March 31, 1925. 1,531,487

F. LUNDBERG

LOCKING DEVICE FOR CASKET TOPS

Filed March 20, 1924 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

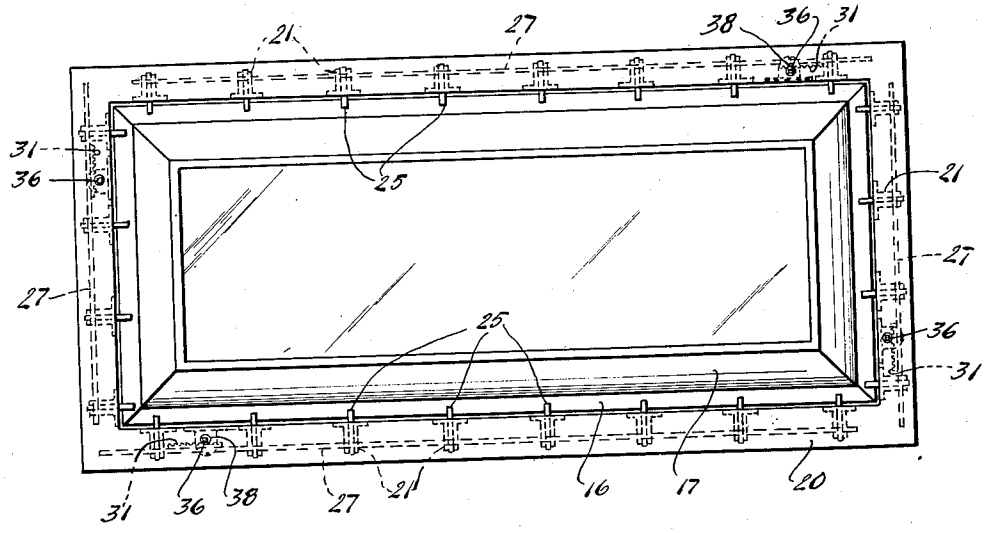


Fig. 1

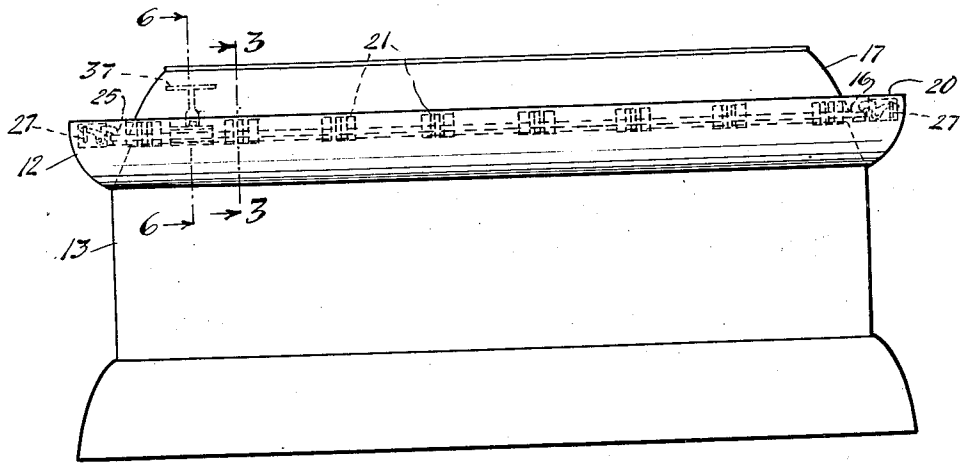


Fig. 2

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J. D. Struve

Inventor:
Frederick Lundberg.
By Joshua R. H. Potts
His Attorney.

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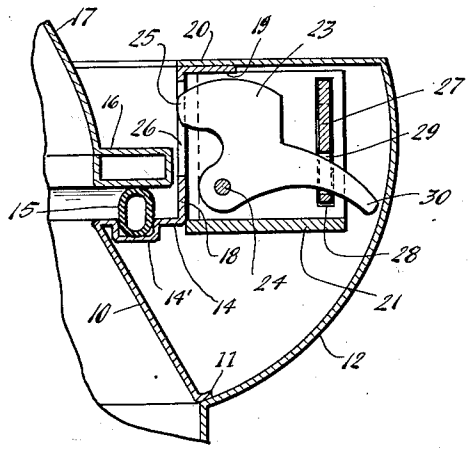


Fig. 4

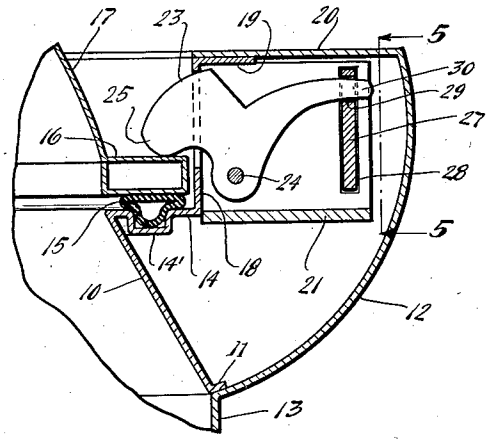


Fig. 3

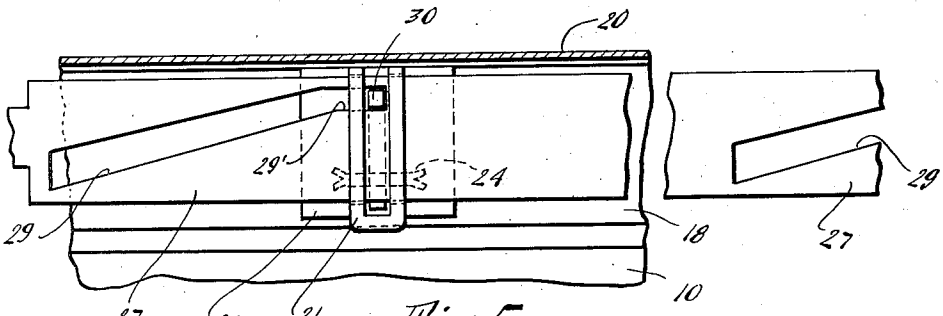


Fig. 5

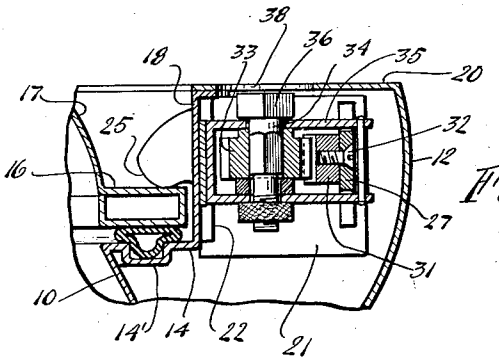


Fig. 6

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Patented Mar. 31, 1925. 1,531,487

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK LUNDBERG, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

LOCKING DEVICE FOR CASKET TOPS.

Application filed March 20, 1924. Serial No. 700,474.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK LUNDBERG, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Chicago, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Locking Devices for Casket Tops, of which the following is a specification.

My invention pertains to a locking device for casket tops, and the main object is to provide means for quickly and effectively locking the glass tops on sealed metal caskets.

In the caskets now on the market, so far as known to me, the means for fastening the tops on the casket bodies includes a number of screws or clamps or eccentrics, frequently as high as 32, each of which has to be tightened up separately; which requires considerable time and patience. And such a large number of separate fastening elements also present an unsightly appearance.

It is my object and purpose to overcome these objections and to provide means for locking the casket top evenly and positively on a metal casket with mechanism which requires only a slight turn of the hand in order to seal and lock the entire side of the casket top; and to arrange such mechanism so that it is substantially concealed within the ledge of the casket, and so that it will present a neat appearance.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in the combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, and in which,

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a casket showing my invention applied thereto;

Fig. 2 is an elevational view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a vertical cross section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2, showing the mechanism in locking position;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3, but showing the mechanism in unlocked position;

Fig. 5 is a vertical longitudinal section taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 6 is a vertical cross section taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 2.

The preferred form of my invention comprises a shelf 10 which is substituted in place of the usual shelf portion of a casket, and includes a lower part or flange 11 welded or soldered airtight to the lower part of the usual ledge 12 of a casket 13. A horizontal part 14 is provided on said shelf for supporting a gasket 15 of any approved shape, and may have a depressed or recessed portion 14′ of any suitable shape for receiving and retaining the gasket in proper position, the rim 16 of the casket top 17 engaging and bearing on said gasket. A vertical part 18 extends from said horizontal part 14 and has a horizontal flange 19 soldered or suitably secured to the upper part of horizontal flange 20 of the casket ledge 12. The shelves of the four sides may be secured together airtight at the corners of the casket by soldering and welding the same, or may be made integral or continuous in any approved manner.

I provide particular locking mechanism for locking the rim of the top with the gasket airtight on the shelf of the casket. This locking mechanism includes U-shaped brackets 21 secured with flanges 22 against the vertical part 18 of the shelf. Catches 23 are fulcrumed with pivot pins 24 in said brackets and have their engaging ends 25 movable through slots 26 in said shelf parts 18 and engageable with the rim 16 of the casket top. An operating bar 27 is slidably mounted at each side of said casket in slots 28 provided in said brackets 21, said bar having slanting slots 29 through which extend operating arms 30 of said catches 23. The upper part of each slot is arranged as a horizontal resting place or seat 29′ to hold the arm in locking position and prevent accidental release movement thereof. The longitudinal movement of these bars in a clockwise direction around the casket, or toward the left hand as seen in Fig. 5, moves the arms upward in said slots 29, and the ends 25 downward into locking position thereby depressing the rim 16 and gasket 15, as best shown in Figs. 1 and 3, and the reverse movement of said bars slides said arms downward releasing the catches and swinging their ends 25 back into the shelf out of the way of said rim and substantially out of sight, as shown in Fig. 4, the top of each catch being made arcuate to fully cover its slot 26 when

swung into locking position and substantially covering its slot when in unlocked position, thereby hiding the slot and concealing the locking mechanism within the casket ledge.

I provide means for operating each bar 27 with all of its associated catches by a slight turn of the hand. This means comprises a rack bar 31 fastened to bar 27, as with screws 32, also a pinion 33 secured on a pinion shaft or bolt 34 being therewith rotatably mounted in a bracket 35 secured to the vertical part 18 of shelf 10; the pinion 33 and pinion shaft 34 may also be made integral if preferred, and an angular head 36 is provided on each pinion shaft or bolt to be engaged by a suitable key 37 (see Fig. 2) inserted through an opening 38 provided in each flange 20 of ledge 12, for rotating said shaft and pinion to actuate said bars and catches. The end catch is placed close to each corner, and the pinion and rack are placed between the first and second catches, as shown. A cap may also be provided to cover the key opening 38.

My improved locking mechanism is readily secured within the usual ledge 12 of the casket, and in place of the usual shelf; and it is only necessary to turn the key 37 with a slight turn of the hand in order to actuate the operating bar 27 and move all the catches along one side of the casket into locking position to lock the rim and gasket airtight down on the horizontal portion 14 of the shelf 10; thus only four turning movements are required to lock down all four sides of the top. All unpleasant appearance is avoided, since the mechanism is concealed within the ledge of the casket body, where it is out of sight and out of the way, and only ends 25 of the catches are visible in their locking position.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail myself of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. Mechanism arranged to be mounted on a casket, said mechanism including means for locking the top on said casket, and means for actuating the locking means to lock an entire side of said top on said casket by a mere turn of the hand.

2. Mechanism arranged to be mounted in the ledge of a metal casket, said mechanism comprising means for locking the top on said casket, and means actuated by a turn of the hand for operating the locking means on an entire side of said casket.

3. Mechanism arranged to be mounted on a casket for locking the top thereon, said mechanism comprising a plurality of locking elements engaging said top, and key operated means for actuating a plurality of said locking elements simultaneously.

4. In a metal casket, supporting means mounted in the ledge of said casket, catches mounted on said supporting means to engage the top of said casket, and means for moving a plurality of said catches simultaneously into locking position.

5. In a metal casket, a shelf mounted on the ledge of said casket, catches mounted on said shelf and extending therethrough, and key actuated means for operating a plurality of said catches simultaneously to lock an entire side of the top onto said casket.

6. In a metal casket, a shelf mounted on the ledge of said casket, brackets on said shelf, catches in said brackets to engage the rim of the casket top and lock it against said shelf, and a member for engaging and moving a plurality of said catches simultaneously into locking position.

7. In a metal casket, locking mechanism mounted in the ledge of said casket and comprising a shelf, a bracket on said shelf, catches fulcrumed in said bracket to engage the rim of the casket top and lock it against said shelf, arms on said catches, and a bar with slots for receiving and operating said arms to move them simultaneously into locking or unlocking position.

8. In a metal casket, a shelf mounted on the ledge of said casket, brackets on said shelf, catches fulcrumed in said brackets to engage the rim of the casket top and lock it against said shelf, a member for engaging and moving a plurality of catches simultaneously, and key actuated means for operating said member and catches.

9. In a metal casket, supporting means mounted on the ledge of the casket, catches mounted on said supporting means for engaging the top of said casket, a bar slidably mounted in said supporting means for actuating said catches, a rack and pinion for operating said bar, and a key for operating said pinion and bar and thereby the plurality of catches.

10. In a metal casket provided with a ledge, a shelf mounted on the inward side of said ledge, supporting brackets mounted on said shelf, catches fulcrumed on said supporting brackets and extending through slots in said shelf to engage the rim of a casket top, arms on said catches, a bar with slanting slots receiving said arms to operate the catches, and a key actuated pinion and rack for operating said bar and catches to lock an entire side of said top by a turn of said pinion.

11. In a casket having a hollow ledge, locking mechanism mounted and concealed within said ledge and comprising locking elements, and means for protruding said elements from said ledge into locking engagement with the top of said casket.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FREDERICK LUNDBERG.

Witnesses:
JOSHUA R. H. POTTS,
MARGARET AUER.