Oct. 18, 1932. E. G. DANIELS 1,883,600

COMBINED CASKET AND BURIAL VAULT

Filed Sept. 21, 1931

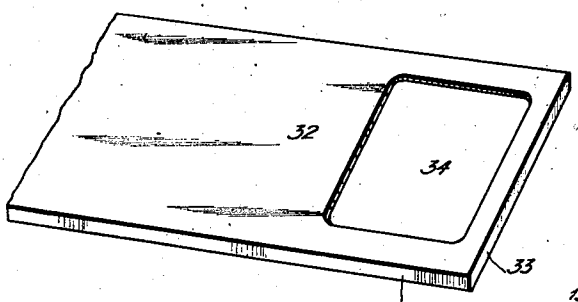


Fig. 4

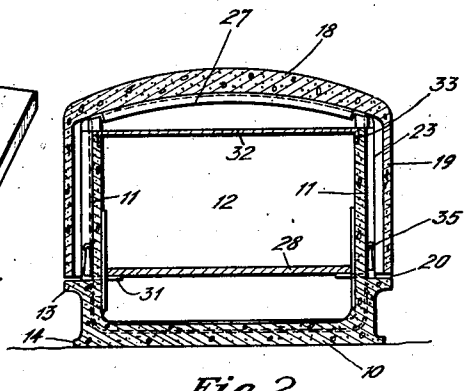


Fig. 2

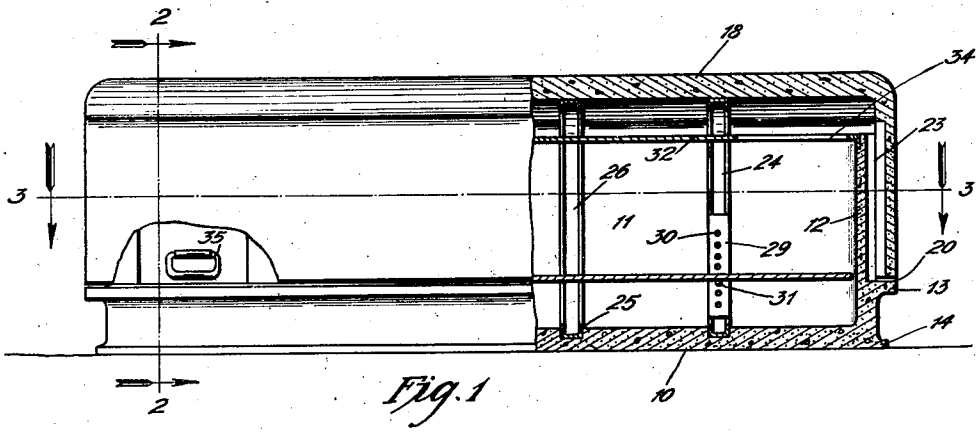


Fig. 1

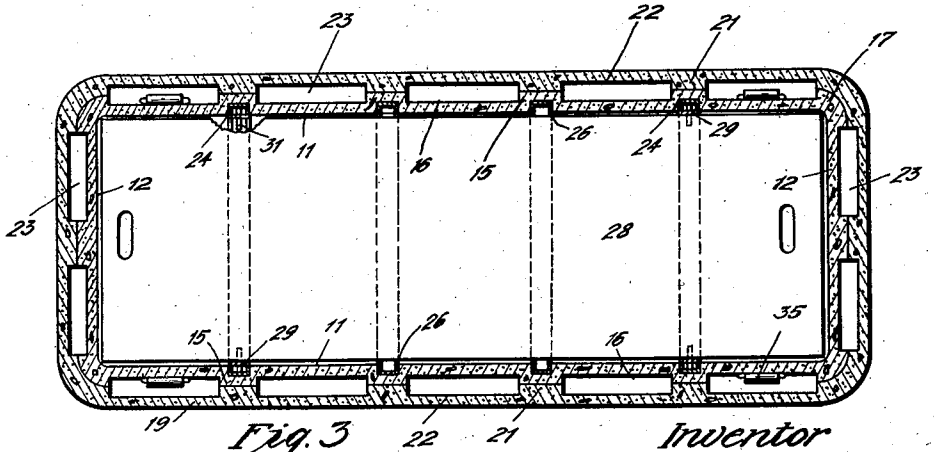


Fig. 3

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COMBINED CASKET AND BURIAL VAULT

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The object of my invention is to provide an improved burial vault which may be constructed of comparatively cheap and light material, in which the body or lower part of the vault may be utilized for a casket while the body is in state, and at the same time provide one member of a water tight burial vault, whereby the cover or top portion may be entirely eliminated during the time the body is in state, and placed in position immediately before burial.

A further object is to provide in a burial vault improved means for reinforcing the vault, and in connection therewith a table for supporting the corpse and means carried by the reinforcing members for adjustably supporting said table.

A further object is to provide a burial vault having a main body portion which may be utilized for a casket and a top portion for sealing the body in such a manner that water will be trapped against entering the interior of the casket, whereby both the casket and the cover may be constructed of plastic material, and in connection therewith improved means for reinforcing the body and cover member.

My invention consists in the construction, arrangement and combination of the various parts of the device, whereby the objects contemplated are attained, as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved burial vault, a portion of which is shown in section.

Figure 2 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of one end of the auxiliary cover.

In the accompanying drawing, I have used the reference numeral 10 to indicate the base or bottom of my improved vault. Said base has side members 11 and end members 12. The outer surface of the side and end members have an outwardly projecting flange or rib 13 located a slight distance above the bottom edge of the body. An ornamental flange 14 is provided at the lower edge of said body.

That portion of the outer surface of the side and end members above the flange 13 is provided with vertical ribs 15, so that grooves or recesses 16 are formed between the ribs 15. Each corner of the body is also preferably provided with a vertical rib 17.

A cover 18 is also provided having its side and end edges provided with a downwardly extending flange 19. The lower edge of the flange 19 terminates a slight distance above the flange 13 to leave an air space 20. The inner surface of the flange 19 is provided with vertical ribs 21 supported in alinement with the vertical ribs 15 to form recesses 22.

The parts are so arranged that when the cover 18 is placed in position, the ribs 15 register with the ribs 21, and the recess 16 with the recesses 22, to form air pockets 23. The upper ends of the air pockets 23 communicate with the interior of the body, and the lower ends of said air pockets communicate with the space 20.

By this arrangement it will be seen that if the cover 18 is placed in position as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, and if the vault should become partially or wholly submerged in water, then water will enter the space 20 and rise in the air pockets 23, causing the lower end of said pockets to be sealed as the level of the water rises and water to enter said pockets and cause air to be expelled and delivered to the interior of the vault, thereby increasing the air pressure within the vault to such extent that if the vault is buried at a normal depth, then water will not enter the interior of the vault, due to the fact that the air pressure within the water is greater than the weight of the water supported outside the vault.

By this arrangement it will be seen that the cover may be quite loosely fitted, and that no packing is necessary for sealing the vault.

The main body of the vault, as well as the cover is preferably formed of plastic material, especially prepared for this purpose, which is lighter than cement or concrete.

In order to reduce the weight of the main body of the vault without materially decreas-

ing its resistance against crushing due to the weight and pressure of dirt, I have provided in the body member a number of reinforcing bars 24 preferably formed of small channel irons, and having a horizontal portion 25 resting at the base of the body and vertical end members 26. The upper ends of the members 26 terminate near or slightly above the top edge of the side and end members 11 and 12.

The cover 18 is also provided with transversely arranged reinforcing bars 27, which are preferably formed of channel iron, having their ends terinating adjacent to the inner edges of the upper ends of the members 26, in the manner clearly illustrated in Figure 2, so that the ends of the members 27 will rest against the upper ends of the members 26 to support the sides 11 against inward movement. The members 27 also reinforce the top 18 against bending, and assist in carrying the weight of the dirt carried by said top.

Supported within the main body, I have provided a table 28 for supporting the corpse. For supporting the table 28 I have provided plates 29 welded to the inner edge of the front and back members 26. Said plates have a series of openings 30 which also extend into the web of the members 26. Each of the plates 30 is provided with a pin 31 which provides means for supporting the table 28. The openings 30 provide means whereby the pins may be elevated or lowered, so that the table 28 may be carried at various elevations. If desired, one side of the table may be supported above the other, or one end above the other end by the proper manipulation of the pins 31.

Supported in the upper end of the body I have provided an auxiliary cover 32. The edges of the cover 32 are preferably provided with downwardly extending flanges 33, said flanges resting in suitable grooves 34 formed in the upper edge of the side and end members. The cover 32 is preferably formed of thin sheet metal, which may be covered with any desired finishing material, such as cloth.

One end of the cover 32 has an opening 34 through which the head and shoulders of the corpse may be viewed without removing the cover, and without the use of glass or similar material. The cover 32 rests in the grooves in such a manner that it may be easily and quickly removed or placed in position without tools or fastening devices.

Supported in front and back recesses 16 of each side is a handle 35, which provides means whereby the main body of the vault may be carried when the cover 18 is removed, and at the time the body of the vault is being used as a casket.

Thus it will be seen that I have provided a combined casket and burial vault which is comparatively simple and which may be formed of comparatively cheap, non-corrosive and durable material, and so arranged that the main body of the vault may be utilized for a casket when the cover is removed, and which is comparatively light due to the manner in which it is reinforced and due to the fact that the cover is entirely removed while the body is in state.

It will further be seen that I have provided means whereby the casket may be converted into a water tight vault by simply placing the loosely fitted cover in position.

On account of the cover and body being constructed with vertically arranged air pockets, it will be seen that all expensive and exact machine work or other close fitting parts are eliminated, thus providing a vault which may be very cheaply constructed.

I claim as my invention:

1. A burial vault comprising a water and air tight body portion having side and end members, a cover having its edges provided with a downwardly extending flange overlapping the upper end of the side and end members, the adjacent surface of said overlapping portions being fluted to form vertical air pockets having their lower ends communicating with the exterior surface of said vault, and their upper ends with the interior thereof, whereby water submerging the vault will cause a displacement of air within said pockets and a pressure created in said vault to exclude water therefrom.

2. A burial vault comprising a water and air tight body portion having side and end members, a cover having its edges provided with a downwardly extending flange overlapping the upper end of the side and end members, the adjacent surface of said overlapping portions being fluted to form vertical air pockets having their lower ends communicating with the exterior surface of said vault, and their upper ends with the interior thereof, whereby water submerging the vault will cause a displacement of air within said pockets and a pressure created in said vault to exclude water therefrom, the inner surface of said body having upright reinforcing bars, the under surface of said cover having transversely arranged reinforcing bars supported with their ends in contact with the inner edges of the upper ends of said vertical reinforcing bars.

3. A burial vault comprising a water and air tight body portion having side and end members, a cover having its edges provided with a downwardly extending flange overlapping the upper end of the side and end members, the adjacent surface of said overlapping portions being fluted to form vertical air pockets having their lower ends communicating with the exterior surface of said vault, and their upper ends with the interior thereof, whereby water submerging

the vault will cause a displacement of air within said pockets and a pressure created in said vault to exclude water therefrom, the inner surface of said body having upright reinforcing bars, the under surface of said cover having transversely arranged reinforcing bars supported with their ends in contact with the inner edges of the upper ends of said vertical reinforcing bars, pins adjustably mounted in a number of said vertical reinforcing bars, and a table carried by said pins.

4. A burial vault comprising a base having upright side and end members, reinforcing bars projecting transversely of the said base having their ends terminating in upright reinforcing bars supported adjacent to the inner surface of said side members and their upper ends terminating near the top edge thereof, a cover having its edges provided with a flange overlapping the side and end members, said cover having transversely arranged reinforcing bars with their ends in contact with the inner surface of the upper ends of said upright reinforcing bars.

5. A burial vault comprising a water and air tight body portion having side and end members, a cover having its edges provided with a downwardly extending flange overlapping the upper end of the side and end members, the adjacent surface of said overlapping portions being fluted to form vertical air pockets having their lower ends communicating with the interior surface of said vault, and their upper ends with the interior thereof, whereby water submerging the vault will cause a displacement of air within said pockets and a pressure created in said vault to exclude water therefrom, the inner surface of said body having upright reinforcing bars, the under surface of said cover having transversely arranged reinforcing bars supported with their ends in contact with the inner edges of the upper ends of said vertical reinforcing bars, pins adjustably mounted in a number of said vertical reinforcing bars, a table carried by said pins, and an auxiliary cover carried by the upper ends of said side and end members, said cover having an opening at one end.

6. A burial vault comprising a base having upright side and end members, reinforcing bars projecting transversely of the said base having their ends terminating in upright reinforcing bars supported adjacent to the inner surface of said side members and their upper ends terminating near the top edge thereof, a cover having its edges provided with a flange overlapping the side and end members, said cover having transversely arranged reinforcing bars with their ends in contact with the inner surface of the upper ends of said upright reinforcing bars, some of said upright reinforcing bars having openings, and a pin for each set of openings, a table carried by said pins.

7. A burial vault comprising a casket portion and a cover portion, the side and end edges of said cover having a downwardly extending flange overlapping the outer surface of the upper end of said casket, the adjacent surface of said casket and said cover being fluted vertically to form air pockets, the ribs of one fluted surface being in contact with the ribs of the other fluted portion.

EVAN G. DANIELS.