Aug. 27, 1946. W. E. WOODY 2,406,522

COMBINED BURIAL CASKET AND VAULT

Filed May 7, 1945

FIG. 1.

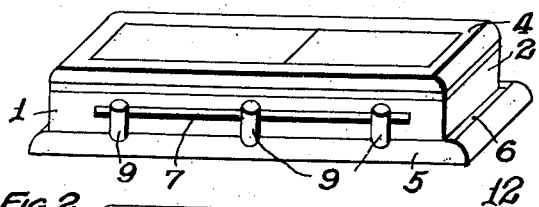


FIG. 2.

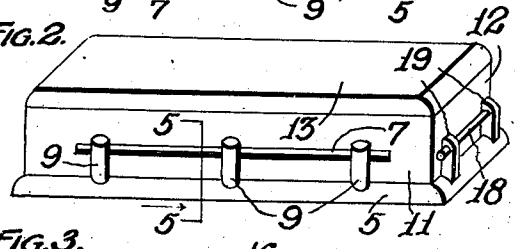


FIG. 3.

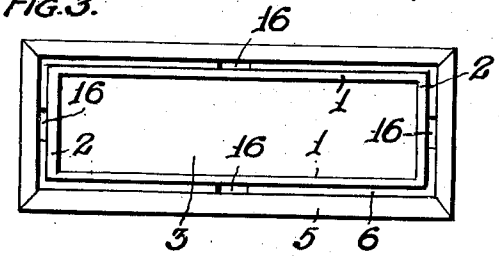


FIG. 4.

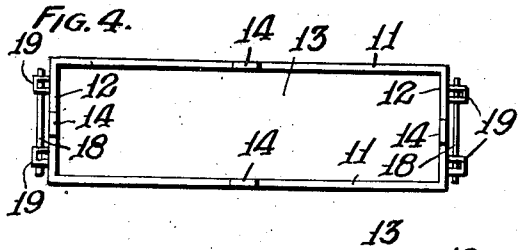


FIG. 5.

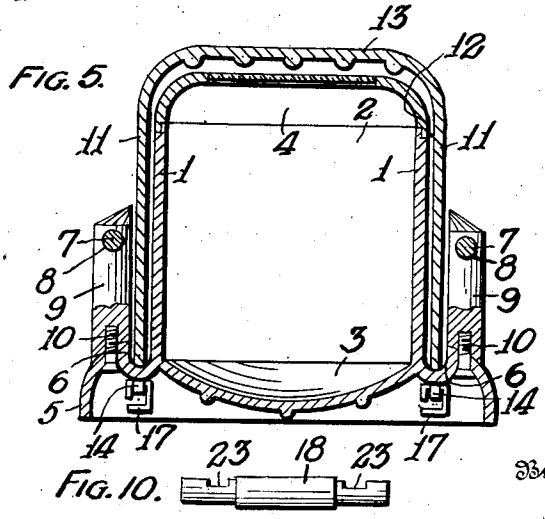


FIG. 10.

FIG. 6.

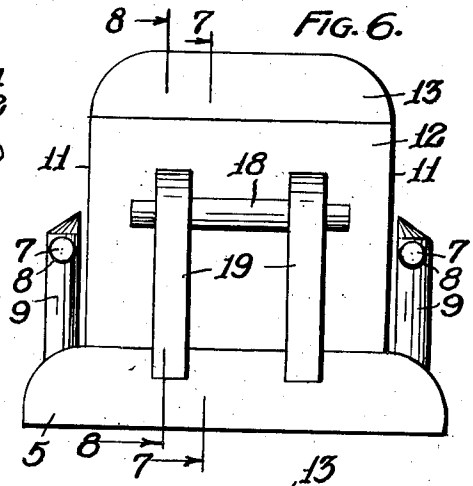


FIG. 9.

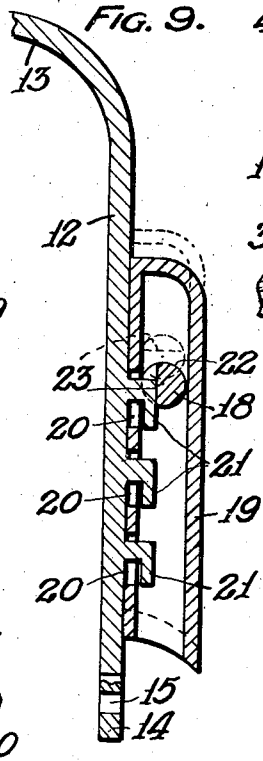


FIG. 7.

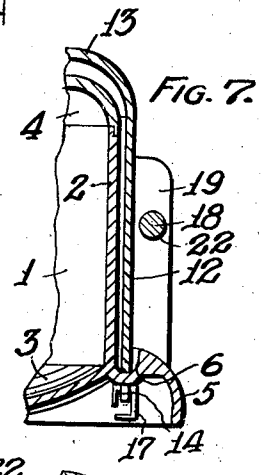
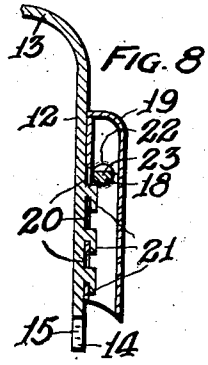


FIG. 8



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COMBINED BURIAL CASKET AND VAULT

William E. Woody, Columbia, Mo.

Application May 7, 1945, Serial No. 592,456

1 Claim. (Cl. 27—35)

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My invention relates to improvements in combined burial caskets and vaults.

One of the objects of my invention is the provision of a novel combined burial casket and vault, which utilizes a portion of a burial casket for supporting a vault cover, thus eliminating a separate basal support for the vault cover.

Another object of my invention is the provision of a novel combined burial casket and vault of the kind described, which is simple, strong, durable, not likely to get out of order, which is easily assembled for interment purposes, relatively cheap in construction, and efficient in its operation.

The novel features of my invention are hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing, which illustrates the preferred embodiment of my invention,

Fig. 1 is a reduced perspective view of my improved burial casket.

Fig. 2 is a reduced perspective view of the assembled combined casket and burial vault embodying my improvements.

Fig. 3 is a reduced plan view of the burial casket with the lid removed.

Fig. 4 is a reduced under plan view of my improved vault cover.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged vertical cross sectional view, partly broken away, of my improved combined burial casket and vault in its fully assembled condition, on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged end view of my improved combined burial casket and vault.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged vertical longitudinal sectional view taken on the plane of the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view of a portion of the vault cover, taken on the plane of the line 8—8 of Fig. 6, showing one of the end brackets locked to the vault cover by the adjacent hand hold.

Fig. 9 is a further enlarged vertical sectional view of what is shown in Fig. 8, showing the hand hold and one of the adjacent end brackets, in solid lines in their release positions, and in dotted lines in their locked positions.

Fig. 10 is a side view of one of the end hand holds, removed.

Similar characters of reference designate similar parts in the different views.

The burial casket comprises a box-like body having vertical side walls 1, end walls 2, a closed bottom 3, an open top adapted to be closed by a lid 4, which is removable.

The casket body has a supporting base portion comprising, as shown, a peripheral flange 5 which extends outwardly and downwardly from where the side walls 1 and end walls 2 join with the outer edges of the bottom 3. The flange 5, as shown in Fig. 5 and Fig. 7, curves downwardly and then upwardly to form a continuous groove 6 in its upper side that extends around the body of the casket. The flange 5 then extends outwardly and downwardly from the groove 6, with its supporting lower edge disposed in a horizontal plane.

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For lifting and carrying the casket, there are provided at opposite sides thereof two hand holds comprising, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, two longitudinal parallel cylindrical hand rails 7 respectively parallel with and spaced from the side walls 1.

Each hand rail 7 extends through and is snugly fitted in cylindrical holes 8 in a plurality of vertical brackets 9, three, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, adjacent to the upper ends thereof. The lower ends of the brackets 9 are removably fastened to the upper side of the base portion flange 5 at the outer side of the groove 6, Fig. 5. As shown in Fig. 5, the lower end of each bracket 9 is provided with a vertical threaded hole in which is fitted the threaded upper end of a screw 10, which extends upwardly through a vertical hole in the flange 5, the head of the screw bearing against the under side of the flange 5.

The vault cover comprises an inverted box-like structure with an open bottom, vertical sides 11 and vertical ends 12 and a closed top 13. The vault cover has dimensions such that it will receive therein the sides 1, ends 2 and lid 4 of the casket, that is the sides 11 are longer and higher than the sides 1 and the ends 12 are wider and higher than the ends 2. These dimensions are such that the sides 11 and ends 12 at their lower ends will fit in the continuous groove 6 in the upper side of the flange 5, the sides 11 being spaced from the hand rails or hand holds 7, as shown in Figs. 2, 5, 6 and 7.

For releasably fastening the vault cover to the base flange 5 of the casket, the lower edge of each wall 11 and 12 is provided with a downwardly extending projection 14 having through it a transverse slot 15. The projections 14 are respectively extended through vertical slots 16 through the flange 5 in the groove 6.

When the vault cover is mounted on the casket, with its sides 11 and ends 12 in the groove 6, the projections 14 will extend below the under side of the flange 5. Removable fastening devices, shown as G shaped clips 17, are inserted

through the slots 15 respectively, as shown in Figs. 5 and 7, thus locking the vault cover in operative position on the casket.

For lifting and carrying the vault cover before it is mounted on the casket, two end hand holds are provided at the ends respectively of the vault cover. In the form shown in the drawing, such hand holds comprise two hand rails 18, one of which is shown in Fig. 10. The two hand rails 18 are similarly fastened to the ends 12 of the vault cover, so that a description of one will suffice for both fastening means.

Two parallel, vertical hollow brackets 19, rectangular in cross section, having each in its inner wall a vertical row of slots 20 adapted to receive respectively through them a vertical row of outwardly and downwardly extending projections 21 adapted to embrace the inner wall of the adjacent bracket 19 and hold it against the end wall 12 of the vault cover.

In the horizontal plane of the upper slot 20, opposite sides of each bracket 19 are respectively provided with alined holes 22, adapted to have rotatably fitted in them one end of a hand rail 18, the other end of which is rotatably fitted in the holes 22 in the adjacent bracket 19, Figs. 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The end portions of the hand rail 18, as shown in Fig. 10, are reduced and are provided on their peripheries, spaced from their ends, with flattened portions 23 on the same side, see Figs. 8, 9 and 10, which flat portions are respectively disposed within the brackets 19.

In attaching the brackets 19 to an end wall 12 of the vault cover, a hand rail 18 has its ends mounted in the holes 22, with the flat portions 23 vertically disposed, as shown in Fig. 9. This permits the upper projections 21 to enter the brackets through the upper slots 20, and the lower projections 21 to pass through the adjacent slots 20, as shown in solid lines in Fig. 9.

The brackets 19 may then be raised to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 9. The hand rail 18 is then turned in the holes 22, to position upwardly facing the flat portions 23, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 9 and in solid lines in Fig. 8. In this position, the end peripheries of the hand rail 18 will be over and against the upper sides of the top projections 21, thus locking the two brackets 19 to the end wall 12 of the vault cover. When so positioned, and the vault cover is placed in operative covering position on the casket rail 5, the lower ends of the brackets 19, which are curved, fit on the upper side of the flange 5, as shown in Figs. 2 and 7.

In a burial operation, after the body has been placed in the casket, and the lid 4 placed on the casket body, as shown in Fig. 1, the vault cover is lifted by the hand rails 18 and positioned with its walls disposed in the groove 6 in the upper

side of the casket flange 5, and the projections 14 extended through the slots 16 in the groove 6. The clips 17 are then inserted through the slots 15, locking the vault cover to the casket flange 5.

The hand rails 18 may then, if desired, be turned to the release position, shown in solid lines in Fig. 9, and the brackets with said hand rails removed from the vault cover. The side hand rails 7 on the casket, may be employed for lifting and carrying the combined casket and vault for interment.

When ready for interment, the side hand rails 7 and their supporting brackets 9 may be removed, if desired, by removing the screws 10 from the brackets 9.

From the foregoing it will be noted that, with the employment of my combined burial casket and vault, an additional supporting basal structure to carry the casket and vault cover may be eliminated, together with the extra expense of providing such.

It will also be noted that the casket and vault cover may be made of any suitable material impervious to water, and that the air contained in the vault cover, when the latter is in its operative covering position, prevents entrance of water to the interior of the casket, and forms an hermetical seal without use of calking.

Many modifications of my invention, within the scope of the appended claim, may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

What I claim is:

Means for lifting and carrying one end of a vault cover, comprising, in combination, the vault cover having an end wall provided on its outer side with two vertical rows of outwardly and downwardly extending projections, two vertical hollow brackets rectangular in cross section, having each through its inner wall a vertical row of slots adapted to receive respectively therethrough said projections the downwardly extending portions of which are adapted to engage the inner wall of the adjacent one of said brackets, each of said brackets having in opposite sides respectively two alined holes, and a horizontal hand rail having reduced end portions respectively rotatably fitted in said two holes, said end portions being provided on the same side with flattened portions respectively disposed in said brackets and when disposed vertically permit the projections of said two rows to pass through said slots permitting said brackets to be raised with said hand rail's end portions above the uppermost of said projections, whereby when said hand rail is rotated to dispose its flattened portions horizontally, said hand rail will lock the two brackets to said vault cover.

WILLIAM E. WOODY.