

Oct. 4, 1932.

LE ROY C. STEPHENS

1,880,335

INDIVIDUAL MAUSOLEUM

Filed Sept. 5, 1931

Fig. 1.

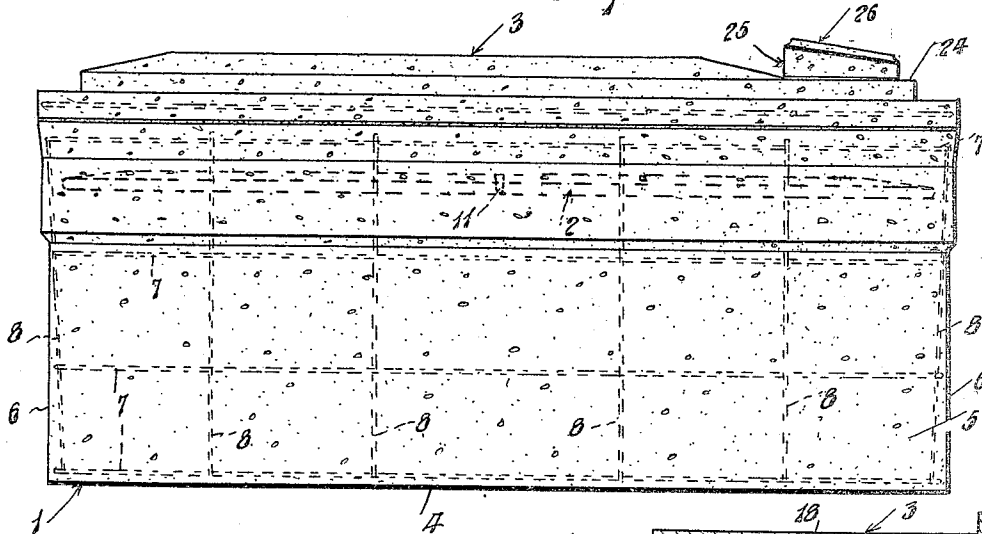


Fig. 2.

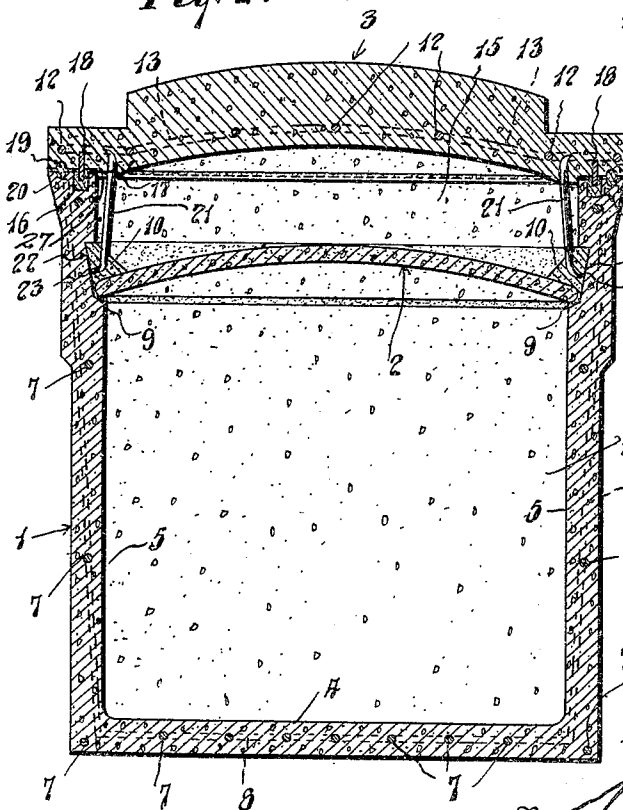
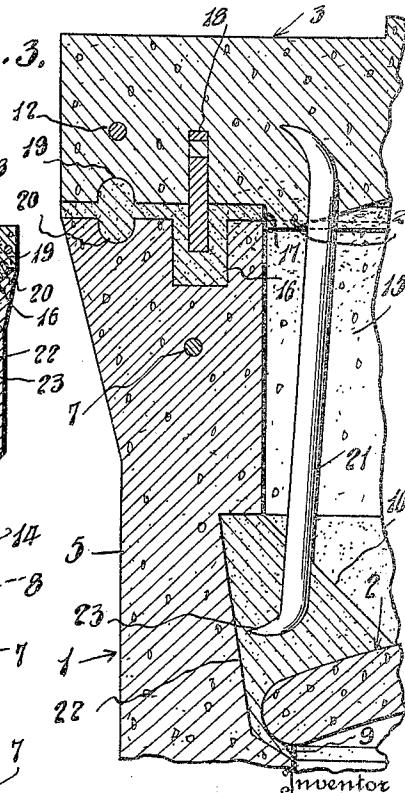


Fig. 3.



Inventor
LeRoy C. Stephens.

By *Watson E. Coleman*

Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LE ROY C. STEPHENS, OF CHEYENNE, WYOMING

INDIVIDUAL MAUSOLEUM

Application filed September 5, 1931. Serial No. 561,440.

This invention relates to mausoleums of that type made from concrete and embodying a box embedded in the ground with the upper edges of its side and end walls leveled with the surface of the ground, a lid supported from and secured to the walls at a short distance below the upper edges thereof, the space below the lid constituting a casket chamber, a ledger plate resting upon the upper edges of the walls and secured thereto, the space between the lid and ledger plate constituting an insulating chamber, and a marker on one end portion of the ledger plate and having its upper or inscription bearing surface inclined.

In mausoleums of this type the box and ledger plate, since the former is embedded in the ground and since the latter is at the surface of the ground, are subjected to different temperatures in all seasons. Due thereto the box walls and the ledger plate contract and expand to different degrees, with the result that during their contraction or expansion they move relatively and subject the seal, which consists of cement, to a strain which in time causes the seal to crack. When this occurs the function of the insulating chamber is destroyed, water enters the insulating chamber and prevents the evaporation of the moisture in the casket chamber, and during winter the water in the cracks of the seal expands and displaces the ledger plate.

The present invention has for one of its objects to overcome this objectional feature, and to attain this end comprehends the provision of a seal which shall embody a continuous groove in the upper edges of the box walls, an elastic material located in the groove, and a continuous iron flange extending downwardly from the lower side of the ledger plate and embedded in the elastic material.

The present invention further comprehends the provision of a seal of the character stated wherein the flange shall have a thickness less than the width of the groove and a depth less than that of the groove, to the end that the elastic material may completely surround the flange.

The present invention further comprehends the provision of a seal of the character stated wherein the upper edges of the box walls and the lower side of the ledger plate shall be provided with registering grooves located laterally beyond said first groove and adapted to be filled by the elastic material.

The present invention further comprehends the provision of novel means for anchoring the ledger plate to the seal between the lid and the box walls.

The present invention further comprehends the formation of the ledger plate and the marker separately, to the end that the marker may be arranged on the ledger plate with its inscription bearing surface facing either end of the vault, to the end that a granite marker may be substituted for the cement marker, and to the end that the ledger plate may be of uniform thickness and thus avoid the strain which would occur if the thickness of the ledger plate varied.

The invention is hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of an individual mausoleum embodying my invention.

Figure 2 is a sectional view on an enlarged scale taken on a plane extending vertically and transversely through the vault, and

Figure 3 is a sectional view on a still larger scale illustrating the manner in which the ledger plate and seal are anchored to the box.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 1 designates the box, 2 the lid and 3 the ledger plate of the mausoleum. The bottom wall 4, side walls 5 and end walls 6 of the box 1, are cast integrally from concrete, and are reinforced by longitudinal rods 7 and transverse rods 8. The lid 2 consists of two sections which are cast from concrete and which rest upon shoulders 9 formed on the inner surfaces of the walls 5 and 6 a short distance below the upper edges of these walls. The lid 2 is secured to the walls 5 and 6 by a seal 10 which consists of a first or lower layer of asphaltum and a second or upper layer of cement. The adjacent edges of the lid sections are secured together by a seal 11 similar to the seal 10.

The ledger plate 3 which is cast in one piece from concrete, rests upon the upper edges of the walls 5 and 6, and is reinforced by longitudinal rods 12 and transverse rods 13.

5 The space below the lid 2 constitutes a casket chamber, and the space between the lid 2 and ledger plate 3 constitutes an insulating chamber, the former being designated 14 and the latter 15. The box 1 is adapted to
10 be embedded in the ground with the ledger plate 3 at the surface of the ground. The vault as it is thus far described is of well-known construction.

In accordance with my invention, the walls
15 5 and 6 are provided in their upper edges with a continuous groove 16 for the reception of an elastic sealing material 17, and the ledger plate 3 is provided with a continuous
20 metal member 18 which has a portion embedded in the ledger plate and the remaining portion of which extends downwardly from the lower side of the ledger plate and is embedded in the sealing material. The
25 lower portion of the member 18, which portion constitutes a sealing flange, has a thickness less than the width of the groove 16 and has a depth less than that of the groove to the end that the sealing material 17 may surround the sealing flange. As the box 1 is
30 embedded in the ground, and as the ledger plate 3 is located at the surface of the ground these parts are subjected to different temperatures in all seasons, and will as the result expand or contract in such manner as to cause the walls
35 5 and 6 and the ledger plate 3 to move relatively. Such relative movement of the walls 5 and 6 and the ledger plate 3 will cause the sealing flange 18 to subject the sealing material 17 to lateral strain, and this material
40 which may consist principally or solely of asphaltum, tar, pitch or the like possesses sufficient elasticity to yield readily under any lateral strain that may be placed thereon by the sealing flange.

45 This yielding characteristic of the sealing material 17 will prevent it from cracking. In view thereof, and as the sealing material 17 completely surrounds the sealing flange 18, an air and waterproof and nondestructible seal is provided between the walls 5 and 6 and the ledger plate 3. The sealing material 17 extends over the upper edges of the walls 5 and 6, and the ledger plate 3 rests thereon. The ledger plate 3 is provided in
55 its lower side with a continuous groove 19 of semi-circular formation in cross section, and the walls 5 and 6 are provided in their upper edges with a continuous groove 20 of similar cross sectional formation. The grooves
60 19 and 20 are located outwardly beyond the groove 16 and sealing flange 18, and receive portions of the sealing material 17. As the ledger plate 3 rests upon the sealing material 17, that portion of the sealing material
65 located in the groove 16 is held under pres-

sure in contact with the sides and lower edge of the sealing flange 18. Those portions of the sealing material 17 located in the grooves 19 and 20 hold the sealing material against lateral displacement.

The ledger plate 3 is secured to the box 1 by rods 21 which are anchored in and extend downwardly from the ledger plate and which are anchored in the lid seal 10. The inner surface of the walls 5 and 6 are recessed, as at 22, and portions of the seal 10 enter the recesses. The anchor rods 21 incline downwardly and outwardly from the ledger plate 3, so that their lower ends will contact with the inner surfaces of the walls 5 and 6 during the application of the ledger plate 3 to the box 1. On the application of the ledger plate 3 to the box 1 the lower hooked ends 23 of the anchor rods 21 enter the recesses 22 and the seal 10, to the end that a strong connection will be established between the anchor rods and the box.

The ledger plate 3 has one end portion thereof provided with a flat upper surface, as shown at 24, for the reception of a marker 25 which may be made of concrete, granite or the like. The marker 25 has its upper or inscription bearing surface 26 inclined, and it is not made integral with the ledger plate 3 in order that it may be arranged thereon with its inscription bearing surface facing either end of the vault. After it is arranged in the ledger plate 3 the marker 25 is anchored thereto in any suitable manner. When the ledger plate 3 and the marker 25 are not made
100 of granite they may be provided with a terrazzo finish.

In practice, after the box 1 has been embedded in the ground, and after the lid 2 has been sealed in place, the sealing material 17
105 will be applied in the grooves 16 and 20 and to the upper edges of the walls 5 and 6, and thereafter the ledger plate 3 will be positioned upon the box. During the application of the ledger plate 3 to the box 1, the sealing flanges 18 enter the groove 16 and sealing material 17, and the anchor rods 21 engage in the seal 10. As the sealing material 17 surrounds the sealing flange 18 and is held by the ledger plate 3 in contact therewith
115 under pressure, as the sealing material extends into the grooves 19 and 20 of the ledger plate and walls 5 and 6, and as the sealing material is elastic, an air and waterproof and non-destructible seal is established between the ledger plate and box walls. As the anchor rods 21 engage the seal 10 during the application of the ledger plate 3 to the base 1, they function to automatically secure and
125 anchor the ledger plate to the box on the mere application of the former to the latter. As the marker 25 is not formed integrally with the ledger plate 3, the ledger plate may be made of uniform thickness and thus avoid
130

the strain which would result if the thickness of the ledger plate varied.

The ledger plate 3 is provided in its lower side with shoulders 27 which contact with
5 the inner surfaces of the box walls 5 and 6 and which due to their contact therewith brace the box walls against frost influence from the dirt outside of the box. The shoulders also aid to hold the elastic sealing material 17 in place.

As a portion of the seal 10 is located in the recesses 22 of the box walls 5 and 6, the seal is so materially strengthened as to enable it to withstand the added strain placed thereon
15 by embedding the anchor bars 21 therein. As the seal between the box 1 and ledger plate 3 is air and waterproof, and as it will not crack or become damaged under any strain placed thereon, the destruction of the function of
20 the insulating chamber 15 and the displacement of the ledger plate is positively avoided.

While I have described the principle of the invention, together with the structure which I now consider the preferred embodiment thereof, it is to be understood that the
25 structure shown is merely illustrative and that such changes may be made, when desired, as fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

30 What is claimed is:—

An individual mausoleum comprising a box having the inner surfaces of its upright walls provided with recesses and shoulders immediately below the recesses, a lid resting
35 upon the shoulders, sealing material contacting with the lid and inserted in said recesses, a ledger plate resting upon said walls, and anchoring rods embedded in the ledger plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the
40 lower ends of the anchoring rods being provided with hooks embedded in said sealing material within said recesses.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

45 LE ROY C. STEPHENS.

50

55

60

65