March 20, 1928.

W. B. PARSELS

1,663,172

CASKET RETAINING DEVICE

Filed March 23, 1927

Fig. 1.

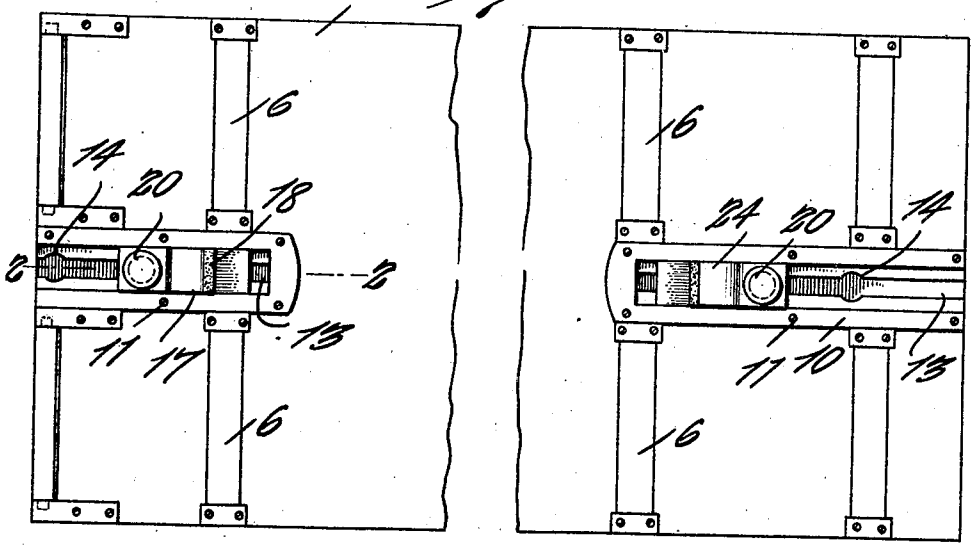


Fig. 2.

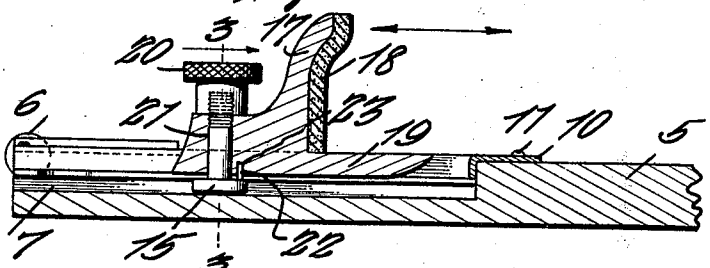
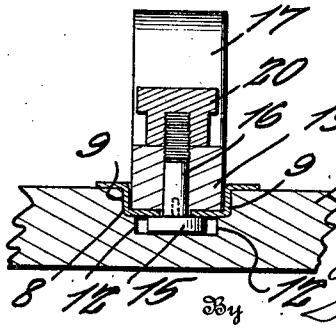


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CASKET-RETAINING DEVICE.

Application filed March 23, 1927. Serial No. 177,704.

This invention relates to hearses, and particularly to means for holding a casket securely in place therein and for preventing longitudinal shifting of the said casket.

It is furthermore an object of this invention to produce casket holding means of the character indicated preferably associated with casket supports, such as forms the subject of a patent issued to this applicant under date of December 8, 1925, No. 1,565,195, wherein rollers are shown which are provided with instrumentalities that are partially imbedded in the bottom of the casket for preventing lateral shifting movement of the casket, although, of course, the inventor does not wish to be limited in the use of the invention.

It is a further object of this invention to produce abutments or clamping elements for the front and rear ends of a casket, adjustable in positions to operate in conjunction with long or short caskets with equal facility and efficiency.

It is a still further object of this invention to produce adjustable elements or devices which can be expeditiously applied to or removed from coacting parts which are stationed in the hearse.

It is furthermore an object of this invention to produce clamping devices which will prove strong and durable, of neat appearance and efficient and satisfactory in use.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists in the details of construction, and in the arrangement and combination of parts to be hereinafter more fully set forth and claimed.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists in the details of construction, and in the arrangement and combination of parts to be hereinafter more fully set forth and claimed.

In describing the invention in detail, reference will be had to the accompanying drawings forming part of this application wherein like characters denote corresponding parts in the several views, and in which—

Figure 1 illustrates a plan view of a floor of a hearse with devices embodying the invention applied thereto;

Figure 2 illustrates a sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and

Figure 3 illustrates a sectional view of part of the device on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

In these drawings, 5 denotes a conventional form of hearse floor having casket supporting rollers 6 with peripheries slightly above the surface of the floor on which the casket is rolled to position in the hearse. As stated heretofore, the rollers 6 may be of conventional type, although they are preferably made in accordance with the teachings of the patent mentioned.

Preferably, adjustable means are provided for securing each end of the casket, although under certain conditions, the adjustable feature of the inner clamp or abutment may be eliminated and the clamp may be stationary and the casket may be moved into engagement with it, but for the purpose of this disclosure, both of the clamping elements are shown as adjustable, and since the parts are duplicated at the two ends of the floor of the hearse, except perhaps as to lengths of the guides or the like, a detailed description of one of the installations will suffice as a disclosure to one skilled in the art of the means afforded by the invention.

Preferably, the floor of the hearse is longitudinally recessed or grooved, as shown at 7, for the reception of a plate 8 that has vertically disposed flanges 9, whose edges extend outwardly to form flanges 10 that lie on the floor of the hearse and are secured thereto by fastenings 11, such as screws or the like. The groove in the floor of the hearse is of greater depth than the side flanges 9 of the plate 8, and longitudinally extending shoulders 12 are formed at the edges of the groove on which the plate rests. The plate 8 is provided with a longitudinally disposed slot 13 having an enlarged area, as shown at 14, and the said slot at its enlarged area is intended to receive the head 15 of a bolt whose shank 16 is slidable in the slot of the plate in order that the screw bolt may be adjusted longitudinally of the plate, for a purpose to be presently explained.

A clamp 17 is preferably provided with a cushioned face 18 and the clamp is of a configuration which will partially embrace the molding of a casket so that longitudinal movement, as well as vertical movement, of the casket will be prevented when the clamp is properly set in engagement with the said molding. The clamp has a base 19 slidable on the plate between the vertically disposed flanges where it is held seated by a nut 20 threaded on the shank 16 of the bolt, it being shown that the shank of the bolt extends through an aperture 21 in the base and the clamp structure, and it is the intention of the

inventor that when the nut is manipulated, it will act to draw the head of the bolt into engagement with the under surface of the plate 8 with sufficient force to frictionally retain the clamp against accidental displacement. As a means for preventing the rotation of the bolt when the nut is being manipulated to tighten the same, the head 15 of the bolt may be provided with a lug or spur 22 which will enter a seat or recess 23 formed in the under surface of the base of the clamp.

It will be seen from an inspection of the drawing and from the foregoing description that if the nut is loose, the clamp may be slid longitudinally of the plate and its flanges and that thus a guide will be provided which will serve to prevent lateral movement of the clamp. It will also be seen that if the clamp is moved to bring the head of the bolt into registry with the enlarged area of the slot in the plate, a clearance will be afforded by which the bolt and clamp may be removed from the plate, leaving the floor of the hearse unobstructed for the movement of the casket when it is placed in or removed from the hearse.

As stated, the parts just described are duplicated at the inner end of the floor of the hearse and the inner clamping member 24 may be adjusted to positions longitudinally of the floor to arrest the inward movement of a casket at any predetermined point, within the length of the mounting for the clamp.

Preferably the nut is knurled externally and the threaded aperture will not extend through the said nut, as the arrangement shown will provide a device which is more ornamental than would be the case should the nut have an opening in it through which the bolt projected.

I claim:

1. In a hearse having a floor with a longitudinally extending groove reduced in width at its bottom, shoulders formed between the wide and narrow portions of the groove, a plate resting on said shoulders, said plate being slotted longitudinally, upstanding flanges at the edge of the plate forming a guide, means for anchoring the plate to the floor of the hearse, a bolt having a shank extending through the slot of the plate and its head slidable in the reduced portion of the groove under the plate, a casket clamp having a base slidable on the plate and guided by the flanges, the said base having an aperture therethrough for the reception of the shank of the bolt, and an element threaded on the bolt for drawing the head of the bolt into engagement with the under surface of the plate.

2. In a hearse having a floor with a longitudinally extending groove reduced in width at its bottom, shoulders formed between the wide and narrow portions of the groove, a plate resting on said shoulders, said plate being slotted longitudinally, upstanding flanges at the edge of the plate forming a guide, means for anchoring the plate to the floor of the hearse, a bolt having a shank extending through the slot of the plate and its head slidable in the reduced portion of the groove under the plate, a casket clamp having a base slidable on the plate and guided by the flanges, the said base having an aperture therethrough for the reception of the shank of the bolt, an element threaded on the bolt for drawing the head of the bolt into engagement with the under surface of the plate, and means for preventing rotation of the said bolt.

3. In a hearse having a floor with a longitudinally extending groove reduced in width at its bottom, shoulders formed between the wide and narrow portions of the groove, a plate resting on said shoulders, said plate being slotted longitudinally, upstanding flanges at the edge of the plate forming a guide, means for anchoring the plate to the floor of the hearse, a bolt having a shank extending through the slot of the plate and its head slidable in the reduced portion of the groove under the plate, a casket clamp having a base slidable on the plate and guided by the flanges, the said base having an aperture therethrough for the reception of the shank of the bolt, and an element threaded on the bolt for drawing the head of the bolt into engagement with the under surface of the plate, the said bolt having a lug at the junction of the shank and head adapted to fit in a seat of the clamp base for preventing rotation of the bolt.

WILLIAM B. PARSELS.