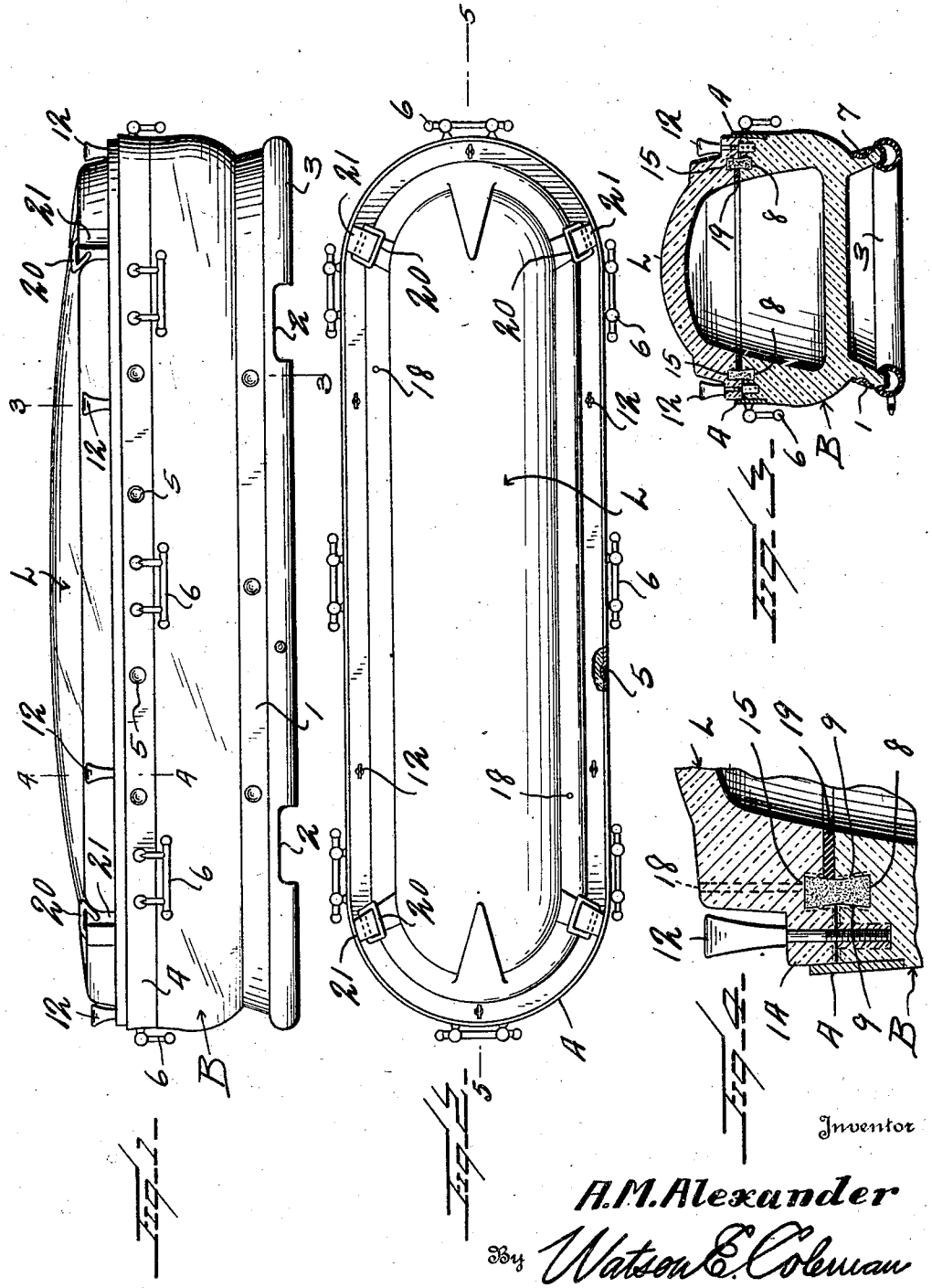
May 29, 1928. 1,671,459

A. M. ALEXANDER

BURIAL CASKET

Filed May 18, 1926 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Inventor

A. M. Alexander

By Watson E. Coleman

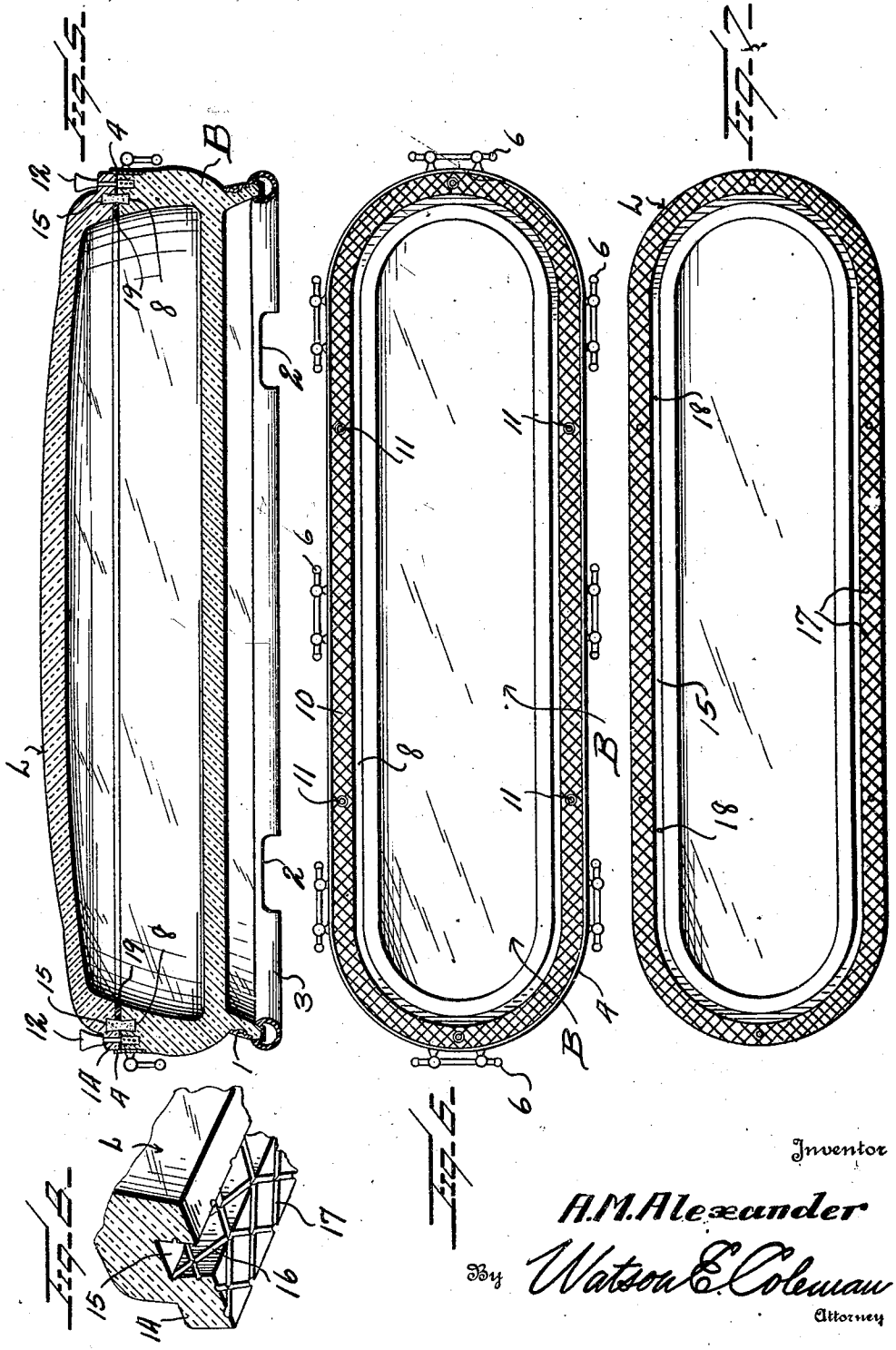
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BURIAL CASKET

Filed May 18, 1926 2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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Patented May 29, 1928. 1,671,459

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW M. ALEXANDER, OF CLAY, KENTUCKY.

BURIAL CASKET.

Application filed May 18, 1926. Serial No. 109,994.

This invention relates to certain improvements in burial caskets and it is an object of the invention to provide a device of this general character which, when the lid is applied, is hermetically sealed to prevent ingress of air and moisture therein whereby the corpse will be preserved.

Another object of the invention is to provide a casket of this kind which is particularly adapted for use in the laying out of bodies of persons dying of contagious diseases and particularly to permit such shipment in full compliance with the health laws of the various States.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a device of this general character with means whereby its lowering within the grave is materially facilitated and also wherein the same is provided with cushioning means to absorb shock incident to the handling of the casket.

The invention consists in the details of construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts of my improved burial casket whereby certain important advantages are attained and the device rendered simpler, less expensive and otherwise more convenient and advantageous for use, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

The novel features of my invention will hereinafter be definitely claimed.

In order that my invention may be the better understood, I will now proceed to describe the same with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a casket constructed in accordance with an embodiment of my invention;

Figure 2 is a view in top plan of the structure as illustrated in Figure 1;

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

Figure 4 is a fragmentary sectional view taken substantially on the line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a longitudinal sectional view taken substantially on the line 5—5 of Figure 2;

Figure 6 is a view in top plan of the casket as herein disclosed with the lid removed;

Figure 7 is a view in bottom plan of the lid unapplied;

Figure 8 is a fragmentary view in perspective of a marginal portion of the lid looking from below.

As disclosed in the accompanying drawings, B denotes the body of my improved casket having its walls formed of glass and having its bottom or base portion substantially defined by a flange 1 also of glass. The side portions of the flange adjacent the opposite ends of the body B are provided with the notches 2 to receive the conventional straps for lowering the casket within a grave. These notches serve to prevent slippage of the straps in a direction lengthwise of the casket and also permit a ready release of said straps after the casket has been properly lowered within the grave.

Detachably engaged with the lower marginal portion of the flange 1 is a shock absorbing medium 3 preferably of an inflatable type. This shock absorbing medium 3 is provided to compensate for the shocks and jars to which the casket and the corpse therein may be subjected in handling. This shock absorbing medium 3, just before the casket is lowered into the grave or deposited in any other suitable permanent resting place, is removed.

The upper marginal portion of the wall of the body B has extending entirely therearound a metallic band 4 extending a desired distance above the upper edge of said wall. This band 4 is applied after the body B has been molded or otherwise formed and is held against displacement by the inwardly directed and substantially semi-spherical bosses 5 pressed out or otherwise formed and which penetrate the wall of the body B. Suitably attached at desired points to the band 4 are the handles 6 of desired type or design. In addition to providing a mounting for the handles 6, the band 4 also serves to reinforce or strengthen the upper portion of the body B.

The flange 1 also has disposed therearound a reinforcing band 7 applied to and maintained in desired position in the same manner as hereinbefore set forth with respect to the band 4.

The upper or free edge of the body B at a point substantially at the transverse center thereof is provided with a continuous groove or channel 8 dovetail in cross section with the vertical or side walls thereof provided therealong with the crossed grooves 9 while said upper or free edge of the wall of the

body B outwardly of said groove 8 is also provided with the crossed grooves 10.

Embedded within the upper edge face of the wall of the body B at predetermined points therealong are the internally threaded sleeves 11 in which are adapted to be engaged the bolts or screws 12 for maintaining the lid L in applied position. The lid L is also formed of glass and of such configuration and dimensions as to properly fit upon the body B. The marginal portion of the lid constitutes an outstanding flange 14 through which the bolts or screws 12 hereinbefore referred to are disposed. The free edge face of the lid L is provided with a continuous groove 15 which, when the lid is in applied position, registers with the groove 8 of the body B. This groove 15 is also preferably dovetail in cross section and has disposed along its side walls the crossed grooves 16. The edge face of the lid L outwardly of the groove 15 is also provided therealong with the crossed grooves 17.

The marginal portion of the lid L at desired points thereon is initially provided with the filling openings 18 communicating with the groove 15. After the lid L is applied a suitable sealing medium of a normally hard material and initially of a plastic state is poured into the registering grooves 8 and 15 through the filling openings 18 resulting in a hermetic seal between the lid L and body B whereby air and moisture is prevented from entering within the closed casket. The seal between the applied lid L and the body B is further increased by the sealing material entering within and filling up the crossed grooves 9 and 10 of the body B and the crossed grooves 16 and 17 of the lid L.

The edge face of the lid L inwardly of the groove 15 is smooth and unobstructed and is inwardly stepped with respect to the outer marginal edge face and the edge face of the body B inwardly of the groove 8 is also smooth and unobstructed. Between said smooth portions of the edge faces of the applied lid L and body B is applied a gasket 19 preferably of rubber which in addition to providing a further seal also serves as a shock absorber when the lid L is applied and to prevent an overflow of the sealing material when being applied. The upwardly projecting portion of the band 4 also serves as a means to prevent overflow of such sealing material.

The lid L at opposite sides and adjacent the ends thereof has operatively engaged therewith the handles 20, said handles as herein disclosed being directly engaged with outstanding blocks or knobs 21 molded with the lid L.

From the foregoing description it is thought to be obvious that a burial casket constructed in accordance with my invention is particularly well adapted for use by reason of the convenience and facility with which it may be assembled and operated, and it will also be obvious that my invention is susceptible of some change and modification without departing from the principles and spirit thereof and for this reason I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the precise arrangement and formation of the several parts herein shown in carrying out my invention in practice except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:—

1. In a casket, a body having a groove extending around its upper edge face, the side walls of the groove having supplemental grooves formed therein, a lid, the edge face of the lid being also provided therearound with a groove registering with the main groove in the body when the lid is in applied position, said lid being provided with a filling opening in communication with the groove therein, an external reinforcing band disposed around the upper portion of the body and extending above the edge face of the body.

2. In a casket, a body having a groove extending around its upper edge face, the side walls of the groove having supplemental grooves formed therein, a lid, the edge face of the lid being also provided therearound with a groove registering with the main groove in the body when the lid is in applied position, said lid being provided with a filling opening in communication with the groove therein, an external reinforcing band disposed around the upper portion of the body and extending above the edge face of the body, and handles attached to the band.

3. In a casket, a body having its lower portion substantially defined by a continuous depending flange, a lid for the body, a shock absorbing medium engaged with the lower portion of the flange, and a reinforcing band disposed around the flange.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

ANDREW M. ALEXANDER.