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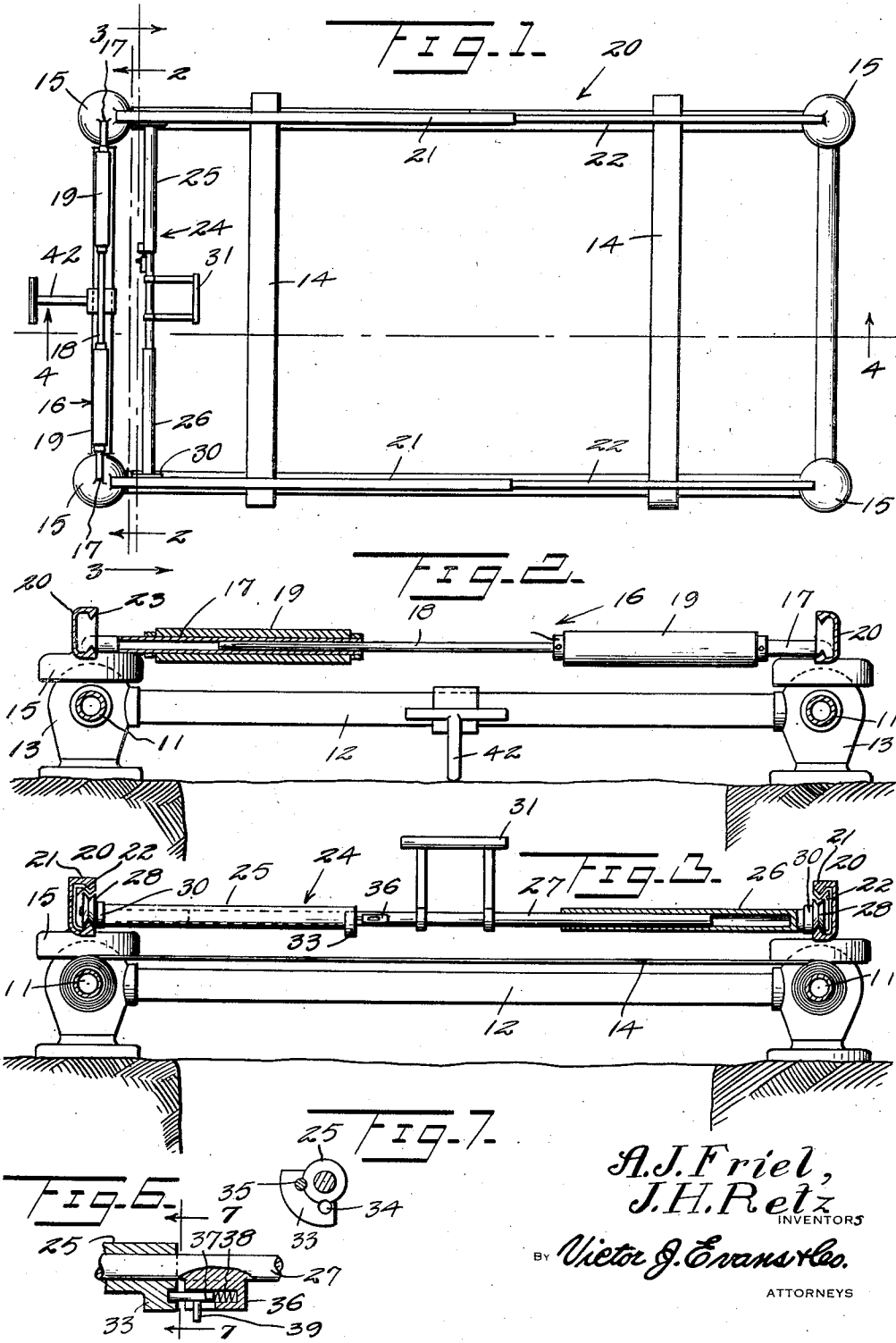
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CASKET RECEIVING AND PLACING DEVICE

Filed Jan. 30, 1939

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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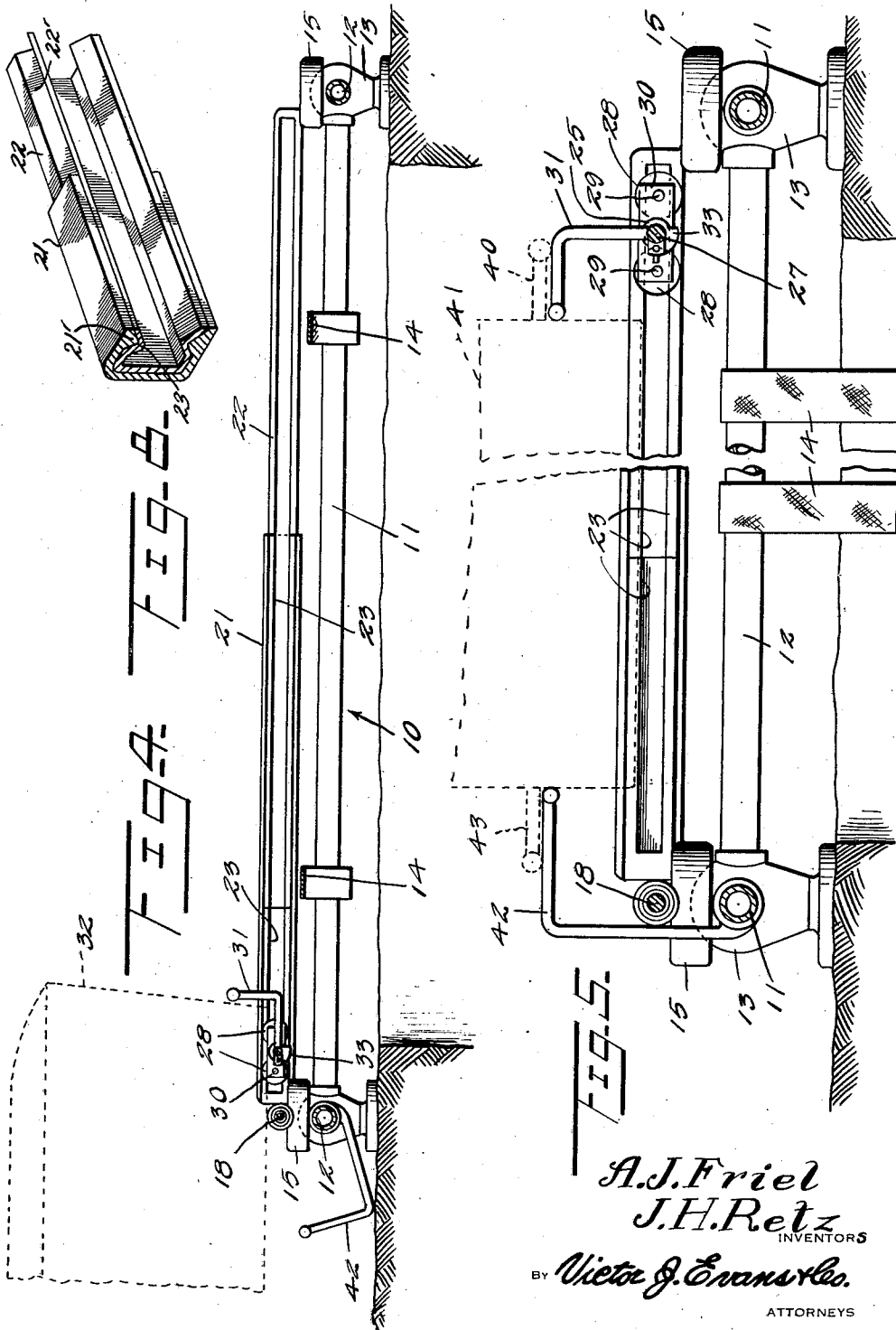
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CASKET RECEIVING AND PLACING DEVICE

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6 Claims. (Cl. 27—26)

The present invention relates to a device for receiving and facilitating the placing of a casket on a lowering device.

An important object of the invention resides in the provision of novel means, removably associated with a conventional casket lowering device, for receiving a casket and allowing it to be deposited upon the lowering device.

Another object of the invention resides in providing a collapsible structure adapted for support upon and above a casket lowering device whereby a casket may be moved forwardly above the lowering device and subsequently deposited upon the lowering straps.

The invention will be fully and comprehensively understood from a consideration of the following detailed description when read in connection with the accompanying drawings which form a part of the application.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the device.

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

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken substantially on line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially on line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a sectional view similar to Figure 4 and illustrating a modified use of the device.

Figure 6 is a detail view of the means employed for limiting rotation of the casket retaining bracket.

Figure 7 is a detail sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Figure 6.

Figure 8 is a detail sectional view of the track mechanism forming a part of the invention.

Referring to the drawings for a more detailed description thereof, wherein like parts are identified by the same reference characters throughout the several views, a conventional casket lowering device with which the present invention is used is indicated generally by the reference numeral 10 and comprises parallel side rails 11, end rails 12 and spaced corner posts 13 connecting said rails. The lowering device 10 further includes lowering straps 14 mounted on reels on the side rails 11 and controlled by any desired means, not shown. As is well known the lowering device is of a size to be positioned over a grave and to permit lowering of the casket therein.

The casket receiving and placing device is supported on the four corner posts of the conventional lowering device, the same being supported by means of cup-like plates 15, the inner surface of which is concaved for resting upon the convex

surface of the corner posts 13. A transverse shaft indicated generally by the reference numeral 16 is supported between one pair of the plates 15, the ends of which are welded or otherwise secured thereto as indicated at 17. Referring particularly to Figure 2 of the drawings, it will be noted that the supporting shaft 16 comprises spaced hollow tubes 17 supporting in telescoping relation a metal rod 18. Each tube 17 carries a roller 19 formed of rubber or similar material and adapted to revolve thereon. In use of the device, one end of the casket is first positioned upon the shaft 16 and by means of the rubber-like rollers 19 is permitted to move forwardly onto the casket receiving structure to be hereinafter described.

A trackway is also supported by the cup-like plates 15 and extends longitudinally of the device and superposed above the side rails 11 of the lowering device. The trackway indicated generally by the reference numeral 20 comprises telescoping sections 21 and 22 supported in parallel relation above the side rails 11 and having one end welded or otherwise secured to the upper surface of the cup-like plates 15. As shown in Figures 2 and 3 of the drawings, each section of the track is substantially C-shaped in cross section, the inner section 22 being grooved as indicated at 22' forming a V-shaped extending portion 23. The outer section 21 is formed with a tongue 21' which engages the groove 22' when the sections are assembled. This construction permits the track sections to be held in telescoping relation with the extending portion 23 of one section and the tongue 21' of the other section guiding the wheels 28 to be hereinafter described. The telescoping sections are provided so that the entire device is readily collapsible when not in use.

The means for supporting one end of the casket for travel in the trackway comprises a carriage bar indicated generally at 24 in Figure 3 of the drawings. The carriage bar 24 is likewise telescoping and comprises spaced hollow tubes 25 and 26 supporting therebetween a metal rod 27. As is readily apparent, the carriage bar 24 telescopes from the center and supports on each end thereof, a pair of V-shaped grooved wheels 28, better shown in Figures 4 and 5 of the drawings. The wheels 28 are mounted in bearings 29 formed in a block 30 carried by each end of the carriage bar 24.

The carriage bar 24 further includes an L-shaped bracket 31 supported substantially centrally of the rod 27 and movable in adjusted relation thereon. The bracket 31, as shown in Fig-

ure 4 of the drawings, forms a stop for one end of the casket 32. The bracket 31 is affixed to the rod 27 and is adapted to rotate with the same, the rotation being controlled by the means indicated in Figures 6 and 7 of the drawings. It will be noted that the tube 25 is formed with a segmental portion 33 having spaced openings 34 and 35 formed therein and that the rod 27 is formed with a depending shoulder 36 supporting therein a pin 37 backed by a spring 38. The pin 37 is retracted by means of the portion 39 depending therefrom. When desiring to move the bracket 31 from the position shown in Figure 4 of the drawings to the position shown in Figure 5 of the drawings, the pin 37 is retracted and the bracket swung upwardly at which time the pin 37 will engage the segmental portion 33 until contact is made with the opening 34 whence the pin will become embedded therein and thus prevent further rotation of said bracket.

In use of the device, the foot end of the casket 32 is first placed upon the rollers 19 of the supporting shaft 16 and by urging the casket forwardly it will be caused to rest upon the carriage bar 24 and be held thereon by means of the bracket 31. The carriage bar 24 is pushed forwardly for travel on the wheels 38 within the track 20 which motion is continued until the head end of the casket will roll from the rollers 19 onto the straps 14 of the lowering device. The carriage bar 24 and bracket 31 are then pulled beyond the casket 32 permitting the foot end of the casket to be deposited upon the other lowering strap 14 and the casket is then lowered into the grave in the conventional manner.

The herein described device is also adapted for supporting a burial vault dome into position wherein it can be placed and locked upon the burial vault base. In this instance, the burial vault base is placed on the straps 14 and lowered within the grave so as to clear the trackway 20. The casket is next positioned within the vault base in the manner above described. The carriage bar 24 is then returned to the position illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawings and the bracket 31 rotated 90° to the position shown in Figure 5 of the drawings. One end handle 40 of the vault dome 41 is then placed upon the bracket 31 and the carriage bar pushed forwardly in the manner previously described until the end of the dome rests upon the rollers 19 of the supporting shaft 16. For supporting the other end of the vault dome 41 there is provided an L-shaped bracket 42 rotatably mounted on one end rail 12 of the lowering device and by rotating the bracket 42 to the position shown in Figure 5 of the drawings, it will be caused to engage the other end handle 43 of the vault dome 41. The vault base and casket are then cranked up under the dome and the dome and vault base clamped in the manner well known. The brackets 31 and 42 are then moved out of position permitting lowering of the covered vault and casket.

From the above description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it will be noted that there is provided means for placing a casket on a lowering device, the parts of which are readily collapsible for transportation. By a slight modification of the conventional lowering device, the apparatus can also be used for supporting the dome of a vault to permit it to be clamped to the vault base thereby increasing the practicability of the apparatus.

Also it will be understood, of course, by those

skilled in the art that variations in the hereinabove described device involving the substitution of substantial equivalents for the devices described are intended to be comprehended within the spirit of the present invention and that the invention is capable of extended application and is not confined to the exact showing of the drawings nor to the precise construction described and, therefore, such changes and modifications may be made therein as do not affect the spirit of the invention nor exceed the scope thereof as expressed in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A casket receiving and placing device comprising, a trackway supported above the side rails of a casket lowering device, a supporting bar carrying wheels engageable in said trackway, a stationary shaft extending across one end of said receiving device, said trackway and stationary shaft defining a substantially rectangular shaped frame having cup-shaped members secured to each corner thereof adapted to be positioned upon the corner posts of a casket lowering device, supporting rollers mounted on said stationary shaft, means carried by said supporting bar for engaging one end of a casket positioned thereon, said means including an L-shaped bracket attached to said supporting bar, and means for limiting the movement of said L-shaped bracket on said supporting bar.

2. A casket receiving and placing device comprising, an extensible trackway forming the side rails of a substantially rectangular-shaped frame, an extensible supporting bar extending transversely of said trackway and carrying wheels engageable therein, an extensible stationary shaft forming one end rail of said frame, said extensible trackway and stationary shaft being attached to cup-shaped elements adapted to be positioned upon the corner posts of a casket lowering device, means carried by said supporting bar for engaging one end of a casket positioned thereon, said means comprising an L-shaped bracket mounted on said extensible supporting bar, and means carried by said bar for limiting the movement of said L-shaped bracket.

3. A casket receiving and placing device, comprising, a substantially rectangular-shaped frame, means whereby said frame is adapted to be positioned upon a casket lowering device, the side rails of said frame defining a trackway, shaft carrying rollers engageable with said trackway, said shaft forming a movable supporting bar for one end of a casket and comprising spaced hollow tubes and an intermediate tube telescopically supported therebetween, and means carried by said intermediate tube for engaging one end of a casket positioned on said shaft.

4. A casket receiving and placing device, comprising, a substantially rectangular-shaped frame, means whereby said frame is adapted to be positioned upon a casket lowering device, the side rails of said frame defining a trackway, shaft carrying rollers engageable with said trackway, said shaft forming a movable supporting bar for one end of a casket and comprising spaced hollow tubes and an intermediate tube telescopically supported therebetween, means carried by said intermediate tube for engaging one end of a casket positioned on said shaft, said engaging means and intermediate tube being rotatable relative to said spaced tubes, and means for limiting the rotative movement thereof.

5. A casket receiving and placing device, comprising, a substantially rectangular-shaped frame, means whereby said frame is adapted to be posi-

tioned upon a casket lowering device, the side rails of said frame defining a trackway, shaft carrying rollers engageable with said trackway, said shaft forming a movable supporting bar for one end of a casket and comprising spaced hollow tubes and an intermediate tube telescopically supported therebetween, a substantially L-shaped bracket fixedly secured to said intermediate tube for engaging one end of a casket positioned on said shaft, said bracket and intermediate tube adapted to rotate within said spaced hollow tubes, and means carried by said intermediate tube and cooperating with one of said spaced tubes for limiting the rotative movement of said intermediate tube.

6. A casket receiving and placing device, comprising, a substantially rectangular-shaped frame, means whereby said frame is adapted to be positioned upon a casket lowering device, the side rails of said frame defining a trackway, shaft carrying rollers engageable with said trackway,

said shaft forming a movable supporting bar for one end of a casket and comprising spaced hollow tubes and an intermediate tube telescopically supported therebetween, a substantially L-shaped bracket fixedly secured to said intermediate tube for engaging one end of a casket positioned on said shaft, said bracket and intermediate tube adapted to rotate within said spaced hollow tubes, means carried by said intermediate tube and cooperating with one of said spaced tubes for limiting the rotative movement of said intermediate tube, said means including a segmental-shaped portion formed on the inner end of one of said spaced tubes, a depending shoulder formed on said intermediate tube adjacent said segmental portion, and a retractable pin mounted in said depending portion and normally having engagement with said segmental portion.

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