July 1, 1952 E. L. CONNALLY 2,601,714

CASKET TABLE

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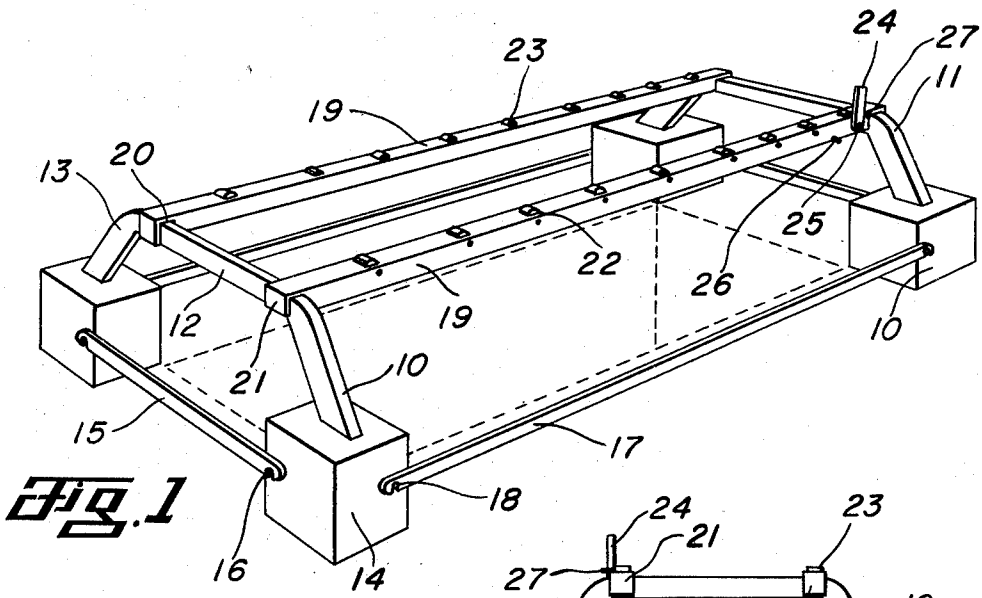


Fig. 1

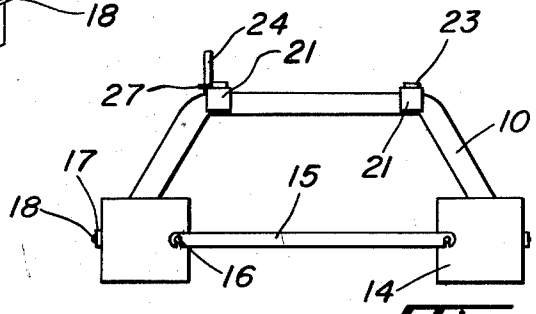


Fig. 2

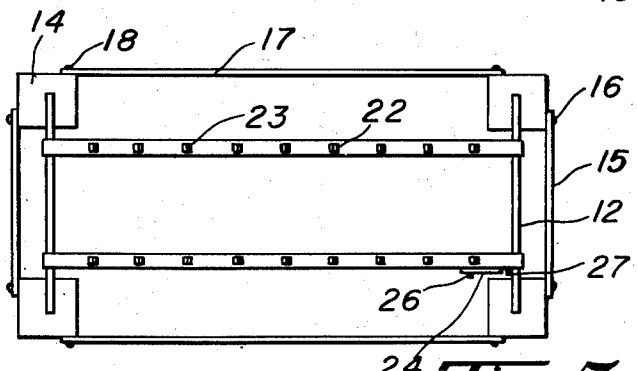


Fig. 3

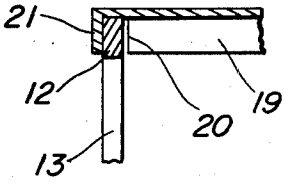


Fig. 4

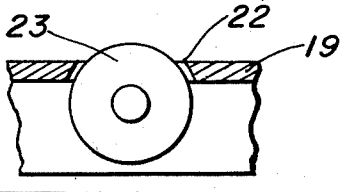


Fig. 5

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CASKET TABLE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 27—26)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in casket tables.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved casket table for use at graves, whereby a more adaptable and simple device for supporting caskets is had.

A particular object of the invention is to provide an improved casket table having arched end supports and longitudinal supporting rails having their ends carried on the supports and movable laterally, outwardly and downwardly, when the casket is lifted therefrom, whereby clearance is provided on each side of the casket so that the latter may be freely lowered into the grave.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved casket table arranged to adequately support a casket over an open grave and capable of being readily and conveniently disassembled or knocked down so as to be conveniently transported and stored.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an improved casket table which when assembled will be adequately rigid and convenient and which may be easily disassembled for transportation and storage.

A construction designed to carry out the invention will be hereinafter described together with other features of the invention.

The invention will be more readily understood from a reading of the specification and by reference to the accompanying drawing, wherein an example of the invention is shown, and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an assembled casket table constructed in accordance with the invention,

Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the same,

Fig. 3 is a reduced plan view of the table,

Fig. 4 is a sectional detail of one of the end supports for the rails, and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional detail of one of the rollers and its support.

In the drawing the numeral 10 designates an arched transverse end member or support, which is duplicated at each end of the table. Each end member includes a metallic arch 11, preferably made of bar metal and including a horizontal, top section 12 having downwardly and outwardly inclined legs 13, at each end, curved downwardly therefrom. The bottom of each leg is embedded in a base block 14 which is preferably rectangular in cross-section. These blocks may be made of any suitable material, such as wood, cement, plastic composition or other suitable material. The two blocks of each end member are connected by a transverse tie strap 15 having its ends hooked over pins 16, projecting from the outer faces of said blocks adjacent the inner sides thereof.

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The end members 10 are spaced apart and connected by reach bars 17 having their ends hooked over pins 18, projecting from the outer faces of the blocks. It will be observed that the base blocks 14 with the tie straps 15 and the reach bars 17, form a rectangular base having sufficient rigidity to maintain the table.

Longitudinal top rails or stringers 19 connect the top sections 12 of the arched members, being at the ends of said sections on each side of the table. The stringers are spaced apart sufficiently to adequately support loads placed thereon. The ends of the depending flanges of the stringer are cut out at each end below the top of each stringer to form notches 20 and the top of the stringer at each end, is bent downwardly to form a keeper or hook 21, which snugly engages the outer face of the top section 12. Thus it may be said the stringers are provided at each end with hooks formed by the tops of the notches 20 and the depending keepers 21 or with merely notched ends formed by said keepers and the notches. The notches and keepers are formed in such dimensions as to snugly embrace the arches of the end members.

Each stringer is formed in its flat top flange with spaced, rectangular openings 22 and rollers 23, of metal, wood, or other material, are journaled in the flanges of the stringers. Each roller, as is best shown in Fig. 5, is located so as to project a short distance above the face of the top member of each stringer. The casket may be rested on the rollers at one end of the table and then moved longitudinally onto the other rollers to its final position.

It may occur that the ground is not level or that for some reason the stringers are not level. Near one end, on the outer side of each stringer 19, a stop lug 24 is pivoted on a pin 25 projecting outwardly from the depending side of said stringer. When the lug is not in use it is swung into line with the stringer so as to rest on a stud 26 and when in use, said lug is swung upwardly to an upright position so as to be abutted by the end of the casket. The lug is fitted close to the side of the stringer and rests against a stud 27 in its upright position. When the casket is slid onto the table it will be arrested by the upright lug and thereby correctly positioned over the grave.

In using the table it is assembled and placed over the open grave, the latter being indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 1. The casket is placed on one end of the table and slid forwardly on the rollers **23** until the desired position is reached. The usual lifting bands (not shown) are passed between the bottom of the casket and stringers **19**, intermediate the rollers. When it is desired to lower the casket into the grave, it is lifted by the lifting bands which free the stringers **19**. The stringers are then moved outwardly and slid down the legs **13** so as to rest upon the blocks **14**. The top of the grave is thus fully exposed so that the casket may be lowered thereinto.

When the table is removed from the grave, the stringers **19** are disengaged from the arches **11** and the reach bars **17** are disconnected from the pins **18**. If desired the straps **15** may be disconnected from the pins **16**. With the parts disconnected as described the ends **10** may be turned parallel to the stringers **19** and bars **17** and all of the parts suitably loaded into a conveyance and stored if desired. The flexibility of the assembly whereby it may be readily put up or taken down is quite important. The ability to slide the stringers down the legs without disassembling the structure is quite important. Since the sides of the table are usually concealed by trimmings at the graves it is quite convenient to slide the stringers down the legs and out of sight as well as out of the way.

The foregoing description of the invention is explanatory thereof and various changes in the size, shape and materials, as well as in the details of the illustrated construction may be made, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A knock-down casket table comprising a pair of upright arch end members to be positioned at the head and foot of an open grave respectively, each of said end members having a substantially horizontal top section with outwardly inclined and downwardly curved legs depending therefrom, and a pair of casket-supporting, longitudinally-extending stringers slidably but detachably connected at their ends with said arch end members, said stringers being spaced on said horizontal top sections when in casket bearing position and being slidable outwardly along said horizontal top sections and down said legs so that a casket may be lowered therebetween.

2. A casket table as set forth in claim 1, with rollers projecting from the tops of the stringers.

3. A casket table as set forth in claim 1, with supporting blocks at the bases of the depending legs and reach bars detachably connecting the supporting blocks.

4. A casket table as set forth in claim 1, with hooks on the ends of the stringers to detachably and slidably engage the arch end members.

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