Aug. 28, 1923. 1,466,112

P. C. BIERSACH

GRAVE MARKER

Filed Oct. 19, 1921

FIG. 1.

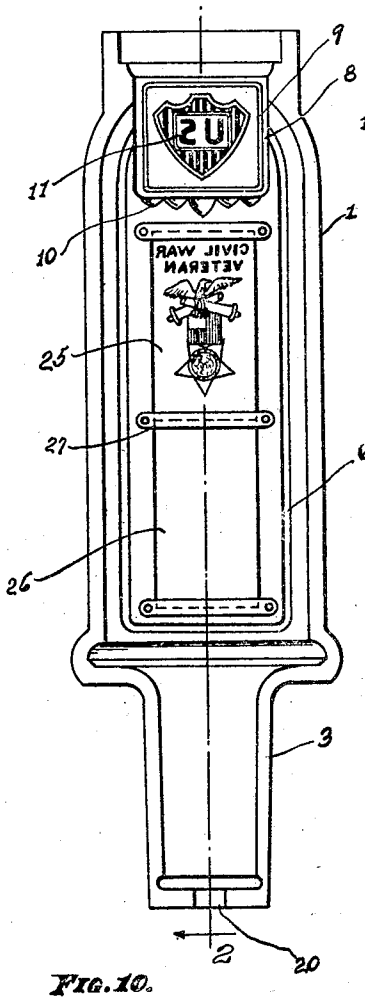


FIG. 2.

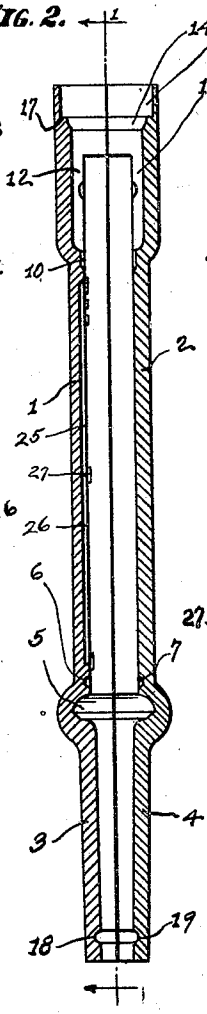


FIG. 4.

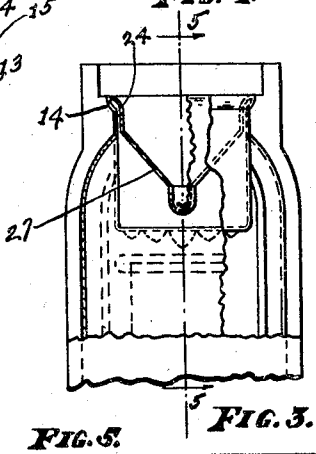


FIG. 5.

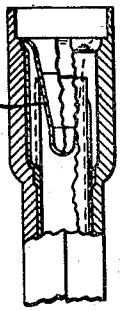


FIG. 3.

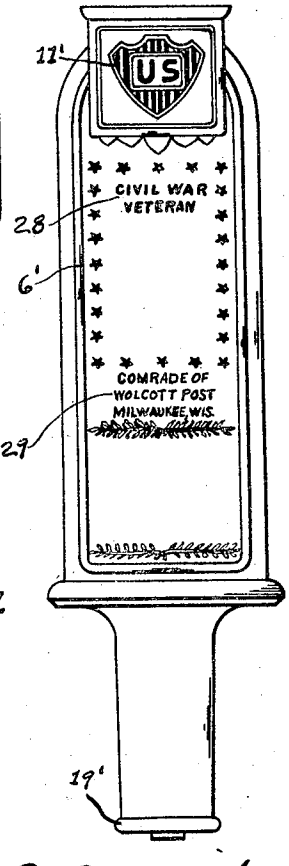


FIG. 10.

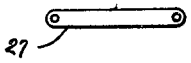


FIG. 8.

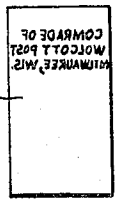


FIG. 9.



FIG. 6.

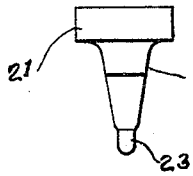
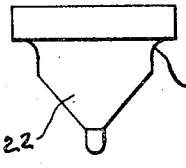


FIG. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PAUL C. BIERSACH, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

GRAVE MARKER.

Application filed October 19, 1921. Serial No. 508,662.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PAUL C. BIERSACH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Milwaukee, county of Milwaukee, and State of Wisconsin, have invented new and useful Improvements in Grave Markers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to grave markers and to the process of making such markers.

Various attempts have been made to provide a grave marker which will successfully resist the elements and attacks of vandals. The gradual chipping, staining, and wear of granite and similar material is common knowledge, and the substitution of metal has merely served to attract vandals for, as has been found, various portions of the metal are removed and carried away.

This invention seeks to overcome these defects and, therefore, objects of this invention are to provide a grave marker which will successfully resist the effacing action due to prolonged exposure to the elements, and which will still fail to attract vandals.

Further objects are to provide a grave marker which has non-staining, non-corrosive characteristics; which is permanent, ornamental, and generally of pleasing and attractive appearance; and to provide such a grave marker, so organized, that it may be equipped with the desired insignia and title, or identifying matter, in a permanent and attractive manner; and to provide such a grave marker with means integrally formed therein for receiving ornaments, such as flowers, and for retaining the necessary freshening water.

Further objects are to provide a grave marker composed of glass which may be readily blown and molded to the desired shape, and with the desired identifying matter thereon; which is hollow and may be finally sealed so as to adapt it for the reception of ashes, if so desired.

A further object is to provide a process of making a grave marker, which may be easily and cheaply practiced.

An embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is an elevation of one-half of the mold within which the grave marker is formed, such figure being a view taken from the inside of the mold.

Figure 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1 showing both halves of the mold in position.

Figure 3 is an elevation of the finished grave marker.

Figure 4 is a detail of the upper portion of the mold showing the grave marker in position therein, and partly broken away.

Figure 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Figure 6 is an end elevation of a removable portion of the mold.

Figure 7 is a side elevation of the structure shown in Figure 6.

Figure 8 is a front elevation of one of the removable portions of the mold which is employed to form the desired insignia, or title.

Figure 9 is an end elevation of the structure shown in Figure 8.

Figure 10 is a view of the retaining member for the plates such as shown in Figures 8 and 9.

In practicing the process contemplated by this invention, a mold is first prepared with suitable internal ornamentation and with the desired identifying matter, or insignia formed therein, with the necessary inversion to secure the correct positioning of the letters or parts of such insignia, or title, upon the finished product. This mold is also equipped with a depressed upper portion. After the mold is assembled and brought to the desired temperature, a blowing tube with a suitable quantity of melted glass thereon, is inserted into the mold, and air under the desired pressure, is forced thru such tube, thereby blowing the glass outwardly against the inner surface of the mold and causing the plastic glass to accurately conform to the ornamentation and engraving formed upon the internal surface of the mold. Thereafter, when the glass is at a suitable stage in the hardening process, the mold is removed in sections so as to leave a hollow glass grave marker with the insignia, ornamentation, and title formed thereon, and with a vase-like or depressed portion formed in its upper end. The lower end of the grave marker may be left open in this process so that ashes of the deceased may be inserted therein, and this lower open end may be subsequently, permanently sealed in any desired manner,

as by forcing a plastic material into such lower opening and allowing it to harden, or by otherwise permanently sealing such opening.

The mold employed in producing the grave marker comprises a pair of members 1 and 2 of generally rectangular contour and provided with contracted or smaller portions 3 and 4 adjacent their lower ends. These members 1 and 2 are of channel-shaped section, as may be seen from a comparison of Figures 1 and 2, and are provided with a relatively large recessed portion or groove 5 upon their inner surfaces and positioned adjacent the point of union of the main rectangular portion and the contracted lower portion. They are also provided with grooves 6 and 7 which extend substantially completely around the main inner surface of the mold sections and terminate adjacent the upper end at a point where the depressed ornamented portion 8 is formed. This ornamented portion may have a groove 9 defining a rectangular surface and may be provided with fluted depressions 10 adjacent its lower edge. Within the flat surface defined by the groove 9 any desired insignia, as indicated at 11, may be formed either by depressions, or by suitable ridges. The upper portion of the mold is enlarged so as to provide spaces upon each side, as indicated at 12 and 13, and a suitable beveled surface 14 merges into the flat surfaces defining these enlargements. The extreme upper portion is provided with a recess 15 terminating in a lower abrupt shoulder 17. The lower portion of the mold is provided with grooves 18 and 19 and with an aperture 20 to accommodate the tube for blowing the glass.

A removable portion is provided for the upper end of the mold and comprises a substantially rectangular part 21 and a tapered downwardly projecting portion 22 (see Figures 6 and 7). The lower portion of the member 22 is provided with a projecting cylindrical pin 23, having a rounded end. This removable portion is adapted to be placed in the upper part of the mold, as may be seen from Figures 4 and 5, with its rectangular portion 21 fitting within the space 15 and seating upon the shoulder 17. The projecting pin 23 is adapted to form a hole in the portion 27 for the reception of a flagpole. It is to be noted from an inspection of Figures 4 and 5, that the tapered surface 14 is spaced from the tapered surface 24 of the removable portion so as to provide a space between such surfaces in which the upper folded or rounded portion of the glass may be formed.

One or both of the members 1 and 2 may be provided with a rectangular depression thruout its major extent upon its inner side and plates 25 and 26 may be removably positioned within these recesses. These plates are conveniently held by means of strap-like members 27 secured at their ends to the mold and extending across the upper and lower edges of the plates 25 and 26. These plates 25 and 26 may have formed thereon any desired identifying, or ornamental matter, or engraving as, for example, the upper plate 25 may have a general designation as "Civil War Veteran" and the lower plates may have any further desired identifying matter. It is, of course, understood that both the inner surface of the mold and the exposed surfaces of the plates may be ornamented in any manner that is desirable to provide wreaths, branches, stars, or any other desired figures.

The various portions of the mold are assembled and clamped in position in any desired manner and brought to the requisite temperature. The glass, in a melted state, is placed within the mold with the blowing tube projecting thru the opening 20. By suitable operations, as previously described, the glass is blown so as to completely fill the mold and take the desired contours. The upper or removable portion of the mold forms a vase-like depression in the upper portion of the grave marker, as indicated at 27 in Figures 4 and 5.

The finished grave marker is illustrated in Figure 3, and it will be seen that it is formed of an integral piece of glass in which the insignia 11′ appears at its upper end with suitable ornamentation and with a vase formed behind such ornamented portion. It will also be seen that a head 6′ extends around the margins of the main portion with suitable ornamentation inside such beaded portion. Also, it will be noted that the various identifying matter, as illustrated at 28 and 29, will be permanently formed upon such grave marker. It is, of course, obvious that this ornamentation and identifying matter may be formed upon both sides of the grave marker, or upon one side thereof as desired. The lower end of the grave marker may be left open during the blowing operation and may thereby provide an easy entrance for the ashes of the deceased. In this case, following the insertion of the ashes, the lower end is suitably sealed in any desired manner as by inserting a plastic hardening material into the lower end, or else by welding a second piece of glass across such lower end. The grooves formed inside of the bead 19′ readily retain the inserted hardened material permanently in place.

It will thus be seen that a process of making a grave marker has been provided which may be easily and cheaply followed, and which will produce an ornamental and serviceable article. It will also be seen that a grave marker has been produced which will

withstand continued action of the elements which will not stain, and which is ornamental and attractive in appearance.

It will be desirable to form the improved glass marker of glass, colored to correspond to the organization of which the deceased is a member. For example:—The glass markers employed for the graves of Civil War veterans will have glass of a light blue color, for United Spanish American War veterans an amber color would be desirable, and for World War veterans the color should be dark brown.

It is obvious that the invention is admirably adapted to permit of this refinement inasmuch as it is a very simple matter to provide a glass marker of the desired color whereas it would not be possible to do so where headstones or markers are employed, which are composed of granite, marble, iron or any other material heretofore used.

I claim:—

1. A grave marker comprising a closed casing having an opening in its bottom temporarily communicating with the interior and adapted to permit the insertion of ashes and subsequent sealing, said casing having integrally formed identifying matter and ornamentation, whereby a unitary container for ashes and an identifying marker is provided.

2. A grave marker comprising an integral casing having an enlarged body portion and a reduced hollow standard, said standard having an opening adjacent its lower end and communicating with the interior, whereby ashes may be inserted and the opening subsequently sealed.

3. A grave marker comprising an integral casing having an enlarged hollow body portion and a reduced hollow standard, said body portion having an imperforate vase-like depression in its upper end, said standard having an opening at its lower end, and said body portion having integrally formed identifying matter and ornamentation, whereby a unitary grave marker having a receptacle for ornaments, a container for ashes and an identifying marker is provided.

4. A grave marker including a non-corroding receptacle having identifying matter integrally formed on its sides, and provided with an opening adapted to be permanently sealed and so disposed as to be inaccessible when said marker is positioned upon the grave.

PAUL C. BIERSACH.