In said preferred embodiment, therefore, the number of chute walls 10 is one more than the number of compartments 5—5. Said chute walls are pivotally connected to the adjacent partition walls 6 or end walls 3 by means of rivets 11, the axes of said rivets lying in substantial alignment. Each of the partition walls 6—6 is provided with an arcuate slot 12 having its axis coincident with the axis of the rivets 11—11. Said arcuate slots 12 are adapted to receive pins 13 securely mounted in the adjacent chute walls, whereby to provide a lost motion connection. Said pins 13—13 are provided with heads 14, which maintain said pins 13 in operative relationship with the corresponding partition walls 6 or end walls 3 without danger of interfering with mail matter deposited within the mail box. The front portions of the chute walls 10—10 are secured to a rod 15, which constrains said chute walls to move as a unit about the axis of the rivets 11.

The closure member 8 is provided on its rear side with one or more hook members 16 adapted to hook over the rod 15. Swinging movement outwardly of the closure member 8 will, by reason of the engagement between the hook members 16 and rod 15, cause the chute walls 10—10 to swing outwardly, the outward swinging movement of said closure member 8 and the chute walls 10—10 being limited by the material defining the arcuate slots 12—12. The weight of the closure member 8 and the proportions of the parts will, of course, be chosen such that after the closure member 8 has been swung outwardly to a convenient angle the weight of said members will tend to hold same in open position. Under these conditions the back wall of the casing 1, the front closure member 8, the chute walls 10—10 and the stationary walls 6 or 3 provide flaring compartments, simplifying the job of the postman in depositing the mail. After the postman has deposited his mail, he will move

the closure member 8 to closed position with a slight push. Engagement of the closure member 8 with the adjacent edge portions of the chute walls 10—10 will, of course, move said chute walls inwardly of the box toward the back wall of the casing 1.

The numeral 17 indicates a master lock which controls the opening and the locking of the closure member 8. Said lock 17 may be of the snap variety, whereby the postman may lock the closure member merely by pushing same to closed position. Access to the various compartments is provided through the individual doors 18—18, which may be swingingly supported by means of rods 19. Said doors 18—18 may be of any preferred construction and will, of course, preferably swing outwardly of the mail box for permitting access to the interior of the corresponding compartment 5. Each door 18 will be controlled by its individual lock 20, the different locks 20 being responsive to different types of keys, the key to one lock being adapted to open only its own door and not any of the other doors.

The rear wall of the casing 1 may be provided with openings 21 through which screws may be inserted for securing the mail box to the wall of a building or other supporting member. It will be clear that the supporting screws are protected from tampering under normal conditions by the closure member 8. When said closure member 8 is removed from the casing 1, it is a simple matter to manipulate the screws in the apertures 21 so that the matter of mounting the mail box or dismounting is a very simple matter.

Though a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been described in detail, it will be understood that many modifications will occur to those skilled in the art. It is intended to cover all such modifications that fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is—

1. In a mail box, in combination, a bottom member, side walls and partition walls forming a plurality of compartments, a front closure member, said closure member being swingingly and removably mounted with relation to said bottom wall, and chute walls swingingly mounted in parallel relationship with said first mentioned walls, said chute walls being removably connected to said closure member and having limited sliding movement with relation to said first mentioned walls, said front closure member being provided with individual doors permitting access to the several compartments.

2. In a mail box, in combination, a bottom member, walls forming a plurality of compartments, a swingingly mounted front closure member for said compartments, and pivotally mounted chute walls mounted to

have a limited swinging movement with reference to said first mentioned walls, said chute walls being removably connected to said closure member, said closure member being removable from said walls and bottom member by a simple lifting movement when said closure member is in open position.

3. In a mail box, in combination, a bottom member, vertical walls forming compartments, a front closure member swingingly and removably mounted with relation to said compartments, chute walls mounted to have a limited swinging movement in parallel relationship with said first mentioned walls, said closure member and said chute walls having hooked relationship with one another, whereby said closure member may be readily assembled with or disassembled from said chute walls.

4. In a mail box, in combination, a casing open on one side, a face plate secured to said casing at said open side extending around the opening in said casing and having a flange extending into said casing, a front closure member adapted to fit within said flange, rivets having the double function of securing said casing to said flange and forming pivotal mounting means for said closure member, relatively stationary walls dividing said casing into compartments, chute walls having limited swinging movement in parallel relationship with said first mentioned walls, means connecting said chute walls together, hook means on the rear of said closure member adapted to hook over said connecting means, master lock means for controlling the opening of said closure member, and individual lock controlled doors for controlling access to said compartments.

5. In a mail box, in combination, a casing, walls dividing said casing into a plurality of compartments, chute walls mounted

to have a limited swinging movement in parallel relationship with said first mentioned walls, a readily removable front closure for said compartments hinged about a horizontal axis adjacent to the bottom of said casing, said front closure and said chute walls having cooperating portions readily separable when said closure is in open position by means of which said closure will communicate movement to said chute walls and by means of which said chute walls will limit movement of said closure member.

6. In a mail box, in combination, a casing, said casing having walls dividing same into a plurality of compartments, pivotally mounted chute walls having limited swinging movement in parallel relationship with said first mentioned walls, a swinging closure for said casing adapted to fit within said casing, said casing and closure having cooperating pins and pin openings forming a hinge connection between said casing and said closure member, said closure member having hooking relationship with said chute walls, lock means controlling the opening of said closure, and lock means for controlling access to the individual compartments.

7. In a mail box, in combination, vertical walls forming compartments, a front closure member for said compartments, said front closure member being swingingly and removably mounted about a substantially horizontal axis, chute walls having limited swinging movement in parallel relationship with said first mentioned walls, means connecting said chute walls together, said closure member being provided with hook means adapted to have hooking relationship with said connecting means, whereby movement of said closure member will be communicated to said chute walls.

Signed at Buchanan, Mich., this 14th day of April, 1926.

JAMES H. WARD, JR.