Sept. 3, 1957 F. R. HOSTETLER 2,804,675

BURIAL CASKET

Filed Aug. 19, 1955 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

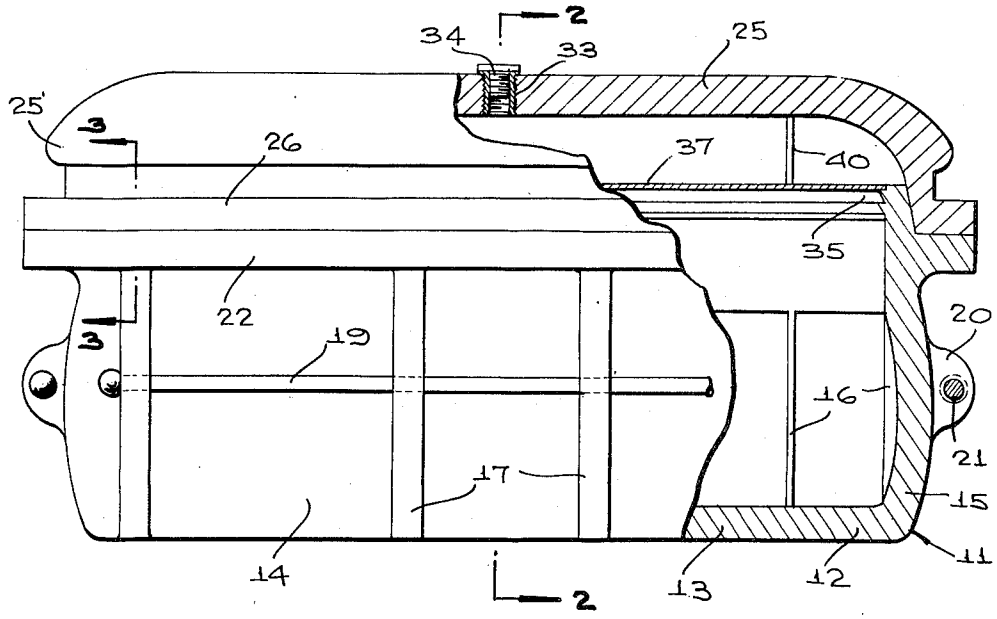


FIG. 2

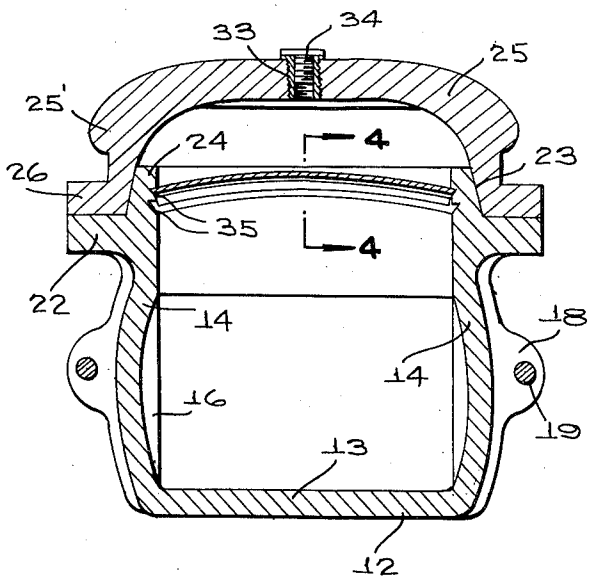
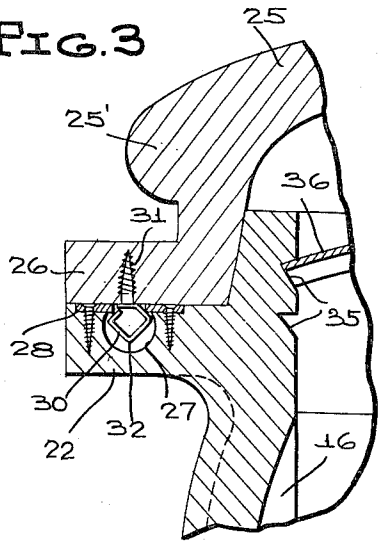


FIG. 3



INVENTOR.
FRANCIS R. HOSTETLER
BY

McMorrow, Berman & Davidson
ATTORNEYS

Sept. 3, 1957 F. R. HOSTETLER 2,804,675

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Filed Aug. 19, 1955 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

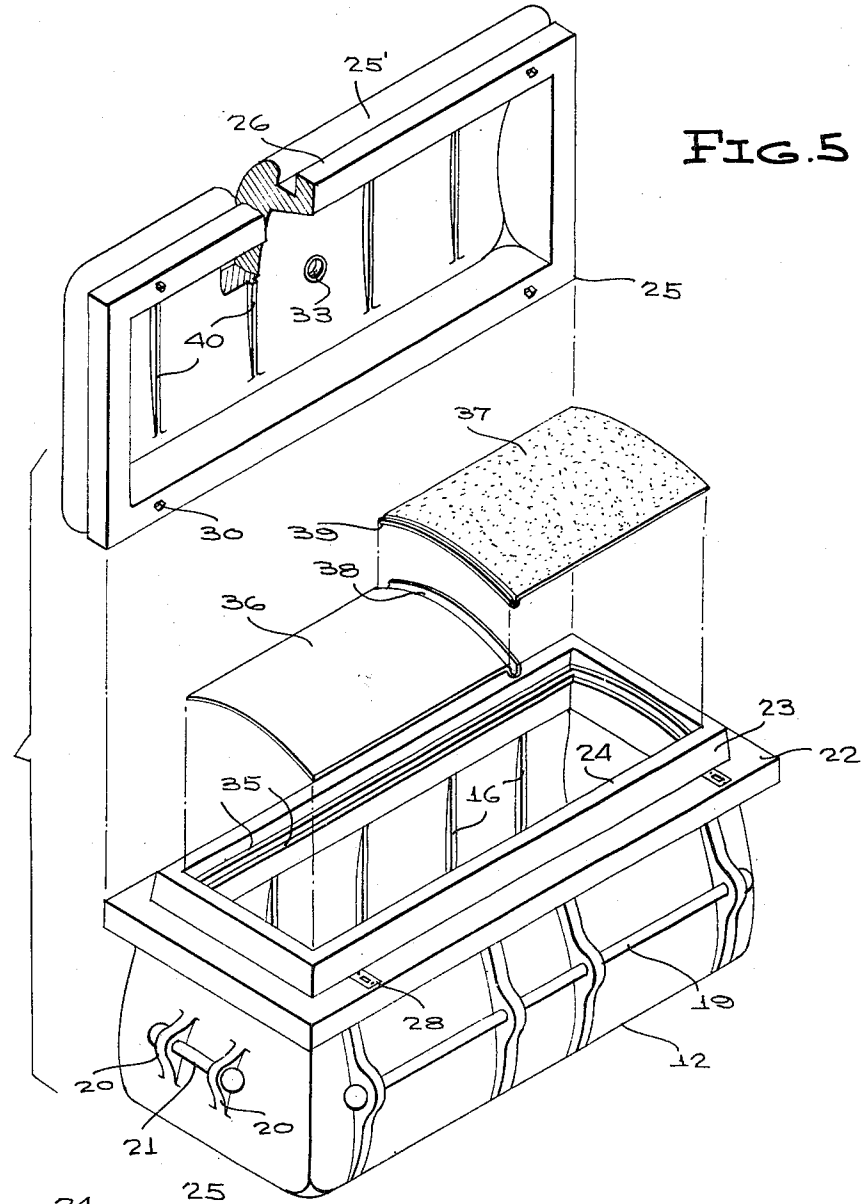


FIG. 5

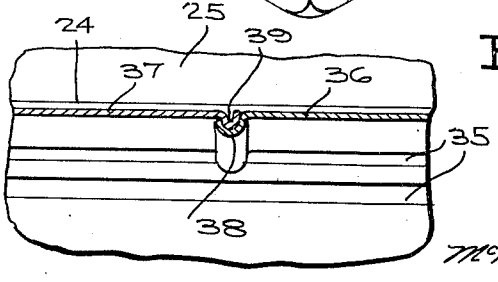


FIG. 4

INVENTOR.
FRANCIS R. HOSTETLER
BY
McMorrow, Berman & Davidson
ATTORNEYS

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BURIAL CASKET

Francis R. Hostetler, Alexandria, Ind.

Application August 19, 1955, Serial No. 529,561
2 Claims. (Cl. 27—2)

This invention relates to caskets, and more particularly to an improved burial casket of the type provided with a removable top cover which makes a moisture-tight connection with the main body of the casket.

A main object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved burial casket which is simple in construction, which is moisture-tight, which is completely varmint proof and sealed against entry by insects, which will not decay, and which is easy to transport.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved burial casket which may be used either with or without an associated vault or auxiliary box, said casket being relatively inexpensive to manufacture, being durable in construction, providing a moisture-tight an air-tight seal, and being provided with conveniently accessible handle means to facilitate the lifting and transportation thereof.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims, and from the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view, partly in vertical cross section, of an improved burial casket constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is a transverse vertical cross sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged cross sectional detail view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is an enlarged cross sectional detail view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the component parts of the improved burial casket of Figures 1 to 4, said parts being shown in separated positions, a portion of the cover of the casket being broken away to illustrate structural details thereof.

Referring to the drawings, the improved casket is designated generally at **11** and comprises a main body **12** in the form of a generally rectangular receptacle having a bottom wall **13**, side walls **14, 14** and end walls **15, 15**. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the side and end walls may be bowed outwardly, whereby said walls define concave inside surfaces, and vertical brace ribs **16** may be provided internally of the walls to strengthen said walls. The external surfaces of the side walls **14, 14** are formed with spaced ribs **17**, to strengthen the walls externally, and said ribs are formed at their intermediate portions with lugs **18** through which extend longitudinal handle rods **19** of suitable metal or other rigid material. The end walls **15** are formed with parallel vertical lugs **20, 20** through which extend handle rods **21** which may be made of the same material as the rods **19**. Thus, the main body **12** is provided with the longitudinal handle rods **19** at its opposite sides and with the transverse handle rods **21** at its opposite ends, facilitating the lifting and transporting of said main body.

The main body **12** is formed with an outwardly extending horizontal flat peripheral flange **22**, said flange projecting from the upper portions of the side walls **14** and end walls **15** and extending continuously around the receptacle defined by the main body **12**, the outer surfaces of the side and end walls above the flange **22** being inclined upwardly and inwardly, as shown at **23**, to define an externally upwardly tapering rim **24** around the receptacle defined by body **12**.

Designated at **25** is an arched cover member shaped to fit about upwardly tapering rim **24**, the cover member **25** being formed with a flat peripheral horizontal base flange **26** which is sealingly engageable on the top surface of the peripheral flange **22** of the main receptacle body **12**. As shown in Figure 2, the bottom surface of the flange **26** makes intimate surface contact with the top surface of the flange **22**, and the inside surface of the cover adjacent the flange **26** makes intimate sealing contact with the sloping surfaces **23** of the top rim **24**.

The cover member **25** is formed above the flange **26** with a rib **25'** extending completely around the cover member, serving as a means to grasp and hold the cover member when the cover member is to be lifted or transported.

The longitudinal side portions of the flange **22** are formed with a plurality of spaced recesses **27** over which are secured apertured locking plates **28**, defining undercut locking cavities beneath the apertures of the plates.

Secured to the flange **26** of the cover **25** are respective depending, laterally yieldable resilient prong members **30** having their resilient depending prong portions located to engage through the apertures in the plates **28** and to be received in the undercut recesses defined therebeneath, as shown in Figure 3. Thus, the prongs **30** may comprise threaded shanks **31** threadedly secured in the flange **26** and formed with respective diamond-shaped loops **32**, said loops being laterally compressible to engage through the apertures in the plates **28** when the cover **25** is lowered onto the peripheral flange **22** of main body **12**, the loops **32** expanding in the undercut recesses to lockingly secure the cover on flange **22**. It is to be noted that the apertured plates **28** on the receptacle flange **22** and the resilient prong members **30** on the cover flange **26** constitute releasable interlocking means on said receptacle and cover flanges for holding the cover **25** in position on the receptacle **10**.

The cover **25** is centrally formed with an opening in which is threadedly secured an internally threaded bushing **33** adapted to receive a threaded plug **34**. The plug **34** is removed when the cover **25** is placed over the rim **24** on the flange **22**, to allow air to pass freely through the bushing **33**. After the cover is in sealing position, the plug **34** is engaged in the bushing **33** and is tightened to completely seal the casket with respect to the external atmosphere.

It will be understood that the plug **34** is removable when the cover **25** is to be disengaged from the main body **12** of the casket, to allow free movement of air through the cover under these conditions.

The upper portions of the inner surfaces of the side and end walls of body **12** are formed to define a plurality of continuous internal V-shaped grooves spaced one above the other. A flexible shield is disposed within and extends around the interior of the receptacle **12**. The shield embodies a pair of flexible sheet segments **36** and **37** arranged in confronting end to end relation, the shield segment **36** being fabricated of flexible opaque material and the shield segment **37** being fabricated of flexible transparent material. The segment **36** has extending along the confronting end an upwardly facing channel **38** which is interengaged with a smaller upwardly facing channel extending along the confronting end of the segment **37**. The bounding edge portions of the segments **36** and **37** and of the interengaged channels are seated in the

base wall of one of the grooves **35**. As will be readily apparent, the transparent shield section **37** provides a view of the interior of the receptacle when the shield sections are in place.

As shown in Figures 1 and 5, the top cover **25** has a generally arched shape and is provided on its inside surface with a plurality of brace ribs **40** extending transversely thereacross to strengthen the top wall of the cover.

The main body **12** of the casket and the cover **25** may be formed of any suitable material, such as plastic, glass, enamelware, porcelain, copper, stainless steel, or any other suitable material, including ceramic material. The handle rods **19** and **21** may be formed of any suitable non-corrosive metal, and may be chromium plated or galvanized, to prevent corrosion thereof.

While a specific embodiment of an improved burial casket has been disclosed in the foregoing description, it will be understood that various modifications within the spirit of the invention may occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it is intended that no limitations be placed on the invention, except as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A burial casket comprising a receptacle having a bottom wall, a pair of side walls rising from said bottom wall, and an end wall extending between each of the adjacent ends of said side walls and secured to said side walls and said bottom wall, an upstanding rim extending continuously about the top edges of said side and end walls, said rim having the exterior surface sloping upwardly, a horizontal flat flange extending exteriorly continuously about said side and end walls adjacent to and below the lower end of said rim, an arched cover member

shaped to conformably fit about said rim and having a flat horizontal flange extending about the perimeter thereof positioned upon said receptacle so that it sealingly engages said rim with the base of the flange engaging with said receptacle flange, releasable interlocking means on said receptacle and cover flanges for holding said cover in position on said receptacle, the inner surface of said side and end walls having a continuous V-shaped groove, said groove being located below and adjacent the top of said rim, and a flexible shield disposed within and extending around the interior of said receptacle, said shield embodying a pair of flexible sheet segments arranged in confronting end to end relation, one of said segments having extending along the confronting end an upwardly facing channel and the other of said segments having extending along the confronting end a smaller upwardly facing channel interengaging with said first named channel, the bounding edge portions of said segments and of the interengaged channels being seated in the base wall of said groove.

2. The casket according to claim 1 in which one of said segments is fabricated of flexible opaque material and the other of said segments is fabricated of transparent material.

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