April 30, 1940. J. F. HICKEY 2,198,997

CASKET HANDLING DEVICE

Filed Jan. 4, 1938

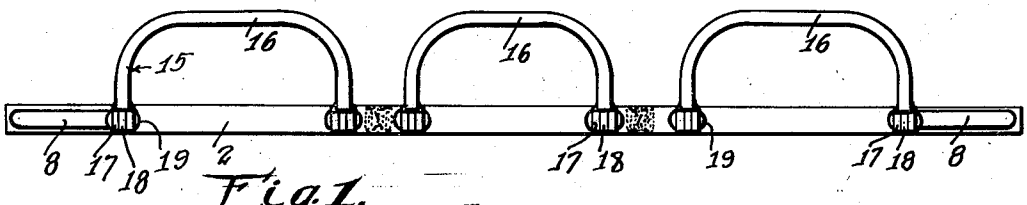


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2

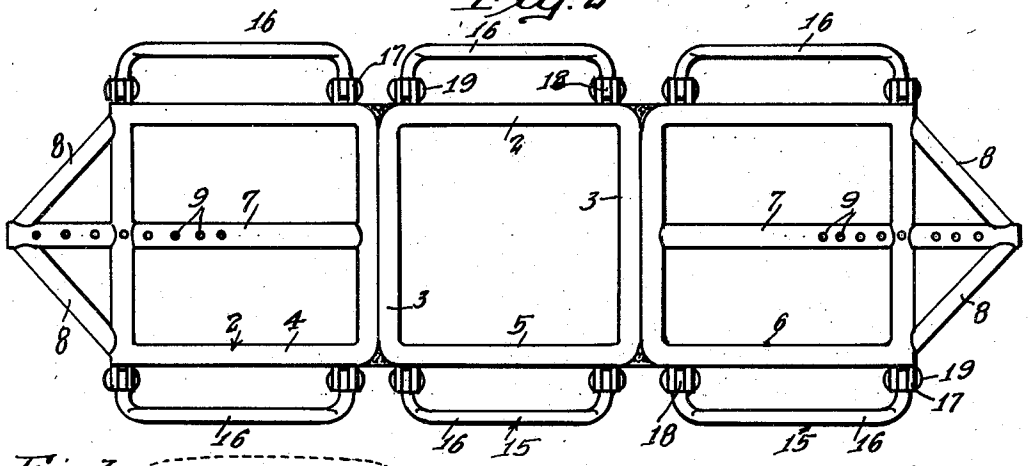


Fig. 3

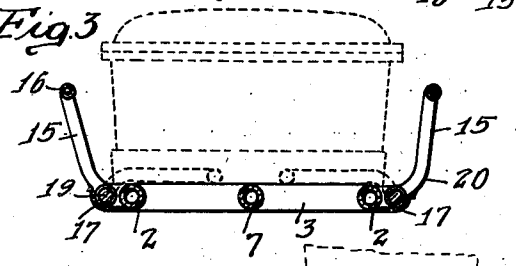


Fig. 4

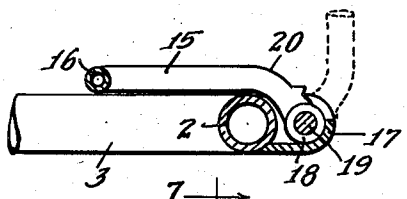


Fig. 5

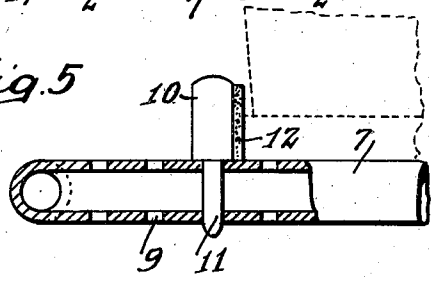
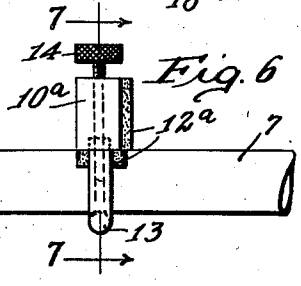


Fig. 6



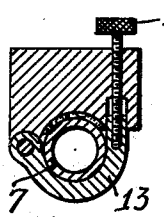


Fig. 7

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Patented Apr. 30, 1940 2,198,997

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,198,997

CASKET HANDLING DEVICE

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Application January 4, 1938, Serial No. 183,302

5 Claims. (Cl. 27—27)

This invention relates to an appliance to be used in handling caskets. At present, a very substantial part of the cost of caskets is created by the necessity of providing handles on the caskets for the purpose of carrying the same.

It is the general object of the present invention to provide an appliance which may be used to handle or carry a casket, which appliance is simple in construction and which may be readily attached to or detached from the casket after use.

Various attempts have been made heretofore to design a casket handling appliance, but none has been found satisfactory in practice, as their attachment to the casket has been too awkward and complicated or they have not provided a sufficient, neat and firm method of supporting the casket.

The general object of the present invention is to provide a casket handling appliance formed of tubular metal adapted to provide a base portion on which the casket may rest, which base portion is provided with means for holding the ends of the casket in combination with suitable handle members pivoted to the base portion and formed of continuous tubular rods disposed longitudinally of the side of the casket and forming handle grips for supporting the casket all along the side of the same. With the particular appliance herein described the casket may be carried by any number of persons without the necessity of providing handles on the casket itself. Moreover, the casket is easily and firmly secured on the appliance and easily removed therefrom.

The present invention, together with various objects and advantages of the same, will be understood from the following description of a preferred form or example of the appliance embodying the invention, and for this purpose I have hereinafter described, with reference to the accompanying drawing such a preferred form of the invention.

Referring to the drawing:

Figure 1 is an elevation looking at the side of the appliance.

Figure 2 is a plan view.

Figure 3 is an end view partially in section showing in dotted line the position of the casket on the appliance.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary section indicating the manner of attachment of the handle tubes of the appliance.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary section showing the construction of the retainers for the end of the casket.

Figure 6 illustrates a modified form of the retainer.

Figure 7 is a section on the line 7—7 of Figure 6.

Referring to the drawing, there is indicated a casket carrying appliance having a base formed of side tubes 2 and transverse tubes 3. The preferred mode of construction of the base is to form the base out of tubular material formed into sections of rectangular shape, sections 4, 5 and 6 being indicated. Contiguous transverse tubes 3 of the rectangular sections are attached together by suitable means, such as welding, to render the base one rigid unit. The end sections 4 and 6 are indicated as each preferably provided with centrally disposed longitudinal tubes 7 which extend beyond the ends of the sections and are connected with diagonal stay tube members 8. The base 2 forms a platform for the support of the bottom of the casket and in order to hold the casket thereon the tubes 7 are provided with a series of apertures 9 adapted to receive stays 10 which are shown as having pins 11 adapted to pass through the apertures 9. The stays 10 are likewise provided with padding 12 for forming a resilient or soft contact with the end of the casket.

Various alternative forms of the stays may be used; for example, in Figures 6 and 7 I have shown a form of stay 10*a* having the pads 12*a*, which stays 10*a* are provided with a link 13 pivoted at one end and attached to a tightening screw 14 of the other end, which link may encircle tube 7 so that the stay may be slid in any position with reference thereto.

An important feature of the present invention is the method of forming the handle for the appliance. The major difficulty with attachments for caskets heretofore proposed has been the fact that the handles on the appliances have had to be specially formed and have not always been in the right position for handling different caskets. In the present invention handles extending nearly continuously along the base are formed and these handles are of tubular construction conforming with the design and appearance of the remainder of the appliance.

In the preferred form of the appliance there is indicated a tubular handle 15 attached to each side of the sections 4, 5 and 6 of the base. Each of the tubular handles 15 has a longitudinal extending portion 16 and curved and inwardly extending ends 16. Each section of the base mem-

ber is provided with bifurcated extensions 17 which receive reduced portions 18 of the ends 16 of the handles and are pivotally connected thereto by pins 19. Each of the separate handles 15 is of like design and is adapted to be pivoted from a collapsed position where the handles are set against the base, as indicated in Figure 4, for which purpose the ends 16 of the handles are provided with the curved portions 20, as shown in Figure 4, which curve in planes perpendicular to the base portion. The handles 15 are also so constructed that they are also adapted to be swung out into the carrying positions indicated in Figures 1, 2 and 3, and in which position the straight portions 16 of all of the handles 15 are in substantial alignment.

By the construction of the appliance thus indicated it will be readily apparent that the casket may be easily and firmly held in place on the appliance and the appliance provides handles with sufficient gripping area so that the same may be carried in any desired manner. It will also be seen that the appliance consists almost solely of one material of pleasing appearance.

While the particular form of the invention herein described is well adapted to carry out the objects of the invention, it is to be understood that various modifications and changes may be made, all coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A casket handling appliance, comprising a base member formed with longitudinal and transverse metal tubes, the end transverse metal tubes extending beyond the longitudinal tubes and said extensions being bifurcated, additional bifurcated extensions of said base portion, a handle rail at each side of the base formed of a continuous tube having its ends pivoted to said bifurcated extensions.

2. A casket handling appliance consisting of a base member to which is pivotally connected a plurality of tubular handle members, each tubular handle member having a longitudinal portion and inwardly bent end portions, the end portions being pivoted to the base member along a common axis whereby the longitudinal portions of the handle members are adapted to substantially align in the carrying position.

3. A casket handling appliance consisting of a base member to which is pivotally connected a plurality of tubular handle members, each tubular handle member having a longitudinal portion and inwardly bent end portions, the end portions being pivoted to the base member along a common axis, the longitudinal portions of the handle members being adapted to substantially align in the carrying position, and each handle being suitably curved in its ends so as to adapt it to be pivoted flat against the base portion.

4. A casket handling appliance composed substantially entirely of metal tubes including a base portion formed by a plurality of tubes formed into rectangles, the rectangles being attached together to form a rigid base, tubular handle members attached to the base portion and providing longitudinal handle gripping portions and curved ends, the curved ends being pivoted to bifurcated extensions of the base portion.

5. A casket handling appliance composed substantially entirely of metal tubes including a base portion formed by a plurality of tubes formed into rectangles, the rectangles being attached together to form a rigid base, tubular handle members attached to the base portion and providing longitudinal handle gripping portions and curved ends, the curved ends being pivoted to bifurcated extensions of the base portion, there being central longitudinal tubes on the base portions and stays adjustably movable along said central tubes.

JAMES F. HICKEY.