July 3, 1928. 1,675,362

H. A. LEDYARD ET AL

COMBINED TRANSPORTING AND LOWERING BURIAL APPARATUS

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Fig. 1

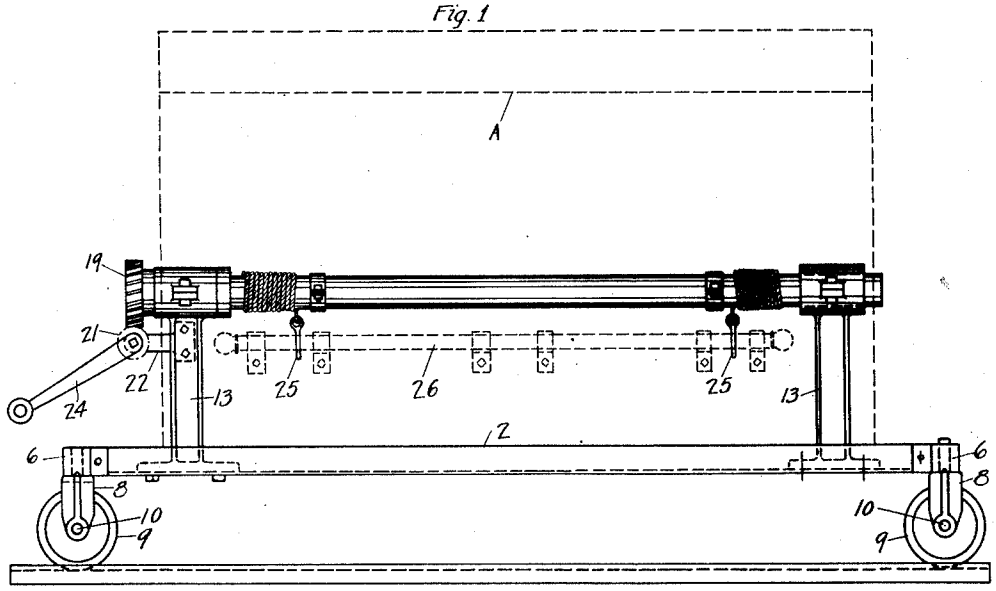


Fig 2

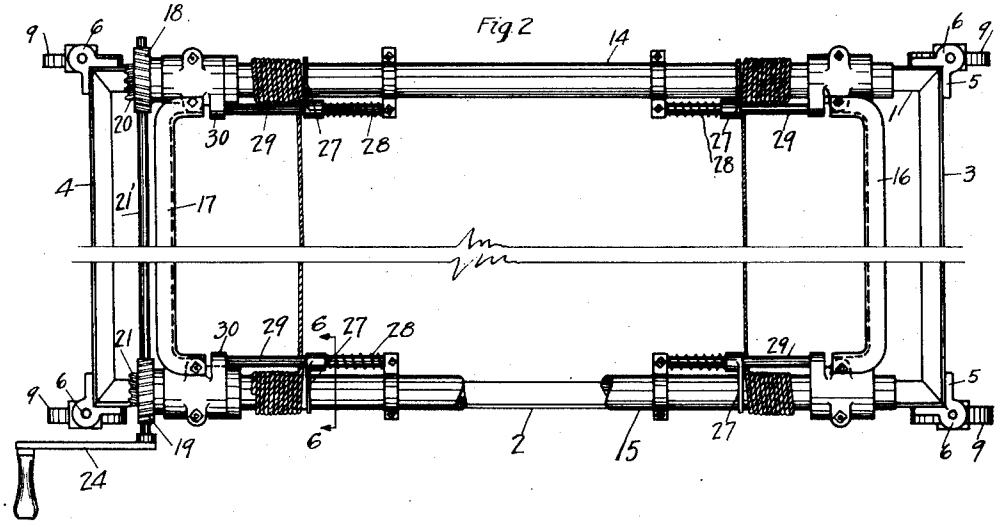
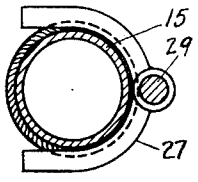


Fig. 6.



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Fig. 3.

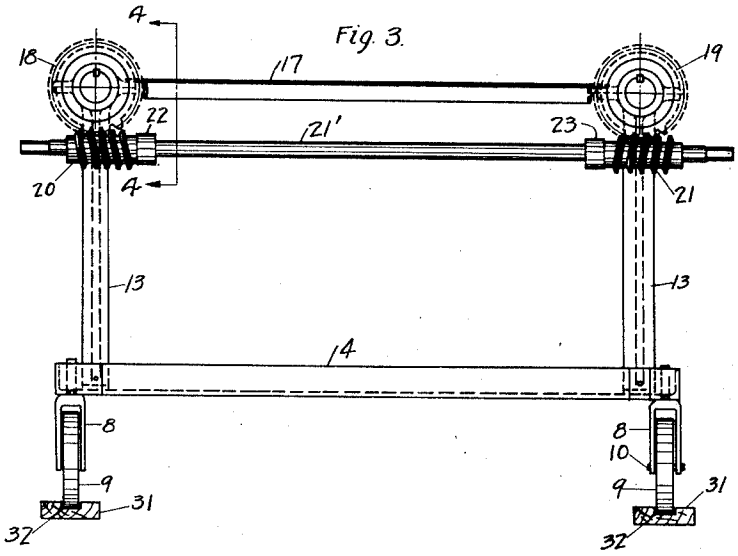


Fig. 4

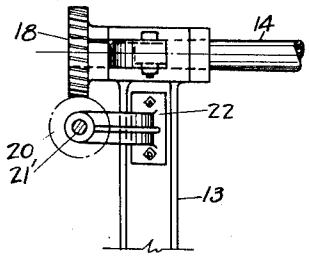
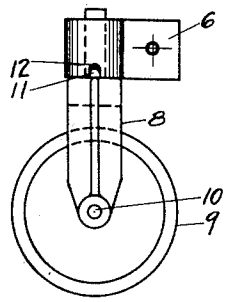


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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COMBINED TRANSPORTING AND LOWERING BURIAL APPARATUS.

Application filed November 11, 1925. Serial No. 68,431.

This invention relates to a combined transporting and lowering burial apparatus.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide means of supporting and moving a casket or the like in an endwise or sidewise direction so that a casket or the like may be aligned in both directions substantially over a grave.

A further object is to provide means for lowering a casket or the like to the bottom of or to a predetermined point in a grave, in a manner wholly within the control of the operator and to facilitate and make easier the lowering operation, by controlling the descent of the casket or the like into the grave and of raising same out of the grave if desired.

A further object is to provide a lowering apparatus which is combined with a transporting truck made of metal and which is constructed and formed to obtain the maximum strength, in comparison with the weight of the parts used in making the apparatus.

A further object is to provide means of bracing the bearings of the lowering apparatus in such a manner as to provide for rigidity and prevent undue vibration of the parts of the frame and the operating mechanism thereof.

A further object is to provide means for unwinding and winding the cables from shafts and at the same time providing means for aligning and controlling the wire cables, so that they will not wind upon said shafts irregularly, by exerting a tension against the coils of the cables to force same in juxtaposition to each other.

A further object is to provide grooved tracks to direct the movement of the transporting truck in alignment endwise or sidewise and finally the invention consists in providing right and left hand worms and gears, which impart movement to the shafts to unwind or wind up the wire cables for the purpose intended.

These and other objects are attained by the mechanism illustrated and shown in the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the combined truck and lowering apparatus showing a casket or the like suspended therefrom in dotted lines and showing the wire cables attached to one of the handles of the vault on one side preferably adjacent to the corners thereof.

Figure 2 is a broken plan view of Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a front end view of Fig. 1.

Figure 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Figure 5 is a side view of one caster wheel and mounting thereof, also showing the method of positioning a caster wheel in different positions relative to the frame.

Figure 6 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 2 of one of the shafts and showing a spanner extending over the shaft which is forced under tension against the coils of a wire cable.

It will be noted that the combined transporting and lowering apparatus for burial purposes is constructed as follows:

The truck frame is composed of a plurality of angle bars 1, 2, 3 and 4. Corner pieces 5 having offset journal portions 6 formed integral therewith are attached to each corner of the frame composed of said angle bars. The corner pieces are provided with vertical apertures to receive the journal portions 7 of the bifurcated members or brackets 8, thereby providing means to journal the bifurcated bracket or member 8 to rotate within said vertical aperture.

The corner pieces are attached to the angular iron frame at each corner thereof by any well known fastening means. Wheels or casters 9 are mounted to revolve within the bifurcated portions 8 on bearing pins 10. The bifurcated members are provided on the upper portions with ribs 11 and the offset journal portions are provided with grooves 12, which are formed at right angles with each other to permit the wheels to be turned to travel in an endwise or sidewise direction, as desired. In turning the wheels in the direction desired the ribs on the bifurcated brackets fit into their respective grooves in the offset portions thereby locking the wheels in the positions desired for moving the trucks in either endwise or sidewise direction.

A plurality of vertically arranged standards 13 are preferably mounted upon and attached to the frame of the truck and the free ends of the standards are also provided with horizontal bearings two of which are

aligned on each side of the truck into which the shafts 14 and 15 are fitted to rotate. The ends of the shafts project beyond the bearings. Curved brackets 16 and 17 are secured to the bearings at each end of the frame at or adjacent to the top of the standards to provide rigidity and prevent undue vibration of the parts.

Upon the projecting ends at the front of the shafts right and left hand worm wheels 18 and 19 respectively are mounted and rigidly secured thereto and they are adapted to mesh with worms 20 and 21, which are mounted on a shaft 21'. The shaft 21' is supported in proper position by the journal brackets 22 and 23.

Both ends of the shaft 21' are formed, so as to receive a socket wrench 24. Upon rotation of the socket wrench from either side of the combined transporting and lowering apparatus, the tubular shaft members are rotated through the medium of the worms and worm wheels to lower or raise the casket or the like as desired.

Wire cables are attached to shafts 14 and 15 and the other ends of the cables are provided with hooks 25 which engage the handles 26, which are positioned on each side of the casket or the like adjacent to the corners thereof.

When the hooks are connected to the handles 26 upon the rotation of the crank 24 in one direction, the vault will be lowered into the grave and upon rotation in the opposite direction the casket or the like will be raised. The casket or the like can be lifted or lowered from the ground or the like or from or into the grave by turning the crank when the same is suspended from the lowering apparatus.

If it is desired to move the truck away from the grave in endwise or sidewise direction, tracks 31 having grooves 32 provided therein to fit the sides or rims of the caster wheels are placed in close proximity to the sides of the grave and in right angular relation thereto if desired; the transporting truck can then be adjusted or moved on the wheels in an endwise or sidewise direction.

In order to keep the wire cables from winding up in an irregular manner or slipping or flapping back and forth on the shafts, spanners 27 are provided to fit over the shafts adjacent to each end thereof. Springs 28 are mounted on rods 29 and they are positioned and arranged to press against the spanners 27, which in turn bear under compression against the coils of the wire cables and force the same in juxtaposition to each other in winding or unwinding same from or on the shafts.

The rods 29 upon which the spanners are loosely mounted to slide are supported on brackets 30 and are arranged in close proximity to the coils of the wire cables so that in winding or unwinding on the shaft the coils of the cables cannot overlap or wind upon each other.

In constructing a transporting truck as described and applying same and combining it with a lowering apparatus as described, a casket or the like can be lowered into a grave with ease and convenience and facility and at the same time it can be adjusted endwise or sidewise relative to the grave by adjusting the casters to the tracks and move in any predetermined position.

The combined transporting and lowering apparatus is designed to be lifted over the casket or the like when it is desired to use same.

We claim:

1. In a combined lowering and transporting truck for burial purposes, comprising in combination, a rectangular frame composed of angle iron members, and adapted to provide means for winding the cable around the tubular members and to maintain the same diameter of the cable when lowering or raising a vault or the like from the grave, swivel wheel supporting members journaled on said rectangular frame and adapted to be moved and held parallel with the side members of the frame and also at right angles thereto, standards mounted upon and secured adjacent to the corners of said frame and also being provided with bearings, braces secured to the bearings provided on the standards, tubular members journaled in said bearings, worm gears mounted upon and rigidly secured to said tubular members, brackets having bearings secured to the front standards, a shaft journaled in said bracket bearings, worms mounted on said shaft to mesh with said worm gears, the shaft and bracket mechanism when actuated being adapted to turn the tubular members in different directions as described and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a combined lowering and transporting truck for burial purposes, comprising in combination, a rectangular frame composed of angle iron members, and adapted to provide means for winding the cable around the tubular members and to maintain the same diameter of the cable when lowering or raising a vault or the like from the grave, swivel wheel supporting members journaled on said rectangular frame and adapted to be moved and held parallel with the side members of the frame and also at right angles thereto, standards mounted upon and secured adjacent to the corners of said frame and also being provided with bearings, braces secured to the bearings provided on the standards, tubular members journaled in said bearings, worm gears mounted upon and rigidly secured to said tubular members, brackets having bearings secured to the front standards, a shaft jour-

naled in said bracket bearings, worms mounted on said shaft to mesh with said worm gears, the shaft and bracket mechanism when operated being adapted to turn the tubular members in different directions, cables connected to and adapted to be wound around said tubular members in opposite directions and means to guide the cables evenly as they are wound around said tubular members as described and set forth.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

HARRY A. LEDYARD.
JAMES J. JELLEY.