

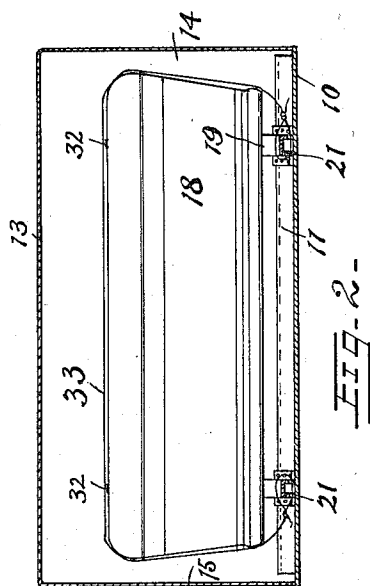
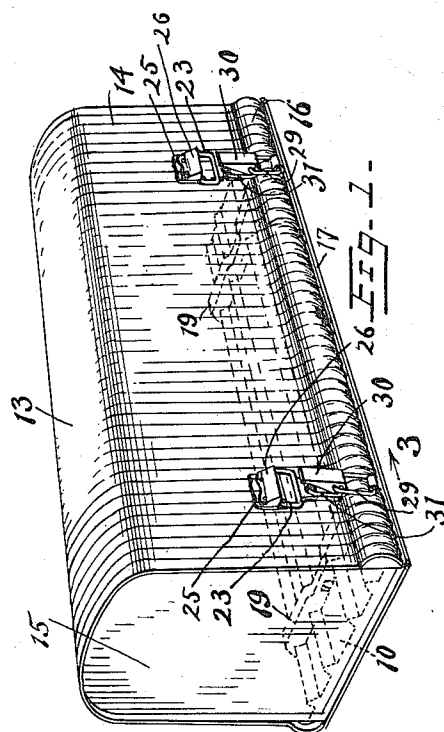
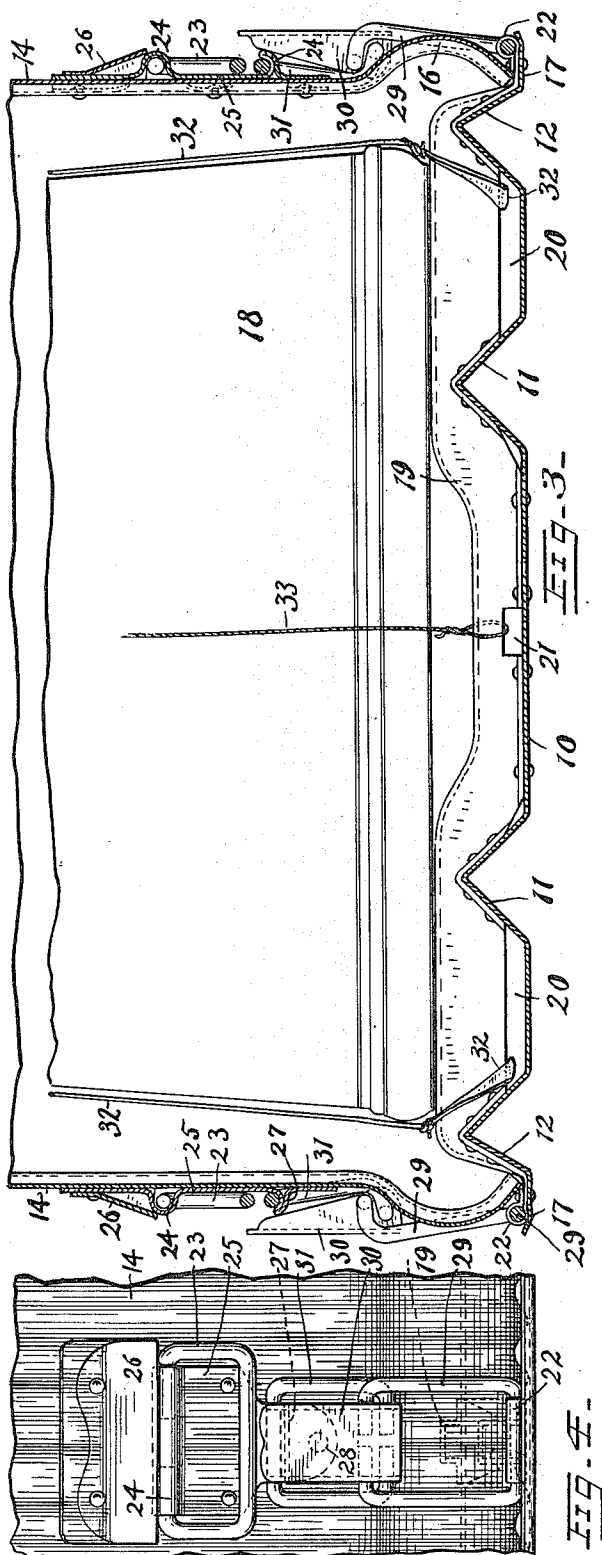
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METAL ROUGH BOX

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1,928,672

METAL ROUGH BOX

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9 Claims. (Cl. 27—35)

This invention relates to improvements in metal rough boxes, particularly improvements which adapt such rough boxes to be employed economically also as shipping cases for caskets.

5 Caskets are ordinarily shipped in packing cases built of wood. Such cases are usually more or less mutilated when opened, are seldom constructed of a good grade of lumber, and would have to be partially rebuilt and would require painting before they could be used as rough boxes even if the quality of lumber were to be considered satisfactory. For these reasons such packing cases are ordinarily destroyed, and represent a loss except for their function of protecting the casket in transit.

One of the objects of my invention is the provision of a box which is equally adapted for use both as a shipping case and as a rough box for burial purposes.

20 Another object is the provision of a box of relatively light gauge sheet metal, in order that the shipping weight may compare favorably with the shipping weight of a wooden rough box or shipping case, together with two or more slings for the casket built into the bottom and sides of the box, by which the box with its casket is to be carried, thereby taking the strains imposed by the weight of the casket away from the relatively light material of the box.

30 A further object of the invention is the utilization of the cover fasteners as a part of the casket supporting slings.

Still another object is the construction of the slings in such manner that they can be used for anchoring straps passed over the casket in order to prevent it from moving in the box during shipment.

Other objects and features of novelty will appear as I proceed with the description of that embodiment of the invention which, for the purposes of the present application, I have illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a rough box embodying the invention.

45 Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same.

Fig. 3 is a fragmental transverse sectional view on a larger scale, this view being taken substantially at the point marked by the arrow 3 in Fig. 1 and showing the position of a casket in the box, and

Fig. 4 is a fragmental elevational view of one of the box handles with its connection to the corresponding transverse rail.

55 As shown in the drawing my rough box comprises a bottom member or base 10 which may be provided with longitudinal ribs 11 and 12 principally for the purpose of increasing its strength. The box also includes a cover member comprising a top 13, sides 14 and ends 15. The end plates 15 are each provided with an external flange by means of which they are connected, as by welding or otherwise, with the top and side walls 13 and 14. These top and side walls are preferably made in a single piece, and are constructed of corrugated metal with the corrugations thereof running transversely, as disclosed in my copending application Ser. No. 584,469, filed January 2, 1932. The transverse corrugations of course add greatly to the strength and rigidity of the cover.

At their lower edges the sides 14 are provided with longitudinal transversely curved ribs or beads 16 which have a further strengthening effect. When the cover is in place these beads rest upon outer horizontal flanges 17 extending along the side edges of the base 10.

The casket, which is indicated at 18 in Figs. 2 and 3, is supported upon transverse rails 19, of which there are generally two, although three may be employed in some cases. These rails are formed of sheet metal which should be of sufficiently heavy gauge to support the load of the casket and its contents with a reasonable factor of safety, although of course they will be assisted in their support of the load by the base 10 of the rough box to which the rails are attached.

Although the rails 19 could be secured below the box bottom, I prefer to mount them above it as shown in the drawings. As disclosed herein they are formed as inverted channels with outwardly extending bottom flanges which are riveted to the ribs 11 and 12 and to the base 10 between the two ribs 11.

Between each pair of ribs 11 and 12 the rail 19 terminates above the base 10, leaving a space 20. Intermediate the two ribs 11 the rail 19 is deflected downwardly to enable its flanges to rest directly upon the base 10. At a point midway of its length the sides of the rails are cut away to provide a space or passage 21. At its outer ends the rail 19 is drawn down flat and rolled back upon itself to provide a hinge socket or sleeve 22, the edge of the metal inwardly of the hinge sleeve being secured by rivets which extend through the flange 17 of the base 10.

In vertical alignment with each of the hinge sockets 22 I mount upon the sides of the cover member handles 23. Each of these handles is pivotally hung within a loop 24 formed in a vertically arranged reinforcing strip 25 that is se-

cured to the corrugated metal of the side member by rivets or the like, preferably located within the troughs of the corrugations as viewed from the outside of the box. Just above the handle

23 a guard 26 is mounted. It acts as a stop to prevent the handle 23 from swinging upwardly beyond an angle of 90° with the side of the cover.

Below the handle 23 the reinforcing strip 25 is reduced in width and is given an outwardly and upwardly curved fold constituting a saddle 27. The strip 25 terminates slightly below this saddle 27, and is there secured to the side wall of the cover by a rivet or otherwise, as indicated at 28 in Fig. 4.

I connect the socket or sleeve 22 on the base member with a saddle 27 of the side wall by an extensible link which serves the purpose not only of locking the cover to the base member, but also constitutes part of the connection between the handle 24 and the transverse rail 19. Each sling is therefore made up of a transverse rail 19, two handles 23, two reinforcing strips 25, and the extensible links presently to be described.

While in the broader aspects of the invention various other kinds of connections between the saddle 27 and the socket 22 could be successfully employed, particularly removable or releasable connections, some sort of extensible link is preferred because it can be made entirely of metal, and therefore as strong as necessary to fulfill its functions as a part of the casket supporting sling, and because it can be very quickly and easily set and released.

As herein disclosed the extensible link comprises a heavy wire loop 29, the bight of which extends through the hinge socket 22. Near its upper ends the side members of this loop are curved inwardly, that is toward the box, and the ends are then turned toward each other and pivotally mounted in the side walls of a channel-shaped sheet metal operating lever 30. The ends of a second heavy wire loop 31 are also mounted in the operating lever 30, and the bight of the latter loop is adapted to seat in the saddle 27.

It will be obvious from an inspection of the drawing that when the operating lever 30 is swung downwardly upon the ends of loop 29 as pivots, the loop 31 will be raised far enough to permit it to be removed from the saddle 27, after which the whole extensible link may be swung downwardly about hinge socket 22, and that similar action with all the extensible links will leave the cover member free to be lifted off the base member of the box. When the reverse operation is to be performed the extensible links, with the operating levers 30 turned down, are swung upwardly until the loop 31 of each lies above its saddle 27, after which the operating lever is swung upwardly to the position indicated in the drawing, whereby the loop 31 is drawn down to cause its transverse portion to engage and seat itself tightly within the saddle. When this has occurred, it will be observed, the adjacent ends of loops 29 and 31 have passed beyond dead center so that the link tends to maintain itself in locked position. It will also be observed that the position of the operating lever 30 in its locking condition is just the reverse of the usual position of such levers, and this is for the purpose of preventing accidental unlocking of the link when a rough box with a casket enclosed therein is lowered into a grave.

The loops 29 and 31 are so positioned with respect to the corrugations of the cover member that when the extensible links are in locking po-

sition the upstanding portions of the loops 29 and 31 will lie in the troughs of the corrugations and hence will not protrude appreciably beyond the ribs or beads 16.

When a casket is to be shipped in my rough box it must be held against movement in order to avoid damage. The spaces 20 and 21 previously referred to are provided for this purpose. When the casket is in position, preferably centered upon the rails 19 both longitudinally and laterally, it is secured to the rails by flexible ties, preferably heavy fabric straps. A laterally extending strap 32 is used at each rail 19, one end of each strap being passed around the rail through the space 20 and knotted, and the strap then caused to pass upwardly along the side of the casket, over the top of the same and downwardly on the other side, where its end is passed around the rail 19 through the space 20 at that end of the rail and tied or otherwise secured. When both straps 32 have been thus adjusted, a third strap 33 is tied to the middle of one rail 19, the end of the strap being passed through the space 21 in that rail. This strap is then brought upward along the end of the casket, extended lengthwise of the top thereof, preferably secured to the transverse straps 32 where it crosses those straps, and then brought downward over the opposite end of the casket and secured to the other rail 19 through the opening 21 thereof. All of the straps are of course drawn up tightly, and by this means the casket is lashed down very securely to the rails 19 and the base 10.

In the foregoing description I have necessarily gone somewhat into detail in order to explain fully the particular embodiments of the invention herein illustrated, but I desire it to be understood that such detailed disclosures are not to be construed as amounting to limitations, except as they may be included in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a metal rough box, a bottom and a separate cover comprising top and sides, and a pair of casket supporting slings with handles at their ends extending across the bottom and up the sides of the box, the side and, bottom portions of said slings being separable at the joint between the bottom and cover.

2. In a metal rough box, a bottom, a cover member having sides, a plurality of slings comprising transverse rails attached to the bottom and adapted to support a casket, handles attached to the cover sides, and separable connections between said handles and the respective rails.

3. In a metal rough box, a bottom and a cover formed of sheet metal, said cover comprising a top and sides and a plurality of casket supporting slings with handles at their ends extending across the bottom and up the sides of the box, said slings being formed of metal and being connected with the bottom and sides of the box.

4. In a metal rough box, a bottom, a cover member having sides, a plurality of slings comprising transverse rails attached to the bottom and adapted to support a casket, handles attached to the cover sides, and separable connections between said handles and the respective rails, said separable connections constituting also means for locking said bottom and cover member together.

5. In a metal rough box, a bottom, a cover member having sides, a plurality of slings comprising transverse rails mounted upon the bot-

tom and projecting above the same, said rails having casket supporting surfaces upon their upper sides, and having provision for the reception of straps by which the casket may be tied
 5 down, each of said slings extending also part way up the sides of the box and having external handles at their upper ends.

6. In a metal rough box, a bottom, a cover member having sides, a plurality of transverse
 10 rails mounted upon the bottom and projecting above the same, said rails having casket supporting surfaces upon their upper sides, and each rail having provision for the reception of a strap at each end and at the middle, by means of which
 15 the casket may be secured to the slings by a plurality of transverse straps and one longitudinal strap.

7. In a metal rough box, a bottom member, and a cover member separable therefrom comprising
 20 a top, sides and ends, a plurality of rails mounted transversely upon said bottom member and securely attached thereto, said rails being adapted to support a casket, and connections ex-

ternal to the cover member for attachment to the ends of said rails connections being provided with handles by means of which the box and a casket therein may be carried without subjecting
 80 the box itself to strains imposed by the weight of the casket.

8. In a metal rough box, a bottom and sides, and a pair of casket supporting slings with handles at their ends extending across the bottom
 85 and up the sides of the box, said slings comprising transverse bottom members and extension links for detachably securing the sides of the rough box to the bottom thereof.

9. In a metal rough box, a bottom and sides, and a pair of casket supporting slings with
 90 handles at their ends extending across the bottom and up the sides of the box, said slings comprising transverse bottom members and extension links for detachably securing the sides of
 95 the rough box to the bottom thereof, each link including a swinging operating lever which is thrown upward to operative position.

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