July 25, 1950 F. E. GANO 2,516,379

FLOWER HOLDER FOR CASKETS

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Fig. 1.

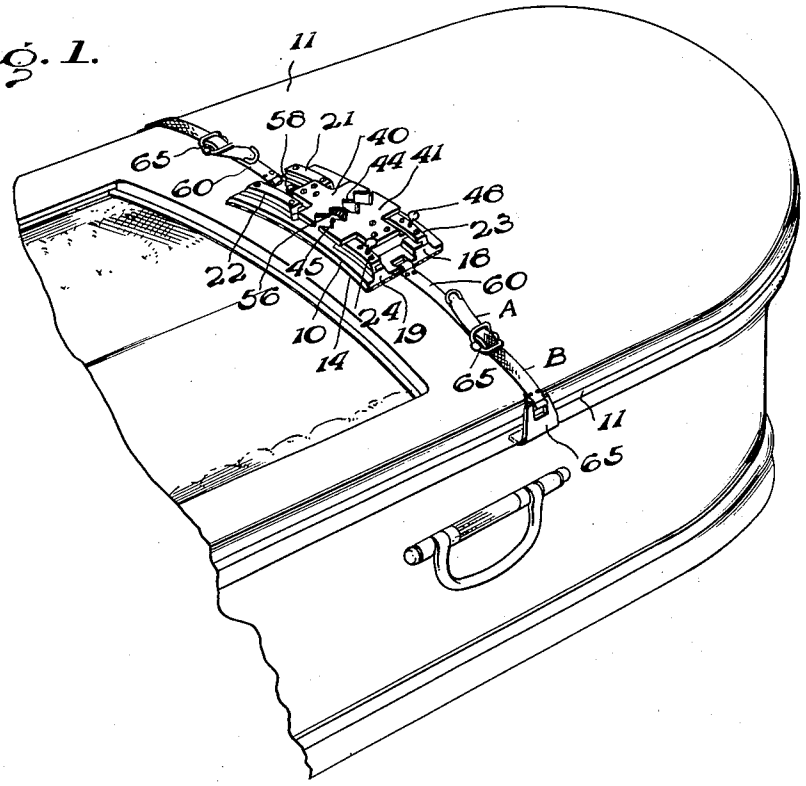


Fig. 2.

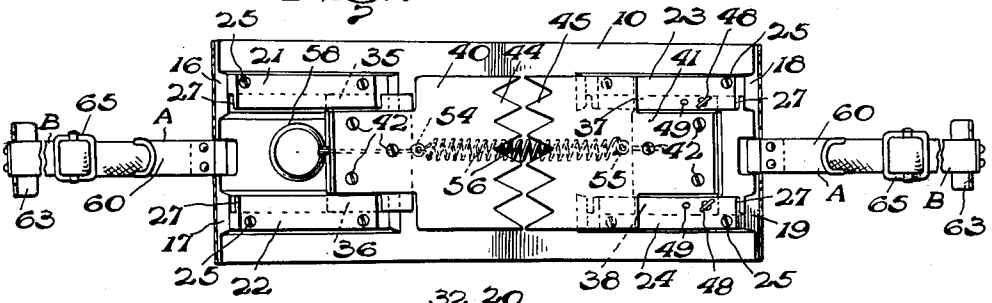
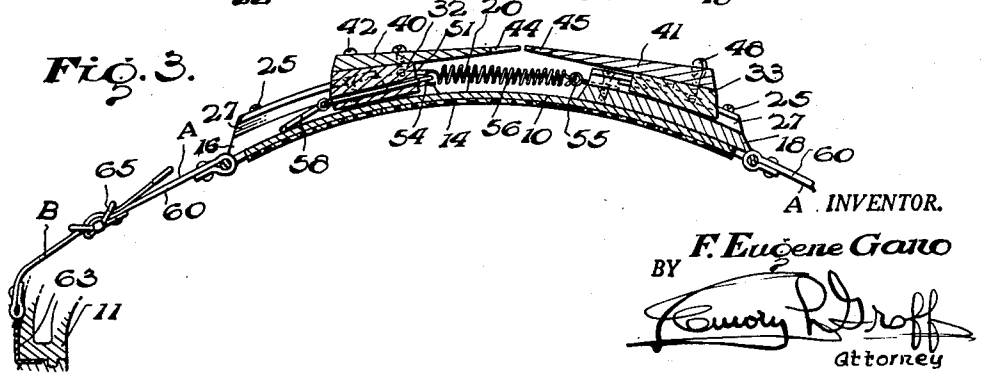


Fig. 3.



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FLOWER HOLDER FOR CASKETS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 248—27.8)

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The present invention relates generally to flower holders and more particularly to flower holders adapted for mounting on casket covers to securely hold flower sprays thereon when the casket is being transported.

Heretofore, flower sprays made up for funerals are usually placed on the top of the casket cover without any means for holding them in position. Unless some unobtrusive and practical means is provided to hold the flower sprays, they will slide off the casket cover when the casket is being transported by the pallbearers up or down steps or when they are unable to carry the casket on a level keel. Also, unless a flower spray holder is provided, the sprays may be thrown off the casket when it is being transported in the funeral coach or even blown off the casket when being moved by the pallbearers out of doors.

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to eliminate any of the foregoing difficulties by providing a novel flower spray holder adapted to be quickly and securely mounted on the casket cover prior to transportation or moving of the casket.

Another object is to provide as a new article of manufacture a flower spray holder shaped to conform to the curve of a casket cover having yieldable movable jaw members adapted to grip the backbone of the spray and hold it securely until the jaws are moved apart.

A further general object consists in the details of construction and in the combination and arrangements of the several parts of my improved flower spray holder whereby certain important advantages are attained, and the device rendered simple to manufacture and use and otherwise more convenient and advantageous to use than prior flower spray holders for this purpose.

A preferred and practical embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a general top perspective view of the novel flower spray holder attached to a casket cover with a spray of flowers held between the jaws of the holder;

Figure 2 is a top elevational view of the novel holder; and,

Figure 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the holder showing a fragmentary section of a casket to illustrate the novel attaching arrangement for novel spray holders.

Referring in detail to the one embodiment of the invention illustrated, the device comprises a base 10 which may be curved longitudinally so as to rest on the rounded contour of a casket top 11.

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The base 10 is preferably provided with an anti-slip and cushioning material or covering 14 (Fig. 3), to prevent any sliding of the holder over the casket cover 11 or any marring of the cover by contact of the metal against the same. It is to be understood, however, that the base 10 may be made of any suitable material other than metal, if desired.

Mounted on the top of the base 10 and extending from each end of the base are two pairs of aligned curved elongated lugs or blocks identified in the drawing by the numerals 16, 17, 18, and 19. The blocks at each end are spaced apart in parallel relation to each other and the inner end of each block is spaced apart from the other, to thereby leave a smooth surface 20 therebetween (Fig. 3) on the base 10 for the spine or stems of the floral sprays to rest upon or between the jaws hereinafter to be described. These blocks serve as bases for similarly curved elongated jaw guide members 21, 22, 23, and 24 adapted to be secured, as by bolts 25, to one of each of the blocks 16, 17, 18, and 19, respectively. Each guide member is provided with a flanged edge 27 which overhangs the inner top longitudinal edge surface of the respective block it is secured on, thereby defining parallel inwardly facing guide grooves between the under side of the flanged edge and a portion of the adjacent block top.

Slidably mounted in the guide grooves between each end pair of guides 21, 22, and 23, 24 are jaw carrier blocks 32 and 33, respectively. From each longitudinal edge of the carrier blocks 32 and 33 are tongues 35, 36, and 37, 38, which are integrally formed and slightly curved, so as to engage within oppositely disposed grooves for movement over the base 10. The curve of the tongues 35, 36 and 37, 38 is slightly different from the curve of the blocks 16, 17, 18, and 19, and the undersides of the overhanging flanged edges 27, so that toward the end of movement of each carrier block the surface of the tongues will bind between their respective flanged edges 27 and the top of the blocks 16, 17, 18, and 19, sufficiently to stop the block movement at the end of its travel, and thus retain the same in the guide grooves.

Carrier block 32 has secured thereon a jaw 40 and carrier block 33 a jaw 41, by means such as screws 42. These jaws 40 and 41 are provided with teeth 44 and 45, respectively, and are made wedge shaped in cross section (Fig. 3) to level the jaws for proper alignment when gripping the stems of a floral spray. As shown, carrier block 32 and jaw 40 is slidable under the flanged edge 27, while block 33 may be adjustably fixed to its

flanged edges 27 by suitable means, such as thumb screws 48 threadable through aligned threaded openings 49 in the flanged edges and the tongues 37 and 38 of the block 33. The inner facing ends 51 and 52, respectively of blocks 32 and 33 each contains a centrally disposed eye or loop 54 and 55 inter-connected by a yieldable member, such as a coiled spring 56, which normally biases the jaws to a closed or article gripping position. On the back or outside end of carrier block 32 is a finger ring or handle 58, which an operator may pull upon when he desires to separate the jaws 40 and 41 to release or receive a floral spray.

The entire assembly hereinbefore described is provided with means such as straps 60 looped through openings 61 and 62 at each end of the base 10. These straps on their free ends are secured to plate-like hooks 63 having a flanged end 64 arranged to engage under the rim of the casket cover 11 as shown in Figures 1 and 3.

As herein shown the straps are made in two sections, A and B, section A having on its end a buckle 65, and section B carrying the hook 63 and adjustable through the buckle 65 at the other end. Thus, the securing straps 60 may be adjusted to provide for positioning the hooks 63 under the rims of any width of casket cover.

In actual use the entire assembly is strapped on the cover of the casket cover 11 as shown with the hooks 63 under the cover rim, and the jaws 41 adjusted and set and locked for any desired position by manipulation of the thumb screws 48. After jaw 41 and its carrier block 33 have thus been fixed, then the operator pulls on ring 58 and pulls movable jaw 40 away from the fixed jaw 41 against the tension of the spring 56. This exposes the surface 20 on the top of base 10 and the spine of a floral spray may now be inserted between the separated jaws to rest on this surface after which the jaw 40 is released and the teeth 44 and 45 of the jaw members bite in the spine of the spray to hold the same in place.

Thus, without further description, it will be seen that there is provided a novel improvement in floral spray holders for caskets in which the several objects of the invention are achieved, and which is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

I claim:

1. A floral spray holder comprising, a base, a pair of jaws movable toward or away from each other over the base, said jaws having oppositely aligned teeth, one of said jaws being normally fixed with respect to the other, said jaws being mounted on carrier blocks with side flanges, guide means for each of said side flanges to slide between, means mounted in said guide means adapted to engage the flanges and lock the said block of the said normally fixed jaw in several desired fixed positions, an operating handle carried by the carrier block of the movable jaw to facilitate pulling the same apart from the normally fixed jaw, a coiled spring connected to the oppositely facing ends of said carrier blocks adapted to yieldably resist separation of the jaws, and strap members secured to each end of the base and having hooked end portions adapted to engage under the rim of a casket cover to thereby secure the holder to the cover.

2. A floral spray holder, comprising a base, parallel spaced means on said base extending longitudinally thereof, a pair of jaw members slidably mounted on the base between the said guide means adapted to grip the spin of a floral spray therebetween, and flexible adjustable members adapted to secure said holder to the cover of a casket.

3. A floral spray holder for caskets, comprising a base, parallel spaced guide means on said base extending longitudinally thereof, a pair of jaw members slidably mounted on the base between the said guide means adapted to grip the spine of a floral spray therebetween, yieldable means adapted to bias said jaws together into gripping position, and a handle for separating the said jaws carried by one of said jaw members.

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