Oct. 6, 1959 M. S. GASPARDO 2,907,090

CASKET CONSTRUCTION

Filed May 2, 1956

FIG. 1

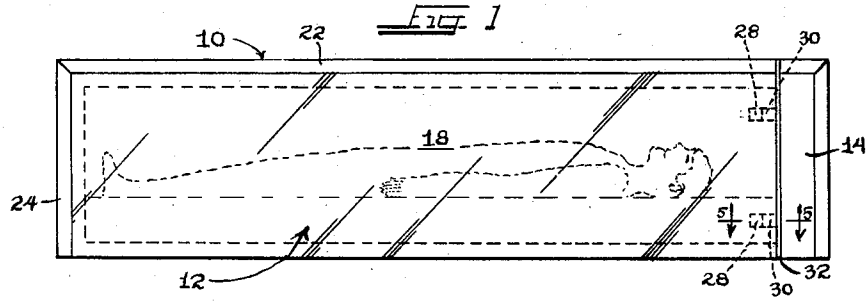


FIG. 2

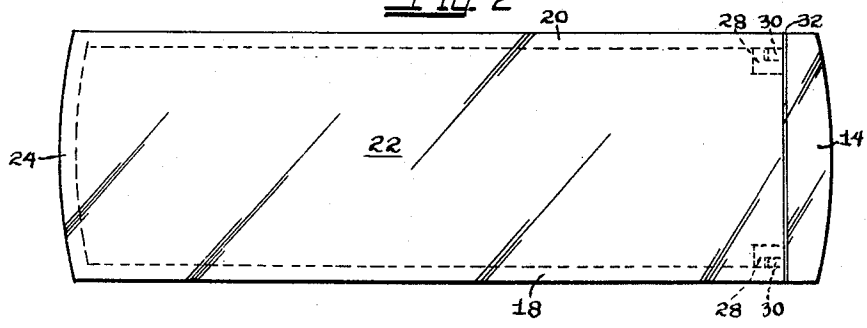


FIG. 3

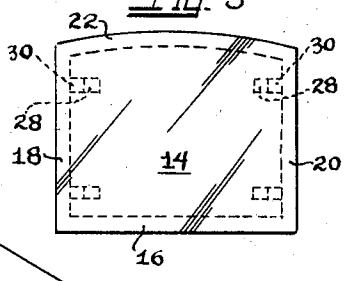


FIG. 4

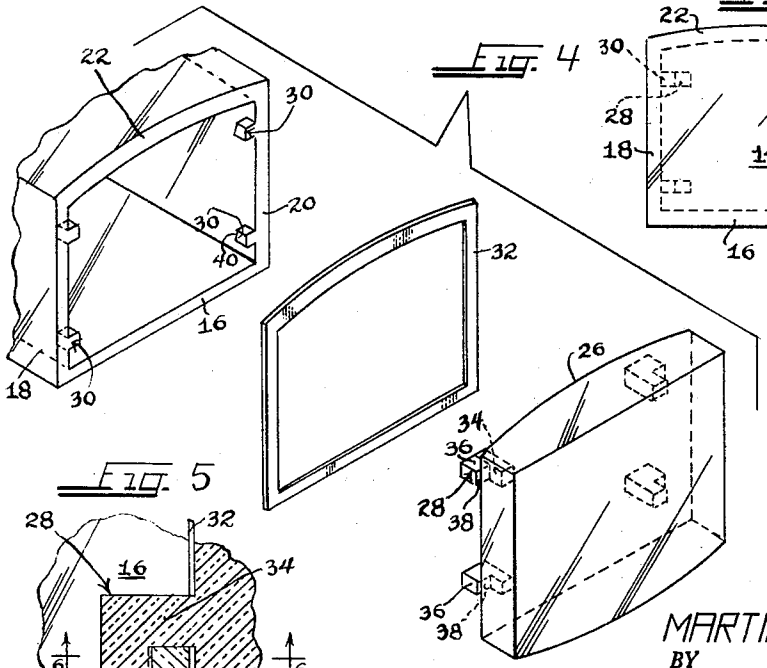
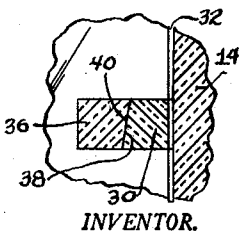


FIG. 5

FIG. 6



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CASKET CONSTRUCTION

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1 Claim. (Cl. 27—8)

This invention relates to caskets and particularly to improved caskets made of glass.

For health reasons and sometimes for religious reasons it is desirable that caskets be closed and sealed immediately after the body has been placed therein. When the corpse is diseased this is particularly desirable to insure that none of the members of the deceased's family or any other persons attending the wake or funeral of the deceased be infected with disease germs.

Often, however, it is desirable for psychological reasons to be able to view the body of the deceased after placement in the coffin. It further is desirable that the coffin be formed of materials which will not deteriorate and which will remain sealed indefinitely after burial.

Many materials of construction used in caskets heretofore are not capable of withstanding prolonged burial in the ground without deterioration. Accordingly, it has been necessary and customary in certain instance to provide concrete encasements or vaults which are expensive and difficult to install. The only function the vault performs is to protect the coffin from various corroding chemicals and conditions in the soil which might eventually sufficiently impair the integrity of the coffin or casket so that the coffin is in effect opened or at least the seal thereof is broken.

It further is desirable to prevent ground water and the like from gaining access to the corpse particularly when the deceased died from a communicable disease. Even vaults and other coffins used heretofore do not absolutely preclude the possibility of leakage although a large amount of expense and effort are directed to prevent leakage. Contamination of water supplies and the like results upon deterioration of the casket or coffin and/or the vault.

Accordingly, it is an important object of the present invention to provide an improved casket construction and particularly an improved casket in which glass and other chemically inert materials are the materials of construction.

Another object of the invention is to provide a casket which can be hermetically sealed after the corpse has been placed therein and still permit viewing of the corpse if desired.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a casket construction which will remain hermetically sealed indefinitely when placed in the ground and exposed to water and similar corroding influences.

In connection with the foregoing object, is a further object of the invention to provide a construction wherein a need for vaults or other protective device is eliminated.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will be better understood from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing. In the drawing wherein like reference numerals have been utilized to designate like parts throughout:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of a casket made

in accordance with and embodying the principles of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the casket illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawing;

Figure 3 is an end view of the casket illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawing;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary exploded view in perspective illustrating the closure for the casket of the present invention;

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary view in horizontal section substantially as seen in the direction of the arrows along the line 5—5 of Figure 1 and illustrating a portion of the closure construction; and

Figure 6 is a fragmentary view in vertical section substantially as seen in the direction of the arrows along the line 6—6 of Figure 5 and further illustrating a portion of the closure construction.

Referring to the drawing and particularly to Figure 1 thereof, there is shown a casket or coffin generally designated by the numeral **10** made in accordance with and embodying the principles of the present invention. Casket **10** includes a receptacle **12** and an end or closure member **14**. Receptacle **12** is formed of glass and preferably is shaped by a combination of pressing and blowing operations as will be described more fully hereinafter. Receptacle **12** is shaped to provide a bottom wall **16** from which extends upwardly a pair of side walls **18** and **20**. Joining the upper ends of side walls **20** is a top wall **22**. Walls **16**, **18**, **20** and **22** form a receptacle **12** which is substantially rectangular in cross section although it is to be understood that each wall may be curved slightly outwardly as is top wall **22** as viewed in the drawings. Closing one end of receptacle **12** is an end wall **24** which is formed integral with bottom wall **16**, side walls **18** and **20**, and top wall **22**. Preferably wall **24** is curved outwardly as viewed from the top in Figure 2.

The dimensions of the various walls are such as to provide sufficient room within receptacle **12** to receive a body and a suitable pallet or support therefor. For example receptacle **12** may be seven to eight feet long, approximately two and one-half feet wide, and approximately two feet high. It has been found that a suitable thickness for walls **16**, **18**, **20**, **22** and **24** is between ¾ inch and one inch. The dimensions of the various walls may be greater or less as occasion requires and the thickness of the walls will depend upon the specific glass used and the overall size of receptacle **12**. The thickness of the various walls must be such as to provide the necessary mechanical strength, but should not be made unduly thick whereby unnecessarily to increase the weight of receptacle **12**.

After the body has been deposited in receptacle **12**, it is desirable hermetically to seal the open end thereof. To this end the end closure member **14** has been provided. Member **14** is also formed of glass and is shaped to conform to and close the open end of receptacle **12**. Extending from one side **26** thereof is a plurality of locking lugs **28** which are adapted to cooperate with retaining members **30** formed on receptacle **12**. More specifically four locking lugs **28** are provided. Two retaining members **30** are formed integral with wall **18** to cooperate with two of the locking lugs **28** and two retaining members **30** are formed integral with wall **20** to cooperate with the other two of the locking lugs **28**. Disposed between closure member **14** and the adjacent end of receptacle **12** is a gasket **32** which is shaped like the ends of walls **16**, **18**, **20** and **22**. Gasket **32** may be made of some chemically inert material such as a synthetic resin. A preferred material of construction for gasket **32** is a synthetic silicon resin which is chemi-

cally inert and does not deteriorate when exposed to conditions encountered in the ground.

The construction and operation of the locking lugs **28** and the retaining members **30** is better illustrated in Figures 5 and 6 of the drawing. Referring to these figures it will be seen that each locking lug **28** includes an attachment portion **34** formed integral with the main body of closure member **14**. Attachment portion **34** is disposed substantially perpendicular to closure member **14** and has formed integral therewith and extending at right angles thereto a locking portion **36**. Locking portion **36** has formed thereon a cam surface **38** which is disposed toward the main body of closure member **14** and is inclined downwardly away from member **14** as is best illustrated in Figure 6 of the drawing.

Retaining members **30** are formed integral with side walls **18** and **20** and extend toward the opposite side wall a distance slightly greater than the length of locking portions **36**. The surface of retaining member **30** disposed toward end wall **24** is generally designated by the numeral **40**. Surface **40** is also inclined downwardly and away from the open end of receptacle **12** and is adapted to lie against and fit with locking surface **38** on lugs **28**.

Because of the inclination of surface **38** and **40** downwardly and toward end wall **24** of receptacle **12**, closure member **14** is moved into tight sealing relationship against gasket **32** and receptacle **12** as closure member **14** is moved into position.

Closure member **14** is mounted upon receptacle **12** in the following manner. Gasket **32** is first placed in operative position. Closure member **14** is then lifted until locking lugs **28** are positioned above the corresponding retaining members **30**. Closure member **14** is then moved inwardly toward receptacle **12** until the lower edge of locking surface **38** on lugs **28** is positioned behind surface **40** on retaining members **30**. Closure member **14** is then moved downwardly so that surface **38** moves downwardly with respect to surface **40**. This action forces and moves closure member **14** toward receptacle **12** to form a close hermetically tight seal with gasket **32**. Gasket **32** is preferably a friction material. The friction action of gasket **32** together with the weight of closure member **14** serve to hold closure member **14** in the closed position.

Receptacle **12** is preferably formed by a combination of press molding and blowing operations. The major portion of walls **16**, **18**, **20** and **22** and end wall **24** are formed by the conventional blowing operations within a suitably shaped mold. The portion of walls **16**, **18**, **20** and **22** disposed toward the open end of receptacle **12** and particularly the portions of walls **18** and **20** which carry the retaining members **30** are formed by a press molding operation. In this manner receptacle **12** can be formed as an integral unitary structure. This results in a structurally strong finished casket.

Closure member **14** is preferably formed by a press molding operation so that locking lugs **28** are appropriately shaped and formed. Surfaces **38** and **40** on locking lugs **28** and retaining members **30**, respectively, are first rough shaped in the molding operations and may thereafter be ground to obtain a close fit of closure member **14** against receptacle **12**.

Instead of providing a gasket **32** it is also contemplated that the ends of walls **16**, **18**, **20** and **22** and the side of closure member **14** disposed against these ends can be ground. Grinding of these surfaces would provide a structure which could be hermetically sealed without the use of gasket **32**.

Casket **10** fulfills all the objects and advantages set forth above. More specifically, a hermetically sealed casket is provided with all the attendant advantages such a construction possesses. More specifically, disease germs in the body contained within the casket cannot escape whereby to infect people either directly or indirectly through contamination of ground water. Although hermetically sealed, casket **10** permits viewing of the body within if desired. All of the materials of construction of casket **10** are highly inert to conditions encountered in the ground and, accordingly, the integrity of casket **10** and the contents thereof will be preserved indefinitely. This also contributes to the prevention of contamination of ground waters.

Although a preferred embodiment of invention has been shown for purposes of illustration, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is to be limited only as set forth in the following claim.

I claim:

A casket construction comprising a receptacle formed of glass and having an opening therein to receive a body through one end thereof, retaining members formed of glass and integral with said receptacle and positioned within said receptacle, each of said retaining members including an inwardly directed locking surface inclined downwardly and away from the opening in said receptacle, a closure member formed of glass for closing said one end of said casket, and locking lugs formed of glass and integral with said closure member and extending into said receptacle to cooperate with said retaining members, each of said locking lugs including an attachment portion formed integral with said closure member and spaced inwardly from the adjacent edge thereof and extending inwardly into said receptacle, said attachment portion having a locking portion formed integral therewith and extending at right angles thereto outwardly toward the adjacent edge of said closure member, said locking portion having a cam surface thereon disposed toward the main body of said closure member and inclined downwardly and away from said closure member to cooperate with said locking surfaces on said retaining member, the weight of said closure member causing said cam surfaces to be moved downwardly across said locking surfaces whereby to move said closure member into sealed relationship with the adjacent surface of said receptacle.

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