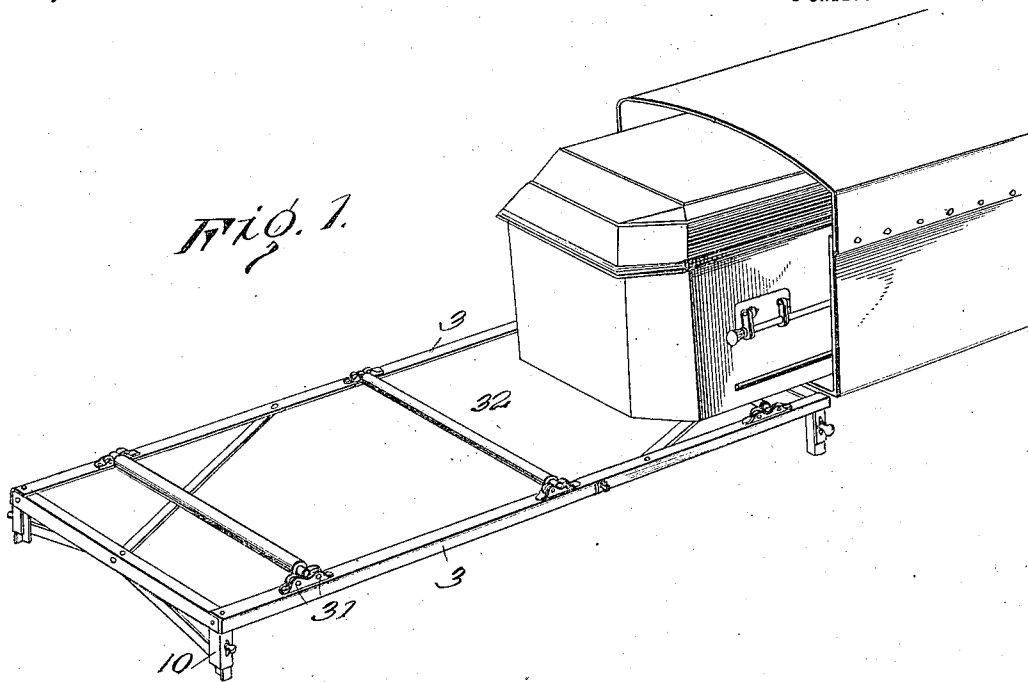
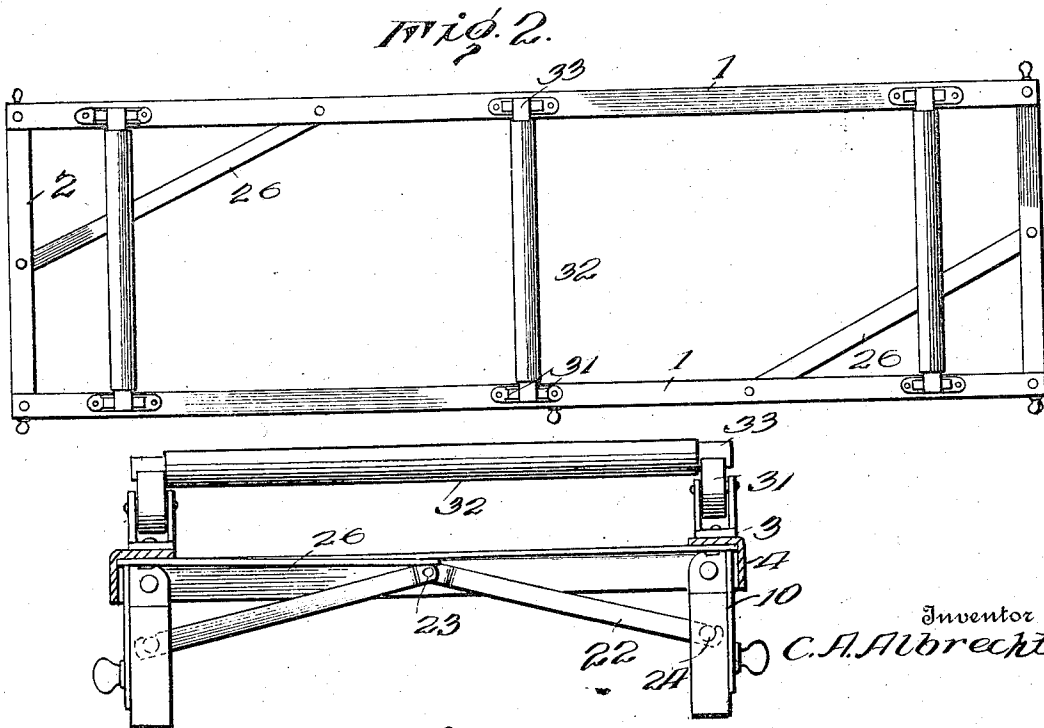


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 APPLICATION FILED JUNE 27, 1916.

1,242,410.

Patented Oct. 9, 1917.
 3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



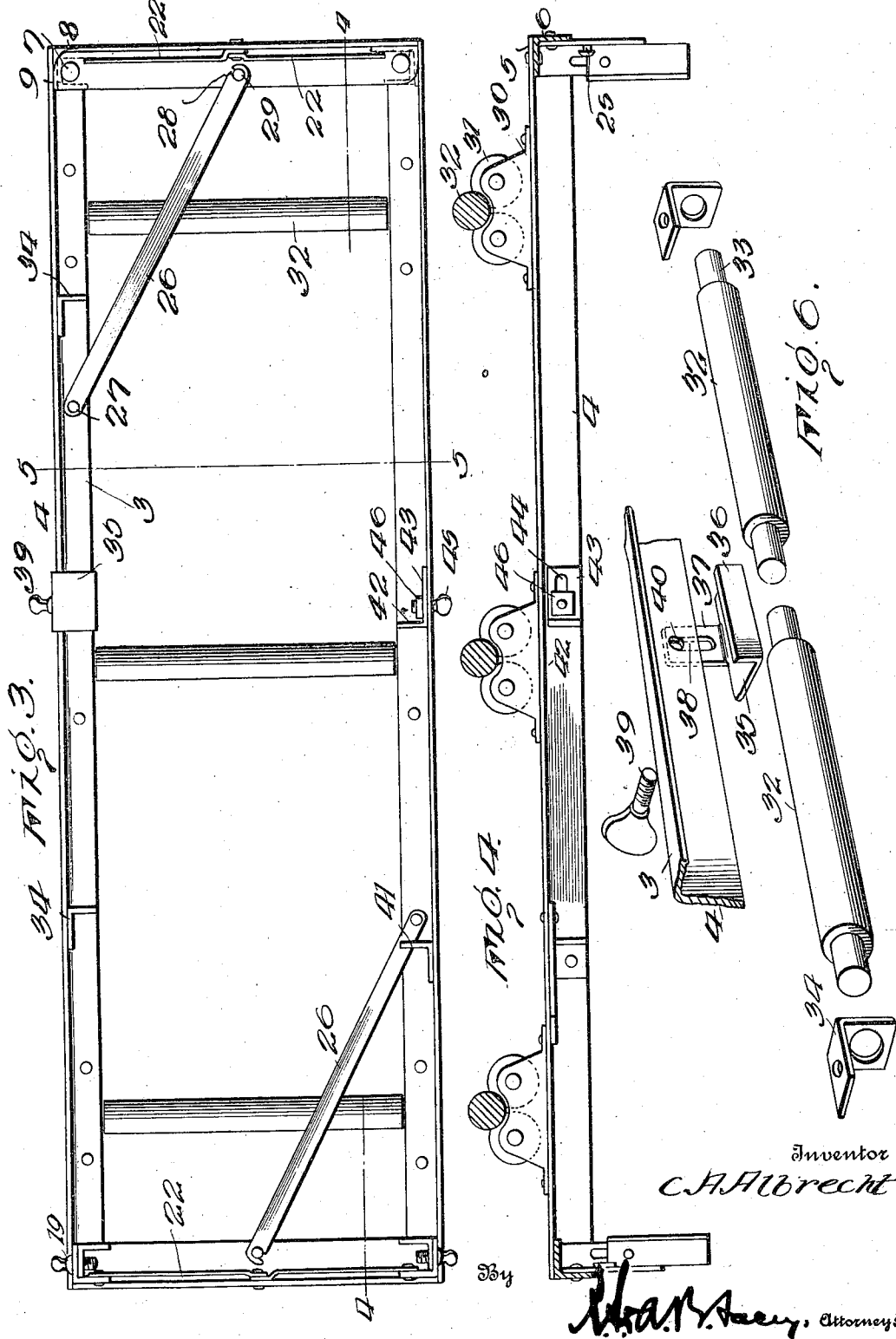
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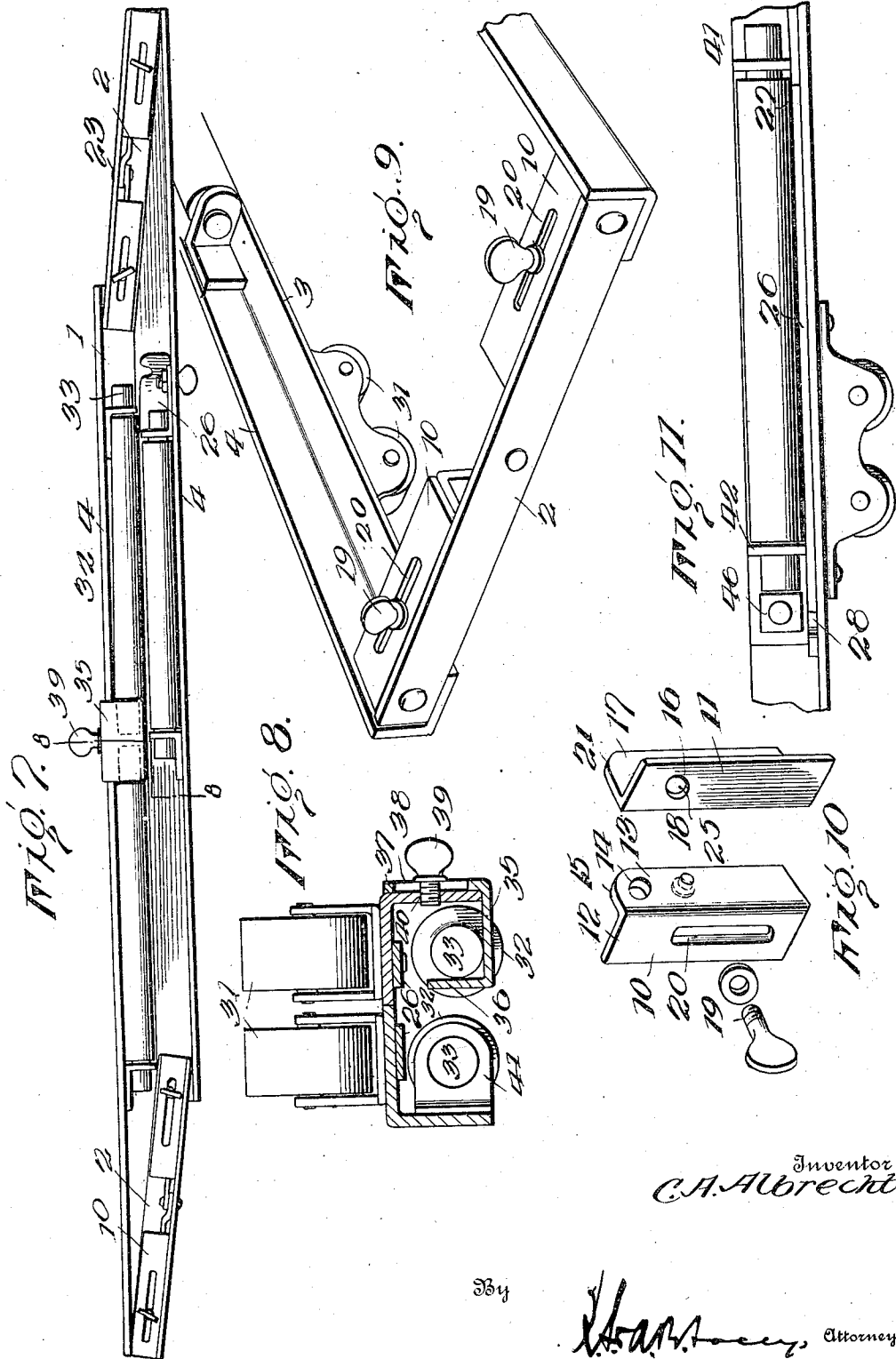
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CASKET SUPPORTING AND TRANSFERRING DEVICE.

1,242,410.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 9, 1917.

Application filed June 27, 1916. Serial No. 106,189.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CARL A. ALBRECHT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Galion, in the county of Crawford and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Casket Supporting and Transferring Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has as its object to provide a device for use in conjunction with an open-ended burial vault and adapted to support the casket during the last obsequies and consequently to provide means whereby the casket may be readily introduced into the vault.

Prior to the present invention much embarrassment and confusion frequently resulted at the time of introducing the casket into the vault, where the vault was of the open-ended type. In many cases the forward pall bearers would start the introduction of the casket into the vault while the undertaker would be at the rear where he would be obliged to lift the entire casket and carry it into the vault as soon as the bearers would release their hold on the handles, which is necessary on caskets equipped with extension handles. On account of the bearers being inexperienced, they will often fail to properly center the casket on the carriage at the opening in the vault.

The present invention therefore has as its object to provide a device which will serve in the first instance as a support for the casket during the obsequies at the grave, the casket being supported in such position that one end will be presented squarely to the open end of the vault, and the said device affording in the second instance means whereby the casket may be readily slid or rolled into the vault in true alinement therewith and without any noise being occasioned and also without the necessity of the undertaker or pallbearers grasping the under side of the casket and lifting the same.

Another aim of the invention is to so construct the device that the same may be collapsed and conveniently carried from place to place in an inconspicuous manner and readily and quickly set up at the grave in condition for use.

Another aim of the invention is to so construct the device that the same will support the casket a suitable distance above the ground surface and in perfectly level posi-

tion, the supporting legs of the device being adjustable as to length to compensate for inequalities in the ground surface.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device illustrating the manner of its use;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the device;

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view in detail;

Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a vertical transverse sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 is a group perspective view illustrating the support provided for certain of the rollers of the device;

Fig. 7 is a bottom plan view of the device collapsed;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of one end of the device looking at the under side thereof, the supporting legs of the device being shown folded and the device being in condition to be collapsed as shown in Fig. 7;

Fig. 10 is a group perspective view illustrating the elements comprising one of the supporting legs;

Fig. 11 is a side elevation of one side member of the device illustrating the manner of supporting another one of the rollers of the device.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the accompanying drawings by the same reference characters.

The device embodying the present invention consists primarily of a frame which is preferably of oblong rectangular form and which includes sides 1 and ends 2. The members of the frame are preferably formed from L angle iron and each side member includes an upper horizontally disposed wing 3 and a vertical wing 4, each end member having a horizontally disposed wing 5 and a vertical wing 6.

The sides and ends of the frame are assembled with the wings 3 of the side members overlapping the ends of the wings 5 of the end members as clearly shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 9 of the drawings and the overlapped ends of the said frame members are connected by means of pivots 7 adapting the frame to assume a rectangular form or, when the device is not in use, adapting the entire frame to be collapsed to about the

form shown in Fig. 7 of the drawings. By reference particularly to Fig. 3 it will be observed that the diagonally opposite corners of the wings 5 of the end members are rounded as indicated at 8 concentric to the pivots 7 the end edges of the said wings at their other diagonally opposite corners affording shoulders 9 designed to strike against the inner sides of the wings 4 of the respective side members of the frame so that while the rounded corners 8 permit of the frame being collapsed or, in other words, provide for free pivotal movement of the sides and ends of the frame at the corners thereof, the abutment of the shoulders 9 against the wings 4 of the side members, when the frame is extended or set up, will limit such pivotal movement when the frame has been caused to assume a rectangular shape. The frame is provided at each of its four corners with a supporting leg which is illustrated in detail in Fig. 10 of the drawings and each of these legs comprises a pair of relatively adjustable sections one of which is indicated in general by the numeral 10 and the other by the numeral 11. The section 10 comprises a wing 12 and a wing 13 and the latter wing is pivoted as at 14 to the inner side of the wing 6 of the respective end member of the frame and the adjacent corner of the wing 13 is rounded as at 15 so as to provide for free pivotal movement of the section 10 upon the pivot 14. The corresponding end of the other wing which is indicated at 12, however, extends at right angles to the lateral edges of the said wing so that when the said section 10 is swung upon its pivot to extend vertically beneath the frame, this said end of the wing 12 will rest against the under side of the wing 5 of the respective end member of the frame and the leg as a whole will be braced in such position. The section 11 of each leg comprises a wing 16 and a wing 17 and the first mentioned wing is formed with a threaded opening 18 receiving the threaded shank of a set screw 19 which is fitted through a slot 20 formed longitudinally in the wing 12 of the respective section 10 and which may be tightened for the purpose of holding the section 11 at adjustment with relation to the section 10. It will be understood at this point that the sections 11 of the several legs of the device may be adjusted with relation to the respective sections 10 to compensate for inequalities in the ground surface and permit of the frame of the device being supported in horizontal position. When it is desired to collapse the device, however, the set screws 19 are to be loosened after which the sections 11 are to be slid inwardly so as to be completely housed within the angle between the wings 12 and 13 of the respective sections 10 after which the legs may be folded to lie bodily

within the angles formed between the wings 5 and 6 of the end members of the frame to which they are connected and shown clearly in Fig. 9 of the drawings. It will be observed that the outer corner of the wing 17 of each section 11 at the inner end thereof is rounded as at 21 so that when the section 11 is slid inwardly as above stated, the leg as a whole may be moved upon its pivot 14 without interference on the part of the wing 5 of the end member to which it is connected. It will also be understood by reference to the drawings that the wing 16 of the section 11 of each leg is disposed against the inner face of the wing 12 of the section 10 and that the wing 17 of each said section 11 will oppose the wing 13 of the section 10 and will be spaced therefrom.

In order to prevent accidental inward folding of the legs while the device is in use, braces 22 are connected at their inner ends as at 23 by a common pivot to the depending wing 6 of each of the end members of the frame and at their outer ends these braces are provided with notches 24 adapting their said ends for engagement with headed studs 25 carried by the wings 13 of the respective leg sections 10. It will be observed that the pivots 23 are located midway between the ends of the respective end members of the frame and that the braces 22, in the set up position of the device, extend downwardly in opposite directions from the said pivot to engage the said studs 25. However, when the device is to be collapsed the outer ends of the braces are to be disengaged from the studs 25 whereupon the braces may be swung upon their pivots to extend along the inner face of the said wing 6 of the respective end member as shown in Fig. 7 of the drawings.

As above stated, when the frame is extended or set up for use the shoulders 9 will limit the pivotal movement of the frame members after the frame as a whole has assumed rectangular form and in order to brace the frame so as to cause it to maintain this shape while in use, a brace 26 is pivoted as at 27 at one end to the under side of the wing 3 of each side member of the frame near one end of the said member and is provided at its free end with a notch 28 adapting its said end for engaging with the headed stud 29 carried upon the under side of the wing 5 of the adjacent end member of the frame, the said braces 26 in this position extending diagonally of the diagonally opposite corners of the frame as a whole as clearly shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 of the drawings. When the device is not in use the braces 26 may be swung upon their pivots to lie within the angles formed between the wings of the respective side members of the frame as clearly shown in Fig. 8 of the drawings.

In order that the casket may be supported upon the frame end in such manner as to permit of the casket being readily slid into the vault in a noiseless manner and without likelihood of the bottom of the casket catching upon any portion of the frame, casket supporting rollers are mounted to extend transversely of the frame in a manner which will now be explained.

Secured upon the upper side of the wing 3 of each side member of the frame is a series of brackets 30 including upstanding spaced portions between which are rotatably mounted roller bearings 31, a pair of such bearings being mounted in each of the brackets and the brackets being located at corresponding points upon the two side members of the frame. Each of the casket supporting rollers above referred to includes a cylindrical body 32 which may be hollow or solid, either as found desirable, and which is provided at each end with a trunnion 33. The trunnions 33 are also cylindrical and when the device is to be set up for use the rollers 32 are disposed with their trunnions 33 resting between the roller bearings of corresponding pairs in the manner shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 of the drawings. After the frame of the device has been set up in the manner heretofore explained and the casket supporting rollers 32 have been placed in position as shown in the drawings, the casket may be disposed upon the said rollers as shown in Fig. 1 and thus supported during the obsequies. When it is desired to introduce the casket into the vault, this may be accomplished by pushing against that end of the casket which is remote from the open end of the vault whereupon the casket will slide readily and noiselessly over the rollers without likelihood of lateral displacement and without requiring any attention on the part of the pall bearers, the funeral director alone being required to move the casket.

The drawings illustrate the use of three of the casket supporting rollers but it will be understood that a greater or less number may be employed if found desirable. It will also be observed that the trunnions of the rollers are merely disposed to rest between the roller bearings of the several pairs and that therefore the rollers may be readily removed from their bearings when it is desired to collapse the device. In order that when the device is collapsed all parts thereof may be conveniently carried and housed within a minimum space, it is contemplated that the casket supporting rollers shall be supported in a suitable manner within the angles formed between the wings of the side members of the frame, and assuming that three such rollers are employed, means is provided upon one of the side members for supporting a pair of the rollers and means is provided upon the other side member for

supporting a single one of the rollers. In the first instance mentioned above a pair of apertured ears 34 are secured in any suitable manner within the angle between the wings of one of the side members of the frame and the aperture of each ear is designed to receive one trunnion of one of the pair of rollers to be supported. Thus the other trunnions of the said pair of rollers will be located close to each other and presented end to end and as a means for engaging and supporting both of the said trunnions there is provided a bracket comprising a body portion indicated by the numeral 35 which portion is provided at one longitudinal edge with an angularly extending flange 36 and at the opposite edge with a shank 37 which is formed with a longitudinally extending slot 38. The shank 37 is disposed against the outer face of the depending wing 4 of the said side member of the frame and secured in place by means of a set screw 39 fitted through the slot 38 and adjustably threaded into an opening 40 formed in the said wing 4. Prior to engaging the trunnions of the said rollers in the bracket, the set screw is loosened and the bracket is allowed to drop away from the side member whereupon the trunnions may be swung over the edge of the flange 36 and into the angle between the said flange and the body portion 35. When the trunnions have been thus disposed the bracket is moved upwardly toward the side member and the set screw is tightened so as to support the bracket in place and consequently support the said trunnions. It will be observed by reference to Fig. 7 of the drawings that the remote ends of the bodies of the two rollers bear against the apertured ears 34 and that the adjacent ends of the bodies of the rollers bear against the opposite ends of the bracket and consequently longitudinal displacement of the rollers is prevented.

In supporting the single roller the other side member of the frame is provided with an apertured ear 41 to receive one trunnion of the said roller and this ear is fixed with relation to the said side member. The other trunnion of the roller is engaged in an apertured ear 42 carried at one end of a plate 43 which is disposed slidably against the inner face of the depending wing of the said side member and this said plate is formed with a longitudinally extending slot 44 for the passage of the threaded shank of a set screw 45 the said shank fitting into a nut 46 which bears against the said plate 43 when the set screw is tightened. After the first mentioned trunnion of the said roller has been engaged in the aperture of the ear 41, the plate 43 may be slid so as to permit of the engagement of the other trunnion of the roller in the aperture in its ear 42 after

which the plate may be slid back to its original position and the set screw tightened to hold it against accidental displacement.

I do not wish to be limited to the specific details of construction, illustrated and described, but reserve the right to make any changes, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. In a device of the class described, a frame comprising side and end members pivotally connected at the corners of the frame whereby the frame may be collapsed, the side members comprising angle bars the upper wings of which overlap the ends of the end members of the frame, and the said end members of the frame each having their diagonally opposite corners rounded to permit of pivotal movement of the said frame members toward collapsing position, the other diagonally opposite corners of the said members constituting shoulders designed to abut against the other wings of the side members of the frame to limit the pivotal movement of the frame members in a direction to extend the frame, and casket supporting rollers mounted in the frame.

2. In a device of the class described, a frame having frame members of angle iron construction, a casket supporting roller removably mounted in the said frame and extending transversely thereof, a fixed bracket within the angle of one of the frame members to support one end of the said roller when the device is not in use and the roller is disposed within the angle of the said member, and an adjustable bracket arranged within the angle of the said member for the support of the other end of the said roller.

3. In a device of the class described, a frame having frame members of angle iron construction, a casket supporting roller removably mounted in the frame and having

end trunnions, a fixed support for one of the said trunnions in the angle of one of the frame members, and a support for engagement with the other trunnion of the roller movable into and out of supporting position.

4. In a device of the class described, a frame having frame members of angle iron construction, a casket supporting roller removably mounted in the frame and having end trunnions, a fixed support for one of the said trunnions in the angle of one of the frame members, a support for engagement with the other trunnion of the roller movable into and out of supporting position, and means for holding the last-mentioned support in position for such engagement.

5. In a device of the class described, a frame having frame members of angle iron construction, rollers removably mounted within the frame and having end trunnions, spaced relatively fixed brackets within the angle of one of the frame members to receive the remote trunnions of rollers disposed within the said angle of the frame members in axial alinement with each other, and a bracket member adjustably mounted upon the frame member between the first-mentioned brackets and adjustable to engage the adjacent trunnions of the said rollers.

6. In a device of the class described, a frame, legs supporting the frame at the corners thereof and each comprising a fixed and an adjustable section, each section having relatively angularly disposed wings, one wing of the adjustable section being disposed against one wing of the relatively fixed section, and means adjustably connecting the said wings, the other wing of the relatively fixed section being pivoted to the frame and the other wing of the adjustable section being spaced from and located opposite the last-mentioned wing of the relatively fixed section.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CARL A. ALBRECHT. [L. S.]