Nov. 11, 1958 C. D. JARVIS 2,859,505

CASKET MATTRESS

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Fig. 1.

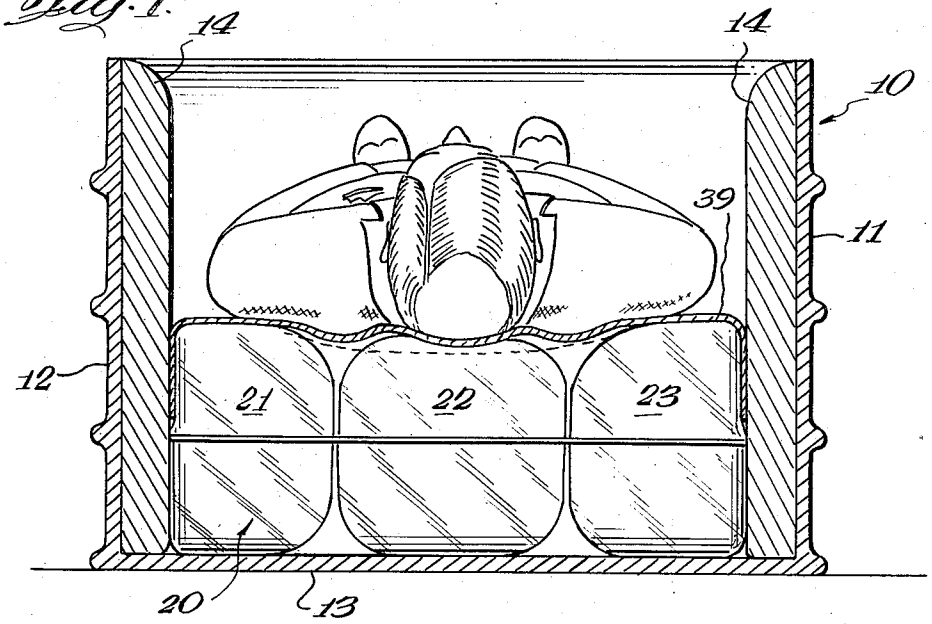
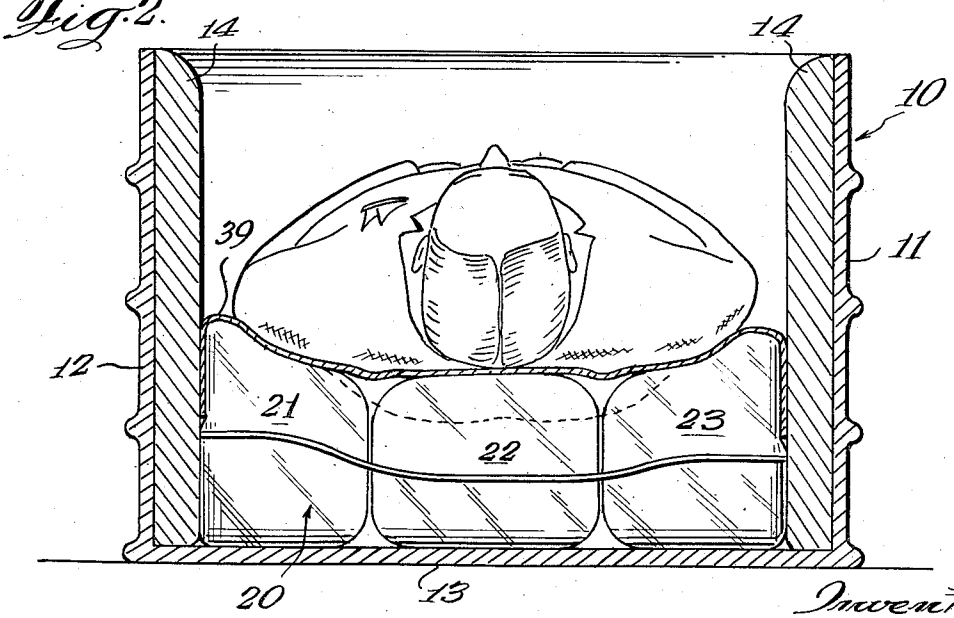


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

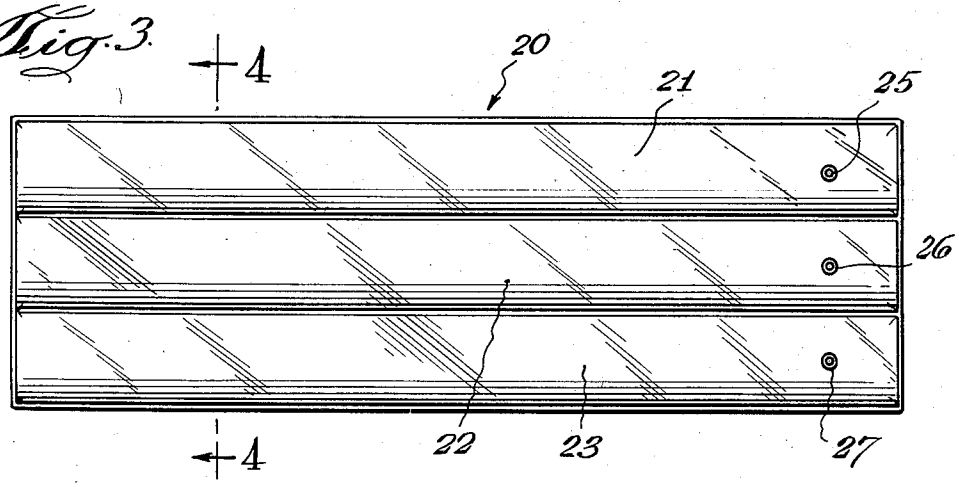


Fig. 4.

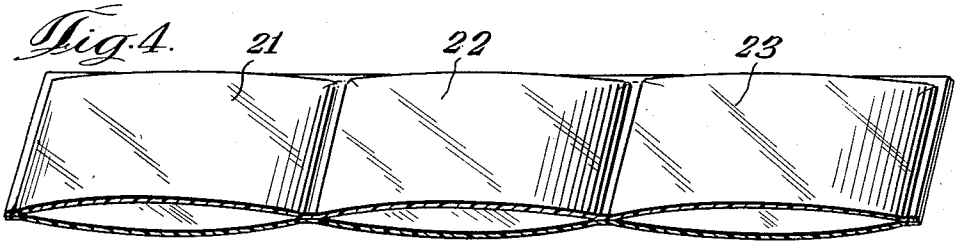
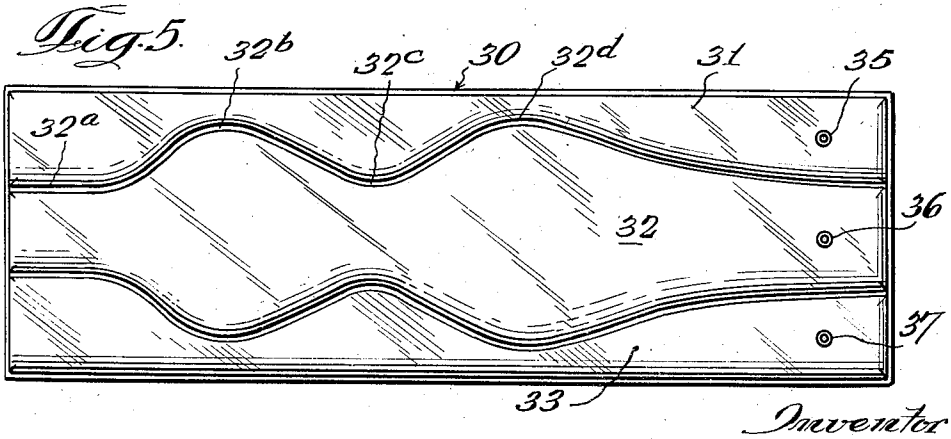


Fig. 5.



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CASKET MATTRESS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 27—12)

This invention relates to a casket mattress and more particularly to a casket mattress so constructed and arranged as to permit adjustment of the body in the casket and to firmly hold the body in adjusted position.

It is the general object of this invention to produce a new and improved casket mattress of the character described.

It has been customary to furnish caskets with thin, relatively inexpensive, cotton pads to serve as mattresses. Such mattresses are relatively heavy and serve little or no purpose other than to aid in the sales of caskets by their inclusion as a part thereof. The normal cotton mattress, while providing a relatively soft platform for the body, occasionally becomes contaminated due to the leakage of fluids from the body of the deceased and often must be replaced, particularly where the body is to lie in state for several days.

Caskets are normally built to standard sizes and the mortician is often faced with the problem of trying correctly to position the body in the casket to present the deceased in the most favorable position. This task is sometimes difficult inasmuch as the deceased might have been an extremely paunchy, heavy individual or a slight, slim person. In the former case the paunch becomes extremely noticeable when the deceased is laid out in the casket, while in the latter case the deceased seems to be almost invisible therein.

According to the present invention, however, there is provided a mattress which may be adjusted to elevate the entire body, if it be that of a slight person, or to relatively elevate and depress portions of the body so as to present the deceased in a more favorable position. Furthermore, the mattress of the present invention may be made of sanitary plastic material which is readily cleaned and thus need not be replaced even though fluids are exuded from the body but rather need merely be cleaned. An additional feature of the mattress of the present invention is that by its construction it may serve more firmly to support the body in position in the casket so that jostling, etc. in handling or shipping the casket does not disturb the remains.

Other features and advantages of the casket mattress of the present invention will be readily apparent from the following description and drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is an end view showing a portion of a casket in cross-section together with the mattress of the present invention in use therein;

Fig. 2 is a view like Fig. 1 showing the mattress in a differently adjusted condition;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of one form of mattress of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along line 4—4 of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 is a view like Fig. 3 showing a modified form of construction.

While this invention is susceptible of embodiments in many different forms, there are shown in the drawings and will herein be described in detail several embodiments, with the understanding that the present disclosure is to

be considered as an exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the invention to the embodiments illustrated. The scope of the invention will be pointed out in the appended claim.

Referring now to Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, there is shown a casket, generally designated **10**, having side walls **11** and **12** and a bottom **13**. Padding and decorative covering indicated at **14** may be provided along the inner side walls of the casket. In the bottom of the casket there is placed the mattress of the present invention, generally designated therein as **20**, with the mattress comprising three elongated air chambers designated **21, 22** and **23**, each separate from the other and joined together along their mating edges to form a single mattress. Preferably the mattress, when uninflated, has a length of 72 inches and a width of 36 inches, making each of the sections **21—23** 12 inches in width. When inflated the width of the sections decreases so that when installed in a casket as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the width is approximately 24 inches.

Each of the sections is provided with valve means, indicated at **25, 26** and **27**, so that the sections may be individually inflated. The degree of inflation of each of the sections relative to the other and the total inflation of all of the sections may be utilized to correctly position the remains in the casket. Thus, if the deceased was a relatively slight person who would normally lie very low in the casket, each of the sections may be inflated quite fully, as indicated in Fig. 1, so as to raise the entire body to a more favorable position. On the other hand, if the deceased was a relatively paunchy individual the normal cotton mattress would accentuate the paunch, displaying the remains in a most unfavorable manner. With the mattress of the present invention, however, the center section **22**, as seen in Fig. 2, may be less inflated than the two adjoining sections **21** and **23**. Thus, the center portion of the body of the deceased is at a depressed position relative to the side portions, including the shoulders. Thus, this arrangement serves to elevate the shoulders and at the same time to depress the abdomen.

It is of course clear that should the deceased have been a relatively large person, although not unduly overweight, the various sections may be inflated to a lesser degree, thus lowering the entire body in the casket.

A somewhat modified form of mattress is shown in Fig. 5, the mattress, generally indicated at **30**, therein comprising three sections **31, 32** and **33**, with the section **32** being contoured generally to the shape of the body having a narrow portion **32*a*** near the neck region, a somewhat larger portion **32*b*** at the region of the shoulders, a second constricted portion **32*c*** at the waist, and again an enlarged or widened portion **32*d*** at the higs. This particular configuration again assists in the adjustment of the body in the casket. The outer sections **31** and **33** have their outer edges straight while their inner edges of course conform to the edge of the inner section **32** so as, when completely assembled, to present an over-all generally rectangular mattress.

Each of the sections **31—33** is provided with valve means **35, 36** and **37** so as to permit inflation of each of the sections, with the degree of inflation depending upon the circumstances to be met.

As previously noted, the mattress is preferably made of a plastic material so as to be non-absorbent, and if desired may be covered with a velvet or silk covering, indicated at **39** in Figs. 1 and 2.

Being made preferably of plastic material, and in any event being inflatable, the mattress of the present invention is relatively light as compared with the cotton mattress previously employed, and thus a good deal of expense in shipping caskets may be avoided. Furthermore, the mattress, when inflated as indicated in Fig. 2, serves

more firmly to anchor the body in the casket as its flexible construction permits it more closely to conform to the body of the deceased and to bulge out around portions such as the edges of the body and shoulders so as firmly to hold the body in position.

I claim:

A casket mattress comprising three elongated tubes of plastic material joined together along their edges to form a substantially rectangular mattress with the inner of said sections being shaped to conform substantially to the shape of a body and with the outer sections having their outer edges substantially linear and their inner edges conforming to the edge of the inner section, and valve means on each of said tubes for introducing air thereinto to inflate the tubes.

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