

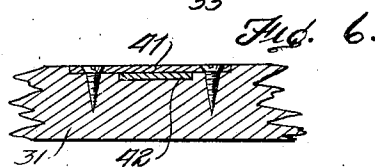
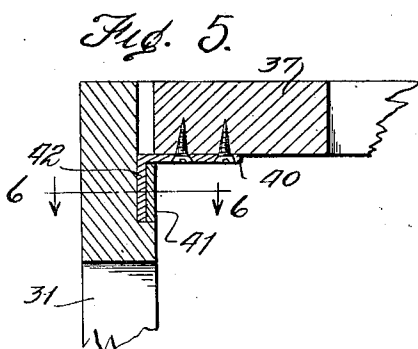
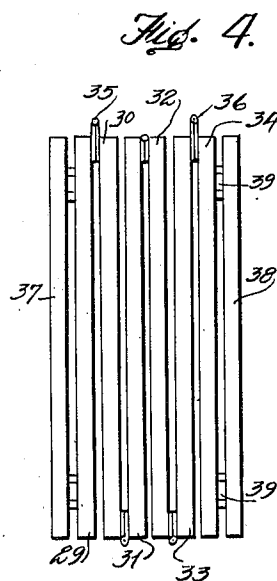
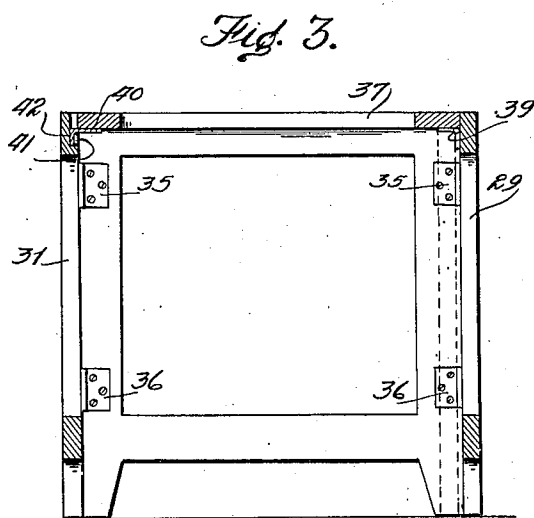
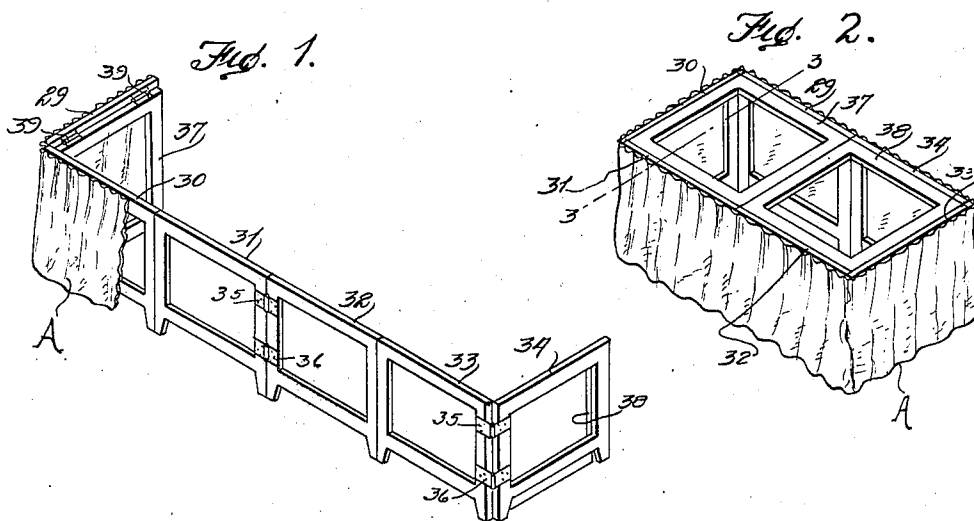
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CATAFALQUES

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2,326,565

CATAFALQUE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 243—166)

This invention relates to catafalques and to ornamental backgrounds therefor, the said invention including a foldable base or support which can be retracted in area to hold small caskets or extended for holding or supporting large caskets; and it is furthermore an object of the invention to provide a support of this character which can be collapsed or folded to occupy comparatively little space for transporting and storage.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a device having advantages in points of simplicity and inexpensive structure.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists in the details of construction, and in the arrangement and combination of parts to be hereinafter more fully set forth and claimed.

In describing the invention in detail, reference will be had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this application, wherein like characters denote corresponding parts in the several views, and in which:

Figure 1 illustrates a perspective view of the foldable catafalque set up for supporting a large casket;

Figure 2 illustrates a perspective view of the catafalque set up for supporting a small casket;

Figure 3 illustrates a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Figure 4 illustrates a view in end elevation of the nested sections of the catafalque;

Figure 5 illustrates a sectional view of fragments of panels of the catafalque with parts in interengaging positions to maintain a rigidity and stability of the structure; and

Figure 6 illustrates a sectional view on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

In the drawing it is shown that the foldable catafalque comprises a plurality of panels 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34, hinged together in sequence so that the panels may be folded as shown in Fig. 4 to occupy comparatively little space for transportation or storage. The end panels are hinged to the next succeeding panels by hinges, such as 35 and 36 at their adjacent ends. The leaves of the hinges are of such length as to permit the end panels to stand at right angles to the panels to which they are hinged so that the upper surfaces of the several panels will act as supports for a casket. The panels may be folded, as in Fig. 2, to form a short catafalque for the support of shorter coffins or caskets. In order that the structure formed by the panels when set up for use may be sturdy, upper or top panels 37 and 38 may be hinged to the panels 29 and 34, respectively, by hinges such as 39, to form the top of the catafalque. The hinges which connect the top panel 38 to the panel 34 are not shown in Fig. 1 but it is the same arrangement as that shown

where the panel 37 is connected to the panel 29 in said Fig. 1. It is shown that the edge thereof opposite the hinge has an angularly disposed plate 40 attached to it, the angularly disposed portion of which fits into a space formed in an engaging panel, it being shown that a plate 41 is secured to the panel and that the angularly disposed portion 42 of the plate 40 extends downwardly into engagement with the inner surface of the said plate 41.

The panels 37 and 38 have their hinges 39 secured to a vertically disposed panel near the top thereof, and the said panels swing vertically from the position in which they are shown in Fig. 1 so that they can assume horizontal positions as they are shown in Figs. 2 and 3, with the ends opposite the hinges anchored to the panel opposite that to which they are hinged in a manner shown in Figures 5 and 6.

In forming the catafalque as shown in Figure 2, the panels 31 and 32 remain as they are shown in Fig. 1 and the panel 33 with the panel 34 in the positions they are shown in said Fig. 1 are swung horizontally so that the panel 33 is at right angles to the panel 32, and the panel 34 then assumes a position parallel with the panel 32 forming one-half of the support as it is shown in Figure 2. The panel 30 is also swung at an angle to the panel 31 and the panel 29 then is parallel with the panel 31 forming the other half of the support as shown in Figure 2. When in the foregoing positions, the panels 37 and 38 are swung vertically on their hinges and the interlocking latches illustrated in section, Figs. 3, 5 and 6, are suitably interlocked so that a rigid structure results.

The sections of the catafalque may be provided with an ornamental drapery A which will obscure the structural features of the catafalque and enhance the appearance of the setting when a casket rests on the catafalque. It is obvious that the drapery may be appropriate for the color of the casket and it may be removably secured in place in known manner, as by hooks or other fastenings from which the drapery will be suspended.

I claim:

A casket supporting device comprising a plurality of panels successively hinged together to swing horizontally and having end panels, panels hinged to and located on the inner side of said end panels for swinging vertically, latches on the free ends of the vertically swinging panels, latching elements on the intermediate panels coacting with the latches of the vertically swinging panels for holding the panels rigid when adjusted to form a casket support, and drapery covering the said panels.

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