Feb. 14, 1928. 1,659,472

J. RECTOR ET AL

BURIAL VAULT SEAL

Filed April 21, 1927

Fig. 1.

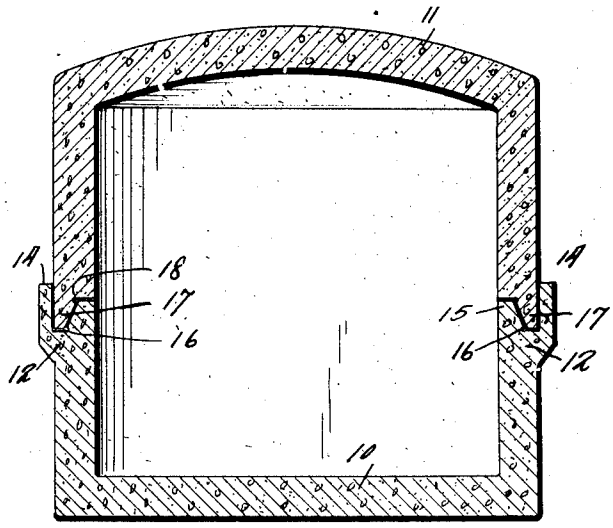


Fig. 2.

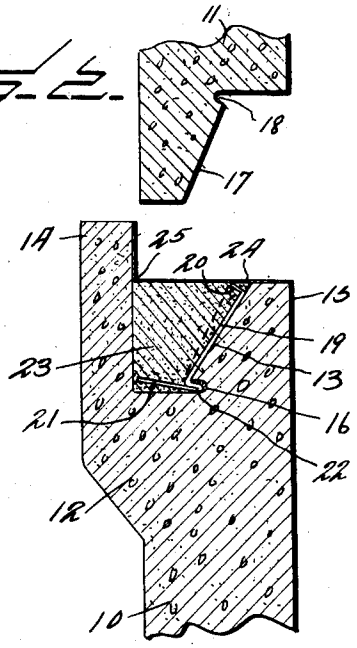


Fig. 4.

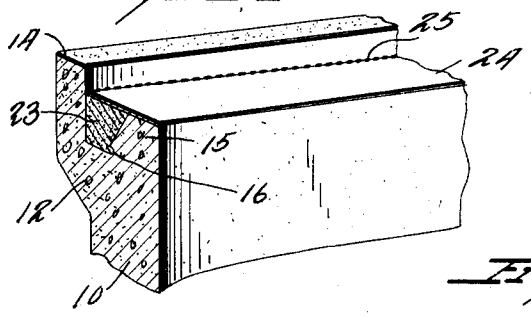


Fig. 3.

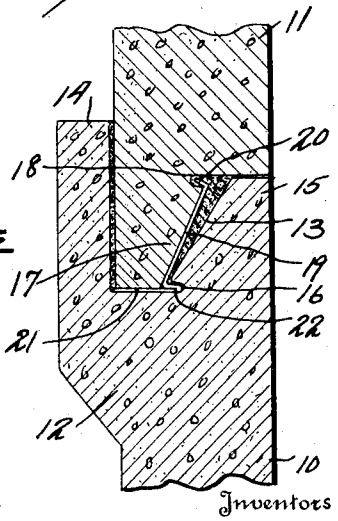


Fig. 6.

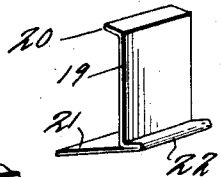
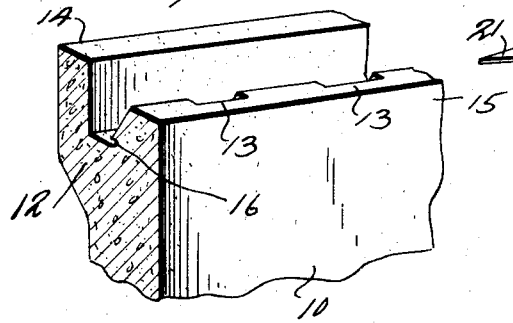


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BURIAL-VAULT SEAL.

Application filed April 21, 1927. Serial No. 185,586.

This invention relates to burial vaults of that character wherein the vault is formed of upstanding side walls having a recess to receive a sealing compound and the top of the vault is provided with a marginal flange adapted to extend down into said recess and be embedded in the sealing compound. Heretofore, it has been necessary that cement, grout or sealing material of like character be mixed at the grave and placed within the sealing recess before the top is put on. Oftentimes this is done in inclement weather and it is always disagreeable and a rather dirty job and requires an attendant to wait at the vault until the seal be set in order to complete the operation of sealing. Oftentimes this sealing is not completed or the sealing material, being improperly mixed, tends to dry out or become brittle and the top is not properly sealed upon the vault, nor locked thereto so that the top may be readily removed.

One object of the present invention is to provide a vault having a sealing recess and provide means whereby sealing material may be placed within this recess before the vault leaves the factory, or at any rate, before the vault is used, this sealing compound being protected and held in place by a layer of perforated paper which is more or less permanently attached to the vault so that when the cover or top is put on it will rupture along the line of perforations and permit a proper sealing of the top to the body of the vault.

A still further object is to provide means whereby the sealing compound is not only held in place, but prevented from coming into contact with the hands or tools while the vault is being handled.

A still further object is to provide means whereby the top of the vault is automatically locked upon the body as the top is lowered into place.

Our invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view of a vault constructed in accordance with our invention;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary vertical section showing the body and top of the vault separated;

Figure 3 is a like view of Figure 2, showing the body and top brought together and interlocked;

Figure 4 is a sectional perspective view of the upper portion of the body of the vault showing the sealing material and paper covering therefor;

Figure 5 is a like view of Figure 4 but without the sealing material;

Figure 6 is a view of the locking member.

Referring to these drawings, it will be seen that we have illustrated a vault formed in two sections 10 and 11. As disclosed, the section 11 is the top section, but it is to be understood that the section 10 might be the top section and approximately the same result secured. As illustrated, the section 10 is formed with a thickened portion 12 along its upper margin, this thickened portion being recessed around its entire edge as at 13. This recess is defined on one side by an upstanding wall 14 which extends above the wall 15 which defines the other side of the recess. The inner face of the wall 15 is downwardly and upwardly beveled and at the lower end of this inner face there is formed an inwardly extending groove 16 so that in effect, the wall 15 is under-cut upon its inner face at this lower end. The top section 11 is formed at its lower margin with a rabbet defined by a tongue wall 17 which extends upward and inward and at the junction of the face of this wall 17 with the upper wall of the rabbet, there is formed the outwardly extending groove 18.

Used in conjunction with these two sections are the locking devices, one of which is shown in Figure 6. Each locking device consists of a metallic member 19 bent so as to provide the right angularly extending flange 21. At its upper end, the portion has the flange 20. At the junction with this portion 19 and the portion 21 there is provided the outwardly projecting flange 22. These keys 19 or locking devices are disposed at intervals in the bottom of the recess or trough 13 with the flange 21 extending upward and outward as shown in Figure 2, and the portion 19 lying flat against the inclined face of the wall 15. The sealing material 23 which as before remarked may be of asbestos, cement or grout is disposed within the groove or channel 13 and filled around these keys so as to hold these keys in the position shown in Figure 2. A strip of paper 24 is then disposed over the face of the sealing material 23 and this strip of paper is glued to the inside face of the marginal wall of the lower section of the vault and extends upward and may extend over the top of the wall 15 to which it is glued.

This paper is perforated along the line 25.

This paper covering holds the sealing compound in place in the groove out of sight and keeps it from coming in contact with the hands or tools when being handled.

After the bottom section of the vault has been placed it is only necessary to place the upper section or lid over the paper covered groove. The weight of the upper section will break the paper at the perforations and let the tongue members 17 of the upper section embed itself in the sealing compound, forcing the sealing compound upward so as to fill all crevices at all points of connection of the top and bottom members of the joint, thus eliminating the mixing or handling of the sealing compound at the place of burial and eliminating the necessity of a workman waiting for the sealing compound to set. The sealing compound will be placed in the vault at the factory which will guarantee that the vault will be sealed when set and the sealing not omitted as occurs in many cases where seals are supposed to be mixed at the time of burial and applied. Furthermore, it provides that a standard sealing composition may be used whereas if the mixing of the sealing composition is left to an ordinary workman, the sealing composition may or may not be of a proper consistency in character.

As the upper section of the vault slips into the sealing compound and the tongue 17 nears the bottom of the groove 13, the lower edge of the tongue will strike the flange 21 causing the key 19 to rock from its initial position to a position where the flange 20 will enter the groove 18. Inasmuch as the flange 22 is engaged in the groove 16 and the flange 20 is engaged in the groove 18, it follows that the upper section of the vault will be locked to the lower section and the upper section cannot be, therefore, detached. Thus, we provide a means for automatically locking the top and bottom sections together.

We claim:—

1. A burial vault formed of two sections, one of said sections having the edge of its marginal wall formed with a groove, the other section having the edge of its marginal wall formed with a tongue insertible into said groove, sealing material initially disposed within said groove and filling the same, and a covering of light and flexible material adhering to the walls of the groove and extending across the upper face of the sealing material, said flexible material being perforated longitudinally so that it may be torn along the line of perforations when the other section is disposed in conjunction with the section containing the sealing material.

2. A burial vault consisting of two sections, the marginal wall of one of said sections being formed with a groove, the outer wall of the groove being higher than the inner wall and the groove being initially filled with sealing material to the height of the inner wall, a paper covering for the sealing material initially disposed over the top of the sealing material and over the upper edge of the inner and outer walls and adhering thereto, said paper covering being longitudinally perforated at its junction with the outer wall, and the other section being formed with a tongue insertible into said groove and adapted to break the paper covering along the line of perforations when so inserted.

3. A vault composed of two sections one of said sections having upstanding walls formed with a longitudinally extending groove, one wall of the groove being undercut at its junction with the bottom of the groove, the other section having a marginal wall formed with a tongue adapted to be inserted within the groove, the wall formed with the tongue being undercut, and a key having a flange insertible into the first-named groove and having a flange adapted to interlock with the undercut and second named section, the key being so formed that when the sections are forced together, the key will be rocked to bring the second named flange into operative engagement with the second named undercut.

4. A vault consisting of an upper section and a lower section, the upper section having an upstanding wall formed with a longitudinally extending channel having an inclined inner face, the bottom of the channel being formed with a groove extending beneath the inclined inner face of the channel, the upper section being formed with a tongue having an inclined inner face and adapted to fit within the channel and having a groove extending inward from the upper end of the inclined face, and a locking key having right angularly disposed portions and adapted to be disposed within the channel, the lower end of the key being formed with an upwardly projecting flange and adapted to be disposed within the first named groove and constitute a fulcrum upon which the key may lock, the upper end of the key being formed with a flange projecting in an opposite direction from the first named flange and adapted to be engaged in the first named groove when the upper section of the vault has been disposed upon the lower section of the vault.

5. A vault composed of two sections, one of said sections having a channel and the other a tongue fitting into said channel, a locking member disposed within the channel, relatively soft sealing material disposed within the channel and over the locking member and holding the locking member against accidental detachment from the channel, the locking member being engageable with the tongue of the other section of the vault when the tongue has been lowered

into the channel to a predetermined seating position.

6. A vault composed of two sections, one of said sections having a channel and the other a tongue fitting into said channel, and locking members initially disposed in the channel and having locking engagement with a wall of the channel at all times, each of said locking members having a portion extending out from the locking member and engageable by the tongue when the upper section has been disposed upon the lower section and the tongue has been forced down into the channel, said locking members on a full depression of the upper section swinging into locking engagement with said upper section.

In testimony whereof we hereunto affix our signatures.

JESSE RECTOR.
THOMAS H. JONES.