

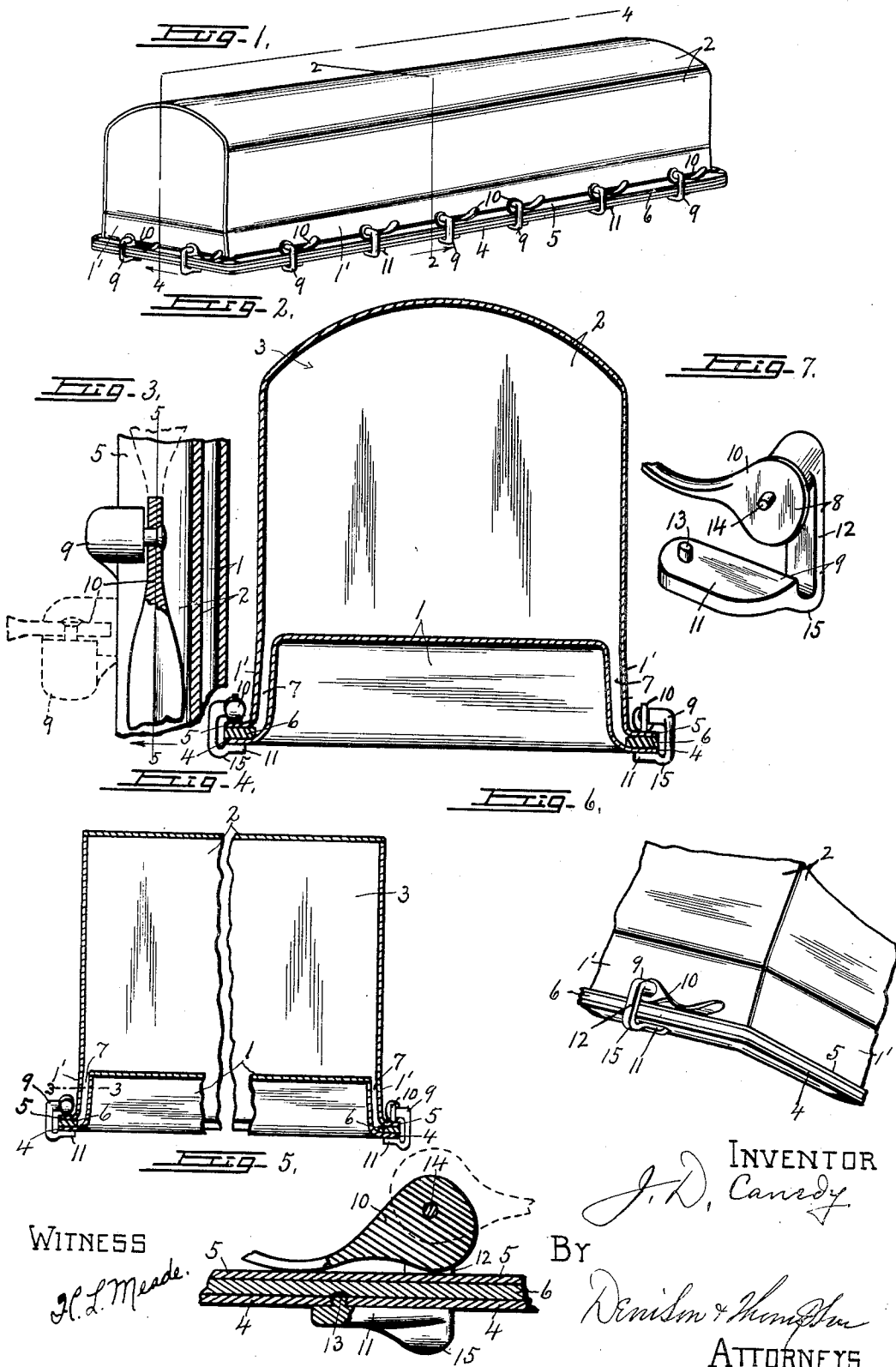
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BURIAL VAULT

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BURIAL VAULT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 27—35)

This invention relates to a burial vault involving the use of two inverted box-like sections of sheet steel or equivalent material having their body portions telescopically assembled one within the other and their lower edges provided with outturned overlapping flanges adapted to be clamped upon an interposed gasket or packing to form an air-tight and liquid-tight joint, said sections being of relatively different heights to form an intervening chamber of sufficient capacity to receive a burial casket, not shown.

The main object is to provide simple and efficient means whereby the mere act of assembling the two sections hermetically seals the vault against the entrance of moisture from without and also against the exit of vitiated air or gas from within.

One of the specific objects is to construct the main bodies of the sections in such manner that, when assembled, they will form an intervening relatively narrow sump chamber extending entirely around the sides and ends of the bottom section in open communication with the casket-receiving chamber for receiving any liquid which may accumulate within the vault and thereby to additionally seal the joint against the escape of gases from within.

Another object is to clamp the flanges on the lower edges of the vault sections by means of a multiplicity of clamps, each of which is pivoted to the lower flanges to swing to and from a position above the upper flange so that when released from their locking positions, the sections may be separated one from the other by vertical displacement of one of the sections.

Other objects and uses relating to specific parts of the vault will be brought out in the following description.

In the drawing:
Figure 1 is a perspective view of a burial vault embodying the various features of my invention.

Figure 2 is an enlarged transverse vertical sectional view of the same vault.

Figure 3 is a further enlarged detail horizontal sectional view through one side of the vault just above the flanges taken on line 3—3, Figure 4, showing more particularly one of the clamping devices in operative position except that one end of the clamping lever is shown in section, the dotted lines indicating the different positions of the clamping device and lever.

Figure 4 is an enlarged longitudinal vertical sectional view, partly broken away, taken on line 4—4, Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a detail vertical sectional view taken on line 5—5, Figure 3, showing one of the clamping devices in operative position, the

dotted line indicating the released position of the cam lever.

Figure 6 is a perspective view from the underside of one corner of a fragmentary portion of one of the lower corners of the vault, with one of the clamping devices in operative position.

Figure 7 is a perspective view of one of the detached clamping devices.

As illustrated, this vault comprises lower and upper inverted box-like sections 1 and 2 of sheet steel or other suitable material, the bottom section 1 being relatively shallow vertically as compared with the height of the top section 2 which extends a sufficient distance above the top of the bottom section 1 to form an intervening casket-receiving chamber 3.

These sections 1 and 2 are adapted to be telescopically assembled one within the other so that the lower portions of the side and end walls of the upper section 2 may extend entirely around the corresponding side and end walls of the bottom section 1.

The lower edges of the side and end walls of both sections are provided respectively with outturned marginal flanges 4 and 5 arranged in overlapping relation for engaging the lower and upper faces of an interposed gasket or packing member 6 of rubber or other suitable material.

The horizontal area of the body portion of the section 1 is appreciably less than that of the interior of the adjacent portion of the upper section 2 to form an intervening relatively narrow sump chamber 7 in open communication with the casket-receiving chamber 3 for receiving any liquid which may tend to accumulate within the interior of the vault and thereby to provide a liquid seal for the joint between the flanges 4 and 5 to prevent the escape of vitiated air or gases from the interior of the vault to the exterior thereof, it being understood that when the flanges 4 and 5 are firmly tightened upon the gasket 6, it will hermetically seal the joint against the entrance of moisture from the exterior to the interior of the vault.

It will also be noted that any liquid which may tend to accumulate within the vault will be precipitated into the sump chamber 7 and trapped therein between the packing 6 and superposed volume of air, thereby hermetically sealing the joint between the flanges 4 and 5 and also preventing excessive rise of the liquid in the chamber 7 by reason of the resistance to compression of the air in the chamber 3.

In other words, the chamber 7 is of sufficient capacity to receive any liquid which may be liberated from the body in the casket within the chamber 3 without liability of returning into the casket.

Aside from the joint between the flanges 4 and 5 of the sections 1 and 2, these sections are

imperforate through their entire areas to exclude the entrance of moisture from without and also to prevent the escape of vitiated air and gases from within the vault.

5 It is, of course, to be understood that the vault would be of sufficient interior dimensions to receive a casket, the top wall of the bottom section 1 being substantially horizontal and adapted to form a support for the casket while the top 10 wall of the section 3 is preferably arched transversely but straight longitudinally.

The top and side walls of the section 1 may be made of a single piece of sheet metal while the end sections may be made of separate pieces 15 of sheet metal welded or otherwise permanently secured to the adjacent ends of the top and side sections to form air-tight and liquid-tight joints therewith.

20 In like manner, the top and side walls of the upper section 2 may be made of a single piece of sheet metal while the end walls may be made in separate pieces, welded or otherwise permanently secured to the adjacent ends of the side and end walls to form air-tight and liquid-tight 25 joints therewith.

30 It will, therefore, be noted that the top, side and end walls of each section are in effect integral structures and in some instances may be made of cast metal to avoid perforations or joints other than the joint between the two sections.

35 The lower edges of the sections 1 and 2 are clamped together by a multiplicity of separate clamping units 8 arranged at suitable intervals along the flanges 4 and 5 and each consisting of an angular member 9 and a cam lever 10.

40 The angular member 9 is provided with a horizontally extending flange 11 and an upright post 12 extending upwardly from one end of the flange 11 in offset relation thereto, as shown more clearly in Figure 7.

45 The horizontal flange 11 has a flat upper face engaging the lower face of the bottom flange 4 of the lower vault section 1 and has its other end pivoted at 13 to the flange 4 to swing about a vertical axis.

50 The upper end of the post 12 is offset inwardly to overhang the adjacent end of the horizontal flange 11 and is provided with a pivotal stud 14 upon which the cam lever 10 is mounted for angular movement about a horizontal axis directly over the flange 11 and in vertically spaced relation thereto a distance slightly greater than the combined thicknesses 55 of the flanges 4 and 5 and gasket 6.

60 The horizontal distance between the pivot 13 and post 12 is somewhat greater than the distance between the pivot 13 and outer edges of the flanges 4 and 5 so that when the clamping device 9 is rocked from its locking position as shown in Figure 3, through an arc of approximately 90 degrees, as shown by dotted lines in Figure 3, its post 12 and cam lever 10 will be brought beyond the outer edge of the adjacent 65 portions of the flanges 4 and 5 to allow the sections 1 and 2 to be displaced vertically one from the other.

70 The several clamping devices are, therefore, pivotally mounted upon the outturned flanges of the lower section 1 to be carried thereby, the portion of each member 9 at the junction of the flange 11 with the post 12 being deflected downwardly to form bearing feet 15 adapted to rest upon a floor or other support, said bearing 75 feet having their lower faces rounded to enable

the vault to be easily moved back and forth along and upon the floor.

Furthermore, by providing the members 9 with the feet 15 the latter serve to hold the flanges 4 clear of the floor so that straps or other devices 80 may be placed under the vault for attachment to a lowering device commonly used for lowering the vault with the casket therein into the grave.

85 It will be noted upon reference to Figure 2 that the portions of the side and end walls of the upper section 2 between the lower flanges 5 and level of the top wall of the section 1 are slightly deflected outwardly at 1' and that the corresponding side and end walls of the section 1 are also similarly inclined downwardly 90 and outwardly to enable the top section to be more easily centered around and upon the inner section when assembling those sections.

Operation

95 When assembling the section 2 upon the section 1, the latter may be temporarily supported at the bottom upon any suitable supports at which time the clamping members 9 with the cam levers 10 thereon will be rocked outwardly 100 to the positions indicated by dotted lines in Figure 3, whereupon the gasket 6 will be placed upon the upper face of the lower marginal flange 4.

105 The inverted top section 2 is then placed around and upon the upper face of the gasket 6 with its lower marginal flange 5 resting thereon and the outer edges of the flanges brought into vertical alinement.

110 The clamping members 9 will then be returned to their clamping positions, as shown by full lines in Figure 3, thus bringing the cam lever 10 directly over the marginal flange 9 of the section 2.

115 The cam levers 10 are then rocked about the axes of their respective pivots 14 to bring their cams into clamping engagement with the flanges 5, thereby drawing both of the flanges 4 and 5 toward each other upon the gasket 6 with sufficient firmness to hermetically seal the joint. 120

125 In order to separate the sections 1 and 2, it is simply necessary to reverse the operation of the cam lever 10 to its released position and then to swing the member 9 about the axis of the pivot 13 until the post 12 is brought beyond 130 the outer edges of the flanges 4 and 5, thereby releasing the flanges from engagement with the gasket 6 and permitting the sections 1 and 2 to be separated by vertical displacement.

135 The construction shown and described is particularly simple, practical and efficient, but obviously various changes may be made in the structural details without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim is:

135 The combination with a burial vault having inverted bottom and top box-like sections telescopically assembled and having their lower edges provided with overlapping outturned marginal flanges, of a multiplicity of clamping 140 devices for drawing the flanges toward each other, each clamping device comprising a vertical post portion, a horizontal flange portion, and a foot portion uniting the lower end of the post portion to the flange portion and extending downwardly some distance below said flange portion, and a lever pivoted to the upper end of the post 145 portion to overhang the flange portion.

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