Dec. 12, 1950 J. J. McEWAN 2,533,828

CASKET SEALING MEANS

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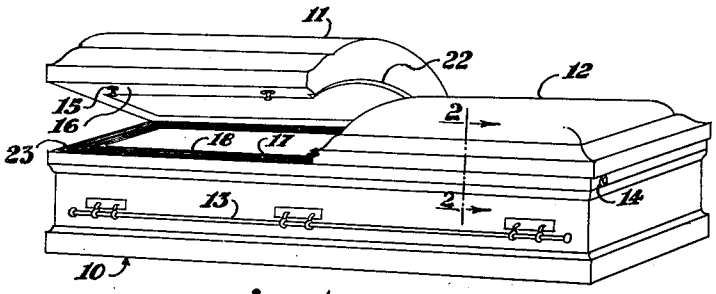


Fig. 1

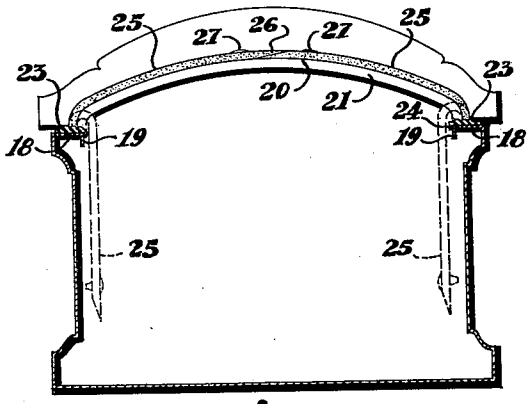


Fig. 2

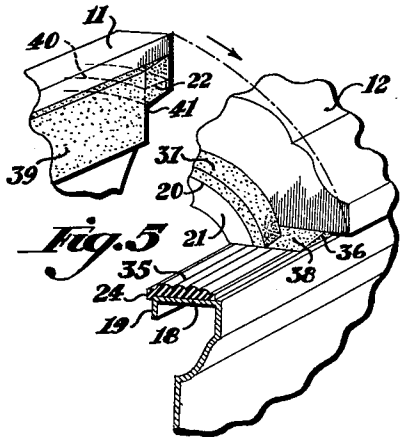


Fig. 5

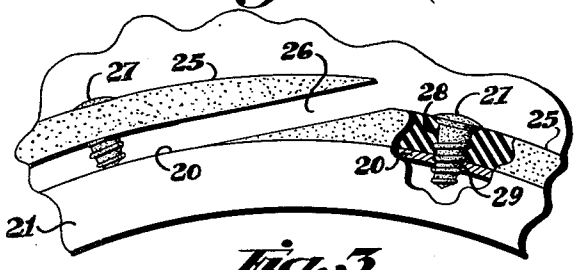


Fig. 3

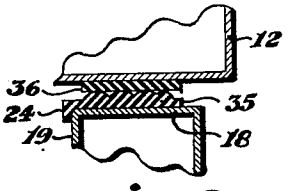


Fig. 6

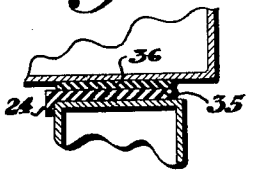


Fig. 7

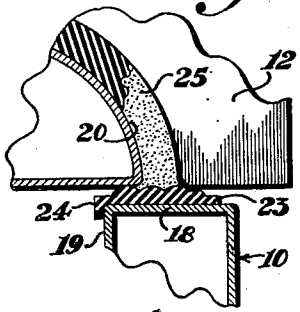


Fig. 4

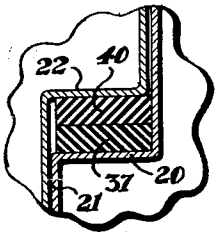


Fig. 8

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CASKET SEALING MEANS

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10 Claims. (Cl. 27—17)

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This invention relates to improvements in caskets or burial cases and is particularly directed to caskets which are hermetically sealed. More specifically, the invention resides in the provision of an improved sealing arrangement for caskets of the type employing separately movable head and foot lid sections. For an illustration of the type of a casket to which the present improvements are related, reference may be had to the previously issued patent to Purkiss, 2,284,921, issued June 2, 1942.

It has been the object of the present inventor to provide an improved casket construction wherein the casket is hermetically sealed by means of gaskets extending between the adjacent margins of the body and lid sections and more particularly wherein the sealing means between the body and the lid sections cooperate with sealing means between the sections themselves to provide for a complete seal at all points when the two sections are drawn down into contact with the body.

The type of casket which employs what is known as a cut-top, or a top composed of sections which are independently movable, requires a highly efficient sealing arrangement between the sections as well as between the sections and the body of the casket. The sealing relationship between the transverse sealing means, that is, the sealing means between the sections and the sealing means between the sections and the body, presents a problem which is exceeedingly difficult of solution as will be evident from an understanding of the relationship of the sections and the body. The problem particularly centers itself in the association of the seals at the point where the transverse seal contacts or is associated with the main body seal. The present inventor has provided an improved sealing means which completely seals the casket particularly at the juncture of the gaskets above referred to.

Other objects and certain advantages of the invention will be more fully apparent from a description of the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a burial case or casket of the cut-top type incorporating the improved sealing means, the view showing the head section of the top partially open.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on line 2—2, Figure 1, transversely of the center of the casket and through the joint between the top sections, this view illustrating the transverse gasket in position for sealing in full lines and in position of non-use in dot and dash lines.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary enlarged view of that

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portion of the transverse seal where the sections thereto are joined, the view showing the end of one section secured in position and the end of the other in position to be secured.

Figure 4 is a sectional view enlarged out of Figure 2 detailing the structure of the gasket where a transverse portion joins the body gasket.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of a modified form of the invention showing the lid partially raised and illustrating the construction of the seal particularly at the juncture of the transverse seal portions with those portions of the gasket extended around the body.

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken transversely of the lid and body portion of the casket showing the lid section down and about to be clamped, this view illustrating the modification of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a view taken similar to 6 but showing the lid section fully clamped in position.

Figure 8 is a sectional view taken through the transverse seal showing the superimposed gaskets in clamped, sealed position.

Referring to the drawings, a casket is generally shown in Figure 1. It is evident that it is unnecessary to illustrate any details of the casket beyond those which are vital to an understanding of the improved sealing means of this invention. The casket comprises in general a body portion **10**, a head top section **11**, and a foot top section **12**. These are hinged to the rear of the body in the conventional manner (not shown). The casket includes the usual handles **13**.

A clamping means is provided for pulling the sections down upon the body when the casket is to be finally sealed up. The means for operating the pull-down apparatus protrudes at one end of the casket as at **14**. The pull-down studs **15** are apparent on the underside of the raised head section in the marginal flange **16** thereof. These studs are adapted to enter apertures **17** in the marginal flanges **18** of the body. The clamping elements which cooperate with the studs for engaging and locking them are not shown since details are unimportant to an understanding of the seal. Reference may be had to Patent 2,284,921 previously referred to for an understanding of a means for clamping or drawing the sections down upon the body.

The marginal flanges **18** of the body extend inwardly in a horizontal plane and are turned downwardly as at **19** for stiffening the flanges. One of the lid sections, in this instance the foot section **12**, provides a gasket supporting flange or ledge **20** extending laterally from the inner end wall of the section and provided with a down-

wardly turned flange 21 for stiffening the same. The adjacent end wall of the head section 11 includes an overhanging flange or seal engaging portion 22 of the same width as the flange 20. These flanges 20 and 22 are all of the same contour transversely of the casket and are effective for engaging the sealing means therebetween.

In the first form of the invention disclosed herein the body gasket 23 extends continuously around the top of the flange 18 and therefore entirely around the casket body. Its flat underside is fixed to the flange and there is a slight overhang 24 on the inner side of the marginal flanges of the body for positioning the gasket thereon. Immediately adjacent the sealing flanges or ledges 20 and 22, the body gasket is provided with sealing tongues or strips of gasket material 25.

The tongues or sealing strips are of less width than the sealing flanges and are of greater thickness than the normal width between the flanges 20 and 22 when the lid sections are down and not clamped. Their points of integral attachment to the body sealing gasket are substantially centrally of the width thereof. They are of sufficient length so that when they are drawn into position upon the flange (Figure 2) 20 their ends will overlap as shown at 26. The ends are skived so as to mate and to provide contact sealing surfaces of considerable area. The ends are attached or drawn into position, with the skived ends overlapping, by means of screws 27—27, one in the end of each sealing strip adjacent the skived portions. These screws 27 preferably are made of rubber or at least are rubber headed. However, they may be designed from any material so long as it does not interfere with the efficacy of the transverse seal. These screws are fixed in openings 28 in the strips and their attaching ends are adapted to engage through apertures 29 in the flange 20.

The lengths of the strips are calculated so as to necessitate some stretching. These strips may be formed of rubber and thus they are elastic enough to permit stretching to bring the screws into alignment with the openings 29 in the flanges. When the lid section is drawn down upon the body, the overhanging flange 22 thereof will engage the rubber strips and the rubber will flow laterally in the space between the flanges filling the space and providing a perfect seal throughout the joint. Also, when the flanges of the lid sections engage the longitudinally ribbed or beaded upper surfaces of the body gasket, the rubber of the body gasket will spread out or flow and aid materially in the sealing operation.

When the foot section is up, the strips will hang loosely inside the casket as shown in Figure 2 and will not be unsightly. They can be tucked in along the sides of the casket and may be concealed by the lining thereof. If desired, the transverse gasket may be in one piece, that is, the joint 26 may be eliminated and the transverse gasket is then merely a loop which can be drawn up into position over the flange 20 when the foot section is lowered.

In the modification shown in Figures 5 to 8, inclusive, three gaskets are employed, one of these being a body gasket 35. This gasket is continuous extending entirely around the marginal flange 18 of the body portion and being attached thereto. Its upper surface is longitudinally beaded or ribbed as in the preceding form. The foot lid section employs a gasket 36 extending entirely around its front, back, and end flanges and attached thereto; that is to say, a gasket section which is of U-shape in general top plan view. The foot section includes the same transverse gasket supporting ledge 20 as in the preceding form. A continuous transverse gasket portion 37 joins the ends of the gasket 36 (Figure 5) so that the gasket 36 may be said to have a looped portion at its inner end. The ends of the gasket 36 include skived portions 38 extending out from under the foot section of the lid.

In the instance of the head section of the lid, the same arrangement is provided, its gasket 39 including the transverse loop 40. The transverse loop or gasket section 40 is secured to an overhanging flange or ledge corresponding to the ledge 22 of the first form. Likewise, this gasket 39 includes skived portions extending out from under the front and back flanges thereof, the skiving being formed to mate with the skiving 38 of the gasket 36. As will be apparent from Figure 8, the gasket 40 overlies or is superimposed upon the gasket 37 when the lid sections are lowered. The gasket 39 is notched out as at 41 so as to clear the lower ends of the transverse gasket 37. The gaskets 36 and 39 are plain, that is to say, they do not have beading. Their under surfaces engage the ribbed or beaded top surface of the gasket 35 and seal with respect thereto as indicated in Figure 7.

Thus, it will be seen that in this modification, a continuous double gasket contact is assured throughout the seal and the joint between the two lid gaskets is effectively accomplished through the skived portions.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. In a burial casket of the type including, a body, and independently movable top sections mounted on the body at the rear thereof and having their inner ends disposed immediately adjacent when closed; marginal sealing gasket means extending entirely around and between the adjacent margins of the body and top sections, a transverse sealing gasket adapted to seal the joint between the top sections, said transverse gasket consisting of a pair of strips, the strips attached to the front and rear portions of the marginal sealing gasket, one of the top sections including a transverse ledge along its inner end wall over which said strips are placed, means on the ledge for securing the adjacent ends of the strips together, and the ends of said strips formed for overlapping sealing engagement.

2. In a burial casket of the type including a body, independently movable top sections mounted on the body at the rear thereof and having their inner ends disposed immediately adjacent when closed, and marginal sealing gaskets extending around the entire margins of the respective sections including transverse portions at the adjacent ends of the sections, those transverse portions of the respective gaskets which are disposed adjacently when the sections are lowered overlapping for forming a sealed joint between the sections.

3. In a burial casket of the type including a body, independently movable top sections mounted on the body at the rear thereof and having their inner ends disposed immediately adjacent when closed, a marginal sealing gasket extending around the margin of the body and including an integral transverse gasket adapted to seal the joint between the top sections.

4. In a burial casket of the type including, a body, and independently movable top sections

mounted on the body at the rear thereof and having their inner ends disposed immediately adjacent when closed; a marginal sealing gasket extending entirely around and between the adjacent margins of the body and top sections, a transverse sealing gasket adapted to seal the joint between the top sections, said transverse gasket consisting of an element formed of rubber or the like formed integrally with the marginal sealing gasket, and a transverse ledge formed on one of said top sections upon which said transverse gasket is disposed, the other top section including a flange overlapping said transverse gasket for sealing the joint between the top sections.

5. In a burial casket of the type including a body, independently movable top sections mounted on the body at the rear thereof and having their inner ends disposed immediately adjacent when closed, marginal sealing gaskets extending around the entire margins of the respective sections, each gasket including a transverse portion at the adjacent inner ends of the sections, those transverse portions of the respective gaskets which are disposed adjacently when the sections are lowered overlapping for forming a sealed joint between the sections, and a continuous marginal sealing gasket extending entirely around the body engageable by the sealing gaskets of the sections.

6. In a burial casket of the type including a body, independently movable top sections mounted on the body at the rear thereof and having their inner ends disposed immediately adjacent when closed, a marginal sealing gasket extending entirely around the margin of the body, a transverse sealing gasket having its ends secured to said marginal sealing gasket and adapted to seal the joint between the top sections, said transverse gasket disposed on the inner end wall of one of said top sections, and said top section including means for supporting the gasket.

7. In a burial casket of the type including a body, independently movable top sections mounted on the body at the rear thereof and having their inner ends disposed immediately adjacent when closed, a marginal sealing gasket extending entirely around the margin of the body, a transverse sealing gasket having its ends secured to said marginal sealing gasket and adapted to to seal the joint between the top sections, said transverse gasket disposed on the inner end wall of one of said top sections, said top section including means for supporting the gasket, said transverse sealing gasket consisting of sections having skived adjacent ends adapted to overlap and means for securing said adjacent ends to said means which supports the transverse gasket.

8. In a burial casket of the type including a body, independently movable top sections mounted on the body at the rear thereof and having their inner ends disposed immediately adjacent when closed, a marginal sealing gasket means extending entirely around and between the adjacent margins of the body and top sections, a transverse sealing gasket adapted to seal the joint between the top sections, said transverse gasket mounted relative to the inner end wall of one of said top sections and having its ends formed integrally with the marginal sealing gasket means whereby a hermetic seal is formed when clamping pressure is applied to bring the top sections down upon the body.

9. In a burial casket of the type including a body, independently movable top sections mounted on the body at the rear thereof and having their inner ends disposed immediately adjacent when closed, a marginal sealing gasket extending around the margin of the body adjacent to the marginal flanges of the sections, marginal sealing gaskets extending around the margins of the top sections, those ends of the respective top section gaskets which are disposed adjacently when the sections are lowered overlapping for forming a sealed joint, and transverse gasket means adapted to seal the joint between the top sections, said transverse gasket means being mounted along the adjacent inner end walls of the sections, and integrally connected to one of the marginal gaskets.

10. In a burial casket of the type including a body portion, independently movable lid sections having their inner ends adjacently disposed when closed, means for sealing the joint between the lid sections and the body portion, and sealing means extending transversely of the casket relative to the adjacent ends of the lid sections for sealing the joint therebetween, said latter sealing means constituting an integral extension of the first named means for sealing and providing therefore continuous unbroken sealing means for the casket.

JAMES J. McEWAN.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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Number	Name	Date
146,381	Charles	Jan. 13, 1874
2,284,921	Purkiss	June 2, 1942