April 12, 1938. H. J. MERKEL 2,113,922

EVERGREEN GRAVE COVER

Filed Oct. 23, 1937

Fig. 1.

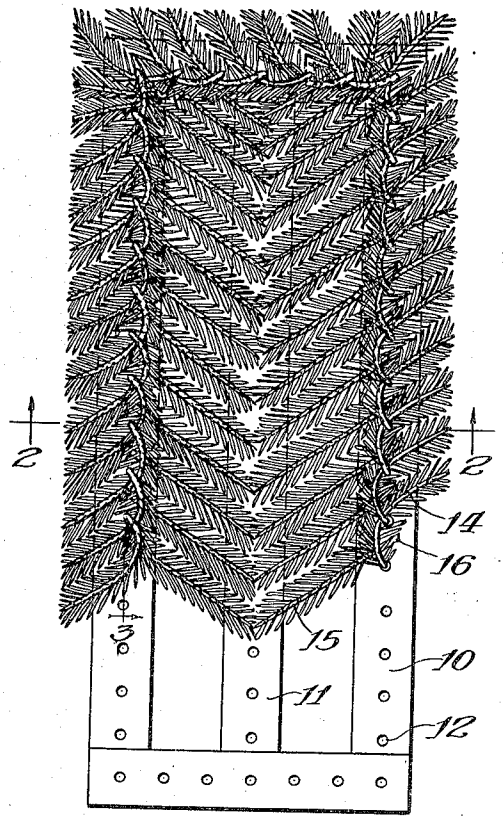


Fig. 4.

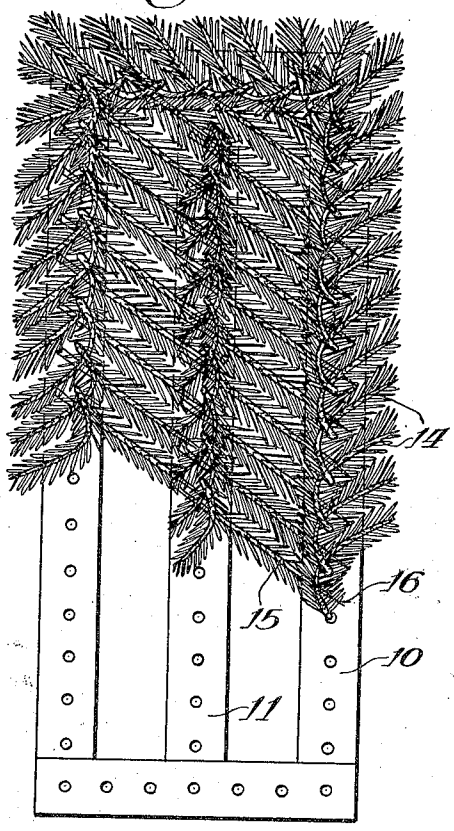


Fig. 2.

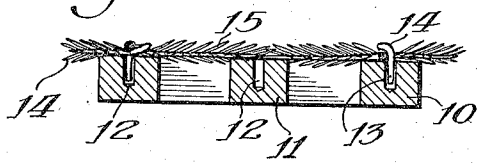


Fig. 5.

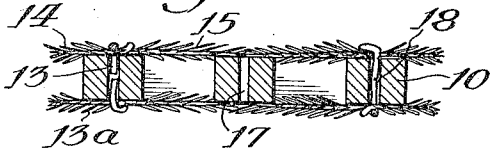


Fig. 3.

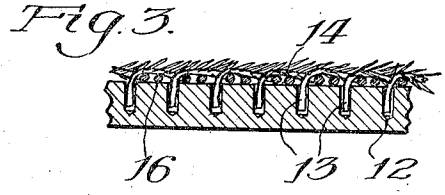
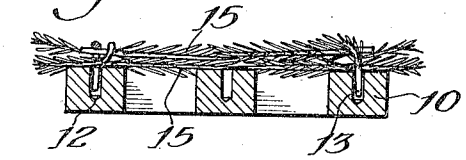


Fig. 6.



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2,113,922

EVERGREEN GRAVE COVER

Henry J. Merkel, Bellwood, Ill.

Application October 23, 1937, Serial No. 170,565

6 Claims. (Cl. 27—30)

This invention relates to improvements in blankets formed of evergreens suitable for covering graves or for other decorative or ornamental purposes.

An object of this invention is to provide an evergreen blanket or grave cover formed of intertwined and interlocked branches of evergreens, without the use of tying cords, threads, wires, nails or other binding materials.

Another object is to provide an evergreen grave cover which is adapted to remain in a verdant state for a long period, and which can be conveniently stored, transported, and handled.

Further objects relate to the method of forming the grave covering, the intertwining and interlocking of the laminiferous evergreen branches to form a well bound structure which can withstand rough usage and weather conditions, and to produce a structure which cannot readily be blown away or have its form or design disrupted by winds.

Other objects relate to economies of structure, method of formation, and the arrangement of parts, which will be apparent from a consideration of the following description and drawing, wherein;—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of my invention showing an evergreen blanket partially formed, and secured to a base member.

Fig. 2 is a transverse section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of my invention illustrating an evergreen blanket partially formed and secured to a base member showing a modified manner of intertwining and interlocking the evergreen branches.

Fig. 5 is a transverse section similar to Fig. 2, but of a modified construction showing an evergreen blanket formed on both faces of the form.

Fig. 6 is a transverse section similar to Fig. 2, but illustrating another modified form of a blanket comprising several layers of evergreen blanketing material formed on a single face of the base form.

Referring to the drawing, 10 indicates a base or form member constructed of any suitable material, such as wood, metal or plastics, and is preferably of rectangular form of any desirable length and width. Also, while the drawing shows my preferred form of a base member comprising narrow strips of material formed in a frame having the approximate outline of the blanket or decorative cover, with a longitudinal strut, it will readily be seen that it can be formed of a solid slab or block of material, or when in outline form it may or may not have one or more intermediate struts 11.

Extending into the face of the form are a series of spaced openings 12. These openings extend at least around the outline of the form adjacent its marginal edges, and may also be formed along the strut members, or may be formed in some other arrangement to produce a definite pattern.

The evergreen laminiferous material shown in the drawing, and which is most suitable for forming grave coverings consists of short branches having acicular leaves, such as branches of various pine trees. In forming the blanket on the base form, by my preferred manner of construction, I utilize two general series of branches, one series being engaged to the form and intertwined with each other, and a second series held in place by the formations of the first series.

As shown by the drawing, one end 13 of the branches 14 are inserted into openings 12 which are of a diameter conforming substantially to the diameter of the branch ends so that they firmly seat therein. These branches are then bent downwardly against the face of the form and the free exterior ends of each branch are partially looped around the stem of a preceding branch, to thus form a substantially flat series of intertwined branches, the free edges of which overhang the peripheral margin of the form 10, to substantially conceal it. The second series of branches 15 have one end of their stems 16 inserted under the loops of the branches 14, which are tightly drawn so that the stems 16 are firmly held against the frame 10, and extend laterally and inwardly therefrom, and are thus adapted to lie flat in the plane of the blanket. In completing the assembly of the last branch of the peripheral series, after inserting the last stem into its base opening, the free end of the branch is inserted underneath the adjacent looped branch by either slightly withdrawing the free end of said looped branch and loosening it or withdrawing its stem partially or fully from its seat and twining the free end of the last branch around that stem, after which the assembly may be completely locked by re-seating the stem and tightly drawing the free ends of the branches. Likewise the last branch of any transverse series may be inserted underneath an adjacent loop of another already formed series. These branches 15 may be arranged in a symmetrical pattern, as for example, the herringbone formation of Fig. 1, and conceal the remaining

portion of the base or frame, to form a continuous evergreen blanket.

It will readily be seen that the branches of the first series may be intertwined in any other suitable manner, and there may be one or more branches inserted into each opening in the frame. Also there may be one or more branches of the laterally extending series inserted into the loop of the first series, and they may be symmetrically formed into other suitable patterns.

In Fig. 1 the strut 11 serves to both bolster the frame and to form a rest for the free ends of the branches 15. However, in Fig. 2, which shows a modified construction, a series of intertwined branches are formed on the strut with their ends inserted into a series of openings thereon. In this form the laterally extending series of branches may have their free ends locked under the loops of the intertwined branches along the center strut. Also each lateral row of branches 15 may have only one end locked under the series of loops on adjacent frame members, such as one longitudinal edge member and the strut, or when a larger frame having more cross members is used, laterally extending branch series may extend from each row of intertwined branches.

Fig. 5 shows another modified construction wherein the openings 17 extend through the frame 10 from one face to the other, so that a blanket of evergreens may be formed in the manner above set forth on both faces of the form, whereby branch ends 13 extend into the openings 17 from one face, and branch ends 13a from the opposed face. Also, and more conveniently, a single branch 18 may be drawn through the openings 12 and the intertwining structure formed on each face by means of the respective free ends.

Another modified structure is shown in Fig. 6 wherein the blanket is formed of several thicknesses of intertwined and interlocked branches, and which may likewise be formed on both faces of the form.

It will also readily be seen that the laterally extending series of branches may be engaged between other portions of the intertwined and looped branches, and that other methods of intertwining may be used, and the whole overgreen blanket may be pre-formed and later joined to the frame or base form member. I therefore do not wish to be restricted to the shown and described details except as limited by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A decorative structure comprising a base member and a covering therefor extending over the peripheral edges thereof and therebetween, the said covering comprising at least a marginal formation of intertwined evergreen laminiferous material affixed to said base member, and evergreen laminiferous material interlocked by means of said intertwined formation and extending inwardly therefrom and lying substantially in the plane of said base member.

2. A decorative structure comprising a base member having a plurality of spaced holes formed adjacent the peripheral edges thereof, and an evergreen laminiferous cover therefor, the said cover comprising branches of evergreens having their stems positioned in said holes and having their free ends intertwined and lying adjacent said edges, and additional branches having at least one of their ends engaged by said intertwined branches and extending inwardly and substantially laterally therefrom.

3. A grave covering comprising a blanket formed of intertwined and interlocked laminiferous evergreen branches, a base member therefor, a series of spaced apart perforations in said base member, and a plurality of branch ends extending from said blanket and perpendicular to the plane thereof adapted to be seated in said perforations and to thereby form an engagement with said base.

4. A grave cover comprising a blanket formed of intertwined and interlocked evergreen laminiferous material, a base member therefor, series of spaced apart perforations formed in said base member, series of intertwined evergreen material having their stem ends seated in said perforations and series of interlocked evergreen material engaged by said intertwined series and extending laterally therefrom and therebetween over the face of said base member.

5. A grave cover comprising a supporting member formed with series of spaced apart perforations, and evergreen laminiferous blanketing material extending over the faces of said supporting member, series of intertwined evergreen material engaged to said supporting member by means of said perforations, and additional series of evergreen material having their branch ends interlocked by said intertwined series and extending therefrom in a plane parallel to the plane of the surface of said supporting member, and thereover.

6. A grave covering comprising a grid-like base member and a blanket thereover comprising intertwined and interlocked branches of laminiferous evergreens, spaced apart openings extending into the bars of said grid and seating the stems of said intertwined branches, the said branches being intertwined by having their free ends partially looped around the stems of adjacent branches and lying against said grid or the bars thereof, and additional branches having at least one end of their stems engaged or locked by said intertwined stems and extending therefrom over said grid in symmetrical formation in a plane parallel to its surfaces to form a continuous covering therefor.

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