Nov. 7, 1933. A. G. HARMS 1,934,425

BURIAL CASKET BED

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Fig. 1.

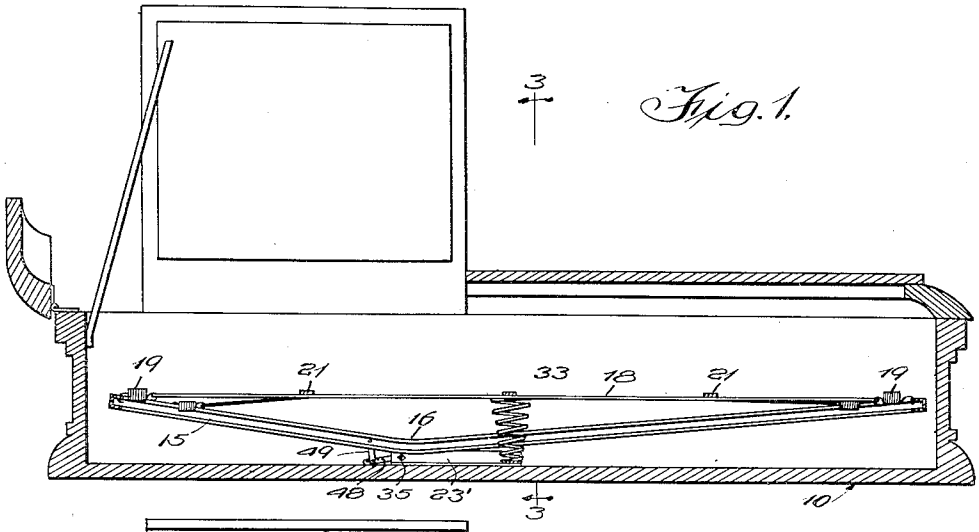


Fig. 2.

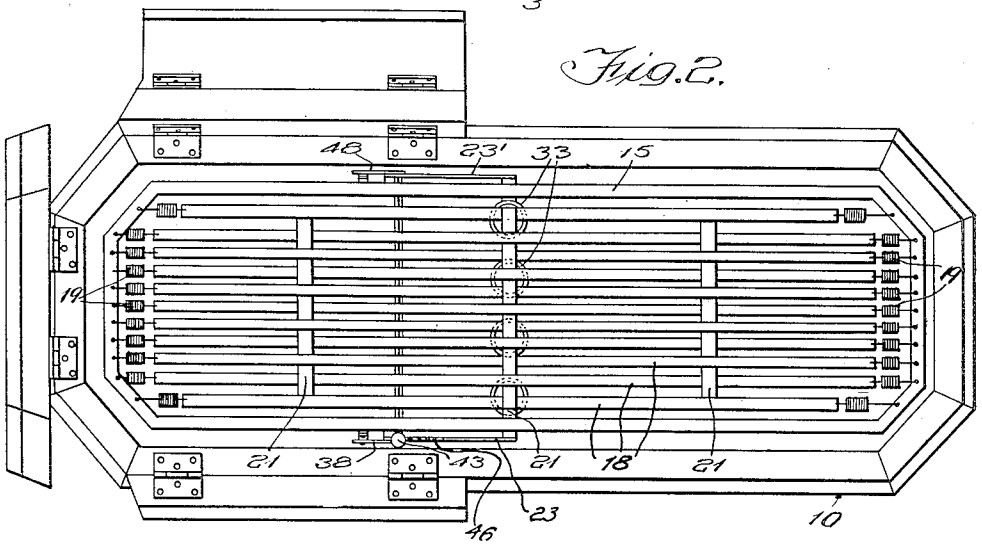
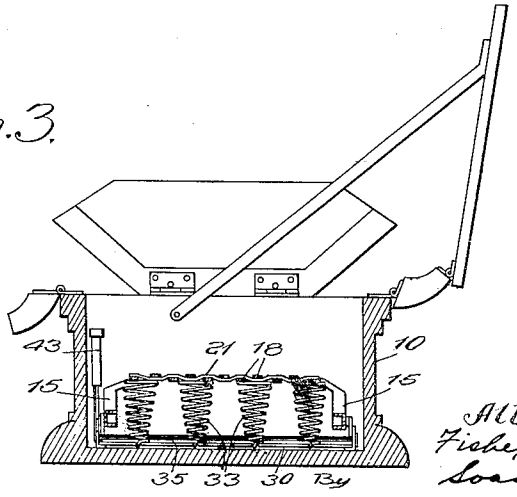


Fig. 3.



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Nov. 7, 1933. A. G. HARMS 1,934,425

BURIAL CASKET BED

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Fig. 4.

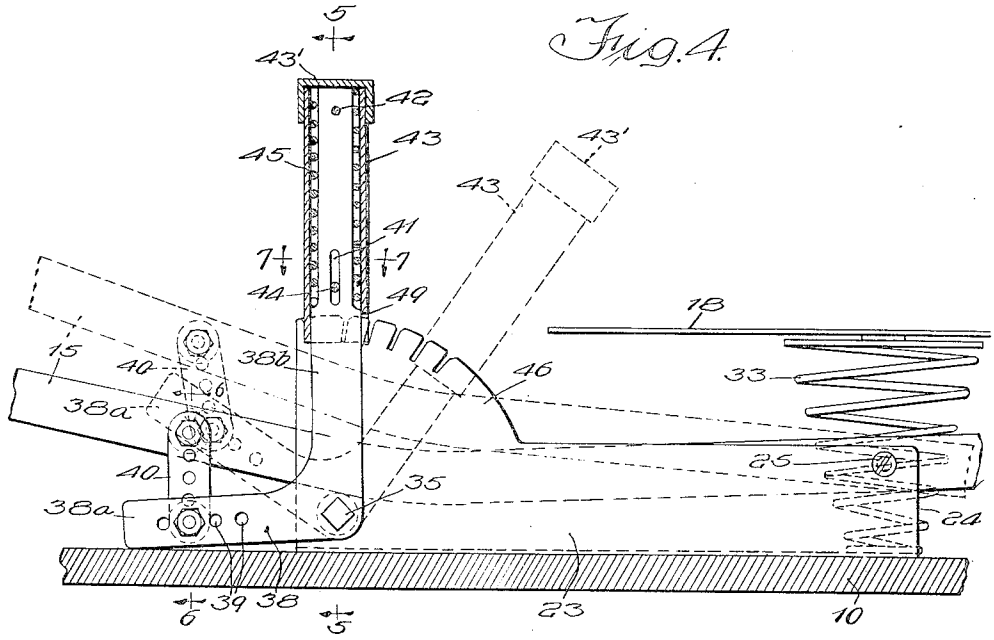


Fig. 5.

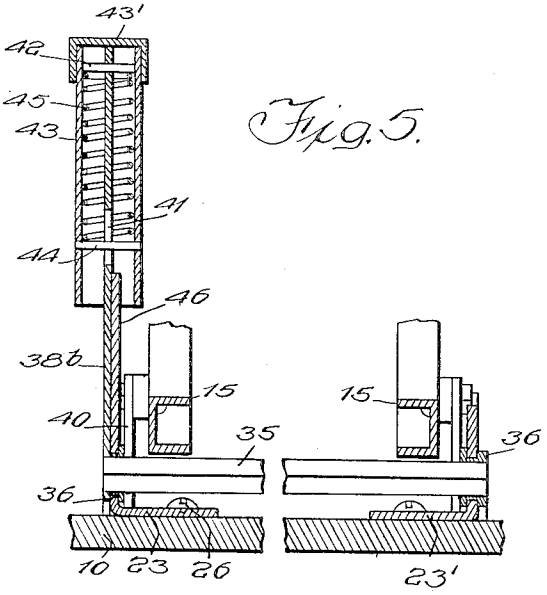


Fig. 6.

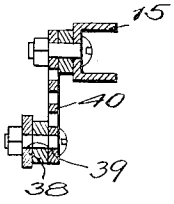
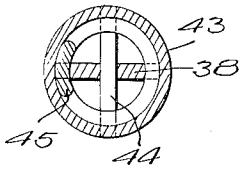


Fig. 7.



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Nov. 7, 1933. A. G. HARMS 1,934,425

BURIAL CASKET BED

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Fig. 8.

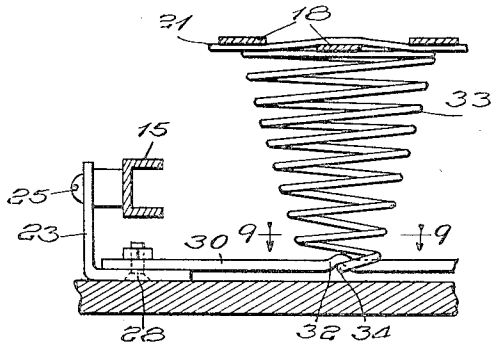


Fig. 9.

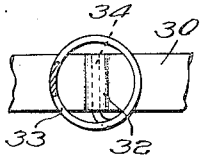


Fig. 10.

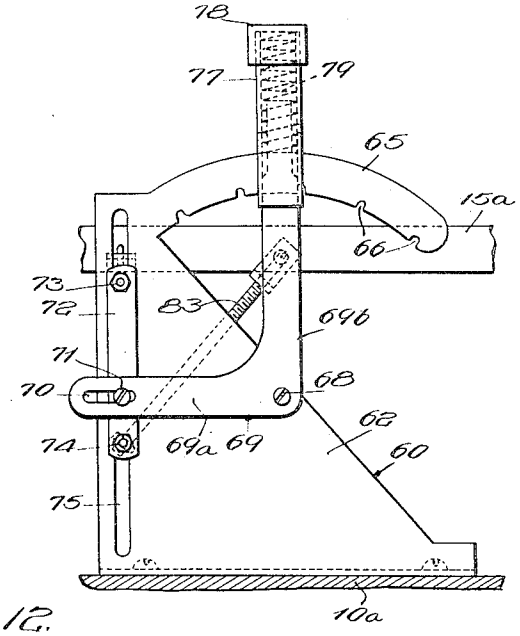


Fig. 11.

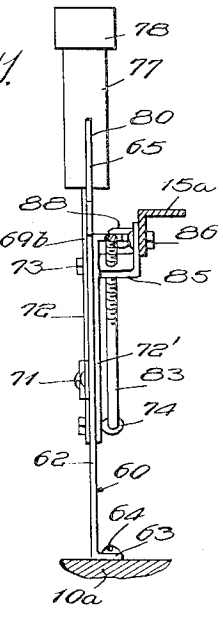
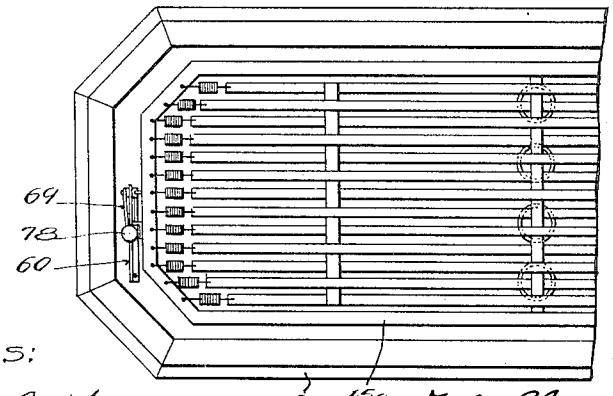


Fig. 12.



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Patented Nov. 7, 1933

1,934,425

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,934,425

BURIAL CASKET BED

Albert G. Harms, Chicago, Ill.

Application April 24, 1930. Serial No. 446,854

8 Claims. (Cl. 27—2)

My invention relates broadly to burial caskets and has to do more particularly with a new and improved adjustable bed for use in a burial casket which is designed to support a human body and present it for view in an attractive manner, so that the body may appear to be in a natural position of comfortable repose.

The invention disclosed herein is in the nature of an improvement over my devices described and claimed in Patents Nos. 1,800,793 and 1,831,108, granted April 14, 1931, and November 10, 1931, respectively.

A particular object of this invention is to provide a new and improved casket bed bottom having simple, convenient, inexpensive, and efficient means for adjusting the same about a transverse axis, whereby a body may be raised for viewing.

Another object is to provide, in combination with the means just referred to, a simple and efficient means for canting the bed bottom to one side in order to present the body in a more natural position.

One of the problems of an undertaker is to present a body having a physical deformity, such as unsymmetrical hips, spinal curvature, pathologic growths, etc., in such a manner as to appear natural, normal, and in an attitude of comfortable repose.

A further object of my invention, therefore, is to provide a casket bed having a spring bottom which may be adjusted to take care of such deformed bodies, so that an enlarged hip or the like may be lowered below the plane of the rest of the body.

A particular feature of my invention whereby the last-mentioned object is accomplished comprises a bed bottom having a transverse row of coil springs, these springs being readily and easily removed by hand, so that an undertaker may remove one or more of the coils in order that an enlarged or abnormal portion of the body may be depressed below the plane of the remainder of the body.

Various other objects and advantages will become apparent to those skilled in the art as the description proceeds.

Referring now to the drawings forming part of this specification and illustrating certain preferred embodiments of my invention:

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view through a device embodying my invention;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the same;

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a longitudinal sectional view on an enlarged scale showing certain improved features of my invention;

Figures 5, 6 and 7 are sectional views taken substantially on the lines 5—5, 6—6, and 7—7, respectively, of Figure 4;

Figure 8 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view showing the spring construction in detail;

Figure 9 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 9—9 of Figure 8;

Figure 10 is a transverse sectional view through an end of a casket and showing in elevation a modified form of adjusting mechanism for the casket bed;

Figure 11 is an elevational view of the same taken from the right of Figure 10;

Figure 12 is a fragmentary top plan view of a casket and bed embodying the modification of Figures 10 and 11.

Referring, first, to Figures 1 to 9, inclusive, the numeral 10 represents generally a casket which may be of a standard or other suitable type.

Arranged within the casket by means presently to be described is a bed bottom comprising a frame 15. This frame is preferably of metal and may be of channel-shaped section or of other suitable design. As shown best in Figure 1, the sides of this frame are preferably bent intermediate the ends thereof, as at 16, this bend being disposed nearer the head end than the foot end of the frame. A plurality of longitudinal slats 18 are connected to the frame, as by means of helical springs 19, so as to provide a spring bed bottom. These slats are maintained in spaced relation to each other by means of transverse spacing strips 21, which may be secured, as by welding, rivets, or the like, to the end slats 18 or to the frame 15.

The frame 15 is pivotally mounted in the casket by the following means: Arranged in the bottom of the casket is a pair of longitudinal brackets 23, 23', to which the sides of the frame 15 are pivotally secured, as at 25 (Figure 4). The brackets 23, 23' are preferably angular in cross section, as shown best in Figure 5, and may be secured to the bottom wall of the casket, as by means of screws 26, or the like.

Extending between the angle members 23 and 23' and secured thereto, as by means of screws and nuts 28, is a bar or strap 30 which extends transversely of the casket about midway of the length thereof. As best shown in Figure 8, this bar is provided with a plurality of raised crimps 32 which are adapted to seat coil springs 33. These springs are preferably frusto-conical in

their general contour, the lower and smaller portion of each spring terminating in a substantially diametrical hook 34 which is adapted to snap under and seat in one of the crimped portions 32 of the bar 30. The advantage of this form of engagement of the springs with the bar is that the springs may be readily disengaged and removed, if desired, so as to permit depressing any enlarged or deformed portion of a body below the general level of the bed bottom. The uppermost turn of the coil springs is preferably knotted to the spring and abuts against the slats 18 of the bed bottom, as best shown in Figures 4 and 8, and it will be noted that a transverse spacing strip 21 is also disposed above the springs.

Extending through the angular brackets 23 and 23', at a point spaced from the pivots 25 (Figure 4) is a shaft 35, which, as shown in the drawings, may be of square section, although it will be apparent that I do not consider myself restricted to such a shape. This shaft carries suitable bearing members 36 which are rotatably journaled in the brackets 23 and 23'. Adjacent the bracket 23, this shaft is secured to and pivots a bell crank lever 38. One arm 38^a of this bell crank is provided with a plurality of apertures 39 whereby a link 40 may be connected to the bell crank at one end thereof and at the other end pivoted to the frame 15. The other arm 38^b of the bell crank lever is longitudinally slotted as at 41 and has secured thereto at a point spaced above the slot 41 a pin 42 which projects laterally from both sides of the lever arm. Disposed over this arm of the bell crank lever is a tubular member 43, closed at its upper end as by a screw cap 43' and having a diametrical pin 44 secured therein adjacent the lower portion thereof. The tubular member 43 is retained on the bell crank lever by means of a helical compression spring 45, this spring being retained at one end by means of the pin 42 and at the other end by means of the pin 44, so that the effect of the spring is to urge the tubular member downwardly toward a notched arcuate sector 46 which is preferably formed integrally with the bracket 23. The tubular member 43 is slotted on one side adjacent its lower edge, as at 49, so as to clear the rack 46, the opposite unslotted portion engaging the notches of the rack. Attached to the rod 35 at the side opposite the bell crank lever, as shown best in Figure 1, is a lever 48 which is preferably provided with a plurality of apertures, in one of which is pivotally secured a link 49, this link being pivoted at its other end to the frame 15.

It will be readily apparent that the bed bottom may be rocked about its pivot 25 by means of the bell crank lever 38. When it is desired to elevate the upper portion of a body for viewing, the tubular member 43 is released from engagement with the rack 46 by pulling it upwardly against the resilient action of the spring 45, and then rotating the lever clockwise about its pivot. (Figure 4.) When the bed bottom has been rocked to the desired position of adjustment, the tubular member 43 is then permitted to move downwardly and become engaged in one of the teeth of the arcuate member 46. After the completion of the funeral ceremony, when it is desired to close the casket, the bell crank lever is rotated in a counter-clockwise direction so as to lower the upper portion of the bed bottom to a position substantially as shown in Figure 1.

It will be apparent that the bell crank lever may be adjusted relative to the bed bottom by means of the plurality of apertures provided in the bell crank arm 38^a and also in the link 40, and that the lever 48 may also be properly adjusted by means of the plurality of apertures provided therein.

Referring now to Figures 10 to 12, inclusive, there is shown here another embodiment of my invention comprising a bed bottom such as described above, having in combination means whereby it may be rocked about a transverse axis and may also be canted toward one side. In these figures, the numeral 10^a represents a casket provided with a bed bottom 15^a which may be substantially similar to that previously described, or may be of any other suitable type, and is pivoted about a transverse axis (not shown).

Preferably secured to the bottom wall of the casket 10^a adjacent the head end thereof is an adjusting device indicated generally at 60. This adjusting mechanism comprises a bracket 62, which, as best shown in Figure 10, is substantially triangular in shape and is flanged over adjacent the bottom thereof to form a foot 63 which is secured to the bottom wall of the casket, as by means of screws 64 or the like. Preferably formed integrally with the bracket is an arcuate rack 65, the lower portion of which is notched as at 66. Pivoted to the bracket, as at 68, is a bell crank lever 69, one leg 69^a of which is slotted adjacent its free extremity, as at 70, to receive the head of a screw 71. This screw is preferably secured to a pair of plates 72 and 72', which are secured together as by means of a head screw 73 and an eye screw 74. These plates are adapted to slide longitudinally of an elongated substantially vertical slot 75 provided in the bracket 62.

The eye 74 embraces a screw 83, being seated in a peripheral groove formed on the screw, and this screw is threaded through an angular lug 85 which is pivoted to the bed frame as at 86. While the frame 15^a is shown as being formed of an angular member, it will be obvious that this frame, if desired, may be formed of a channel-shaped section, or of any other suitable shape. The screw 73 also serves pivotally to connect a lug 88 to the frame 15^a.

In the operation of the device of Figures 10, 11 and 12, should it be desired to rock the bed bottom about its transverse axis, the tubular member 77 is depressed so as to disengage it from the notches 66 of the arcuate rack, and the bell crank lever is then rotated in a clockwise direction (Figure 10) if it is desired to elevate the head end of the bed bottom for viewing purposes. It will be apparent that such a motion will raise the plates 72 and 72' which slide along the slot 75 of the bracket 62 and transmit the elevating motion to the frame 15^a through the lug 88 and screw 83. When it is desired to lower the head end of the bed bottom, the bell crank is rotated counter-clockwise (Figure 10).

Should it be desired to cant the bed bottom about a longitudinal axis, this may be accomplished by rotating the screw 83, this screw being provided with a diametrical slot at its upper end for seating a screw driver or like tool. The effect is to warp or twist the bed bottom, so that the head end may be canted toward the viewing side.

Various modifications and improvements coming within the spirit of my invention will doubtless occur to those skilled in the art. Hence, I do not wish to be limited to the specific embodiments disclosed or uses mentioned, except as set forth in the appended claims, which are to be

given as broad an interpretation as the state of the art permits.

I claim as my invention:

1. In combination with a burial casket, a bed bottom comprising a frame, a plurality of coil springs for supporting a body, and means for mounting said coil springs including a strap having crimps therein, and a hook formed on said springs by bending an end portion thereof whereby the latter may be readily disengaged from the strap.

2. In a device of the class described, a casket, a bed bottom pivotally mounted within said casket on a transverse axis, means for adjusting said bed bottom about said axis, and independently operable means for canting said bed bottom toward a side thereof.

3. In a device of the class described, a casket, a bed bottom pivotally mounted within said casket on a transverse axis, and means for adjusting said bed bottom about said axis comprising a lever and vertically slidable means connecting said lever to said bed bottom adjacent one end thereof.

4. In a device of the class described, a casket, a bed bottom pivotally mounted within said casket on a transverse axis, and means for adjusting said bed bottom about said axis comprising a lever, and means connecting said lever to said bed bottom adjacent one end thereof comprising a vertical link and a diagonal strut.

5. In a device of the class described, a casket, a bed bottom pivotally mounted within said casket on a transverse axis, and means for adjusting said bed bottom about said axis comprising a lever, means connecting said lever to said bed bottom adjacent one end thereof comprising a pair of vertically movable links, one of said links having a screw-threaded connection for canting said bed bottom toward one side.

6. In a device of the class described, a casket, a bed bottom pivotally mounted within said casket on a transverse axis, and means for adjusting said bed bottom about said axis comprising a lever, means connecting said lever to said bed bottom adjacent one end thereof comprising a link and a diagonal strut, said strut having a screw-threaded connection for canting said bed bottom toward one side.

7. In a device of the class described, a casket, a bed bottom pivotally mounted within said casket on a transverse axis, means adjacent one end of said casket for adjusting said bed bottom about said axis, said adjusting means including a lever and means for transmitting motion from said lever to said bed bottom including a member operative to cant said bed bottom toward one side thereof.

8. In a device of the class described, a casket, a bed bottom pivotally mounted within said casket on a transverse axis, and means for adjusting said bed bottom about said axis comprising a lever and vertically slidable means connecting said lever to said bed bottom.

ALBERT G. HARMS.