Aug. 22, 1950 R. W. BROWN ET AL 2,519,633

SEALER CASKET

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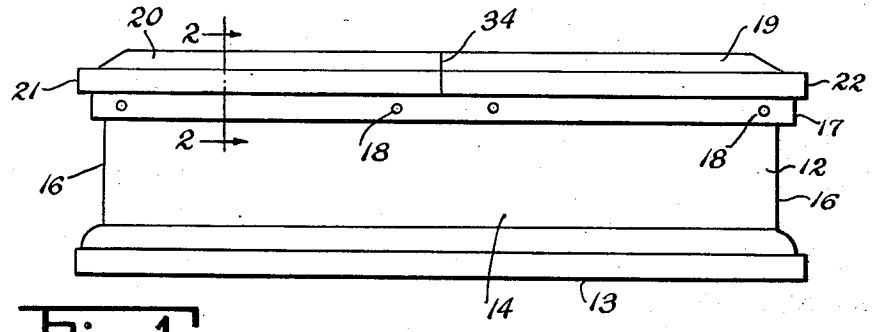


Fig. 1.

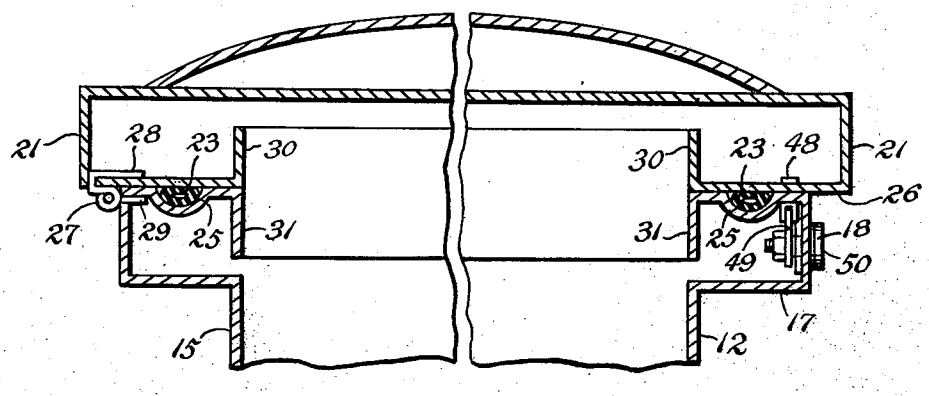


Fig. 2.

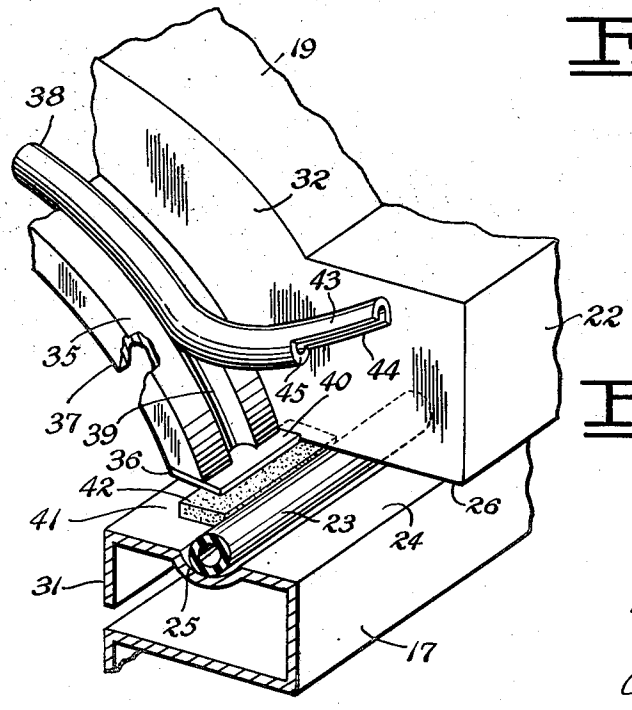


Fig. 3.

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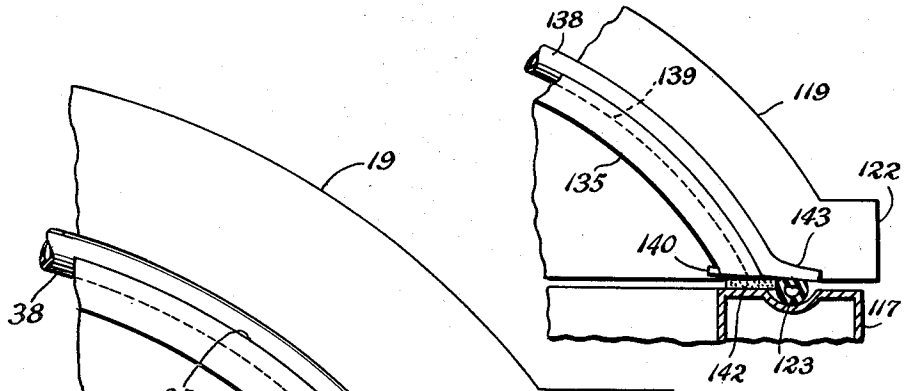


Fig. 6.

Fig. 4.

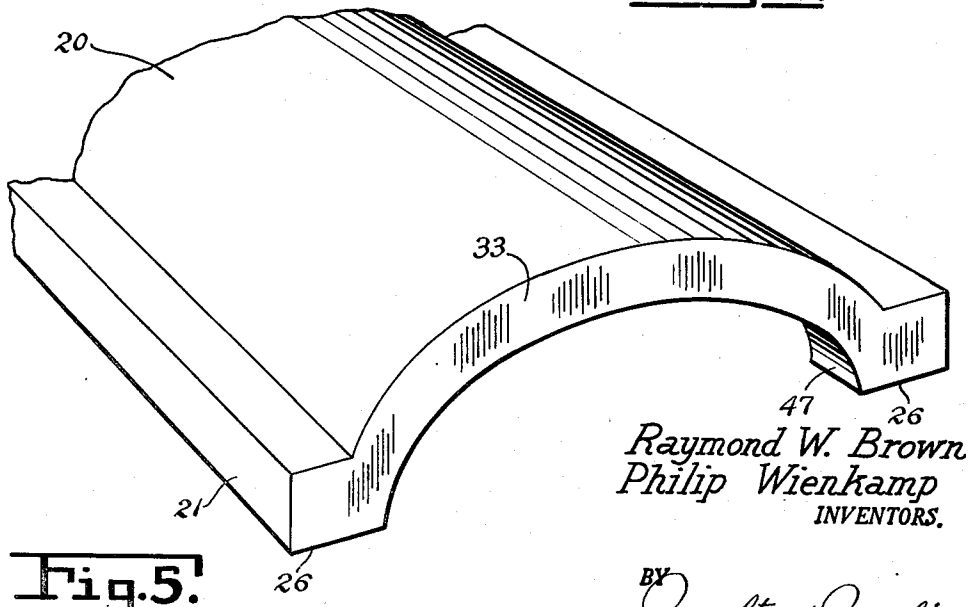


Fig. 5.

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SEALER CASKET

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Application March 4, 1947, Serial No. 732,200

8 Claims. (Cl. 27—17)

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The present invention relates to improvements in a burial casket of the perfection half-couch type, hereafter to be referred to as a split lid casket.

An object of the invention is to provide a split lid type of burial casket with a simple but effective means for sealing the lids in air-tight relationship with each other and with the body in the casket.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sealer type of burial casket, eliminating the customary plate glass closure ordinarily associated with caskets of the type mentioned.

A further object is to provide a casket of the class described that is of durable construction but inexpensive of manufacture.

Another object is to provide a casket of the split lid type, with sealing means utilizing a common form of gasketing material which is readily obtainable at low cost.

These and other objects and advantages are attained by the means described herein and illustrated upon the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a split lid type of casket embodying the improvements of the invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmental cross-sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmental perspective view of the casket, showing details of the sealing means in a displaced position, for convenience and clarity of the disclosure.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged cross-sectional view showing one lid section in position for latching engagement with the casket body rim.

Fig. 5 is a fragmental perspective view showing a second lid section adapted to cooperate with the lid section of Figs. 3 and 4, in sealing the casket at the parting line of the lid sections.

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 4, showing a modification.

The principal parts of the burial casket are illustrated by Fig. 1, wherein 12 indicates the body of the casket, the bottom of which is shown at 13. The body comprises a front wall 14, a rear wall 15, and end walls 16—16, the casket being substantially rectangular of configuration. The upper portion of the body is bounded by a peripheral hollow rim 17, and within said rim is housed a series of fastening devices 18 adapted for clamping the lid sections 19 and 20 onto the body portion 12. The fastening devices referred to form part of the subject matter of the co-pending patent application Serial No. 695,136, filed Sept. 6, 1946, now Patent No. 2,506,553, dated May 2, 1950, the applicants being Bernard J. Slaughter, Jr., and Raymond W. Brown. A full disclosure of the fastening devices may be had by referring to said patent application.

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For convenience of explanation, the lid section 20 of the casket may be regarded as the head section, whereas the section 19 may be considered the foot section of the bi-part lid. Head section 20 is provided with a hollow rim 21 extending about the front, rear and one end thereof, and a similar rim 22 is associated with the foot section 19. The lid sections may be furnished with any suitable form of cap panel, as is usual in the construction of burial caskets.

As may best be understood by reference to Fig. 3, the upper hollow rim 17 of the casket body, which extends continuously about the sides and ends thereof, is adapted to support a circumferential sealing element 23, upon which the lid sections may bear in providing a seal circumferentially about the casket rim. The sealing element 23 may be in the form of tube or cylinder fabricated of live rubber or any suitable rubber-like material characterized by its ability to yield and deform to a partially flattened condition when compressed between the rim of the body and the rims of the lid sections. The sealing element will normally be substantially circular in cross-section, and will preferably, though not necessarily, be of hollow tube formation. The upper face 24 of the rim 17 is depressed to form a continuous groove or seat 25 circumferentially of the rim, to accommodate the sealing element 23. Thus, it will be understood that grooves or seats such as 25 are formed in the front, rear and end sections of the rim 17, which extends all around the casket body. It should be noted that the groove or seat 25 is arcuate in form, the radius of which is greater than the radius of the sealing element. By so forming the grooves, provision is made for compressing and flattening the sealing element between the lower surface 26 of the lid rims 21 and 22 and the groove or seat 25, without displacing the sealing element outside the limits of the groove or seat when the lid sections are clamped tightly onto and in physical contact with the body of the casket. This construction assures substantial uniformity in the spreading of the sealing element when the casket is closed. The sealing element preferably will be cemented or otherwise fixed to its seat in the body rim 17, so as to obviate displacement as the lid sections are elevated and lowered in advance of final closing of the casket.

The lid sections are hinged to the casket body in a suitable manner, one form of hinge being shown at 27 in Fig. 2. In this instance, the leaves 28 and 29 of the hinge are welded or otherwise fixedly secured within the confines of the lid and body rims respectively. As will be noted by referring to Fig. 2, the rim portions of the lids flatly contact the rim portions of the body, while the sealing element 23 yields to deformation or partial flattening as the lid sections are tightly

closed. It is highly desirable that this metal to metal contact be achieved, in order that the sealing element may be fully protected against puncture or attack by the elements of the earth, or by such elements as may exist within a vault that might encase the casket. Moreover, the metal to metal contact assures maximum strength and rigidity for the entire assembly when closed and sealed.

The lid rims may be furnished interiorly of the lid with peripheral inner flanges 30, for the purpose of supporting and maintaining in place a suitable lining material for the lids. Similarly, the body rim 17 may be provided with a depending flange 31 to support the usual lining material for the casket body.

In the split lit type of casket shown upon the drawings, it is necessary to effect an auxiliary seal at the parting line of the lid sections, it being understood that the lid sections are separately movable about their respective hinge points 27. The manner of providing the auxiliary sealing means is clearly depicted by Figs. 3 and 4. Referring to these illustrations, it will be noted that the foot section 19 has a vertical inner end wall 32 adapted to meet the end wall 33 of the head section 20 (Fig. 5) when the casket is fully closed as illustrated by Fig. 1, wherein the parting of the lid sections is indicated at 34. Extending horizontally toward the head section 20 from the solid wall 32 of the foot section 19 is the metallic ledge 35, which spans the foot section 19 on a curve or arch, from a point 36 where the ledge meets the casket rim 17 to a similar point at the opposite side of the casket. A downwardly extending flange 37 may be formed integrally with the ledge 35 to provide the necessary rigidity and strength to withstand the force with which a transverse sealing element 38 is compressed when the lids are clamped onto the casket body. The sealing element 38 may be precisely the same as that indicated at 23, and will rest within a groove or seat 39 formed in substantially the same manner as the groove or seat 25, to accommodate the sealing element 38 in its compressed or partially flattened condition, as well as in its normal cylindrical form. That is to say, the groove or seat 39, like the groove or seat 25, is formed on a radius greater than the radius of its associated sealing element.

At the terminal end of the ledge 35, adjacent to the meeting point 36 a foot 40 is fixed thereto or formed thereon and extended horizontally outwardly to overlie that portion of the rim surface 24 which lies inwardly of the groove or seat 25, as indicated at 41. As shown, the foot 40 extends toward but does not contact, the sealing element 23. A small pad 42 of resilient substance, such as sponge rubber, is interposed between the foot 40 and the rim surface 41, and is preferably cemented or otherwise fixed against displacement to the rim surface 41. As indicated in Fig. 3, the rubber pad 42, the length of which may be slightly greater than that of the foot 40, is disposed upon the rim surface 41 in substantial contact with the sealing element 23, as shown at 46, and extends rearwardly to substantially the longitudinal median line of said foot. In order to assure a perfect seal at the parting line of the lid rims, the terminal end 43 of the sealing element 38 is brought over the top of the peripheral sealing element 23, as shown in Fig. 4. A portion of the terminal end 43 of the transverse sealing element 38 may be cut away, as indicated at 44 in Fig. 3, the resultant semi-circular face 45 abutting the top surface of the foot 40, with the semi-tubular portion 44 transversely overlying the rubber pad 42 and the body rim sealing element 23. It is to be understood, of course, that this construction is duplicated at the opposite side or rear of the casket.

Thus it will be seen that as the lid section 19 is closed, the clamping action of the fasteners 18 will force the under surface 26 of the lid rim into substantial contact with the upper surface 24 of the body rim, compressing the sealing element 23 into its groove or seat 25, while at the same time the foot 40 will compress the soft rubber pad 42. Thereafter, as the other lid section is swung into closed position, its rim will bear upon and distort the remainder of the sealing element 23, while at the same time the transverse sealing element 38 will be contacted by the seat or recess 47 of the lid 20, and distorted thereby to a partially flattened condition for completing the seal along the ledge 35 and the terminal ends 43 of the sealing element 38. Recess 47 spans the lid section 20 on a curve which corresponds to the curvature of the ledge 35, so that the metallic surface of 47 will rest upon the metallic ledge surface 35, while at the same time the seal is effected along the full length of the sealing element 38. As the camming action of the fastening devices forces the lid and body rims into substantial contact with each other, the soft resilient substance of the rubber pad 42 is forced into various recesses and overlaps adjacent the said pad, thereby effecting an air-tight seal at the parting line of the lid rims. The semi-tubular portion 44 is flattened upon closing the lid 20. The foot pieces 40 may be integral with the ledge member 35, or they may be in the form of thin metal plates welded or soldered thereto, as shown upon the drawings. The foot piece 40 may be disposed at a slight angle, as shown in Fig. 4, in order to compensate for possible bending of said foot piece as it is forced down upon the rubber pad 42 by the clamping action of the fasteners 18.

In the modification illustrated by Fig. 6, there is shown a slightly different cooperative relationship between the resilient or deformable pad applied to the body rim, and the terminal end of the transverse metallic support 135 for the gasket 138. In this instance the pad corresponding to pad 42 of Figs. 3 and 4, is indicated at 142, and it is applied to the body rim 117 in the same relationship to gasket 123 as was previously explained herein. The only substantial difference between Fig. 6 and Fig. 4, resides in the shortening of foot piece 140 so that said foot piece will not extend outwardly or toward the marginal gasket 123 to support the terminal end 143 of the transverse gasket. In other words, Fig. 6 proposes to modify Figs. 3 and 4 to the extent of eliminating that much of the foot as is shown extending to the right of ledge 35. According to Fig. 6, the foot 140 is extended in the opposite direction, or interiorly of the casket, rather than in the direction of the marginal gasket. By means of this construction, there will be no metal interposed between the gasket elements 138, 142 and 123 when the lids are closed upon the casket body, and yet the terminal end of the ledge element 135 performs the function of deforming the pad 142 and forcing it against the marginal gasket 123 to effect a tight seal as previously described in connection with Figs. 3 and 4. The same result may be obtained by eliminating the foot piece 140 entirely from the Fig. 6 construc-

tion, and this statement applies also to the constructions illustrated by Figs. 3 and 4. It is necessary, of course, that some part of the terminal end of the ledge element supporting the transverse gasket shall bear upon the deformable pad applied to the body rim. It will be understood that the gasket arrangement of Fig. 6 at the front of the casket, shall be duplicated at the opposite side or rear of the casket, so that the transverse seal is effected by the clamping action of the fasteners 18 after the lids have been moved to closing or covering position.

In the type of casket illustrated, it will ordinarily suffice to provide each lid section with two or three front latches, and a single end latch, which may be of the type illustrated and described in the aforementioned copending patent application, Serial No. 695,136. It will not ordinarily be necessary to provide latching devices at the rear of the casket, since the hinge 27 will exert the necessary clamping force at that location. As shown upon the accompanying drawings, the latch or fastening device is generally indicated by the symbol 18. The keeper plate 48 is fixed to the metal rim 20 by welding or the like, and is adapted to receive the cammed horn of the latch plate 49. Upon rotation of the exposed head 50 of the latch, a camming action is exerted upon the keeper plate 48, so that the lid rims will be brought into flatwise contact with the body rim, thus compressing the sealing elements 23 and 38, and the rubber pad 42, to the desired extent, for completing the circumferential seal and transverse seal of the casket. As disclosed in the patent application, Serial No. 695,136, suitable means are provided for sealing the various elements of the latch against entry of air, water and other extraneous matter into the casket.

It is to be understood that various modifications and changes in the structural details of the device may be made, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention. The latching means above described applies to Fig. 6, as well as to the preceding drawing figures.

What is claimed is:

1. In a casket of the character described, the combination of an elongated open-topped body having a head end and a foot end, and a circumferential rim defining the sides and ends of the body, a pair of lid sections hinged along one side of the body for movement to and from covering relationship with the open top of the body at opposite ends thereof, said lid sections having inner ends cooperating to form a closure when the lids are swung to a closing position upon the rim of the body, a circumferential compressible gasket on said rim for contacting the lid sections, an extending ledge on the inner end of one lid section and substantially spanning the width of the body within limits established by the gasket, a deformable pad on the body rim at each side of the casket at a point where the two lid sections meet, an outer edge of said deformable pad abutting an inner side of said circumferential gasket, a substantially flat foot piece at each end of the ledge to overlie the deformable pads in flatwise relation thereto and short of abutting relation with the circumferential gasket, a transverse compressible gasket substantially coextensive with the ledge and having terminal ends overlying the foot pieces and the circumferential gasket, a transverse sealing surface and rim on the other lid section, to overlie and compress the full length of the transverse gasket and the foot pieces upon the pad as said other lid section is closed upon the body, and means for maintaining the gaskets and the pads in compressed condition with the lid sections closed.

2. In a casket of the character described, the combination of an elongated open-topped body having a head end and a foot end, and a circumferential rim defining the sides and ends of the body, a pair of lid sections hinged along one side of the body for movement to and from covering relationship with the open top of the body at opposite ends thereof, said lid sections having inner ends cooperating to form a closure when the lids are swung to a closing position upon the rim of the body, a circumferential compressible gasket on said rim for contacting the lid sections, an extending ledge on the inner end of one lid section and substantially spanning the width of the body within limits established by the gasket, a deformable pad on the body rim at each side of the casket at a point where the two lid sections meet, an outer edge of said deformable pad abutting an inner side of said circumferential gasket, an outwardly extending substantially flat foot piece at each end of the ledge to overlie the deformable pads and short of abutting relation with the circumferential gasket, a transverse compressible gasket substantially coextensive with the ledge and having terminal ends overlying the foot pieces and the circumferential gasket, said ledge and body rim being provided with sealing grooves for the gaskets, which grooves exceed in width the width of the gaskets, a transverse sealing surface and rim on the other lid section, to overlie and compress the full length of the transverse gasket and the foot pieces upon the pad as said other lid section is closed upon the body, and means for maintaining the gaskets and the pads in compressed condition with the lid sections closed.

3. In a casket of the character described, the combination of an elongated open-topped body having a head end and a foot end, and a circumferential rim defining the sides and ends of the body, a pair of lid sections hinged along one side of the body for movement to and from covering relationship with the open top of the body at opposite ends thereof, said lid sections having inner ends cooperating to form a closure when the lids are swung to a closing position upon the rim of the body, a circumferential compressible gasket on said rim for contacting the lid sections, an extending ledge on the inner end of one lid section and substantially spanning the width of the body within limits established by the gasket, an impervious deformable pad on the body rim at each side of the casket at a point where the two lid sections meet, said pads each having an edge in contact with the circumferential gasket, an outwardly extending substantially flat foot piece at each end of the ledge to overlie the deformable pads and short of abutting relation with the circumferential gasket, a transverse compressible gasket substantially coextensive with the ledge and having terminal ends overlying the foot pieces and the circumferential gasket, a transverse sealing surface and rim on the other lid section, to overlie and compress the full length of the transverse gasket and the foot pieces upon the pad as said other lid section is closed upon the body, and means for maintaining the gaskets and the pads in compressed condition with the lid sections closed.

4. In a casket of the character described, the combination of an elongated open-topped body having a head end and a foot end, and a circumferential rim defining the sides and ends of the body, a pair of lid sections hinged along one side of the body for movement to and from covering relationship with the open top of the body at opposite ends thereof, said lid sections having inner ends cooperating to form a closure when the lids are swung to a closing position upon the rim of the body, a circumferential compressible gasket on said rim for contacting the lid sections, an extending ledge on the inner end of one lid section and substantially spanning the width of the body within limits established by the gasket, said ledge having terminal ends to overlie the body rim inside the circumferential gasket, a deformable pad on the body rim at each side of the casket and disposed for contact with the terminal ends of the extending ledge, an outer edge of said deformable pad abutting an inner side of said circumferential gasket, a transverse compressible gasket substantially coextensive with the ledge and having terminal ends overlying the circumferential gasket, a transverse sealing surface and rim on the other lid section to overlie and compress the transverse gasket, the pads, and the circumferential gasket with such force as to drive the terminal ends of the ledge into the material of the pads, and to deform the gaskets and the pads into contact with one another for effecting a seal as said other lid section is held closed upon the body.

5. In a casket of the character described, the combination of an elongated open-topped body having a head end and a foot end, and a circumferential rim defining the sides and ends of the body, a pair of lid sections hinged along one side of the body for movement to and from covering relationship with the open top of the body at opposite ends thereof, said lid sections having inner ends cooperating to form a closure when the lids are swung to a closing position upon the rim of the body, a circumferential compressible gasket on said rim for contacting the lid sections, an extending ledge on the inner end of one lid section and substantially spanning the width of the body within limits established by the gasket, said ledge having terminal ends to overlie the body rim inside the circumferential gasket, a deformable pad on the body rim at each side of the casket and disposed for contact with the terminal ends of the extending ledge, an outer edge of said deformable pad abutting an inner side of said circumferential gasket, a transverse compressible gasket substantially coextensive with the ledge and having terminal ends overlying the circumferential gasket, a transverse sealing surface and rim on the other lid section to overlie and compress the transverse gasket ends upon the circumferential gasket as the terminal ends of the ledge impinge upon the pads to effect a seal incident to closing of the lid sections upon the body of the casket.

6. In a casket of the character described, the combination of an elongated open-topped body having a head end and a foot end, and a circumferential rim defining the sides and ends of the body, a pair of lid sections hinged along one side of the body for movement to and from covering relationship with the open top of the body at opposite ends thereof, said lid sections having inner ends cooperating to form a closure when the lids are swung to a closing position upon the rim of the body, a circumferential compressible

gasket on said rim for contacting the lid sections, an extending ledge on the inner end of one lid section and substantially spanning the width of the body within limits established by the gasket, said ledge having terminal ends to overlie the body rim short of abutting relation with the circumferential gasket, a deformable pad on the body rim at each side of the casket and disposed for contact with the terminal ends of the extending ledge, an outer edge of said deformable pad abutting an inner side of said circumferential gasket, and transverse gasket means between the inner ends of the lids for sealing the joint therebetween.

7. In a casket of the character described, the combination of an elongated open-topped body having a head end and a foot end, and a circumferential rim defining the sides and ends of the body, a pair of lid sections hinged along one side of the body for movement to and from covering relationship with the open top of the body at opposite ends thereof, said lid sections having inner ends cooperating to form a closure when the lids are swung to a closing position upon the rim of the body, a circumferential compressible gasket on said rim for contacting the lid sections, an extending ledge on the inner end of one lid section and substantially spanning the width of the body within limits established by the gasket, said ledge having terminal ends to overlie the body rim short of abutting relation with the circumferential gasket, a deformable pad on the body rim at each side of the casket and disposed for contact with the terminal ends of the extending ledge, an outer edge of said deformable pad abutting an inner side of said circumferential gasket and transverse gasket means between the inner ends of the lids for sealing the joint therebetween, said transverse gasket means having ends contacting the pads when the lid sections are closed upon the body rim.

8. The combination with a casket including an elongated open topped body, a circumferential rim defining the sides and ends of the body, a pair of lid sections hinged along one side of the body for movement to and from covering relation, a circumferential gasket on said rim for contacting the lid sections, an extending ledge on the inner end of one lid section and substantially spanning the width of the body inside the circumferential gasket, and a transverse gasket on said ledge, of a seal between the lid sections and the rim which comprises a deformable pad attached to the rim inside the circumferential gasket, the outer edge of said pad abutting the circumferential gasket, an end of said ledge being adapted to overlie the pad short of abutting relation with the circumferential gasket, and an end of the transverse gasket being adapted to overlie said pad and the circumferential gasket.

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