June 28, 1938. L. L. ROGERS 2,121,885

CASKET AND HARDWARE THEREFOR

Filed March 10, 1934 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

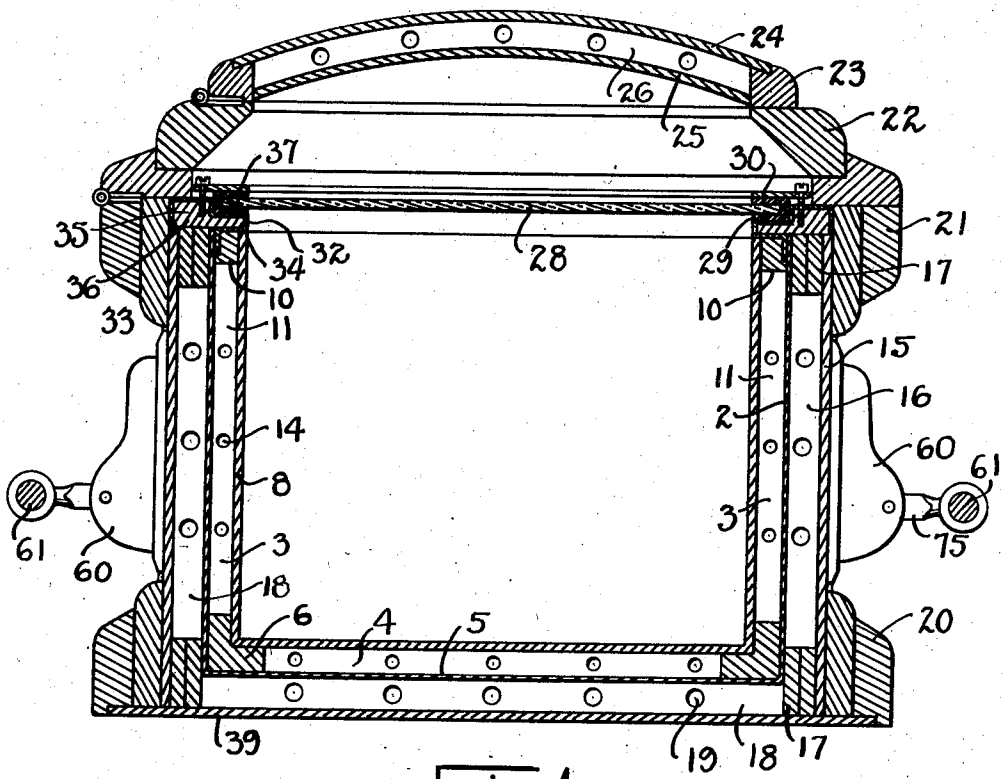


Fig. 1.

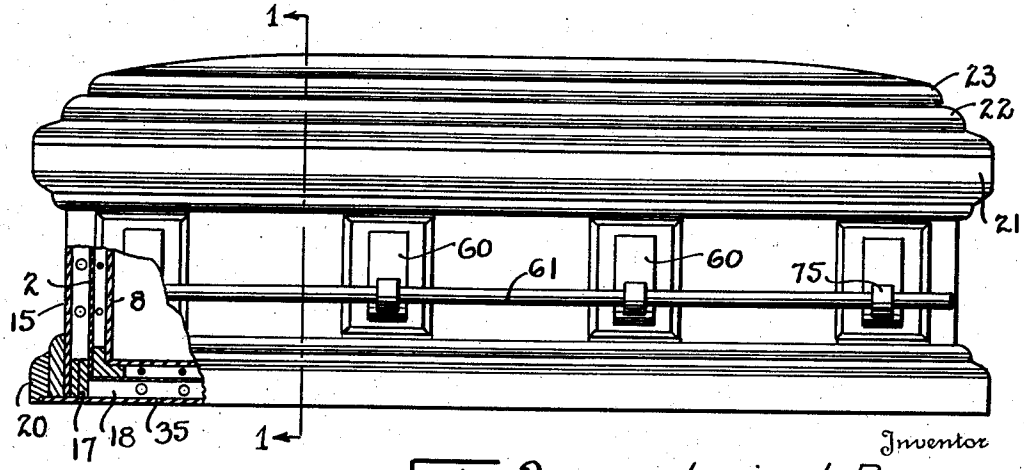


Fig. 2.

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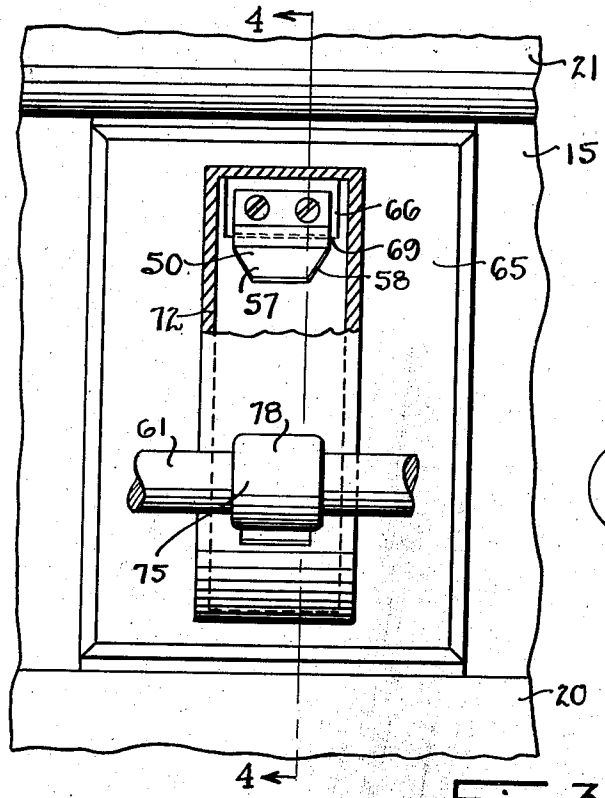


Fig. 3.

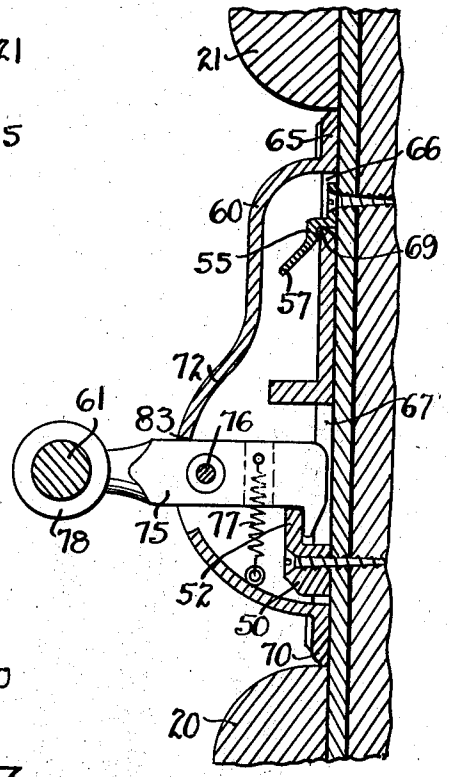


Fig. 4.

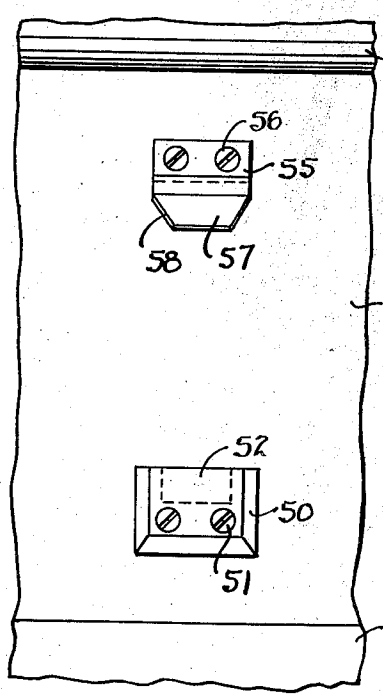


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,121,885

CASKET AND HARDWARE THEREFOR

Lunias L. Rogers, Houston, Tex.

Application March 10, 1934, Serial No. 714,903

3 Claims. (Cl. 16—112)

The invention relates to an improvement in caskets, and particularly of the type which will resist corrosion and provide a dead air space between the casket walls to prevent decay.

It is one of the objects of the invention to provide removable hardware for the casket so that the cost of the casket will be materially reduced because the hardware may be removed and repeatedly used.

Another object of the invention is to provide a removable handle construction for caskets wherein a base member is interengageable with projecting lugs on the casket, and the handle when in carrying position serves to latch the construction to the casket.

Another object of the invention is to provide a casket to which the handle may be attached when the casket is to be used, and removed therefrom as soon as the transportation of the casket has been completed.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a set of handles which may be attached or removed from the casket by movement of the handle with respect to its supporting structure.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a casket having a plurality of dead air spaces sealed therein.

Another object of the invention is to provide a casket having a triple wall with a flashing extending from the center wall to the inner wall and then outwardly to the exterior in order to form a complete seal at the top of the walls.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a casket having a central metallic wall and inner and outer fiber walls which are sprayed with a metallic coating.

Other and further objects of the invention will be readily apparent when the following description is considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 1—1 of Fig. 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of a casket constructed in accordance with the invention and showing one corner thereof broken away to illustrate the internal construction.

Fig. 3 is a broken detailed side elevation of one of the handles attached to the casket.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of a portion of the casket with the handles removed.

The casket is made up of a body which is shown in Fig. 1 as composed of a central metallic frame or box 2. This box will serve as the foundation upon which the remainder of the casket is built. Positioned inside of this box 2 will be a plurality of transverse spacers 3 which may be spaced vertically as desired. Similar spacers 4 will extend laterally across the base 5 of the box 2, and supporting blocks 6, of the same thickness as the spacers 3 and 4 will cooperate with the spacers in spacing the inner wall or liner 8 from the box 2. This liner 8 is preferably made of wood or other suitable fiber and is spaced at the top from the box by the rib 10. The entire arrangement of the spacers and blocks may be designated as spacers.

While the inner wall has been described as being of fiber it may be of metal if a more permanent casket is desired. An alternative for making this inner liner of metal, however, would be to provide a fiber wall and spray the same with liquid metal in a manner which is well known. This would provide in fact an inner liner of metal so that the air space 11 would be divided by the metal box and the inner wall. The exterior wall is indicated at 15 and is spaced from the box 2 by the spacers 16 and the blocks 17 in a manner similar to the spacing of the inner wall. In this manner the dead air space 18 is provided. It should be particularly noted that the spacers are provided with air passages 19 so that there may be a circulation of air throughout each of the spaces 11 and 16. This construction is provided so that if moisture accumulates in one of the compartments between adjacent studs this moisture may be diffused through the entire air space so that it will be subject to a greater evaporation, and will not serve to decay any particular portion of the casket. The external wall 15 is preferably made of wood or other fiber and may be sprayed with the liquid metal the same as described in connection with the inner wall 8. With a sprayed metal finish of this sort any desired color or decorative finish may be obtained and a neat and pleasing appearance is possible with a more or less cheap construction of casket.

If desired the walls 8 and 15 may be made entirely of metal to obtain a triple walled metal casket. When the metal is sprayed on the fiber foundation to a suitable thickness, it will serve the same as a metal wall even though the fiber should decay.

The external wall 15 serves to carry the usual moldings 20 and 21 and also serves to support the top 22 and the cap 23. The cap 23 is shown as being made up with spaced walls 24 and 25 to

provide the air space 26, the same as the walls of the casket.

In order that the corpse may be viewed in the casket a glass cover 28 is shown as being positioned inside of the top 22. This glass 28 is mounted in a rubber gasket 29 so that a seal will be obtained, the gasket being held in position by a holddown flange 30.

In order that a complete seal will be had at the top of the walls 2, 8, and 15, a flashing or seal 32 is provided. This seal has one edge attached to the inner face of the upstanding wall of the box 2, as at 33. From this wall the flashing extends inwardly to the point 34 where it is connected with the inner wall 8 and is then reversely bent upwardly and backwardly to encompass the crown 35 and finally engages the outer wall 15 as at 36. A shoulder 37 is provided to receive the gasket 30 so that when this construction is applied and fixed in position the spaces 11 and 18 will be completely sealed. The construction just described has been applied to the side view of Fig. 1 but the end section, as illustrated in Fig. 2, is constructed in precisely the same manner. The outer walls 15 are supported on a base or bottom plate 39, which also carries the moldings 20 and the spacers 16 and 17. This base or bottom 39 is sealed to the outer wall 15, so as to serve the same purpose as the side walls in dividing the air space 18.

With the caskets now in general use the hardware is permanently fixed to the casket and becomes a part thereof so that when the casket is buried the hardware is buried with it.

The present invention contemplates a type of hardware to be used repeatedly in that it may be attached to the casket when the casket is to be used and detached at the time the casket is buried. This will result in a material saving in the cost of the casket because but a small fraction of the cost of the hardware may be added to the actual cost of the casket without the hardware and the hardware can be repeatedly used. It is to be understood that the caskets will be made up less the hardware and the purchaser may then determine what style of hardware is desired and the undertaker may then use that type of hardware so that any desired type of hardware may be used with any casket and the variety of caskets and hardware which will have to be carried by each undertaker will be materially reduced and the cost of the caskets will be much less than when the hardware is permanently fixed to the casket. With this in mind, attention is directed to Figs. 3, 4, and 5.

Fig. 5 shows a bottom lug 50 which is attached to the wall of the casket by screws 51. This lug is seen in section in Fig. 4 and includes an upstanding lip 52, which defines a recess 53. The upper lug is indicated at 55 and is attached to the casket by screws 56. This lug has a downwardly and outwardly extending flange 57, which is tapered at 58 so that it may be readily engaged by the handle construction when the handle is to be applied to the casket.

The handle construction may be made up in individual units, such as 60, and separate handles applied to each unit or the handles may be made up in a complete set of two, three, or four, as desired. Fig. 2 shows a set of the four-handle construction wherein the rod or bar 61 extends through each handle to provide a rail which may be used to carry the casket. Figs. 3 and 4 show the handle with the bar 61 extending therethrough. This bar may be of a different length than the entire casket and may in fact be but a small piece extending through each of the handle constructions.

The handle construction is best seen in section in Fig. 4 and comprises a base 65 which is adapted to fit between the moldings 20 and 21 and is provided with an upper recess 66 and a lower recess 67. These recesses are of a size so that the base may be passed over the lugs 50 and 55. The base will be attached to the casket by inserting the edge 69 of the upper recess 66 beneath the flange 57. The tapered portion 58 serves to steer the base over the lug 50. In this manner the base is applied against the side wall of the casket and is held against removal so long as the lower edge 70 is positioned against the molding 20, the upper edge 69 being engaged underneath the flange 57 of the upper lug.

Carried by the base 65 is an ornamental cap 72, which may take any desired ornamental configuration, but serves the structural purpose of supporting the handle 75. This cap 72 carries a pivot shaft 76, upon which the handle 75 is mounted. A spring 77 serves to normally hold the handle in a horizontal position as seen in Fig. 4. The handle 75 comprises the outer end 78 which receives the rod or rail 61, by which the casket is lifted. The inner end of the handle is provided with a finger 80 which extends downwardly to be received within the recess 53 in the lug 50. The forward edge of the toe 81 is beveled so that as the handle is applied it will move upwardly over the lip 52 and into the recess 53. In order to apply the handle the base is passed over the lugs 50 and 55 as previously described and the finger 80 engages the lip 52 to latch the handle in position. The spring 77 normally holds the handle in latching position. When the casket is to be lifted the handle is grasped and the finger 80 firmly engages the lip 52 and the weight of the casket is then transmitted by the base. The portion 83 of the cap 72 serves as a stop for the pivoting movement of the handle so that the entire weight of the casket can be lifted by the handles.

When the transportation of the casket has been completed and it is to be lowered into the grave it is only necessary for the undertaker to depress the handle 75 so that the toe 80 is disengaged from the lip 52. This unlatches the handle and the entire base may then be moved outwardly and removed from the casket, so that it can be repeatedly used.

What I claim as new is:

1. A detachable handle mechanism for caskets, comprising an anchor plate for securement to the casket, a handle supporting part comprising a base designed to engage with the casket and constructed with a recess for said anchor plate, a pivoted handle on said part, a latching finger on said handle designed for interengagement with said anchor plate to lock said handle and said part in place when the handle is in carrying position, and resilient means associated with said handle for maintaining it in carrying position.

2. A detachable handle mechanism for caskets comprising two lugs designed for attachment to the casket in spaced vertical relation, the upper lug being formed with a downwardly opening hook portion and the lower lug with an upwardly opening hook portion, a handle supporting part comprising a base designed to engage with the casket and constructed with a recess for said lugs, said part being designed to occupy a position in which the hook portion of said upper lug

extends over said base, a handle pivoted in said part and designed to engage with said lower lug to maintain said part in the aforesaid position, a latching finger on said handle which is received in the hook portion of said lower lug to thereby lock said handle and said part to said casket when the handle is in carrying position, and resilient means associated with said handle for holding it in carrying position.

3. A casket having upper and lower lugs thereon, a handle construction including a base, recesses in said base to receive said lugs, a pivoted handle on said base, a latching finger on said handle and means urging the handle into carrying position and said finger into latching engagement with one of said lugs to hold the base into engagement with the other of said lugs and lock the handle to the carrying position.

LUNIAS L. ROGERS.