July 2, 1929. H. L. GILKEY 1,719,364

CASKET COVER

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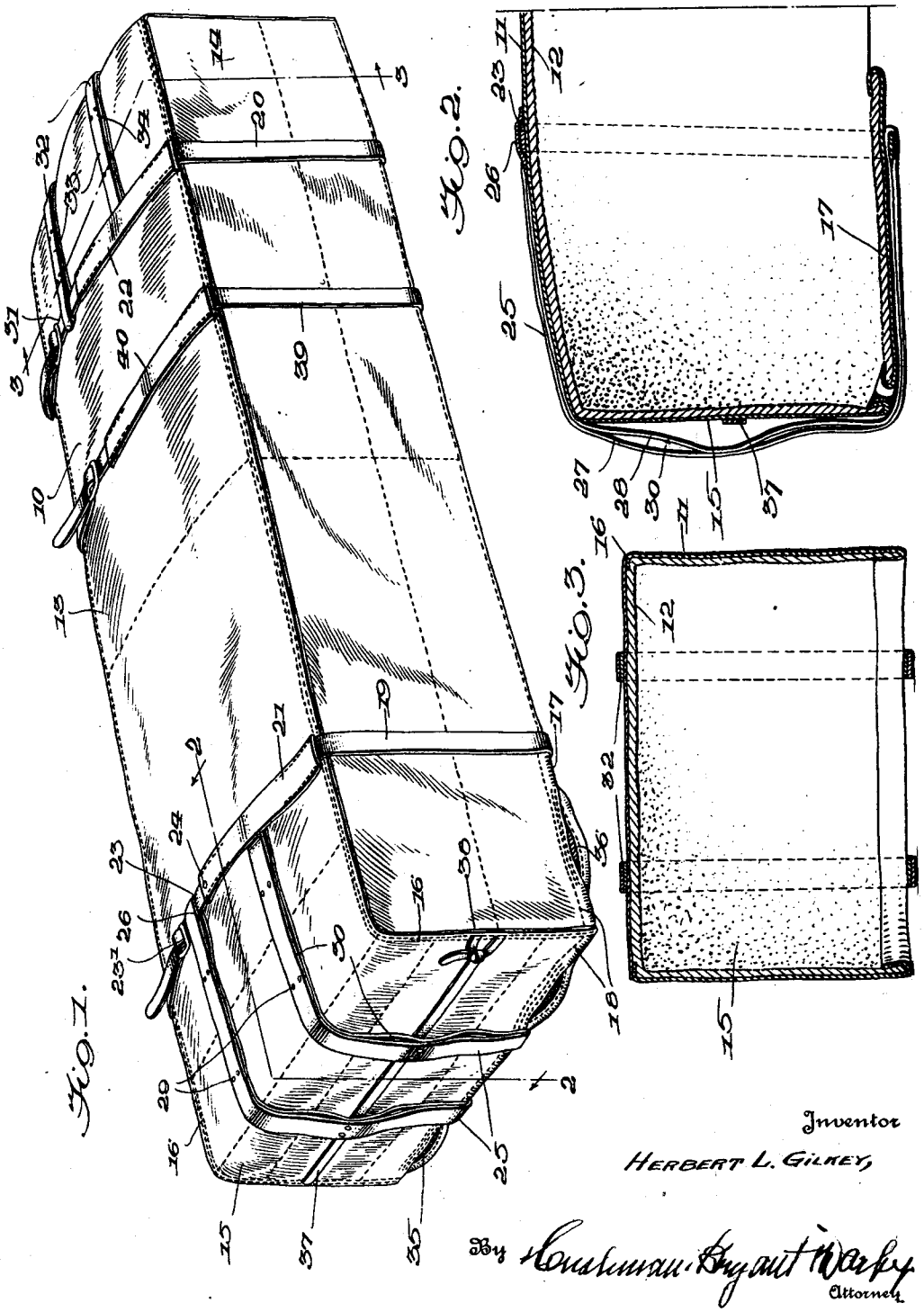

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CASKET COVER.

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The present invention relates to improvements in casket covers, and has as one of its objects the construction of a simple, efficient and economical cover or jacket for protecting a casket, especially when being handled.

Another object of the invention consists in providing a cover which can be expeditiously applied to or removed from caskets of various sizes and shapes.

A further object consists in associating with the casket cover a lifting harness which will loosely, but positively, engage the casket adjacent the ends thereof, so that the latter may be easily carried on stairways or in narrow places.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying claims.

Referring to the drawings, in which is shown a preferred embodiment of the invention,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved casket cover.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings in which like numerals indicate like parts in the several views, 10 denotes a casket or coffin cover, preferably composed of an outer layer 11 of waterproof fabric, and an inner layer or lining 12 made of any suitable soft woven fabric. The cover 10 preferably comprises a top section 13, side sections 14 and end sections 15 which are secured together at their marginal and junctional edges by the seams 16. One end of the cover, preferably the foot 15, has a bottom section 17 (Fig. 2) which extends a limited distance inward, and is secured to the edges of the end section 15 and the adjacent edges of the side section 16 by the stitching 18, so as to form a closure for the adjacent foot end of the casket. The head or front end of the cover preferably terminates at its lower end in a vertical free portion so as to permit the cover to be readily applied or removed from the casket.

As the foot end of the casket is subjected to the hardest usage, it may, if desired, be provided with an additional fabric layer of padding material for protecting the same.

The cover 10 is of such a length as to be readily applied to various sizes and shapes of caskets and has associated therewith a pair of lifting harnesses 19 and 20 arranged to be connected to the cover adjacent the ends thereof by means of the retaining members 21 and 22, which members may consist of a transversely disposed piece of fabric stitched to the top section 13 of the cover, so as to provide a lengthwise opening therethrough.

The foot harness 19 is preferably composed of a strap 23 which extends transversely around the cover and through the retaining member 21 so as to engage the bottom section 17 adjacent the free end thereof. The ends of the strap 23 may be detachably connected together in any suitable fashion such as by the quick release buckle 23′, so that the harness can be adjustably and securely attached to the cover. The strap 23 is prevented from loosely sliding through the retaining member 21 by a fastening means, such as the pin 24. A pair of spaced straps 25 extend lengthwise over the foot end of the cover, and are formed at their upper and lower ends with the looped portions 26 through which extend the adjacent upper and lower horizontal portions of the transverse strap 23. The straps 25 are each preferably composed of a pair of superimposed members 27 and 28 made of leather or durable fabric and connected together at spaced intervals by any suitable means, such as rivets or the like 29, so as to form spaced hand lifting portions 30, which permit the harness to be grasped at the top or the end of the cover, so that the casket may be conveniently handled in the most awkward positions. The hand harness 20 is substantially similar in construction to the harness 19 and is provided with a transverse strap 31 which passes through the retaining member 22, and has loosely connected to it a pair of outwardly extending straps 32 that are provided with the spaced lifting portions 33 formed by the rivets 34 that extend from the top of the cover down over the end thereof, in substantially the same manner as the hand grips on the harness 19.

In order that the casket may be conveniently handled in awkward positions, such as when being carried up and down steps, the foot end 15 and the adjacent portion of the sides 14 and bottom 17 are preferably formed with the end openings 35 and the side openings 36 which permit the hands to be inserted under the casket, and engage the aligned grooves usually formed in the bottom of the

casket, for this purpose. The ends 15 of the cover may be provided with a flexible strap 37 secured at one end to the cover, and having its opposite end arranged to be detachably connected to a flap 38 so as to take up any slack in the cover. To insure the cover fitting snugly on the casket, a retaining strap 39 may be provided so as to extend through a transverse retaining member 40 attached to the section 13.

It will be seen that the cover may be quickly applied to a casket, and when once in position, it will be impossible for the top of the casket or the head panel to fall off when necessity requires that the casket be placed on end. Moreover, the cover is so arranged as not to interfere with the working of the rollers on the hearse table.

It is to be understood that the form of the invention here shown and described is merely illustrative of a preferred embodiment, and that such changes as fall within the purview of one skilled in the art, may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, or the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. In combination, a casket cover comprising a body having top, side and end sections, and a lifting harness associated with the cover adjacent each end thereof, said harness comprising a strap extending transversely around the cover, and a pair of lifting straps extending lengthwise over the adjacent end of the cover and having their ends connected to the upper and lower horizontal portions of the transverse strap.

2. In combination, a casket cover comprising a flexible fabric body having top, side and end sections, strap retaining members on said cover adjacent the ends thereof, and a lifting harness for said cover comprising straps extending transversely around said cover, and through said retaining members, lifting straps extending lengthwise around the ends of the cover and connected to the upper and lower horizontal portions of said transverse straps, said lifting straps formed with a series of spaced hand gripping means.

3. In combination, a casket cover comprising a fabric body having top, side and end sections, and a lifting harness associated with the cover adjacent each end thereof, said harness comprising a strap extending transversely around the cover, and a pair of lifting straps extending lengthwise over the adjacent end of the cover and having their ends connected to the upper and lower horizontal portions of the transverse strap, and a series of spaced gripping means formed in said lifting straps.

4. In combination, a casket cover comprising a fabric body having top, side and end sections, a bottom section secured to one of the end sections and its adjacent side section, and a lifting harness connected to the cover adjacent each end thereof, said harness comprising a strap extending transversely around the upper end of the cover, and a pair of lifting straps extending lengthwise around said end, said lifting straps having their ends connected to the upper and lower horizontal portions of the transverse strap, a strap extending transversely around the lower end of the cover, and engaging the bottom section, a pair of straps extending lengthwise around the lower end of the cover and having its ends engaging the horizontal portion of said last mentioned transverse strap.

5. A casket cover comprising a flexible fabric body having top, side and end sections, said top section having adjacent each end thereof a strap extending transversely around said cover, and a pair of lifting straps extending lengthwise around the end of the cover and connected to the upper and lower horizontal portions of said transverse strap.

6. A casket cover comprising a flexible fabric body having top, side and end sections, the bottom section secured to one of the end sections and its adjacent side sections, and extending inwardly a limited distance from said last mentioned end section, said top section having adjacent its ends strap retaining members, straps extending transversely around said cover, and through said members, each of these transverse straps having connected thereto a pair of spaced straps extending over the adjacent end of the cover.

7. A casket cover comprising a flexible fabric body having top, side and end sections, a bottom section secured to the foot end section and its adjacent side section, and extending inwardly a limited distance from the foot end section, a strap extending transversely around the upper portion of the cover, a pair of spaced straps connected at their ends to the upper and lower horizontal portions of said transverse strap, and extending around the adjacent end of the cover, a strap extending transversely around the foot of the cover and engaging said bottom section, a pair of spaced straps having their ends connected to the upper and lower horizontal portions of said last mentioned transverse strap and extending over the foot end of said cover, said end straps being provided with a series of spaced lifting means.

8. A casket cover comprising a flexible fabric body having top, side and end sections, a bottom section secured to the foot end section and its adjacent side sections, and extending inwardly a limited distance from the foot end section, and end side openings formed between said bottom section and the adjacent foot end and side section, and a lifting harness detachably connected to the cover adjacent each end thereof.

9. A lifting harness for casket covers comprising a strap extending transversely around the cover adjacent the end thereof, and a pair

of lifting straps extending over the end, said lifting straps having their ends connected to the upper and lower horizontal portions of the transverse strap.

10. A lifting harness for casket covers comprising a strap extending transversely around the cover adjacent the end thereof, a pair of lifting straps extending over the end, said lifting straps having their ends connected to the upper and lower horizontal portions of the transverse strap, said lifting straps being provided with spaced hand engaging lifting portions.

11. A lifting harness for casket covers comprising a strap extending transversely around the cover adjacent the end thereof, a pair of lifting straps extending over the end, said lifting straps having their ends loosely connected to the upper and lower horizontal portions of the transverse straps, and means detachably connecting the harness to the cover.

12. A lifting harness for casket covers comprising a strap extending transversely around the cover adjacent the end thereof, a pair of lifting straps extending over the end, said lifting straps having their ends loosely connected to the upper and lower horizontal portions of the transverse straps, said lifting straps being provided with a series of spaced hand engaging lifting portions extending from the top to the lower end of the cover, and means connecting the harness to the cover.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

HERBERT L. GILKEY.