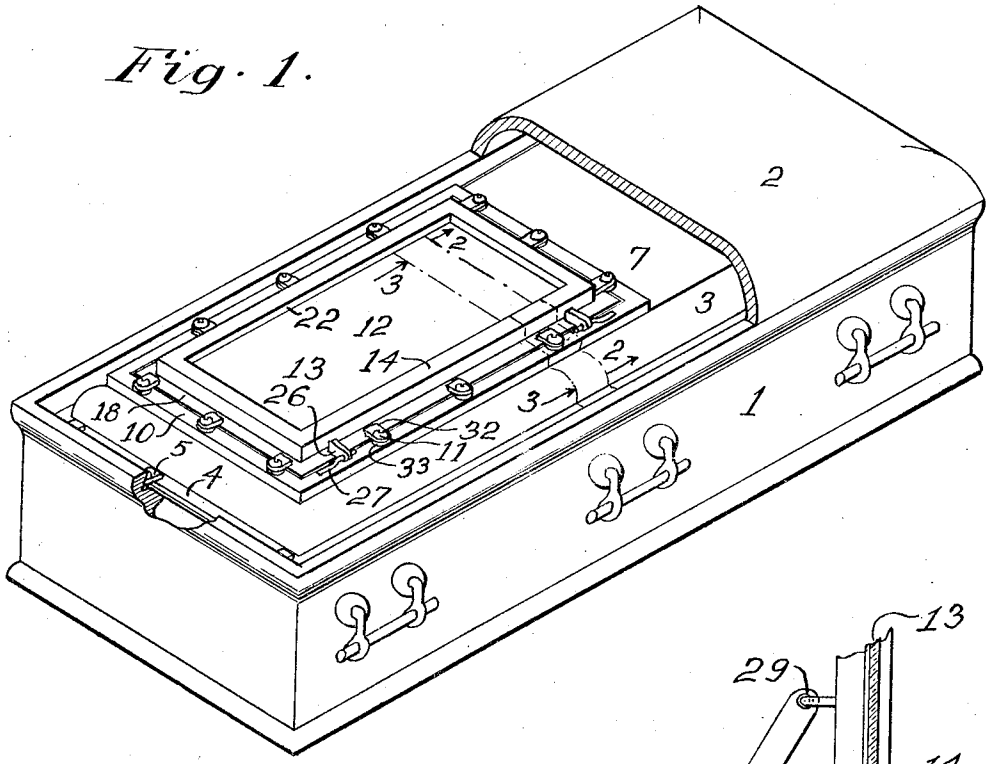
Oct. 7, 1924. 1,510,557

R. F. PADEN

CASKET

Filed March 30. 1923

Fig. 1.



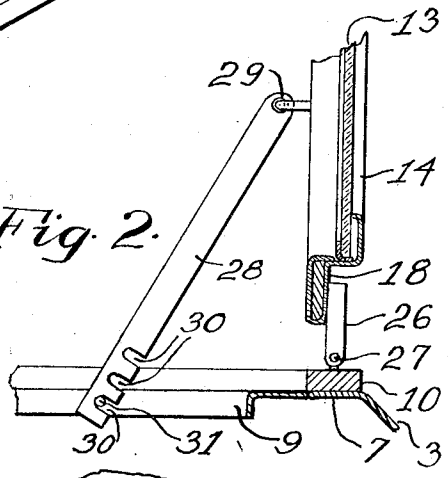


Fig. 2.

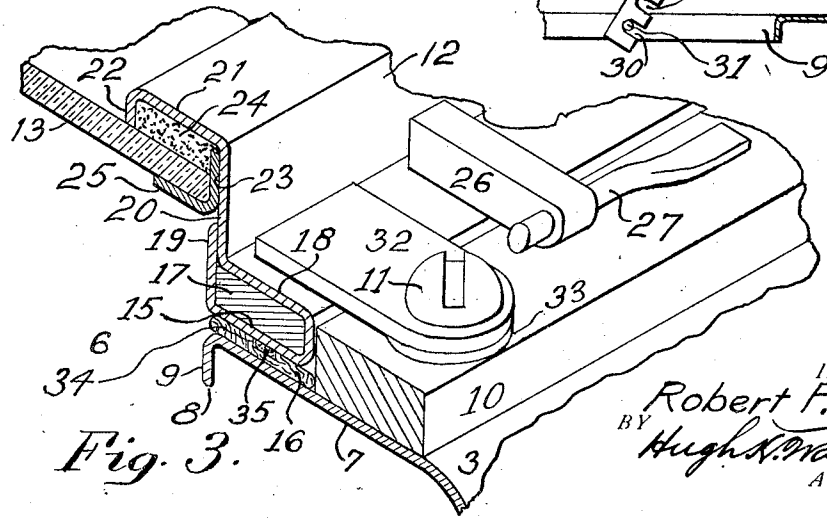


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CASKET.

Application filed March 30, 1923. Serial No. 628,807.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT F. PADEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Glendale, in the county of St. Louis and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Caskets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention pertains to coffins, and more particularly to a hermetically-sealed type of coffin, that is, a coffin of impervious material having the usual hermetically-sealed inner cover with the customary glass panel and, also, an outer cover. It often becomes necessary, for certain reasons, to remove the inner cover after the same has been sealed, which is a tedious operation because it involves the loosening of a considerable number of screws and more especially of the cloth tufting covering the screws. To eliminate to a large extent this trouble incident to reopening and replacing the sealed inner cover is the primary purpose of my invention, and to this end I provide a removable panel for the inner cover. Other objects and advantages will be apparent as the description proceeds.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, in which like numbers of reference denote like parts wherever they occur,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a coffin embodying the present invention with a portion of the outer cover broken away, thereby disclosing a portion of the inner cover and associated parts;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary transverse section taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view showing details of construction with a section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

The body-part 1 of a coffin embodying my invention is provided with an outer cover 2 and a hermetically sealed inner cover 3 having a flange 4 for engagement with fastening devices 5 of any of the usual types for fastening said inner cover 3 to said body-part 1.

The inner cover 3 is formed preferably of sheet steel and has a rectangular opening 6 in its top 7, which has reinforcing flanges 9, which depend perpendicularly from the top 7 to the bottom edge 8 and form a wall extending all along the margin of the rectangular opening 6 at each of its four sides. Secured to the upper side of the top 7, preferably by soldering, and surrounding the opening 6 at a slight distance therefrom, is a member 10, preferably a flat steel bar, the principal purpose of said member 10 being to provide thickness of material for a plurality of screw-threaded holes adapted to receive the screws 11 as hereinafter more particularly described. The opening 6 is preferably limited in extent to that portion of the cover 3 directly over the head and bosom of the corpse, but may, of course, be extended throughout the length of the cover 3.

A removable panel 12 is adapted to close the opening 6 in the cover 3 and is formed of a plate 13, preferably glass, held in a frame 14 having a flange 15 supported upon a gasket 16, which gasket 16 rests upon that portion of the upper surface of the top 7, which is surrounded by the member 10. Gasket 16 is adapted to form an air-tight joint between said flange 15 and said top 7, and may be made of any material, preferably asbestos, suitable for making said joint air-tight.

Flange 15 is strengthened by a member 17, preferably a flat steel bar and is preferably constructed, as best seen in Figure 3, by looping a portion 18 of the material of frame 14 about said member 17 intimately following the outline of said member 17, and the end 19 of said loop 18 may be soldered to adjacent portions 20 of said frame 14. The structure of said frame 14 rises at 20 from flange 15 to a point slightly higher than the upper side of glass panel 13 and then extends horizontally and inwardly a short distance at 21 and then terminates in a depending flange 22 adapted to abut against glass plate 13. A member 23 is soldered to the inside of the rising portion 20 of frame 14, and is preferably made of soft lead and adapted to form a hanger or bracket for supporting said plate of glass 13, said member 23 having preferably an L-shaped cross section when same is in place as best seen in Figure 3. In order to form an air-tight joint between said glass panel 13 and depending flange 22, the space between said flange 22 and said member 23 is filled to the full depth of said flange with cement 24 or other binding means of any composition suitable for making an air-tight joint, the frame 14, for convenience of work-

ing, preferably having been inverted and the glass supporting flange 25 of soft lead member 23 having been bent straight or substantially parallel to the rising portion 20 of frame 14, and said glass 13 is placed upon the edge of said depending flange 22 with the portion of said glass panel 13 adjacent to its edges extending over said cement and with the edge of said plate of glass 13 abutting the side of member 23 adjacent thereto, the end portion of said member 23 extending beyond the inner surface of said plate of glass 13 being bent in the form of a flange 25 over upon the portion of said plate of glass 13 adjacent to the edge of same. When cement 24 has set, the desired air-tight joint will have formed said cement binding parts adjacent thereto in a sealed joint, the flange 25 on member 23 bent over upon the inner surface adjacent the edge of said plate of glass 13 being adapted to assist in supporting said plate of glass 13 in place.

Hinges 26 secured, preferably by soldering, to flange 15 of frame 14 are adapted to swing on pins 27 secured, also, preferably by soldering, to member 10 of body-part 1. A convenient means of supporting the frame 14 when withdrawing the same to expose the opening 6 in cover 3 is thus provided.

Frame 14 may be provided with a supporting bar 28 (Figure 2) having one end in swiveled attachment at 29 with said frame 14 and having a plurality of notches 30 at its free end adapted to engage a pin 31 borne by the flange 9 when frame 14 has been swung to open position, shown in Figure 6, thus holding said frame in open position. To close frame 14, the particular notch 30 in engagement with pin 31 at the time is lifted out of engagement with pin 31, whereupon bar 28 swinging on its swiveled end will slide along pin 31 as frame 14 is dropped to closed position. The plurality of notches allow of supporting the frame in different positions.

The screws 11 for clamping the frame 14 to the cover 3 pass through lugs 32 and rubber washers 33 interposed between member 10 and said lugs 32. The lugs 32 project over flange 15, and bear upon said flange 15 when the screws 11 are tightened in sealing the casket and thereby press the asbestos gasket 16 between the flange 15 of frame 14 and the top 7 of cover 3, thus securing an air-tight and moisture-proof joint, the gasket 16 having had previously applied thereto and into its groove 34 a fluid adhesive cement 35.

Having thus described this invention, I hereby reserve the benefit of all changes in form, arrangement, order, or use of parts, as it is evident that many minor changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of this invention or the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A casket of the hermetically sealed type including a hermetically-sealed inner cover provided with an opening, a removable panel hingedly mounted on said inner cover for opening and closing the said opening, said panel including a glass plate and means for maintaining the cover, when closed, airtight with respect to the opening.

2. A casket of the hermetically sealed type having a hermetically-sealed inner cover provided with an opening, a frame member secured to the top of the inner cover and being of larger diameter than the opening so as to surround the latter at a slight distance therefrom, a gasket surrounding the opening and confined within the said frame member, a removable transparent panel adapted to close the said opening, and fastening members carried by the said frame for engaging the said panel and pressing the latter upon the gasket.

3. A casket of the hermetically sealed type having a hermetically-sealed inner cover provided with an opening, a flat frame secured to the said cover and surrounding the opening at a slight distance from the edge therefrom, a gasket seated in the space between the edge of the opening and the said surrounding frame, a panel disposed over the said opening to close the same and having a supporting flange adapted to rest upon the said gasket, said panel being hingedly connected with the said frame and clamping means carried by the said frame for engagement over the said flange of the panel whereby the latter is pressed upon the gasket to secure an air-tight and moisture-proof joint.

4. A casket of the hermetically sealed type having a hermetically-sealed inner cover provided with an opening, a flat frame secured to the said cover and surrounding the said opening in slightly spaced relation to the edge thereof, a gasket occupying the space between the edge of the opening and the said surrounding frame, a glass panel disposed over the opening to cover the same and having a supporting flange adapted to rest upon the said gasket, said flange being confined between opposite elements of the said frame and being hingedly connected to the latter along one side of the panel, a plurality of screws mounted in said frame coextensive with the sides of the said panel, and a plurality of clamping lugs each of which has one of its ends provided with an opening for one of the screws and its other end extending over the flange of the said panel for clamping the latter upon tightening the screw.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

ROBERT F. PADEN.