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STAND FOR CASKET LOWERING DEVICES

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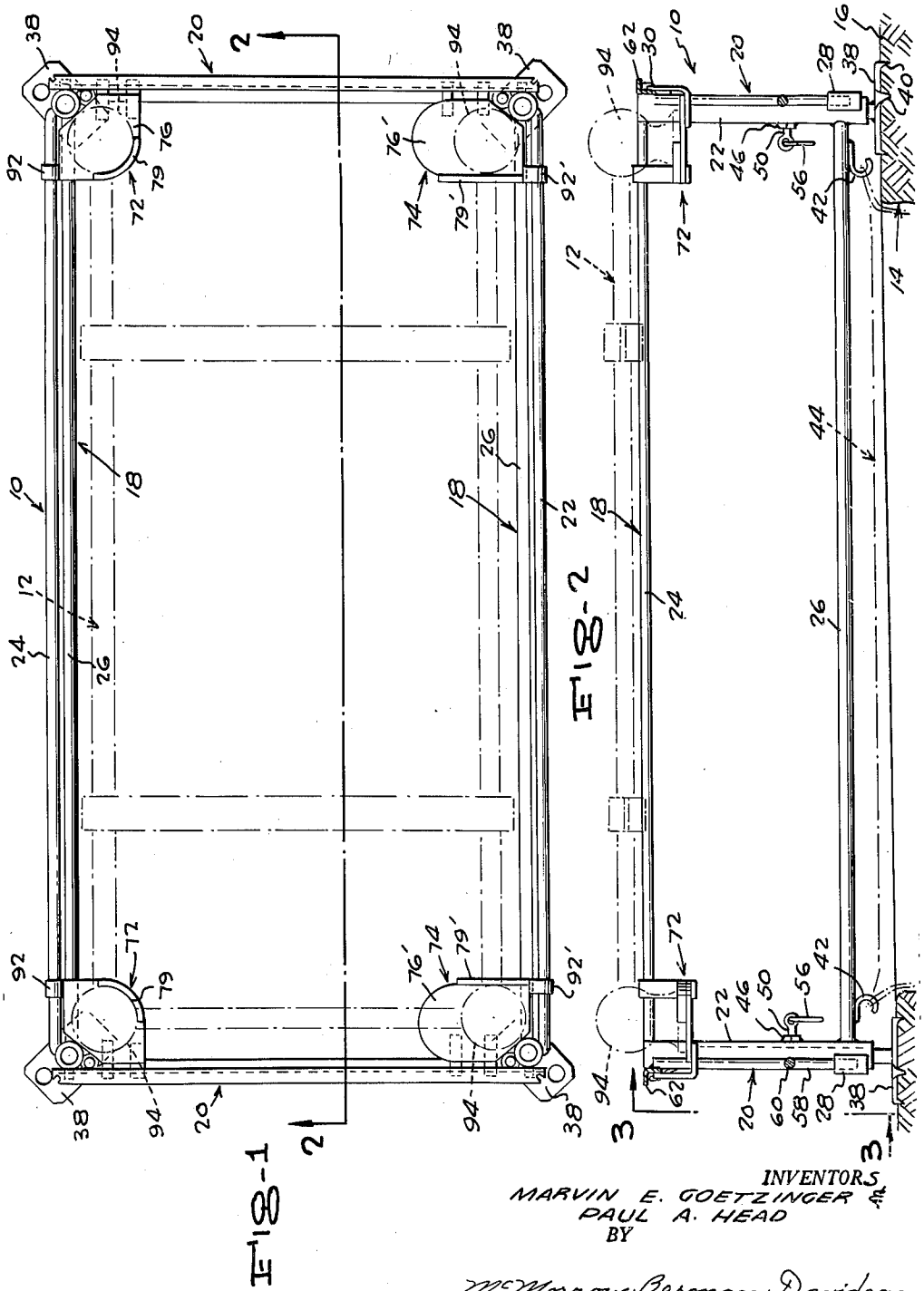


FIG 8-1

FIG 8-2

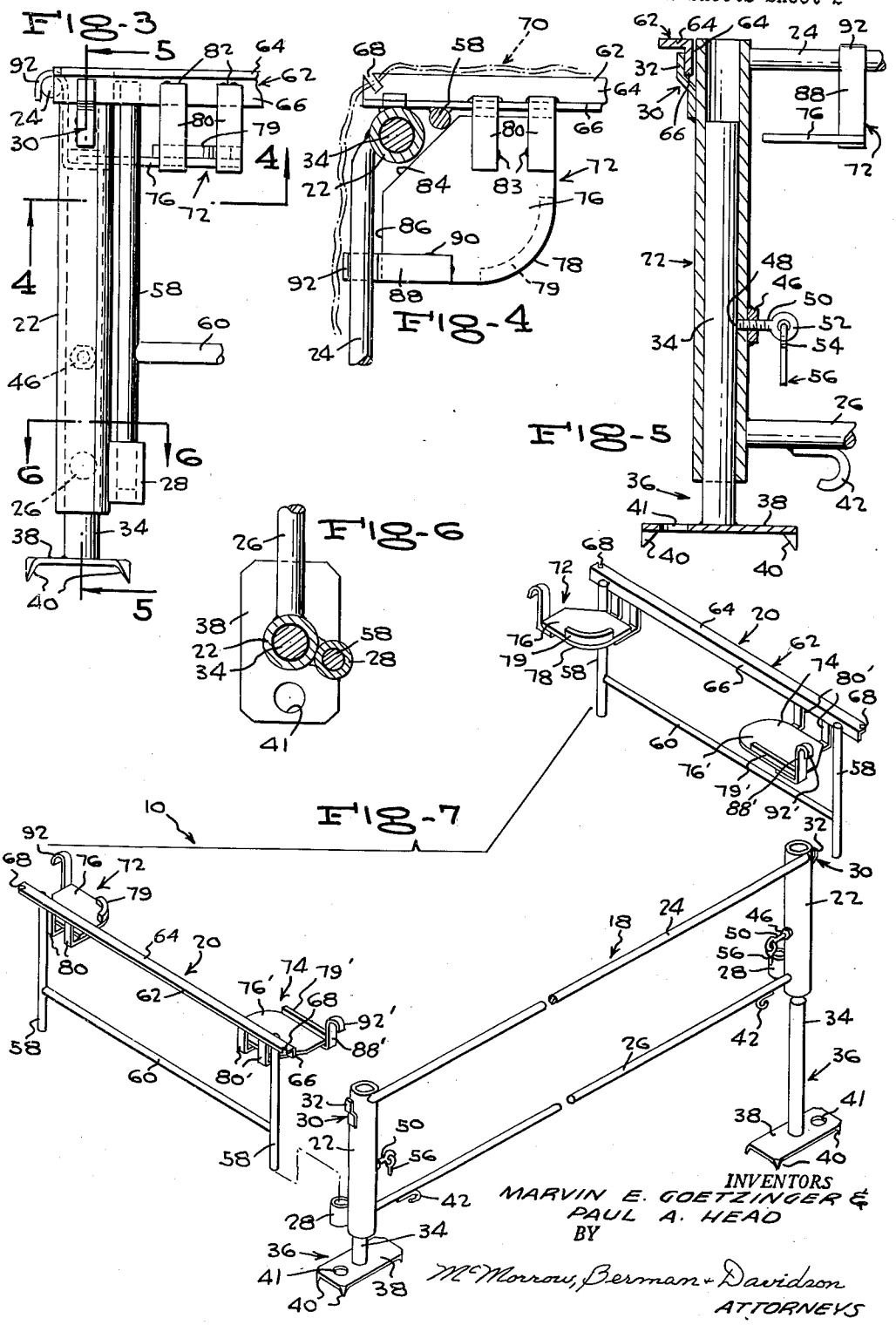
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STAND FOR CASKET LOWERING DEVICES

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This invention relates to a novel and improved stand for casket lowering devices.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a simple and rugged stand of this kind which is adapted to be readily disassembled and collapsed into a relatively small and compact mass for easy portability and storage; and which, when assembled, can be readily adjusted to level the same on ground sloping in two directions.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a stand of the character indicated above which has means for securing drapes, and means for supporting a grave liner across a grave around which the stand is mounted, the supporting means also serving for suspending a grave liner within a grave.

Other important objects and advantageous features of the invention will be apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings, wherein, for purposes of illustration only, a specific form of the invention is set forth in detail:

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a stand of the invention, in assembled condition, with a casket lowering device in phantom lines, shown mounted on the frame;

Figure 2 is a vertical longitudinal section taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary end elevation taken from the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary horizontal section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary vertical transverse section taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 3;

Figure 6 is a horizontal section taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 3; and

Figure 7 is an exploded perspective view showing the stand in disassembled condition, one side frame being omitted.

Referring in detail to the drawings, wherein like numerals designate like parts throughout the several views, the illustrated frame, generally designated 10, is designed to support thereon a conventional casket lowering device, generally designated 12, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, above and in registry with a grave 14, the frame 10 being supported or mounted directly upon the ground surface 16 around the grave 14.

The frame is composed of two similar but reversed side frames 18, and two similar but reversed end frames 20. The side frames comprise hollow tubular perpendicular end posts 22, upper horizontal bars or rods 24, and lower horizontal bars or rods 26, extending between the posts 22. The upper bars are fixed, in suitable manner, to the posts 22 at the laterally outward sides thereof, adjacent the upper ends of the posts. The lower bars are fixed, in suitable manner, at their ends, to the facing sides of the posts 22, near the lower ends of the posts. Suitably fixed to the laterally inward sides of the posts 22, at their lower ends, are vertical sleeve brackets 28. Suitably fixed to the longitudinally outward sides of the posts, at locations near to and spaced below the upper

bars 24, are seats 30 having upstanding portions 32 spaced from the posts 22.

Slidably and rotatably engaged in the lower ends of the posts 22 are the standards 34 of vertically adjustable foot assemblies 36, which include flat elongated ground-engaging feet 38 fixed on the lower ends of the standards. The feet 38, as shown in Figures 3, 5 and 7, have at their corners, downwardly extending pointed ground-piercing prongs 40 which provide non-slip engagement of the feet with the ground surface 16 at the corners of a grave 14. Holes 41 are provided in the feet for optional use of ground stakes. Suitably secured to the underside of the lower side frame bars 26, near the ends thereof, are hooks 42 for suspending a grave liner 44, within a grave, as shown in Figure 2.

As shown in Figure 5, for locking the foot standards 34 of the foot assemblies 36 in the posts 22, in selected vertically adjusted positions necessary to level the frame on two-way or one-way sloping ground, nuts 46 are suitably secured to the facing sides of the posts 22, between the upper and lower bars 24, 26, around openings 48 in the post sidewalls, and locking screws 50 are threaded through the nuts 46 and the openings 48, into engagement with the standards 34. The screws have enlarged eyes 52 on their outer ends, through which are engaged eyes 54 on one end of screw-turning levers 56, which hang free, when not in use.

The end frames 20, which extend between and are mounted on the side frames 18, at the ends thereof, comprise perpendicular end bars 58, lower horizontal bars or rods 60, and upper horizontal angle bars 62. The lower bars or rods extend between the end bars 58 and are suitably fixed at their ends to the end bars, at locations near to and spaced from the lower ends of the end bars. The angle bars 62 are longer than the lower bars 60, and have outwardly extending horizontal flanges 64 which are suitably fixed on the upper ends of the end bars 58, and depending vertical flanges 66 which are located inwardly of the end bars 58. The horizontal flanges 64 have diagonal slots 68 in the corners of their free edges, as seen in Figure 4, in which corner portions of a casket drape 70 are adapted to be securably engaged for holding the drape in place, over a casket (not shown).

The end frames 20 further comprise dissimilar lowering device corner supports 72 and 74 at opposite ends thereof and at the inward sides thereof, with similar supports at the same ends of the end frames. The supports 72 comprise segmental horizontal plates 76, having rounded inner corners 78, around which extend upstanding arcuate stops 79 for engagement by related portions of a lowering device, as indicated in Figures 1 and 2. The plates 76 are rigidly suspended below the level of and from the angle bars 62 by means of horizontally spaced, vertical straps 80, secured, as indicated at 82, to the inner sides of the vertical flanges 66 of the angle bars, at locations close to and at the inner sides of the end bars 58, and at 83, to the undersides of the plates. The plates 76 have reduced corners 84, as shown in Figure 4, which provide clearance for the end bars 58, and for the end posts 22 of the side frames, when the end frames 20 are assembled on the side frames 18. At the longitudinally outward edges 86 of the plates 76, are upstanding straps 88, which are secured to the undersides of the plates 76, as indicated at 90 in Figure 4, and have hooks 92 on their upper ends, to engage outwardly and over the upper bar 24 of a related side frame 18.

The corners supports 74 are similar to the corner supports 72, except that their plates 76' are longitudinally elongated, to provide for adjustments of the lowering device 12, without changing the width of the stand 10. An upstanding longitudinal stop 79' is provided along the

inward side edge of the plate 76', and an upstanding strap 88' with a hook 92' on its upper end is provided to engage over the upper bar 24 of a related side frame 18.

The end frames 20 are assembled to the side frames 18 by engaging related end portions of the vertical flanges 64 of the angle bars 62 of the end frames in the seats 30 on the end posts 22 of the side frames 18, the end bars 58 of the end frames being first inserted downwardly through the sleeve brackets 28 on the side frame posts 22, the hooks 92 and 92' being engaged over the upper bars 24 of the side frames, as the end frames move down into place on the side frames. The lowering device 12 is then mounted on the assembled stand 10, with its corner blocks 94 bearing upon related support plates 76 and 76'.

If, upon removal of the lowering device 12 from the stand 10, it is desired to disassemble the stand for transportation and storage, the end frames 20 are simply lifted off the side frames, the foot assemblies 36 pushed into the side frame posts 22 and locked therein, by means of the screws 50, and the frames stacked to form a compact easily portable bundle.

While there has been shown and described herein a preferred form of the invention, it is to be understood that the invention is not necessarily confined thereto, and that any change or changes in the structure of and in the relative arrangements of components thereof are contemplated as being within the scope of the invention as defined by the claims appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A stand for a casket lowering device having corner blocks, comprising a pair of similar and reversed side frames, a pair of similar and reversed end frames, ground-engaging foot assemblies on said side frames at their ends, said end frames extending between the side frames at related ends of the side frames, means removably and supportably mounting the end frames at their ends on related ends of the side frames, and support means on the frames at the corners of the stand upon which corner blocks of a lowering device are adapted to severally rest, said support means comprising horizontal plates mounted on the end frames at the ends thereof, said mounting means comprising vertical end bars on the end frames, vertical sleeve brackets on the side frames in which the end bars are inserted downwardly, and hooks on the end frames engaged over portions of the side frames.

2. A stand for a casket lowering device having corner blocks, comprising a pair of similar and reversed side frames, a pair of similar and reversed end frames, ground-engaging foot assemblies on said side frames at their ends, said end frames extending between the side frames at related ends of the side frames, means removably and supportably mounting the end frames at their ends on related ends of the side frames, and support means on the frames at the corners of the stand upon which corner blocks of a lowering device are adapted to severally rest, said support means comprising horizontal plates mounted on the end frames at the ends thereof, said mounting means comprising vertical end bars on the end frames, vertical sleeve brackets on the side frames in which the end bars are inserted downwardly, and hooks on the end frames engaged over portions of the side frames, said end frames having upper bars and said side frames having upwardly opening seats in which the ends of the upper bars are engaged.

3. A stand for a casket lowering device having corner blocks, comprising a pair of similar and reversed side frames, a pair of similar and reversed end frames, ground-engaging foot assemblies on said side frames at their ends, said end frames extending between the side frames at related ends of the side frames, means removably and supportably mounting the end frames at their ends on related ends of the side frames, and support means on the frames at the corner of the stand upon which corner blocks of a lowering device are adapted to severally rest, said support means comprising horizontal plates mounted on the end frames at the ends thereof and extending inwardly from the end frames and inwardly from the side frames on a level below the tops of the frames, said plates having upstanding straps at one side thereof secured at their upper ends to upper portions of the end frames, and upstanding hooks on another side thereof, said hooks being engaged over upper portions of the side frames.

4. A stand for a casket lowering device having corner blocks, comprising a pair of similar and reversed side frames, a pair of similar and reversed end frames, ground-engaging foot assemblies on said side frames at their ends, said end frames extending between the side frames at related ends of the side frames, means removably and supportably mounting the end frames at their ends on related ends of the side frames, and support means on the frames at the corner of the stand upon which corner blocks of a lowering device are adapted to severally rest, said support means comprising horizontal plates mounted on the end frames at the ends thereof and extending inwardly from the end frames and inwardly from the side frames on a level below the tops of the frames, said plates having upstanding straps at one side thereof secured at their upper ends to upper portions of the end frames, and upstanding hooks on another side thereof, said hooks being engaged over upper portions of the side frames, said support plates having upstanding stops thereon at their inward sides for engagement by corner blocks of a lowering device.

5. A stand for a casket lowering device having corner blocks, comprising a pair of similar and reversed side frames, a pair of similar and reversed end frames, ground-engaging foot assemblies on said side frames at their ends, said end frames extending between the side frames at related ends of the side frames, means removably and supportably mounting the end frames at their ends on related ends of the side frames, and support means on the frames at the corner of the stand upon which corner blocks of a lowering device are adapted to severally rest, said support means comprising horizontal plates mounted on the end frames at the ends thereof and extending inwardly from the end frames and inwardly from the side frames on a level below the tops of the frames, said plates having upstanding straps at one side thereof secured at their upper ends to upper portions of the end frames, and upstanding hooks on another side thereof, said hooks being engaged over upper portions of the side frames, said support plates having upstanding stops thereon at their inward sides for engagement by corner blocks of a lowering device, the stops on the support plates at one side of the stand being elongated crosswise of the stand to provide for width adjustments of a lowering device supported on the stand.

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