

J. T. SUIT.
BURIAL VAULT.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 31, 1909.

947,402.

Patented Jan. 25, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

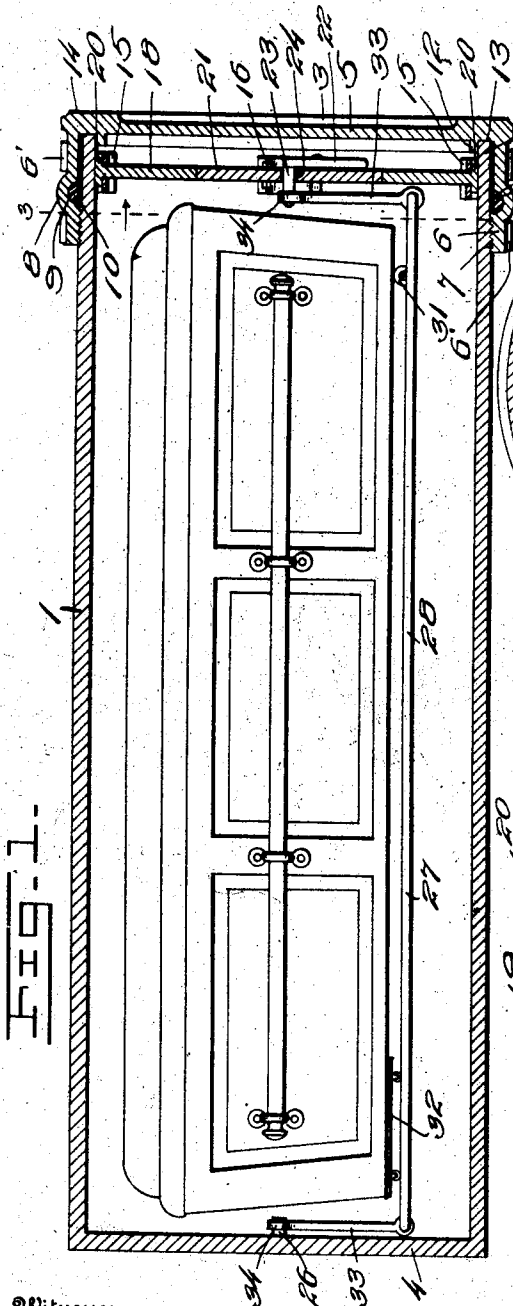


FIG. 1.

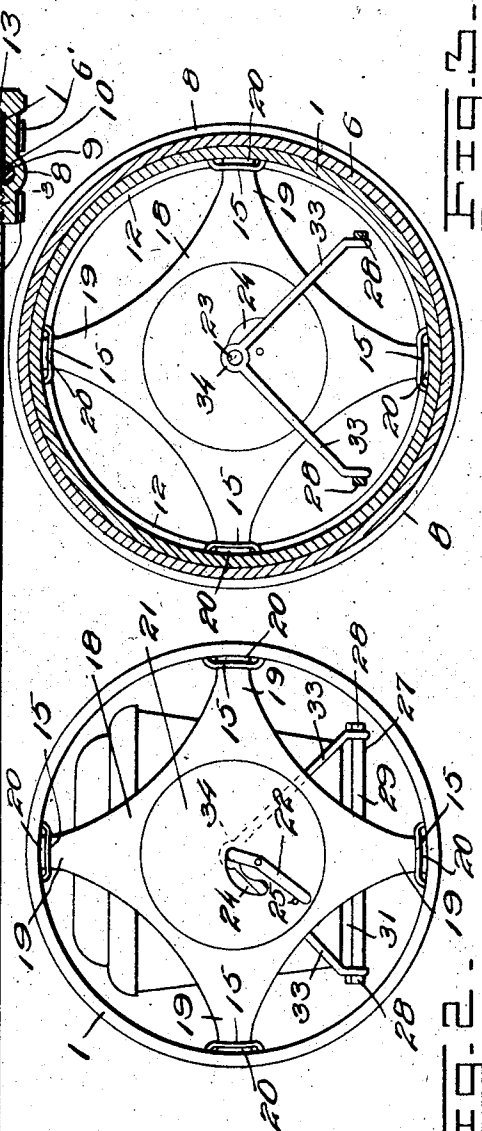


FIG. 2.

Witnesses
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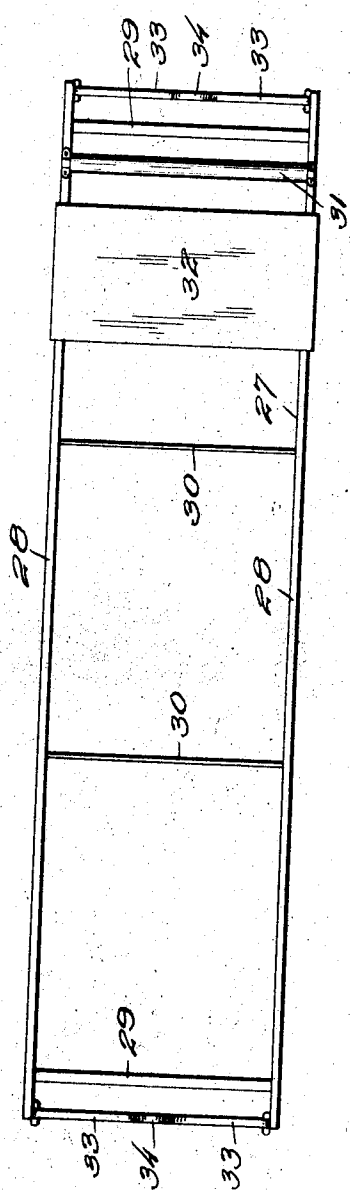


FIG. 4.

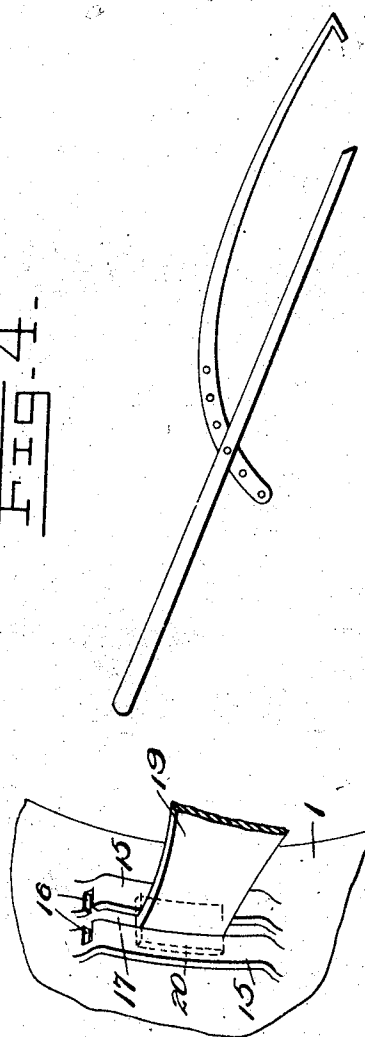


FIG. 6.

FIG. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES T. SUIT, OF PAOLA, KANSAS.

BURIAL-VAULT.

947,402.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 25, 1910.

Application filed March 31, 1909. Serial No. 486,963.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES T. SUIT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Paola, in the county of Miami and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful improvements in Burial-Vaults, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to burial vaults and more particularly to a vault which will be absolutely water-tight in construction.

Another object is to provide a vault which may be readily moved from place to place without altering the position of the casket which has been previously deposited therein.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved vault closure by means of which the vault will be hermetically sealed.

A still further object is to provide improved means for supporting and raising the casket out of contact with the sides of the vault.

With these and other objects in view the present invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes in the specific structure shown and described may be made within the scope of the claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings forming a portion of this specification, and in which like numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section through my improved burial vault, Fig. 2 is an end view of the same with the closure removed, Fig. 3 is a cross section taken on the line 3-3 of Fig. 1, Fig. 4 is a plan view of the casket-supporting rack, Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of a fragment of the interior of the vault illustrating the means for locking the supporting plate, Fig. 6 is a side elevation of the wrench employed in securing the closure upon the end of the vault.

Referring to the drawings, 1 indicates my improved vault which is preferably cylindrical in form and has one of its ends closed by means of the removable head 3, the other end 4 being cast solid. The head 3 comprises the plate 5 of slightly greater diameter than the body of the vault, and has

formed integrally therewith the annular flange 6, the end of which is interiorly threaded as at 7. The flange 6 is formed approximately midway of its length, with an annular bead or rib 8 having on its inner face a groove 9. In this groove is adapted to be seated the hollow rubber gasket 10 which has frictional engagement with the outer circumference of the vault 1. At a point adjacent to the end of the vault, are provided the screw-threads which mesh with the threads 7 on the flange of the head 3 to secure the same upon the end of the vault. The end plate 5 is formed with a second inwardly projecting annular flange 12 in spaced relation to the flange 6 but much shorter than the same, thus forming the shallow groove 13, and providing a seat for the outer end of the vault 1. The flange 6 is also provided with protuberances 6' by means of which a firm hold may be secured with the wrench when it is desired to close the vault. The exterior surface of the head may be formed with an enlarged section 14 upon which any lettering may be placed.

Upon the interior surface of the vault, adjacent to the end provided with the head 3, are the outwardly extending spaced guides 15 formed integral therewith and having oppositely disposed vertical slots 16 which communicate with the guide slots 17, as shown in Fig. 5. In the drawings, I have shown four of these guides, though it will be understood that a greater or less number may be employed. Arms 19, which extend outwardly from a centrally disposed supporting plate 18, are provided with rectangular guide blocks 20, which are of such dimensions that they may be inserted through the slots 16 and be confined between the guides 15 and the interior circumference of the vault. In the plate 18 is secured a central disk 21, upon the outer surface of which is pivotally mounted the lever 22. The disk 21 may be threaded in a central opening formed in the plate 18, as shown in Fig. 1. One end of this lever is disposed at an angle and is provided with a stud 23 which moves in an arcuate slot 24, formed in the disk 21, when the lever is operated. A stop 25 is secured to said disk to limit the movement of the lever as will be later described. Upon the inner end of the stud 23, and a similar stud 26 cast integral with

the closed end 4 of the vault, is pivotally supported the rack 27 which will now be described in detail.

The rack 27 comprises the side bars 28, the cross bar 29 connecting said side bars at their opposite ends and the stay rods 30. A roller 31, having bearings in the side bars 28 and spaced from the bar 29, materially assists in the placing of the casket upon the rack. A truck 32 is also mounted upon the side bars 28 and is adapted to support the front end of the casket, as it is being inserted into the vault. To the ends of the side bars are pivotally connected the angularly disposed, inwardly extending rods 33 which are provided at their meeting ends with a single eye 34 integrally formed therewith. These eyes are adapted to be placed over the studs 23 and 26 thus supporting the casket rack. The stud 26 is not in longitudinal alinement with the stud 23 until the casket has been placed upon the rack and lever 22 operated to raise the same to a horizontal position. When the parts are in this position, the upper end of the lever 22 has passed the pivotal point of the same and the lower end bears against the stop 25 thus preventing the continuous movement of the lever due to the weight of the casket.

In placing the casket within the vault, the plate 18 is removed, and the rear end of the rack is supported upon the stud 26. The rack assumes a longitudinally inclined position from the rear to the front of the vault, and the end of the casket is placed upon the truck 32. The casket is now forced to the rear end of the vault, and the plate 18 positioned in the front open end thereof, the arms 19 being engaged in the guides 15. The forward end of the casket and rack is elevated until the eye 34 formed upon the upper end of the rod 33 is engaged over the stud 23 carried upon the end of the lever 22. The weight of the casket will cause the lever to be moved to the position shown in Fig. 2, wherein the casket and rack are securely held against further downward movement by means of the stop pin 25. The positioning of the casket within the vault may be very quickly accomplished, and securely confined therein by means of the end closure plate 5.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have provided a burial vault, which may be moved from place to place or even rolled upon the ground without displacing the casket contained therein.

While the vault would preferably be constructed of cast iron, I do not wish to be limited thereto as there are many other materials which would serve equally as well. My improved vault is also absolutely waterproof by reason of the peculiar construction of the screw threaded head.

In Fig. 3 I have illustrated a wrench

which is admirably adapted for turning the head 3, though it will be understood that any form of wrench may be used.

What is claimed is:

1. A burial vault comprising in combination, a cylindrical vault casing having one of its ends closed, a removable head upon the other end of said vault, a removable supporting plate in said vault casing, and studs extending inwardly from said plate and the rear end of the vault casing adapted to pivotally support a casket rack.

2. A burial vault comprising in combination, a cylindrical vault casing having one of its ends closed, a removable head upon the other end of said vault, a removable supporting plate in said casing, a disk secured in said plate, a lever pivoted to said disk, having an inwardly projecting stud formed upon one end thereof, and a stud extending inwardly from the rear closed end of the vault, said studs being adapted to pivotally support a casket rack.

3. A burial vault comprising in combination a cylindrical vault casing having one of its ends closed, a removable head upon the other end of said vault, a supporting plate within said casing provided with arms removably secured in guides formed upon the interior surface of said vault, a casket-supporting rack having its rear end pivotally secured to said casing, a disk secured in said supporting plate, an arcuate slot in said disk, a lever pivoted to said disk having a lug upon its outer end adapted to project through said slot, and adapted to support the other end of said rack, and a stop for limiting the movement of said lever.

4. A burial vault comprising in combination a cylindrical vault casing having one of its ends closed, a removable head upon the other end of said vault casing, a supporting plate provided with outwardly extending arms, said arms being removably secured in guides formed upon the inner surface of said vault, a casket rack having upwardly and inwardly extending pivoted arms, an inwardly projecting lug upon the closed end of said vault casing and said supporting plate whereby the rack will be maintained in a horizontal position.

5. A burial vault comprising in combination a cylindrical vault casing having one of its ends closed, a removable head upon the other end of said vault, a rack pivotally supported within said vault casing and comprising two parallel side bars, a cross bar secured to the ends of said side bars, a roller mounted between said side bars, upwardly and inwardly extending pivoted arms secured to the ends of said side bars and provided with eyes at their upper ends, a platform movably mounted upon said side bars, and stay rods connecting said side bars and spacing the same.

6. A burial vault comprising in combination, a vault casing, a casket rack pivotally supported within said vault, and a lever connected to one end of said rack adapted
5 to elevate the casket to a central horizontal position in said vault.

7. A burial vault comprising in combination, a vault casing having one of its ends closed, a removable head upon the other end
10 of said vault, a removable supporting plate

in said vault casing, a casket rack disposed within said vault, and a lever pivoted to said supporting plate adapted to elevate said rack and casket.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, 15
in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES T. SUIT.

Witnesses:

FRED T. SPANOBLE,
WM. CROWELL, JR.