Jan. 31, 1967 R. L. HEGMAN ETAL 3,300,828

BODY REST ADJUSTMENT FOR COFFIN

Filed July 10, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

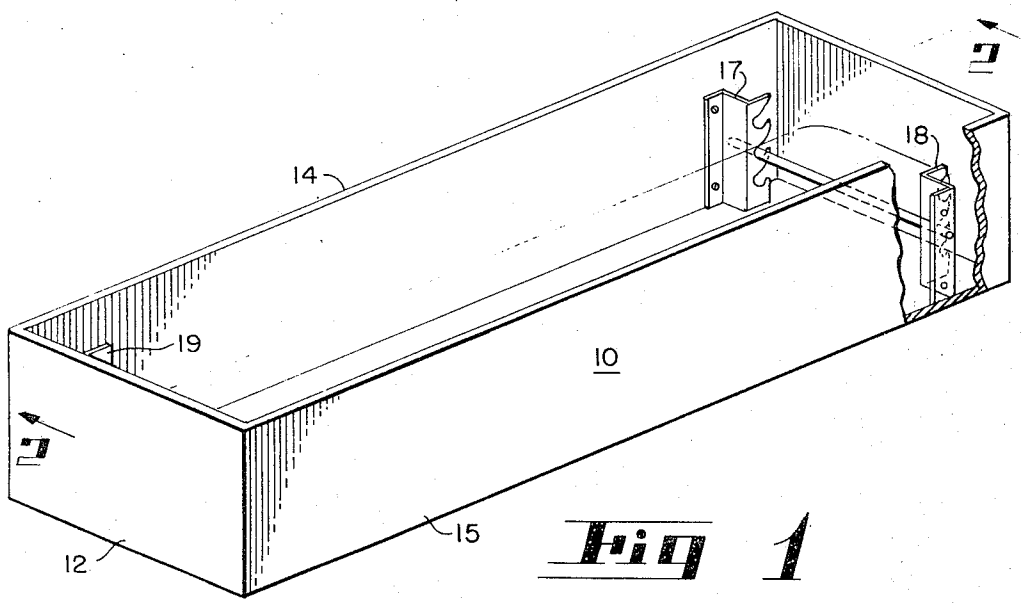


Fig 1

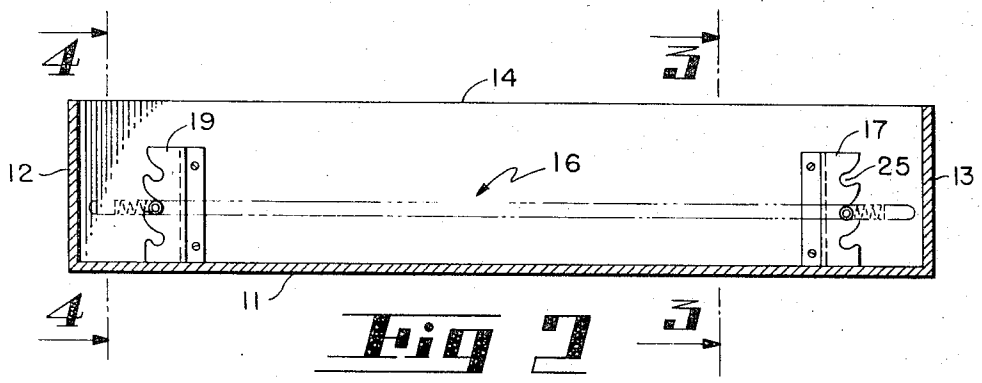


Fig 2

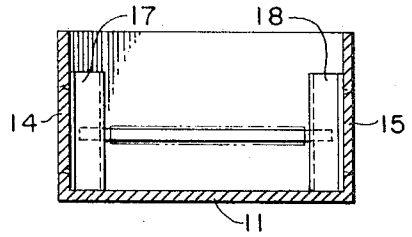


Fig 3

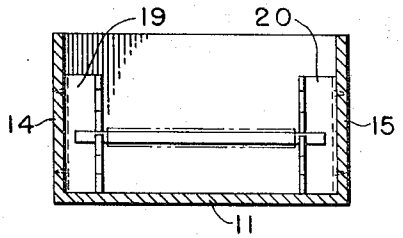


Fig 4

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BODY REST ADJUSTMENT FOR COFFIN

Filed July 10, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

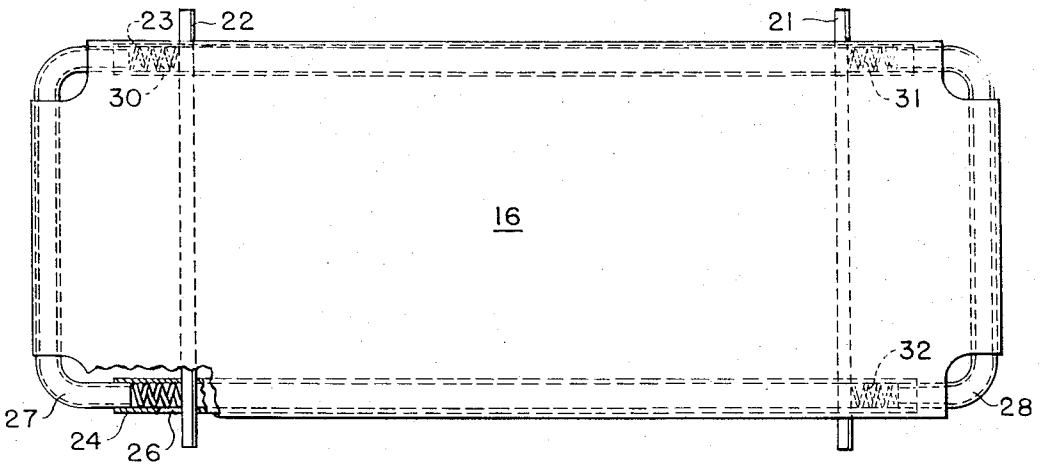


Fig 5



Fig 6

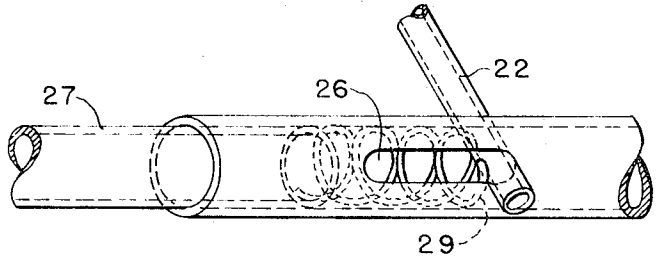


Fig 7

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3,300,828

BODY REST ADJUSTMENT FOR COFFIN

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Filed July 10, 1964, Ser. No. 381,745
1 Claim. (Cl. 27—12)

The present invention relates generally to improvements in caskets and, more specifically, it provides an improved body rest adjustment for a coffin.

A primary object of the invention is to provide a simplified body support structure, readily adjustable as to height, for a coffin.

Another basic object of the invention is to provide a structure which is so arranged that the height-adjusting means is, for the most part, concealed from vision.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved body support adjustment for a coffin which can be conveniently manually operated in any one of three modes: First, by separate corners; second, from both ends; third, from either end.

Still another object of the invention is materially to advance the art of adjustable body supports for coffins by providing an improved adjusting arrangement which is relatively simple and reliable in operation and not depent on complex-shaped brackets.

A further object of the invention is to provide for more ready adjustment of the position of a corpse, without resorting to the necessity of removing or adding stuffing material to a coffin mattress.

During storage and shipping, the body-support is arranged to allow adequate space for pillows and other interior accoutrements, permitting these to be handled without crushing during the storage and shipping of the coffin prior to its end use.

For a better understanding of the present invention, together with other and further objects and capabilities thereof, reference is made to the following description of the appended drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 illustrates in perspective a coffin embodying a preferred form of adjustable body rest in accordance with the invention;

FIGURE 2 is a cross-sectional view of the FIGURE 1 embodiment as taken along the section line 2—2 of FIGURE 1, looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIGURES 3 and 4 are sectional views as taken along section lines 3—3 and 4—4, respectively, in each case of FIGURE 2, looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIGURES 5 and 6 are, respectively, top plan and side views of the platform portion of the body rest in accordance with the invention;

FIGURE 7 is an enlarged detailed view of one latch member comprising a rod, slotted support and compression spring.

Referring to FIGS. 1–4, there is shown a conventional casket body **10**, comprising a bottom **11**, ends **12** and **13**, and sides **14** and **15**. A platform **16** formed in accordance with the invention and including a coffin mattress provides support for the corpse.

Now an ever-present problem in the mortician's art is to present a body with dignity and repose. Due to the dimensional variations as between corpses, and the necessity in most cases to elevate the body to the proper level in a coffin, there is need to improve means for adjustment of the elevation of platform **16**, without resort to mechanisms that are complex, "sticky", expensive, unreliable or lacking in ready access.

In accordance with the invention, therefore, we provide a first pair of spaced brackets or locating means **17**, **18** near to one end of the coffin, these being disposed

near the corners, and a second pair of spaced brackets near to the other end of the coffin. The brackets are formed with notches such as that indicated at **25**, definitive of available locating or elevational levels. It will be understood that all four of the brackets are similar and that they provide corresponding notches at several levels. That is, brackets **17** and **18** are complementary to each other and brackets **19** and **20** are complementary to each other. Each bracket in section is Z-shaped, and each comprises an integral portion which abuts against a side of the coffin and is secured thereto, an integral mid-portion extending into the coffin and an integral notched portion extending toward the end of the coffin and parallel to the side of the coffin. In other words, the notches on the brackets face outwardly, i.e., toward the coffin ends. It will be understood that the brackets could be mounted on and secured to the bottom of the coffin instead of being secured to the sides, as shown in the specific embodiment illustrated in the drawings.

The platform **16** (see FIGS. 5–7) is, of course, intended to be adjustably positioned within the coffin **10** and the platform structure therefore includes a first transversely extending rod **21**, the ends of which are adapted to project into notches in the first pair of brackets **17**, **18**, and a second transversely extending rod **22**, the ends of which are adapted to project into notches formed in the second pair of brackets **19**, **20**. The platform proper comprises a pair of spaced tubular support members **23** and **24** extending parallel to the length of the coffin. The support members **23**, **24** are formed with slots such as that designated **26**, extending outboard and near their ends. Rod **22** projects through the slots at one end of the support members, rod **21** projects through the slots at the other end of the support members, so that the rods may be displaced outwardly along the slots (i.e. toward the ends of the coffin). U-shaped tubular end members **27** and **28** are provided, member **27** projecting into the tubular support members at one end and U-shaped member **28** projecting into the tubular support members at the other end. The U-shaped members are rigidly and fixedly secured to the support members into which they telescope, providing seats for four compression springs, one of which is shown in detail and designated by the reference numeral **29**. It will be observed that compression spring **29** tends to push one end of rod **22** inwardly. Similarly the compression springs **30**, **31** and **32** tend to push their corresponding end portions of rods **22** and **21** inwardly. In each case the spring is compressed between and edge of a U-shaped member and a side area of one of the transversely extending rods.

While the rods **21** and **22** are capable of lateral movement away from each other, they are normally biased inwardly by the compression springs.

The platform **16** is provided with an integral mattress, the casing of which is positioned by being looped at its sides around the support members **23** and **24**, and at its ends around the central portions of the U-shaped members **27** and **28**.

Optionally, a single operator may force either rod **21** or **22** outwardly, disengaging one end of the platform **16** from one end pair of brackets and he may then change the elevation of that end by placing the rod in the desired notches in that pair of brackets and then releasing the rod. The operator can then force the other rod outwardly, disengaging it from the other pair of brackets and finally placing said other rod in latching engagement with the desired notches. As an alternative, operators at each end may simultaneously perform both of the aforementioned unlatching, locating and releasing operations. Third, the operations may be performed by a single operator, one corner at a time. In any event, when an end of either rod **21** or **22** is registered with

a higher or a lower notch, as the case may be, latching the corner of the platform again in place is accomplished by simply permitting the rod again to be biased inwardly into the notch by the associated compression spring.

The mattress included in platform **16** of the present invention is identical in construction to that shown in our copending patent application, Serial No. 240,075, now patent No. 3,145,445 filed in the United States Patent Office on November 26, 1962, entitled "Body Rest Adjustment for Coffin" and assigned to the same assignee as the present invention and application.

While there has been shown and described what are at present believed to be the preferred embodiments of the present invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the proper scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

Having disclosed our invention, we claim:

In a coffin comprising a bottom, ends and sides, the combination of:

a frame consisting of two spaced longitudinally extended tubular side members and two spaced generally U-shaped tubular end members telescoping into said side members to provide shoulders,

a mattress secured to said frame and extending substantially over the interior length of said coffin,

first and second spaced brackets secured to the coffin near its head end and laterally of said frame and mattress,

third and fourth spaced brackets secured to the coffin near its foot end and laterally of said frame and mattress,

each of the brackets being formed with a vertical sequence of diagonally upwardly extending tangs spaced inwardly from the sides of said coffin and defining notches,

said side members being formed with longitudinally extending slots near said shoulders,

a first transversely extending rod located under said mattress and adapted to project through two of said slots into notches on the first and second brackets,

a second transversely extending rod located under said mattress and adapted to project through the other two of said slots into notches on the third and fourth brackets,

said rods having end portions providing handles,

the tangs on the first and second brackets facing away from the tangs on the third and fourth brackets and each tang being so formed as to permit an end portion of a rod to be disengaged from the notch associated with and under that tang and manually lifted to the next adjacent notch, and

means for permitting individual disengagement of any rod portion to be lifted comprising coil springs individually disposed outboard of said rod end portions between said rod end portions and said shoulders for biasing said rod portions inwardly toward said notches,

the rods being biased into the notches by the springs to support the frame and mattress in any selected position and the end portions of the rods being manually released from said notches against the force of said coil springs to permit adjustment of the elevation of the frame and mattress.

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