Oct. 9, 1945. F. W. HAYES 2,386,549

INNER SEAL FOR CASKETS

Filed March 31, 1943

Fig. 1.

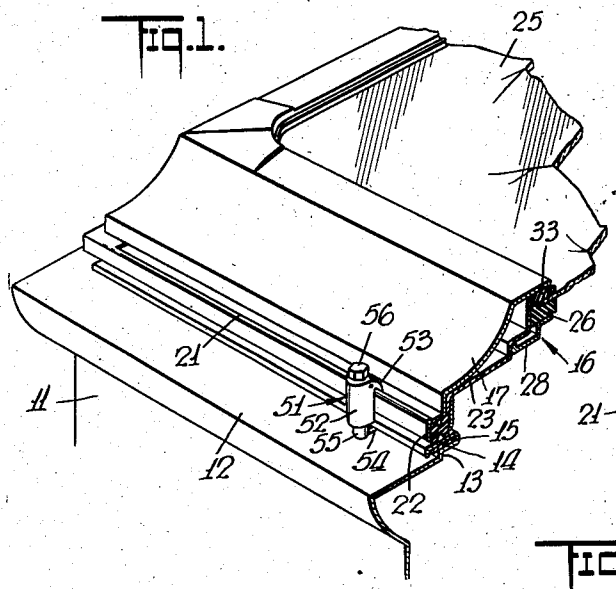


Fig. 2.

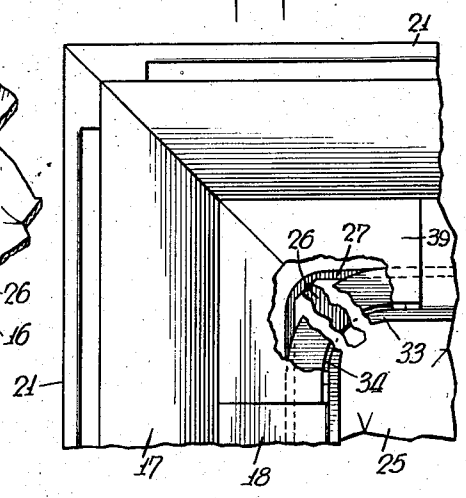


Fig. 3.

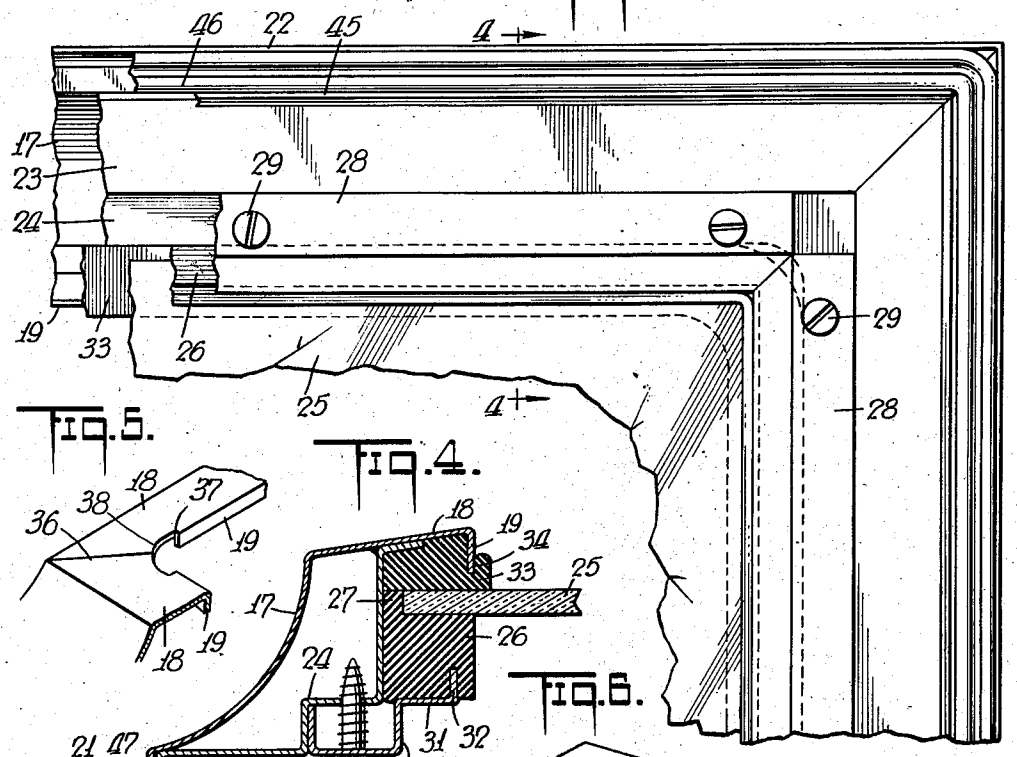


Fig. 5.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 6.

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INNER SEAL FOR CASKETS

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14 Claims. (Cl. 27—17)

This invention relates to burial caskets and the like, and more particularly to inner seals therefor.

In hermetically sealing a burial casket, numerous problems and difficulties arise and there have been many attempts to provide a suitable structure for that purpose. However, I believe those are all open to various objections such as not being actually air tight or liquid tight, or too costly to manufacture, or too intricate to install, or requiring a special construction of casket or a separate interliner in the casket, and so forth.

It is one object of my invention to provide a simple construction of inner seal suitable for mounting on top of any casket body to fit beneath the lid thereof when closed.

Another object of the invention is to provide an inner seal which will form an air tight and a liquid tight closure for the casket without the use of cements or other adhesives.

Another object of this invention is to provide an inner seal of the above indicated character which is readily mounted in place without the need for special tools, materials or labor to effect a satisfactory sealing.

A further object of this invention is to provide a unique construction of inner seal with a glass center panel and having an air tight and liquid tight mounting therefor.

Still further objects of this invention are to provide an inner seal of the above indicated character which is a completely assembled unit, and one that is easily adaptable to conform to the ornamental design appearance of burial caskets.

Other and further objects of this invention will be apparent from the specification taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary view in perspective of one corner of a burial casket having my improved inner seal mounted in place and omitting the lid or cover for the casket.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view in plan of one corner of my improved inner seal, parts being broken away to facilitate illustration.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged bottom plan view of one corner of my improved inner seal.

Fig. 4 is a cross section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Figs. 5 and 6 are enlarged views in perspective of certain elements of my improved construction.

The inner seal shown here, briefly described, comprises a frame of a size to close the top of the casket and yet fit beneath the lid thereof. The frame is made of cooperating inner and outer moldings and arranged with clamping strips to provide pockets for the reception of continuous strips of rubber or other suitable material. A glass center panel is provided and the edges thereof are encased by some of the rubber strips, the clamping pressure being applied so as to secure the glass panel in the frame and seal the same against air or liquid leaks thereabout, the pressure being applied along more than one line. Similarly, the frame carries a continuous strip of rubber around its lower edge which cooperates with a member formed on the casket to seal the frame therearound, and also by pressure applied along more than one line. Since the construction is alike at each corner of the casket and frame, only one corner need be shown and described.

Referring to the drawing, the side wall of the body of the burial casket is indicated at 11, the top 12 of which has an upstanding shoulder 13 formed near the inner edge of the wall, the top extending inwardly therebeyond. The top is folded back upon itself outwardly beyond the shoulder 13 to form a capping strip 14. A pocket is formed thereby, which receives a reinforcing strip 15. This construction extends around the top of the inner edge of the casket wall to constitute the mounting for the inner seal, indicated generally at 16. The construction is such as to leave an uncovered outer portion 12 of the side wall, usually in the form of a molding, over which fits the flanges of an arched, shaped hollow cover (not shown) so that the inner seal 16 is completely enclosed when the cover is in place.

The inner seal in the present embodiment is formed with a frame comprising an outer molding 17 which may have any desired contour to conform to the ornamental design appearance of the casket. The top 18 of molding 17 has a depending flange 19 around the inner edge thereof. At its outer and lower edge the molding 17 has a raised bead 21 from which depends a flange 22. Fitting inside the molding 17 is a smaller inner frame molding 23 having an inset forming a pocket 24 therealong, the inner and outer moldings being suitably secured together as by soldering or welding.

A glass center panel 25 is mounted in the frame formed by the moldings 17 and 23. The glass panel rests upon a rubber supporting strip 26, which is cut away to receive the glass panel

and to provide the upstanding collar 27 that fits between the edges of the panel and the inner molding. The supporting strip 26 is held in place by means of clamping bracket strips 28 that are co-extensive with the inner molding 23 and has a portion fitting in the pocket 24 thereof, the bracket strip being removably secured to the inner molding as by screws 29. The clamping bracket also has a flat outwardly extending portion 31 fitting under a substantial part of the rubber supporting strip 26, and at its outer end this flat portion 31 has an upturned flange 32 which fits in a groove in the bottom of the rubber supporting strip 26. As seen in Fig. 3, the bracket strips 28 are mitered at the corners of the frame so that the edges of the flanges 32 abut and form a continuous member around the frame when these strips are mounted in place.

Above the glass panel 25 is a rubber sealing strip 33 which occupies the pocket bounded by the glass panel, the inner molding, the top of the outer molding and the flange 19 thereof. This sealing strip also has a groove 34 therein which receives the downturned flange 19. It will be understood that both the supporting strip 26 and the sealing strip 33 for the glass panel are continuous members extending around the entire inner seal frame so that the edge portion of the glass panel 25 is surrounded by these rubber strips.

The abutting edges of the outer moldings 17 are mitered at the corners, as indicated at 36 in Fig. 5. At each corner a pocket 37 is formed by cutting away the inner flanges 19 and a portion of the tops 18 on either side of the miter 36 so that the pocket 37 has a curved rear edge 38. The mitered edges 36 are covered by an ornamental cap 39, Fig. 6, which cap however is provided with a curved inner edge 41 corresponding to the curve 38 of the pocket 37, and has a flange 42 depending from the curved edge 41. This flange is the same depth as the flange 19 of the molding strips 17, and the side edges of the flanges 42 and 19 abut at the sides of the pocket 37 and are preferably soldered together at the junctions to provide a continuous upper flange. The flange 42 of each of the corner caps 39 also fits in the groove 34 of the sealing strip 33 similarly to the flanges 19 of the outer molding 17, as indicated in Fig. 4, so that the sealing strip will have an arcuate form at each of the corners of the inner seal.

A sealing joint is also provided where the inner seal rests upon the casket wall, in the following manner:

Retaining strips 45 (Fig. 4) are suitably secured along the inner molding 23 and depends therefrom so as to form a pocket with the outer depending flange 22 of the outer molding 17. This pocket is filled by a continuous rubber strip 46 which has upper and lower slots 47 and 48 therein giving this strip a somewhat H shape. The retaining strip 45 is bent into the pocket so as to cause sidewise compression of the strip 46 to retain the same in place when handling the frame assembly. When the inner seal is mounted in place on the casket, as shown in Fig. 1, the lower grooved face of the rubber strip 46 rests upon the capping strip 14. The inner seal frame is then secured in place by any suitable clamping means such as that indicated at 51 and more fully described in Patent No. 1,756,185, granted to Joseph E. Falck, April 29, 1930.

Briefly described, this clamp consists of a sleeve 52 having upper fingers 53 which engage over the bead 21 of the outer molding 17, and a lower plate 54 which extends under the protruding part of the capping strip 14 and is carried by a post 55 that is slidable in the sleeve 52. A bolt 56 engages in the post 55 and serves to cause the fingers 53 and plate 54 to clamp the rubber strip 46 between the molding 17 and the casket strip 14 as the bolt is tightened. A plurality of these clamps are provided around the casket sufficient to effectively mount the inner seal frame in place so as to make the casket air and water tight along this joint.

In assembling the above described inner seal frame, after the inner and outer moldings are soldered together and the retaining strips 45 are soldered in place, the rubber sealing strip 33 is threaded upon the depending flanges 19 and 42 in the position shown in Fig. 4. The glass panel 25 is then set in place and the supporting rubber strip 26 is positioned against the glass panel with the collar 27 between the edges of the panel and the inner molding 23. The clamping bracket 28 is then applied with its flange 32 fitting in the slot in the bottom of the rubber strip 26, after which the screws 29 are tightened so as to hold the bracket and rubber strips 26 and 33 assembled, and to exert considerable clamping pressure upon these strips 26 and 33 and the glass panel therebetween. It will be seen that in addition to the pressure exerted between the flat portion 31 of the clamping bracket 28, and the top 18 of the outer molding, considerable lines of pressure will be exerted against the glass panel both by the upturned flange 32 of the bracket 28 and the downturned flanges 19 and 42, of the molding 17 and corner cap 39 respectively, so that several positive continuous seals are provided around the glass panel 25. Similar continuous seals also are provided at the bottom of the frame when the inner seal is mounted in place upon the casket, these seals occurring along the lower ribs of the rubber strip 46 when the clamps 51 are closed thereon.

The glass panel could be replaced by a panel of some transparent plastic material.

Modifications may be made in the arrangement and location of parts within the spirit and scope of my invention, and such modifications are intended to be covered by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An inner seal for a casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, a continuous inner depending flange on said frame, said flange being shaped in the arc of a circle at each of the frame corners, a center panel in said frame and extending inside said flange, a resilient material surrounding the edge portions of said panel and extending outwardly a sufficient distance to be engaged by said flange, and clamping means engaging the resilient material and pressing the panel toward said flange so as to cause sealing pressure to be applied to said material by said flange.

2. An inner seal for a casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, a continuous inner depending flange on said frame, said flange being shaped in the arc of a circle at each of the frame corners, a center panel in said frame and extending inside said flange, sealing material surrounding the edge portions of said panel and extending outwardly a sufficient distance to be engaged by said flange and also extending beneath the panel, and clamping means having a continuous up-

standing flange engaging the sealing material beneath the panel and causing sealing pressure upon said material and panel by both said flanges.

3. An inner seal for a casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, a continuous inner depending flange on said frame, said flange being shaped in the arc of a circle at each of the frame corners, a center panel in said frame and extending inside said flange, a continuous strip of resilient material overlying the panel inside the flange and having a groove in which the flange fits, a second continuous strip of resilient material under the panel inside the flange and having a groove therein, and clamping means having a continuous upstanding flange fitting in the groove of said second strip and causing sealing pressure upon said material and panel by said flanges.

4. An inner seal for a casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, a continuous inner depending flange on said frame, said flange being shaped in the arc of a circle at each of the frame corners, a center panel in said frame and extending inside said flange, a continuous strip of resilient material overlying the panel inside the flange and having a groove in which the flange fits, a second continuous strip of resilient material under the panel inside the flange and having an upstanding collar fitting around the edges of the panel and also having a groove therein, and clamping means having a portion engaging the second strip and also having a continuous upstanding flange fitting in the groove of said second strip and causing sealing pressure upon said strips of material and panel along the lines of said flanges and also upon the portions inside the molding flange.

5. An inner seal for a casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, a continuous inner depending flange on said frame, said flange being shaped in the arc of a circle at each of the frame corners, a center panel in said frame and extending inside said flange, a resilient material surrounding the edge portions of said panel and extending outwardly a sufficient distance to be engaged by said flange, clamping means engaging the resilient material and pressing the panel toward said flange so as to cause sealing pressure to be applied to said material by said flange, a pocket formed along the outer edge of said frame, and a continuous strip of resilient material fitting in said pocket and arranged for effecting a seal when the inner seal is mounted upon a casket.

6. An inner seal for a casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, a continuous inner depending flange on said frame, said flange being shaped in the arc of a circle at each of the frame corners, a center panel in said frame and extending inside said flange, a continuous strip of resilient material overlying the panel inside the flange and having a groove in which the flange fits, a second continuous strip of resilient material under the panel inside the flange and having an upstanding collar fitting around the edges of the panel and also having a groove therein, clamping means having a portion engaging the second strip and also having a continuous upstanding flange fitting in the groove of said second strip and causing sealing pressure upon said strips of material and panel along the lines of said flanges and also upon the portions inside the molding flange, a pocket formed along the outer edge of said frame, and a continuous strip of resilient material fitting in said pocket and arranged for effecting a seal when the inner seal is mounted upon a casket.

7. A casket having a bottom, side and end walls, an integral upstanding shoulder around the inner edges of said walls, a capping member overlying the shoulder and the tops of said walls but spaced therefrom, an inner seal for closing the top of the casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, a continuous inner depending flange on said frame, said flange being shaped in the arc of a circle at each of the frame corners, a center panel in said frame and extending inside said flange, a resilient material surrounding the edge portions of said panel and extending outwardly a sufficient distance to be engaged by said flange, clamping means engaging the sealing material and pressing the panel toward said flange so as to cause sealing pressure to be applied to said material by said flange, a pocket formed along the outer edge of said frame, a continuous strip of resilient material fitting in said pocket, the frame fitting upon the capping member with the last mentioned resilient strip in engagement therewith, and other clamping means engaging above the molding and beneath the capping member and causing sealing pressure therebetween along said last mentioned resilient strip.

8. A casket having a bottom, side and end walls, an integral upstanding shoulder around the inner edges of said walls, a capping member overlying the shoulder and the tops of said walls but spaced therefrom, an inner seal for closing the top of the casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, a continuous inner depending flange on said frame, said flange being shaped in the arc of a circle at each of the frame corners, a center panel in said frame and extending inside said flange, a continuous strip of resilient material overlying the panel inside the flange and having a groove in which the flange fits, a second continuous strip of resilient material under the panel inside the flange and having an upstanding collar fitting around the edges of the panel and also having a groove therein, clamping means having a portion engaging the second strip and also having a continuous upstanding flange fitting in the groove of said second strip and causing sealing pressure upon said strips of material and panel along the lines of said flanges and also upon the portions inside the molding flange, a pocket formed along the outer edge of said frame, a continuous strip of resilient material fitting in said pocket, the frame fitting upon the capping member with the last mentioned resilient strip in engagement therewith, and other clamping means engaging above the molding and beneath the casket member and causing sealing pressure therebetween along said last mentioned resilient strip.

9. An inner seal for a casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, said moldings having inner depending flanges which are spaced apart at the frame corners, members carried by the moldings and having an arcuate depending flange in each corner of the frame, which latter flange abuts the molding flanges on either side thereof, a center panel in said frame and extending inside said flanges, a resilient material surrounding the edge portions of said panel and extending outwardly a sufficient distance to be engaged by said flanges, and clamping means engaging the resilient material and

pressing the panel toward said flanges so as to cause sealing pressure to be applied to said material by said flanges.

10. An inner seal for a casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, said moldings having inner depending flanges which are spaced apart at the frame corners, members carried by the moldings and having an arcuate depending flange in each corner of the frame, which latter flange abuts the molding flanges on either side thereof, inner moldings secured to said outer moldings and spaced from said flanges, clamping means secured to said moldings and having an upstanding flange around said frame, a center panel for said frame which extends between said depending and upstanding flanges, and resilient material between said panel and said flanges.

11. An inner seal for a casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, said moldings having inner depending flanges which are spaced apart at the frame corners, members carried by the moldings and having an arcuate depending flange in each corner of the frame, which latter flange abuts the molding flanges on either side thereof, said moldings also having an outer depending flange forming part of a pocket around the perimeter of the flame, inner moldings secured to said outer moldings and spaced from said inner flanges to form therewith part of a second pocket, clamping means secured to said moldings and forming part of said second pocket and having an upstanding flange around said frame, a center panel for said frame which extends into said second pocket between said depending and upstanding flanges, a strip of resilient material threaded upon the first mentioned depending flanges and upon the arcuate flanges, said material partially filling said second pocket, and another strip of resilient material engaged by said clamping means and completing the filling of said second pocket, the panel being held between the strips of resilient material.

12. A casket having bottom, side and end walls, an integral upstanding shoulder around the inner edges of said walls, a capping member overlying the shoulder and the tops of said walls but spaced therefrom, an inner seal for closing the top of the casket comprising outer moldings joined together to form a rectangular frame, said moldings having inner depending flanges which are spaced apart at the frame corners, members carried by the moldings and having an arcuate depending flange in each corner of the frame, which latter flange abuts the molding flanges on either side thereof, said moldings also having an outer depending flange forming part of a pocket around the perimeter of the frame, inner moldings secured to said outer moldings and spaced from said inner flanges to form therewith part of a second pocket, clamping means secured to said moldings and forming part of said second pocket and having an upstanding flange around said frame, a center panel for said frame which extends into said second pocket between said depending and upstanding flanges, a strip of resilient material threaded upon the first mentioned depending flanges and upon the arcuate flanges, said material partially filling said second pocket, another strip of resilient material engaged by said clamping means and completing the filling of said second pocket, the panel being held between the strips of resilient material, and a third strip of resilient material fitting the first mentioned pocket, the frame fitting upon the capping member with the last mentioned resilient strip in engagement therewith, and other clamping means engaging above the moldings and beneath the capping member and causing sealing pressure therebetween along said last mentioned resilient strip.

13. An inner seal for caskets comprising a surrounding frame having inner and outer pockets therein, the outer pocket being open on its lower side and the inner pocket being open on its inner side, a center panel extending into said inner pocket, sealing material occupying said pocket and surrounding and fitting about the edge portions of said panel, one portion of said inner pocket being movable, means engaging the movable portion to cause the same to apply sealing pressure to said material on at least two sides of the panel, and sealing means filling the outer pocket.

14. In combination with a casket having bottom, side and end walls, an inner seal closing the top of the casket and comprising a frame supported upon said walls, a center panel in said frame, resilient means surrounding and fitting about the edges of the panel and extending above and below the same, continuous members engaging the resilient means above and below the panel and arranged to exert sealing pressure thereon, a strip of resilient material extending beneath the outer edge portion of the frame where the same rests upon the casket walls, and a plurality of detachable clamps engaging the frame and casket walls to clamp the same together with the resilient strip therebetween.

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