Feb. 22, 1927. 1,618,522

D. R. FAULEY

BURIAL VAULT

Filed March 5, 1925

Fig. 1.

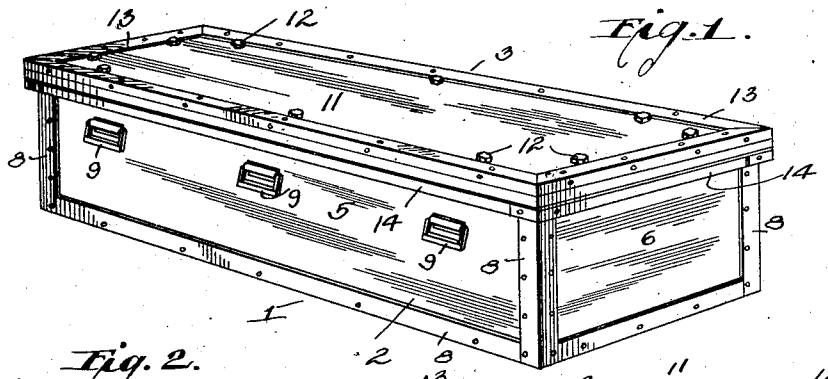


Fig. 2.

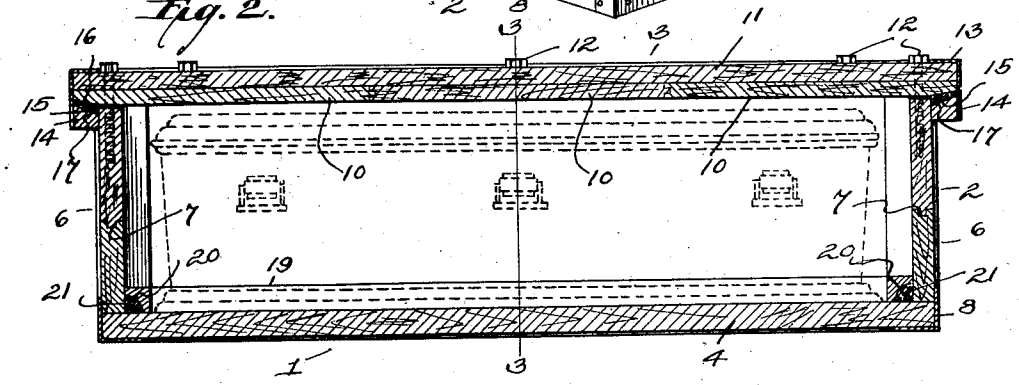
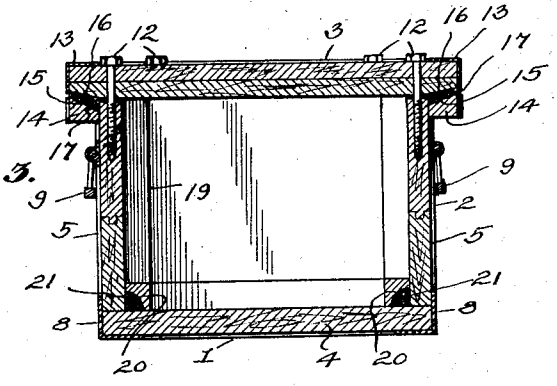


Fig. 3.



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BURIAL VAULT.

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This invention relates to improvements in burial vaults or casket cases, and has for its principal object the provision of an improved vault or case formed principally from a durable wood and embodying novel and substantial features of construction by means of which the vault or case is rendered exceptionally durable, of prolonged and indefinite life and capable of providing adequate and thorough protection to the casket or contents disposed therein.

The majority of burial or grave vaults now in common use are of sheet metal construction and formed to encase a casket after interment. Vaults of this character are objectionable in that they are apt to corrode and permit of the ingress of earth liquids after relatively short periods of use. Also, it is common to form vaults of this kind from concrete, but these vaults are objectionable in that the same offer excessive weight, are difficult to seal and permit water to seep into the casket space therein.

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a grave vault, box or case which is formed from a substantial and durable wood such as cypress, which is capable of resisting deterioration by elemental destruction independently so that the contents thereof may be preserved free from premature destruction and a practical and useful structure provided largely free from the inherent defects existing in the ordinary steel and concrete vault.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a wooden burial vault or case consisting of a box like body covered by a removable lid and capable of receiving therein the ordinary casket, there being an improved sealing arrangement for closing the joints existing between the body of the vault and the removable top or lid and also a similar arrangement between the sides of the body of said vault and the bottom thereof, the sealing being such as to effectively exclude liquid and water seepage into the interior of the vault.

With these and other objects in view, as will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in the novel features of construction, combinations of elements and arrangements of parts hereinafter to be fully described and pointed out in the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a grave vault or case constructed in accordance with the present invention,

Figure 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view therethrough, and

Figure 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view, taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Referring more particularly to the drawings the numeral 1 designates my improved vault or case in its entirety. Essentially, the vault consists of a box like body 2 and a removable lid structure 3, the body and lid being formed from wood, preferably cypress since the latter material possesses wear resisting durable qualities which admirably serve the purpose of the invention, although it will be understood that other materials may be employed as practice may deem necessary.

The body 2 consists of a bottom 4 formed in this instance from a single, relatively heavy plank or board of suitable length and width, and arising from the bottom or upstanding side and end walls 5 and 6 respectively. The side walls 5 are each formed from a single board, while the end wall 6, as shown in Figure 2, may consist of a plurality of joined boards united by the rabbet and tongue joint 7. The bottom 4 and the walls 5 and 6 may be substantially and firmly bound together by means of metallic strips 8 which are applied and secured to the bounding edges of said walls and serve to provide a very substantial and stout construction. The walls 5 may be provided with the usual handles 9 for facilitating the manipulation of the vault.

The lid structure 3 includes a bottom portion consisting of a plurality of transversely extending joined boards 10 upon which is laid and secured a single longitudinally extending top board 11. The lid structure is adapted to rest on the upper edges of the walls 5 and 6 and is removably secured thereto by means of a plurality of lag screws 12 which pass vertically through openings provided in the lid structure and are threaded into the walls 5 and 6. Metallic stripping 13 is also applied around the edges of the lid structure to reinforce and protect the same.

Secured to the upper portions of the walls 5 and 6 along the outer surfaces thereof are molding strips 14, which are provided with downwardly and inwardly sloping upper walls 15 and, by reference to Figures 2 and 3, it will be noted that the lid structure projects marginally beyond the walls 5 and 6

to planes flush with the outer edges of the molding strips 14. The lower surfaces of these outwardly projecting portions of the lid structure are beveled as at 16 to correspond somewhat with the beveled upper walls 15 of the molding strips, and between the walls 15 and 16 I place an asbestos fiber cement or other suitable form of packing 17. This packing serves effectively to prevent seepage of water into the casket chamber 18 of the vault between the joints produced between the body of the vault and the lid structure. It will be observed that by reason of the slope of the walls 15 a pocket will be provided between said walls and the upper edges of the side walls 5 and 6. This permits the packing to be poured while in a semi-fluid condition and retained within the pockets until the lid structure is applied. When the lid structure is firmly secured to the body the packing can not escape but will be contained and confined within the vault for the purposes specified.

Similarly, in order to seal the joints between the bottom 4 and the walls 5 and 6 there is placed within the body of the vault a frame 19 grooved as at 20 to receive a packing 21 similar physically to the packing 17. By reason of the location of the frame 19 it will be observed that the packing will seal all crevices or joints that may exist between the parts 4, 5 and 6 of the body 2 so that when the vault or case is properly assembled the casket chamber 18 will be sealed against the ingress of liquid from any source.

In view of the foregoing it will be seen that the present invention provides a casket case or vault of exceptionally durable and efficient design and while very simple and economical in construction a practicable means is presented for thoroughly protecting a casket and its contents for extended periods of time from the destructive effects of the elemental conditions in which the casket or case is placed. The employment of a durable wood in the design of a case or vault of this character is believed to constitute a distinct improvement over the standard forms of sheet metal designs which have a comparatively short life, and another important feature of the invention resides in the sealing arrangement by means of which a vault of this type is rendered practicable and possible.

What is claimed is:

A burial case comprising a wooden box like body including bottom, side and end walls, a frame mounted within said body and situated in the corners thereof, a packing carried by said frame for sealing the joints and crevices existing between the bottom, side and end walls of said body, and a removable lid structure adapted to be mounted upon said body.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

DEWEY R. FAULEY.