April 9, 1929. B. M. FIFER 1,708,443

BURIAL BASKET

Filed July 8, 1927

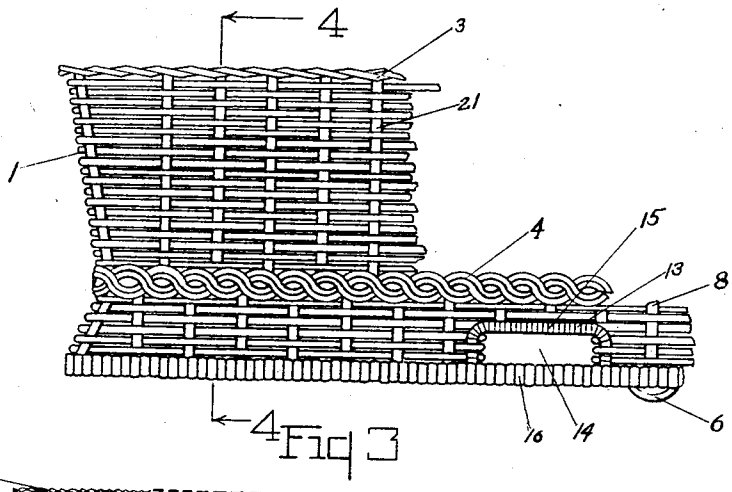


Fig 3

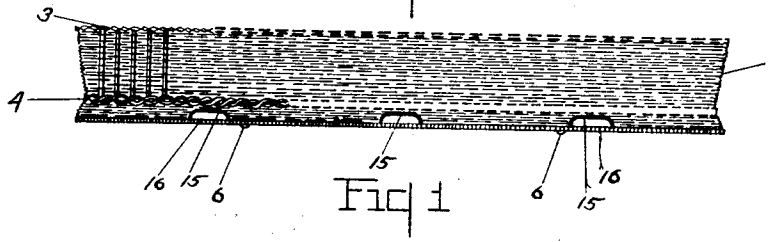


Fig 1

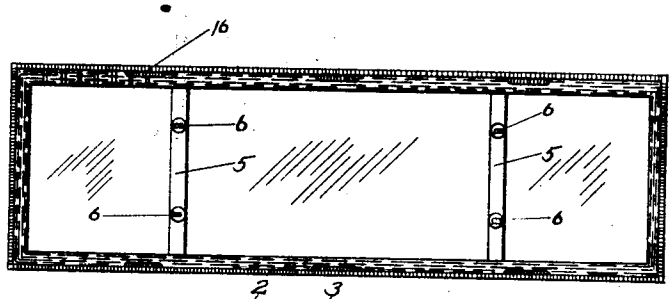


Fig 2

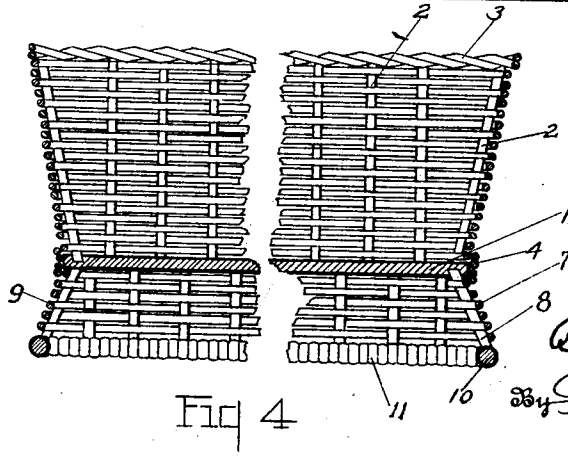


Fig 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BERTHA M. FIFER, OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

BURIAL BASKET.

Application filed July 8, 1927. Serial No. 204,195.

My invention has for its object to provide a burial container made in basket form and thereby producing an attractive couch for funeral purposes. The invention particularly has for its object to so construct a burial basket that it may be carried in the same manner that caskets are usually carried and which will be sufficiently strong to sustain the load. By my invention the conventional handles are entirely eliminated and yet attractive, efficient handle parts are provided which conform to the basket construction.

The invention may be contained in burial baskets of different forms and to illustrate a practical application of the invention, I have selected a basket containing the invention as an example of such constructions, and shall describe it hereinafter. The burial basket selected is shown in the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 1 illustrates a side view of the basket. Fig. 2 illustrates a bottom view of the basket. Fig. 3 illustrates a side view of an end portion of the basket, the dimensions thereof being proportionately larger than those used in Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 4 is a view of a section taken on the plane of the line 4—4 indicated in Fig. 3.

The basket shown in the drawing is rectangular substantially as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2. The height of the basket is substantially the same as the height of the body portion of the ordinary casket. The basket is provided with a bottom 1 that may be formed of wood or other material and which may be suitably cushioned and pillowed on its upper side in the manner commonly used in connection with caskets. The basket is provided with posts or rods 2 that extend upwardly from the bottom, or board, 1 and are secured in the board. The willow or other basket forming strips are woven in and about the upright posts 2. A suitable trim, such as the trim 3, may be secured to the upper ends of the posts to cover the upper edge of the basket. Also, a suitable trim 4 may be located along the edge of the bottom 1 to give an attractive external appearance to the basket.

The bottom 1 of the basket is provided with cross strips 5 on which rollers 6 are located, whereby the basket may be rolled and thus more conveniently handled, particularly in movement of the basket into a small opening, as in a mausoleum. A skirt 7 is located around the lower edge of the basket that extends downward to near the level of the lower sides of the rollers 6. The skirt 7 is formed by a plurality of downwardly extending posts or short wooden rods 8 about which the basket forming strips 9 are woven. The rods 8 extend obliquely from the bottom 1 to flare the skirt 7. Edge rods 10, that form the rim of the skirt, are secured to the lower ends of the posts 8. The rods 10 have a considerable diameter and are screwed to the ends of the posts 8. Preferably, split cane 11 is wound around the rods 10 to give it an attractive appearance. In order to form handle parts for carrying the burial basket, U-shaped rods 13 are secured at intermediate points along the side rods 10 which leave openings 14 having a width and height sufficient to enable the bearers to grip the edge rods 10. The U-members 13 may also be wound with split bamboo or cane 15 to give this part an attractive appearance. The U-members 13 are also secured to the ends of the posts 8 that terminate at the openings 14 and to the edge rods 10.

The angle at which the posts 8 of the skirt are located, with reference to the bottom 1, is such as to protrude the handle parts 16 of the burial basket at a short distance from the vertical line passing through the edges of the bottom, and yet so that the pressure that will be exerted when the load is supported, will be transmitted from the bottom to the side bars 10 that extend around the rim of the skirt of the basket. This forms an exceedingly strong supporting means when the basket is carried by bearers and yet presents an attractive and uniform basket formation.

The rollers 6 and the strips 5 are of sufficient height so as to support the rim of the skirt of the basket slightly above the plane of any surface on which the burial basket may be placed, and so that the fingers may be readily placed through the openings above the handle parts and beneath the side edge rods of the basket.

I claim:

In a burial basket, a bottom part, a skirt formed of a plurality of rods in the bottom part and inclined outwardly and downwardly from the edge of the bottom part, strips woven between the said rods and cylindrical edge rods extending along the lower ends of the first named rods, the first

named rods extending into the edge rods, the edge rods covered with split bamboo and when covered having a relatively large diameter, the said skirt having openings located in spaced relation along the edge rods of the skirt to form handle parts on the edge rods for supporting the basket by pressure on the edge rods through the first named rods that extend into the bottom of the basket, the body of the basket being formed of a plurality of rods that extend into the bottom of the basket and are inclined to the vertical and extend upwardly and outwardly, and strips woven between the last named rods.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name to this specification.

BERTHA M. FIFER.