Nov. 6, 1923. 1,473,534

C. A. ALBRECHT

METALLIC GRAVE VAULT

Filed Dec. 13, 1921

Fig 1.

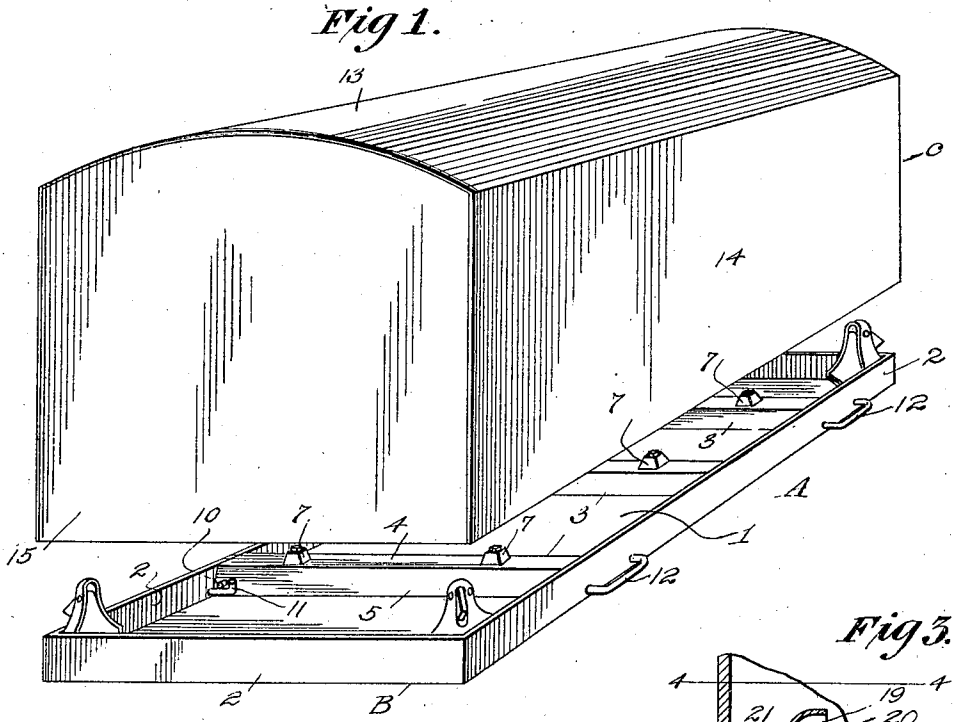


Fig 3.

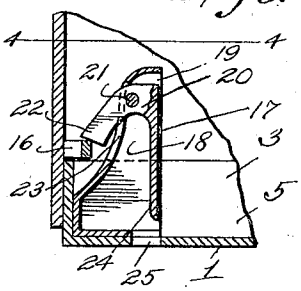


Fig 2.

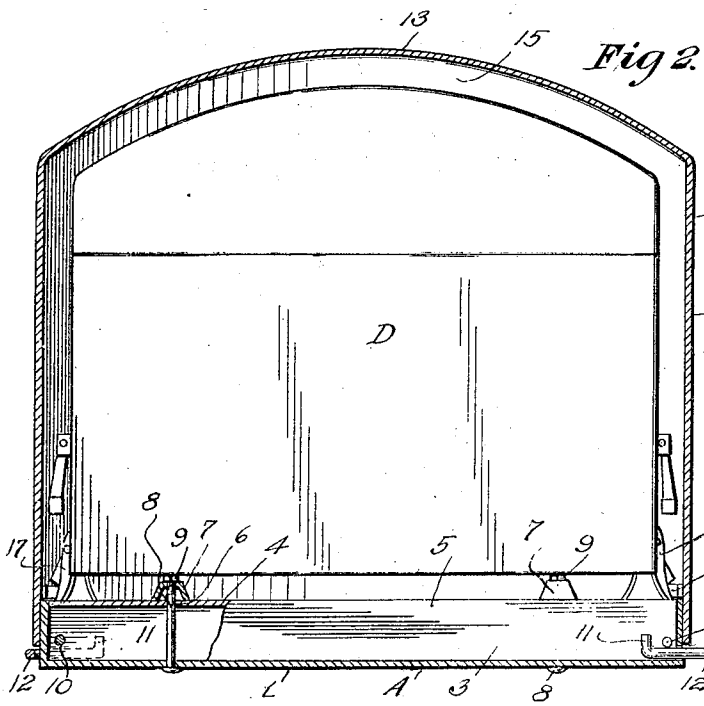
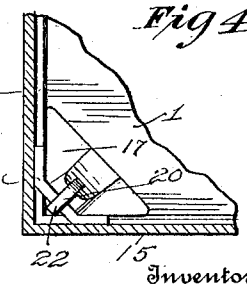


Fig 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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METALLIC GRAVE VAULT.

Application filed December 13, 1921. Serial No. 522,075.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CARL A. ALBRECHT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Metallic Grave Vaults, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in metallic grave vaults, particularly to vaults of the air seal variety of the type comprising a substantially flat bottomed base, and an open bottomed housing arranged to be positioned over said base and cover, a casket resting thereon and wherein the housing is of substantially water tight construction to prevent the arising of water within the vault, after interment, into contact with the casket.

The primary object of the present invention resides in the provision of a vault of this type wherein improved features of construction are embodied for the purpose of enabling the vault to be readily and economically manufactured, to include the desirable mechanical features of more expensive construction and to present a conventional appearance.

Another object of the invention resides in constructing the base of the vault to comprise a substantially pan shaped body including a flat bottom having upstanding marginal side walls and an open top, and wherein is placed and secured a plurality of casket rests, which are formed to extend entirely across said bottom in a transverse direction, with the upper surfaces thereof disposed in substantially the same plane as the upper edges of the side walls and wherein the rests are further formed to include transversely spaced vertical sides having their lower edges disposed to rest directly upon the bottom of the base, whereby through the medium of this construction a substantial and durable base will be provided capable of supporting a casket at a relatively elevated position thereover and at the same time permitting of its economical manufacture.

A further object of the invention resides in the provision of a grave vault of this type wherein the open bottomed housing thereof is so constructed that its top and longitudinally extending sides will be formed from a single sheet of sheet metal of standard proportions and to which are secured by welding or otherwise the separate ends of the housing, the corners of the housing being reinforced and the construction rendered rigid by the provision of internally situated corner brackets which latter are also employed as a part of the locking means utilized in securing the base of the vault to the housing.

For a further understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and to the accompanying sheet of drawing, in which similar characters of reference denote like and corresponding parts throughout the several views thereof.

In said drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a grave vault constructed in accordance with the present invention, the base and housing of said vault being shown in relatively spaced relation to set forth more particularly the construction of the base,

Figure 2 is a vertical transverse sectional view taken through the vault,

Figure 3 is a detail sectional view taken through one corner of the vault and disclosing the locking means for securing the base and housing members of the vault together, and

Figure 4 is a horizontal sectional view, the plan of which being indicated by the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Referring more particularly to the details of the invention the letter A designates my improved vault in its entirety. This vault consists generally of a base B and a separable housing C arranged to fit over said base so as to encase within the vault a casket D, which latter is arranged to rest upon the base in the usual manner and generally situated within the housing. This housing is of air tight construction and by reason of the pocketing of air therein, water will be prevented from arising above a predetermined level within the vault.

An essential feature of the present invention resides in the simple and improved construction of the base B. This base includes a substantially pan shaped body formed from a single blank of material to produce a flat bottom 1, having integral upstanding walls 2 formed at the margins thereof. The adjoining edges of the walls 2 may be united by welding or otherwise to produce a rigid

structure. Extending transversely across the bottom 1 and disposed at longitudinally spaced intervals is a plurality of casket rests 3 arranged, as shown in Figure 2, to receive and support the casket D. These rests are each formed from a single blank of material, and include flat top surfaces 4 and downwardly extending integral sides or wings 5. These rests may be secured within the base by positive fastening elements or by resorting to welding. It will be observed that the surfaces 4 terminate on a plane substantially flush with the upper edges of the walls 2 and that the said rests extend entirely across the full width of the base B. This is done for the purpose of generally strengthening the base and to impart a finished appearance to the base. In this instance the bottom 1 and the upper surfaces 4 of the rests 3 are formed with registering openings 6, and the surfaces 4 are provided with cap pieces 7 also formed with openings registering with the openings 6. Head bolts 8 are arranged to pass through these registering openings and have their upper ends threaded for the reception of binding devices 9 which upon being tightened will serve to maintain the cap pieces in assembled relationship with the rests 3 and also to securely retain the said rests in their operative and applied positions within the base without resorting to the welding process above mentioned. By the inclusion of the cap pieces 7 the effective height of the base B is sufficiently elevated so that the casket D deposited thereon will be above the level of water which will be permitted to accumulate within the vault and at the same time to permit this object to be attained in a very economical manner. Adjacent to the longitudinal ends of the rests 3, the latter are provided with transversely extending pins 10, which are arranged for cooperation with the inner upturned ends 11 provided upon a plurality of handles 12. These handles are generally of bail shaped formation and are slidably received within openings formed in the longitudinal walls 2, so as to be extended when needed and out of the way when the vault is not in use. The pins 10 serve to limit the outward sliding movement of the handles and enable the rests 3 together with the walls 2 to be employed in supporting the weight of the vault.

The housing C is formed generally from steel sheet plate of standard dimensions now ordinarily furnished by sheet metal manufacturers. In the formation of the housing I employ a large size sheet metal plate which is intermediately curved to produce the top 13 of the housing and bent downwardly to produce longitudinally extending, transversely spaced vertical sides 14 which are of course integral with the top 13. The sides 14 in the top 13 are united by means of the vertically disposed end walls 15, which are welded preferably to the adjoining edge portions of the top and side walls. It will thus be seen that the housing is formed essentially from but three readily shaped and formed sections of sheet metal. To further reinforce the structure, as shown in Figures 3 and 4, there is provided within the housing corner reinforcements 16, which are in the nature of cleats or brackets and are rigidly secured to the end walls 15 and the side walls 14 of the housing. These brackets or trusses, as they may be termed, not only render the construction of the housing rigid but are also employed in the locking of the housing in an applied position upon the base.

To effect this object the base B in this instance has its corners provided with casings 17 which are suitably secured to the base and are formed to include internal latch chambers 18 and reduced upper ends 19 which permit the trusses 16 to rest directly, as shown in Figure 3, upon the upper edges of the side walls 2, the said trusses thereby limiting the downward movement of the housing C. The casings 17 are provided with gravity operated latches 20, which are pivoted as at 21 in the chambers 18 and included nose extremities 22, which project through slots 23 provided in the ends 19 and are arranged to overlie the upper surfaces of the trusses 16, the ends of said latches being weighted as at 24 to maintain the extremities 22 in a projected or locking position with relation to the trusses 16. By this construction it will be seen that when the housing is lowered the trusses 16 will first force the latches 20 inwardly to permit the said trusses to rest directly upon the upper edges of the walls 2. When in this position the latches will gravitate to their locking positions, overlying the said trusses so that the housing will be locked in connection with the base. It will be apparent that if the housing were lifted the pressure upon the latches would result in tightly forcing the weighted extremities 24 thereof into engagement with the interior walls of the casing 17, preventing oscillation on the part of the latches, thus providing a secure, automatic and positively operating construction. To release the latches the bottom 1 is provided with slots 25 which afford access to the latches 20 to permit of their retraction.

In view of the foregoing description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying sheet of drawing, it will be apparent that the present invention provides a grave vault which will be of substantial, durable and practical construction and which by reason of its simple construction can be produced at a cost considerably below that of other vaults of a similar nature. While I have secured economy in manufacture of this particular type of vault, yet the construction

provided admits of a conventional appearance together with all necessary strength of construction.

What is claimed is:

1. In a metallic grave vault, a base comprising a substantially pan shaped body including a bottom having upstanding marginal side walls and an open top, and a plurality of casket rests disposed within and secured to said body, said rests being situated to extend entirely across said bottom with the upper surfaces thereof substantially in registration with the upper edges of said side walls.

2. In a metallic grave vault, a base comprising a substantially pan shaped body including a bottom having integral upstanding walls around the margins thereof, and transversely extending casket rests disposed within said body and extending entirely across the latter, each of said rests being formed to include a substantially flat top, and integral downwardly extending side wings depending from said top into engagement with the bottom of the base.

3. In a metallic grave vault, a base comprising a substantially pan shaped body including a bottom having upstanding marginal side walls, casket rests of inverted U shaped formation extending transversely across said bottom between the side walls thereof, casket elevating members removably positioned upon the upper surfaces of said rests, a fastening device passing through said members and said bottom for securing said rests to said bottom.

4. In a metallic grave vault, a base comprising a substantially pan shaped body including a bottom having integral upstanding walls around the margins thereof, transversely extending longitudinally spaced casket rests disposed within said body and extending entirely across the latter between said side walls, pins projecting transversely from the ends of said rests, and a plurality of slidable handles arranged to straddle the ends of said rests and having upwardly bent ends disposed for engagement with said pins for the purpose specified.

5. In a metallic grave vault, a base including a pan shaped body comprising a bottom having upstanding side walls, locking devices disposed in the corners of said base adjacent to said side walls, a housing arranged to fit down upon said base, said housing including vertically disposed walls, and reinforcing devices uniting the walls of said housing and cooperative with said locking devices to retain said housing and base in secured relationship.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CARL A. ALBRECHT.