April 12, 1932. W. C. EVANS 1,854,124

GRAVE CONCEALING DEVICE

Filed Aug. 25, 1930 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

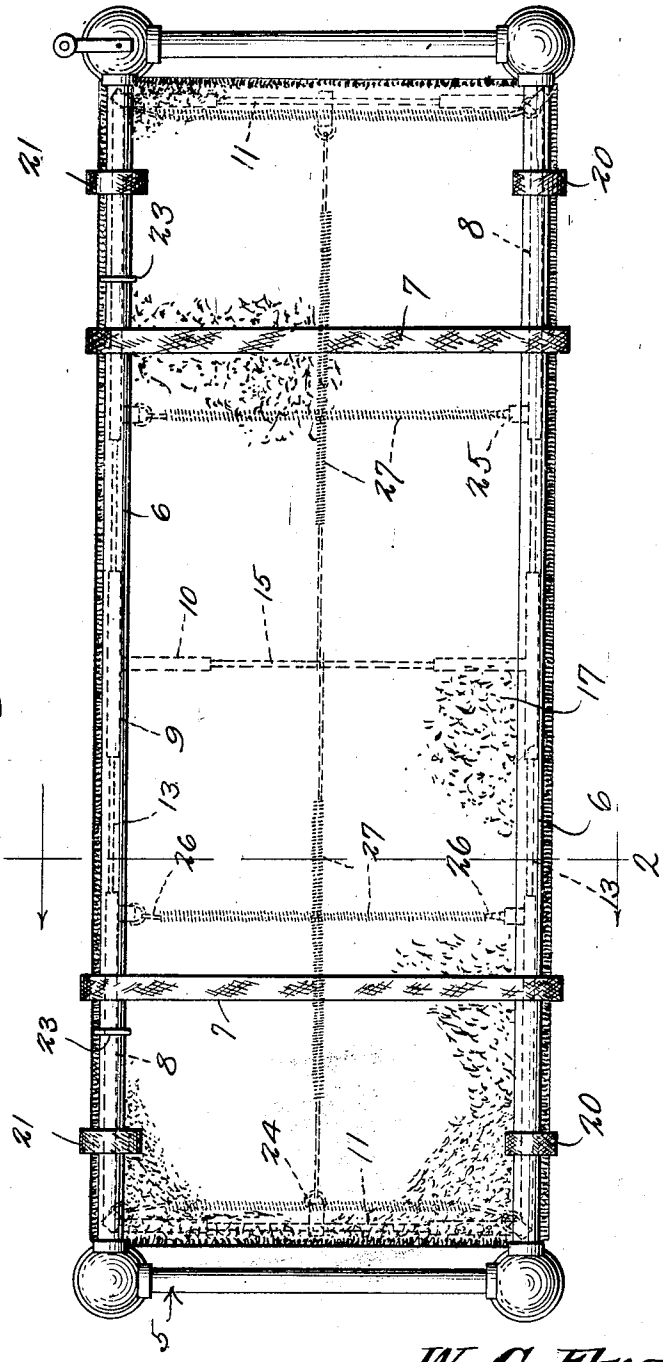


Fig. 1.

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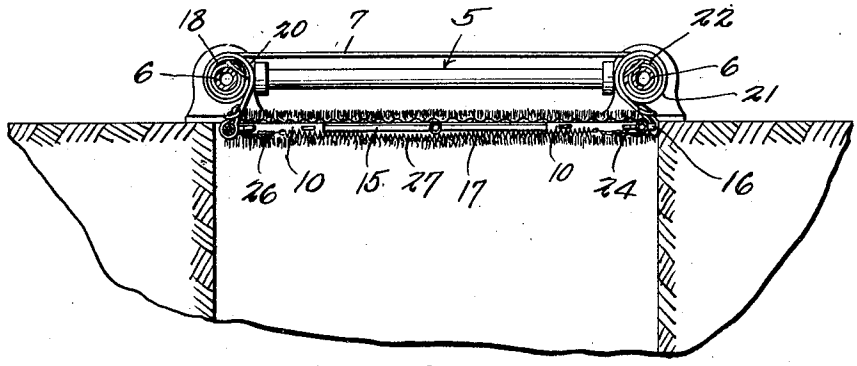


Fig. 2.

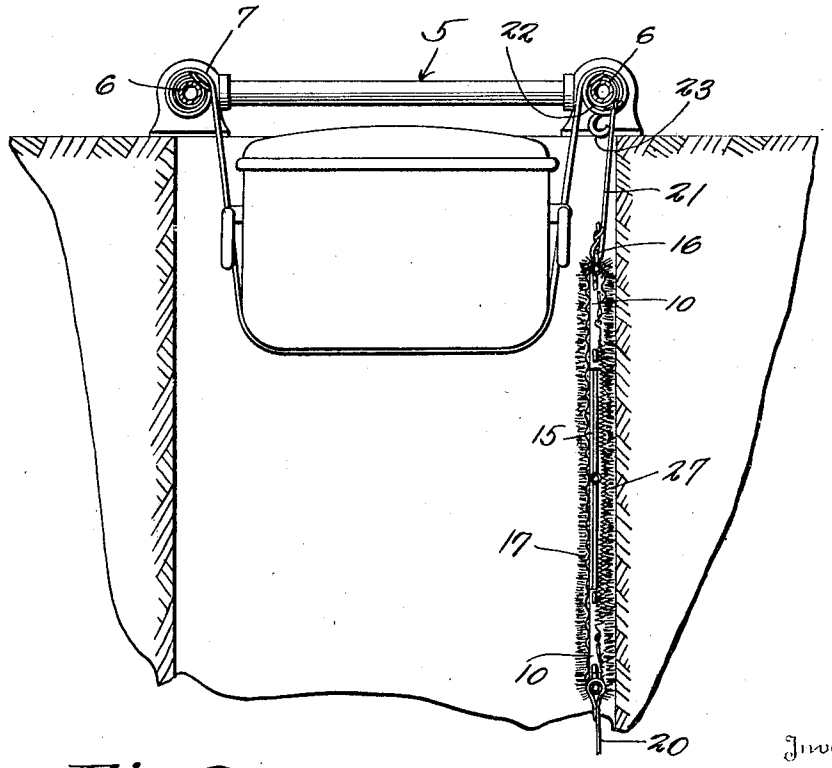


Fig. 3.

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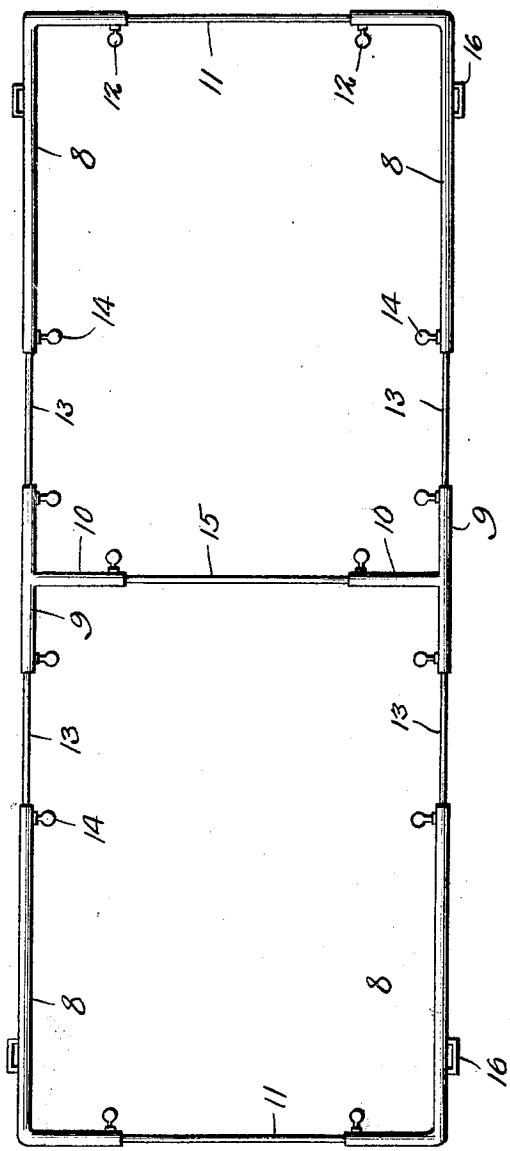


Fig. 4.

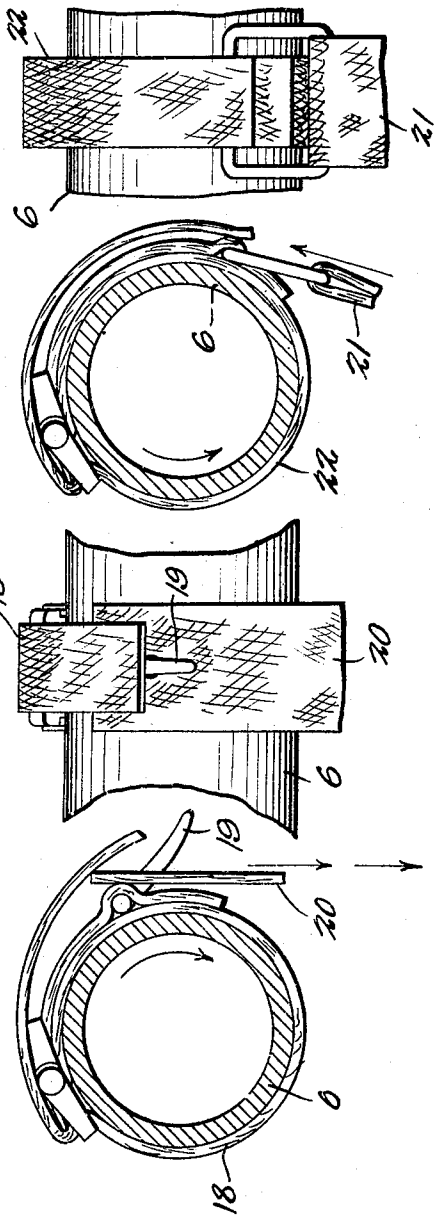


Fig. 8.

Fig. 7.

Fig. 6.

Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GRAVE CONCEALING DEVICE

Application filed August 25, 1930. Serial No. 477,666.

This invention relates to a device designed for use in connection with graves, the primary object of the invention being to provide means for concealing the grave while the casket is being lowered thereinto.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of this character having a frame covered with material simulating grass, means being provided for connecting the device to the usual casket lowering device, to cause the concealing device to be automatically released at one side thereof, after the casket has reached a predetermined point in the grave, to permit the casket to move to the bottom of the grave.

A further object of the invention is to connect the concealing device to the casket lowering device to cause the concealing device to be elevated from the grave as the casket descends into the grave.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, may be made within the scope of what is claimed, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a casket lowering device equipped with a concealing device constructed in accordance with the invention.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a sectional view through the casket lowering device, illustrating the grave concealing device as being elevated.

Figure 4 is a plan view illustrating the adjustable frame of the concealing device.

Figure 5 is an enlarged sectional view through one of the tubular members of the casket lowering device, illustrating the manner of connecting one side of the grave concealing device thereto.

Figure 6 is a plan view thereof.

Figure 7 is an enlarged sectional view through the tubular member of the casket lowering device, at the opposite side of the casket lowering device.

Figure 8 is a plan view thereof.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the casket lowering device is indicated generally by the reference character 5 and includes horizontal supporting members 6 to which the lowering straps 7 are secured, the supporting members being mounted for rotary movement, so that the straps may unwind to lower the casket into the grave.

The concealing device comprises a frame formed of tubular corner sections 8 and central tubular sections 9, the tubular sections 9 having inwardly extended tubular sections 10, as clearly shown by Figure 4 of the drawings. Rods 11 extend into the tubular corner sections 8, and are secured within the tubular corner sections, by means of the set screws 12, so that the corner sections may be adjusted towards and away from each other, to adapt the device for use in connection with graves of various sizes.

Rods 13 connect the central tubular members 9 with the corner sections 8, and are held in their positions of adjustment by means of the screws 14. A rod indicated by the reference character 15 has its ends positioned within the inwardly extended tubular members 10, to permit of adjustment of the central tubular sections 9, with respect to each other.

Loop members indicated by the reference character 16 extend from the frame of the concealing device and afford means whereby supporting straps may be secured to the frame.

This frame is covered with a covering indicated by the reference character 17, the covering being of a construction to simulate grass, so that when the concealing device is positioned on the casket lowering device, and the casket is placed thereon, the grave will be concealed by the device, to the end that it will appear as though the casket is resting on solid ground.

Secured to one of the supporting members 6, are straps 18 which are treated with a suitable material to cause the straps to adhere to the supporting member on which they are positioned, so that the straps will rotate with

the supporting member. As shown, the straps are provided with buckles having tongues 19, the tongues 19 being positioned within openings of the straps 20 associated therewith, it being understood that these straps 20 are positioned at opposite ends of the frame, but connected with one side of the frame. Straps 21 are connected with the loop members 16 at the opposite side of the frame of the concealing device, the opposite ends of the straps 21 being secured to the opposite supporting member, as by means of the straps 22 that are shown as secured to the supporting member. Thus it will be seen that due to this construction, the straps 21 and 22 may be wound on the supporting members to support the concealing device connected therewith, at a point directly under the casket. When the casket is being lowered, it is obvious that the straps 20 and 21 will unwind from the supporting members and that when the straps 20 reach positions as shown by Figure 5 of the drawings, the straps 20 will slide over the tongues 19, releasing the straps and allowing the frame of the concealing device to swing downwardly to a position as shown by Figure 3.

Owing to the fact that the straps 20 and 21 are comparatively short, it will be obvious that as the casket continues to be lowered into the grave, the straps 21 will be wound on the supporting members with which they are connected, causing the concealing member to be elevated to the surface of the grave automatically as the casket is being lowered. When the concealing member has been elevated, it is hooked into the hooks 23, where it is supported until the casket reaches the bottom of the grave.

It might be further stated that the covering of the frame embodies a length of cloth material which is stretched over the frame, the cloth material being provided with loop members 24 and 25, at the sides and ends thereof, the loop members being designed to receive the hooks 26 at the ends of the coiled springs 27, so that the covering is stretched taut over the frame.

I claim:

1. A grave concealing device comprising a frame, a covering having loop members secured thereto, coiled springs having hooks at their ends to be hooked into the loop members to draw the covering over the frame, and means for removably securing the covering to the frame.

2. In combination with the rotary supporting members of a casket lowering device, a grave concealing device comprising a frame, straps secured to the sides of the frame, the straps at one side of the frame being wound on one of the rotary supporting members to unwind when the casket lowering device operates to lower a casket into a grave, means for connecting the straps at the opposite side of the frame, to the second supporting member, to wind the latter straps on the second mentioned supporting member to elevate the grave concealing device, and a covering for the frame.

3. In combination with the rotary supporting members of a casket lowering device, a grave concealing device, straps connected with the grave concealing device and wound on the rotary supporting members to normally hold the grave concealing device at the top of the grave, said grave concealing device adapted to move into the grave when the casket is lowered to a predetermined position, and means for securing the straps at one side of the grave concealing device to the rotary supporting member at one side of the casket lowering device, to wind on the rotary supporting member at the opposite side of the grave concealing device to elevate the grave concealing device when the casket reaches the bottom of the grave.

4. In combination with the rotary supporting members of a casket lowering device, a grave concealing device comprising a frame of a length and width to cover the grave with which it is used, straps for connecting the grave concealing device to the rotary members of the casket lowering device, means for removably connecting the straps to the rotary member, at one side of the casket lowering device means for securing the straps at the opposite side of the frame to the rotary member at the opposite side of the casket lowering device, to cause the rotary straps to unwind when the grave concealing device reaches a predetermined position within the grave, and the second-mentioned straps adapted to wind on the rotary members to elevate the grave concealing device.

5. In combination with the rotary supporting members of a casket lowering device, a grave concealing device comprising a body portion, straps at the sides of the body portion and wound on the rotary supporting members to normally hold the grave concealing device in its active position, said straps adapted to unwind to lower the grave concealing device when the rotary supporting members of the casket lowering device operate to lower a casket, means for detachably connecting the straps at one side of the frame to the body portion to automatically release the body portion, and the straps at the opposite side of the body portion adapted to elevate the body portion upon continued rotation of the supporting members of the casket lowering device.

6. In combination with the side rails of a casket lowering device, a grave concealing device comprising a frame, straps connected to the frame and wound on the side rails, said straps adapted to unwind to lower the grave concealing device when the side rails are rotated in one direction, and means for connect-

ing the straps at one side of the grave concealing device to one of the side rails, to automatically release the straps at one side of the casket lowering device.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature.

WILLIAM C. EVANS.