Jan. 19, 1932. F. LEICHT 1,841,412

CASKET DISPLAY RACK

Filed March 12, 1931

Fig. 1.

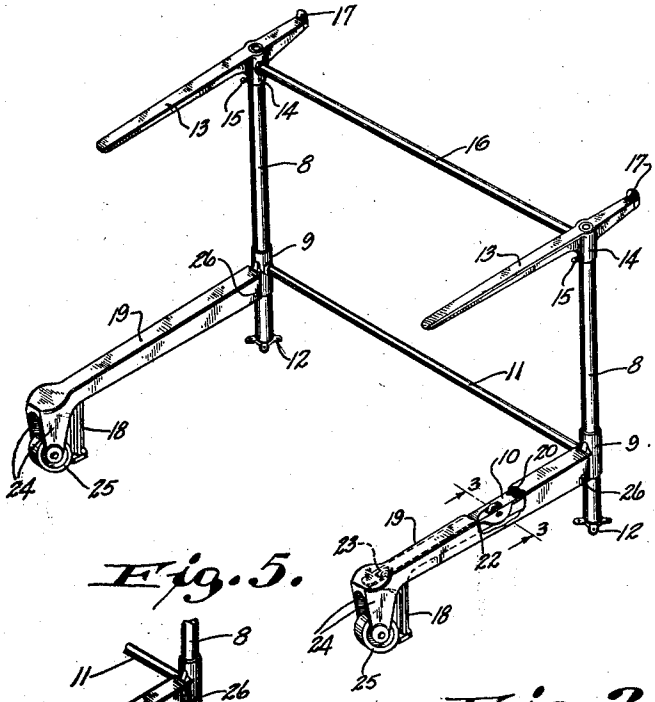


Fig. 3.

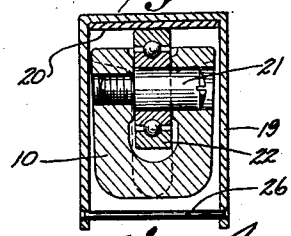


Fig. 4.

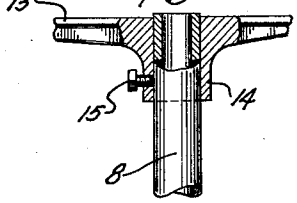


Fig. 5.

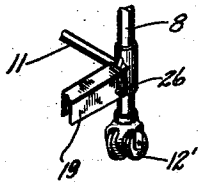


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CASKET DISPLAY RACK

Application filed March 12, 1931. Serial No. 521,956.

This invention relates to improvements in casket display racks.

In the patent to G. F. Honold, #1,169,157, dated January 25th, 1916, there is shown and described a rack for use in the mortuary art, specifically for undertakers' use for supporting and displaying several caskets. In the rack covered by said U. S. Patent #1,169,157, the design of the rack was such that two or more caskets could be supported and displayed thereon, but in said construction, with caskets disposed on both the upper and lower supporting arms, the covers of the lower caskets could not be opened up, because of interference, with supported caskets thereabove, to display the interiors of the lower caskets.

The present invention constitutes an improvement over said U. S. Patent #1,169,157, and the present casket display rack, in addition to all of the objects and advantages inherent to the construction of said former patent, seeks to provide a casket display rack wherein the lower supporting arms are extensible, whereby a casket mounted thereon may be drawn outwardly with respect to a casket supported thereabove, permitting the cover of the lower casket, as well as that of the upper casket, to be completely opened to reveal the interior of the lower casket.

A specific object of the present invention is to provide a casket display rack having lower casket supporting extensible arms, said arm extensions being so mounted and supported on ball bearing members that when said arms are moved toward extended positions, certain anti-friction devices and supports are put into operation when the equilibrium of the casket supporting arms is overcome upon an outward movement of the same, whereby little effort is required in moving said arms to and from displaying positions.

A further object of the invention is to provide a casket display rack of such low arrangement and disposition that a prospective purchaser may readily view and inspect caskets displayed on both the upper and lower arms of the rack.

A further specific object of the invention is to provide a casket display rack arranged so that a casket on a lower portion thereof may be moved outwardly for ready and complete inspection, and after inspection the casket may be pushed inwardly directly below the upper casket, whereby floor space in the establishment is greatly conserved.

A further object of the invention is to provide a casket display rack which is easily adjusted and manipulated, which is strong and durable, is attractive in appearance, and is well adapted for the purposes described.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists of the improved casket display rack, and its parts and combinations as set forth in the claims, and all equivalents thereof.

In the accompanying drawings in which the same reference characters indicate the same parts in all of the views:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the improved casket display rack with a portion broken away to show a detail of construction;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the rack showing it supporting a pair of opened caskets, and with the lower supporting arms of the rack extended;

Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1 and on a larger scale;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary detail sectional view of the upper end portion of an upright post and the engagement of an upper arm therewith; and

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary detail view illustrating an alternative formation or mounting for the lower end portion of an upright post.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings it will appear that the numerals 8 indicate a pair of spaced-apart upright posts whose lower end portions are surrounded by fixed hub portions 9 of lower, elongated, horizontally extending casket brackets 10. The hub portions 9 of the two posts are joined by an elongated bar 11. The lower extremities of the posts 8 may be formed with flanged supporting feet 12 which may be bolted to a support, or, in lieu thereof, said lower extremities of the posts 8 may carry casters 12' as illustrated in the modified showing in Fig. 5.

The upper end portions of the posts 8 are adapted to support upper casket brackets or arms 13. Said brackets or arms 13 are formed with tubular hub portions 14 through which the upper end portions of the posts extend, and said arms 13 may be secured in vertical positions of adjustment with respect to the upper ends of the posts 8 by means of bolts 15. The upper arms or brackets 13 are connected together by means of an elongated horizontal rod 16 extended between and connected to the hub portions 14 of the same. Both the upper and lower pairs of arms or brackets are of sufficient length to support thereon a casket, and the inner ends of the upper arms 13 are formed with upstanding flanges or projections 17. The outer ends of the lower arms or brackets 10 have depending therefrom supporting legs 18.

Each of the lower arms has slidably mounted thereon a channeled extension arm 19. Within each channeled extension arm against a horizontal inner face thereof, there is welded an elongated flat steel strip 20 for reinforcement purposes and to form a track for contact with anti-friction devices carried by the arms 10, and hereinafter to be described.

By referring particularly to Figs. 1 and 3 it will be noted that an intermediate portion of each of the lower arms 10 is recessed and there is mounted within said recess on a screw stud 21 a ball bearing or anti-friction roller 22. Each roller 22 projects above the top face of its arm 10 and in the normal unextended position of the extension arm 19 thereon, the roller contacts with the inner reinforcing strip and track 20. A similar ball bearing or anti-friction roller 23 is similarly mounted within the extreme forward or outer end portion of each arm 10.

The outer end portions of the extension arms 19 are provided with depending bifurcated legs 24. Each bifurcated leg, between its lower extremities, has revolubly mounted on a shaft, a roller 25.

The improved casket display rack is of such a nature that it may be conveniently positioned adjacent the side wall of a room, and a casket may be disposed across the upper brackets or arms 13 and supported thereby, and a second casket may be disposed across the lower arms or brackets 10—19 and be supported thereby, below the upper casket. Normally the extension arms 19 are in their inner, non-extended positions as illustrated in Fig. 1. With the weight of a casket thereon, said extension arms 19 are borne by the anti-friction devices 22 and 23. It should be observed that the bifurcated legs 24 are of such a length that in this contracted position of the extension arms the rollers 25 are slightly elevated from the floor. If it is desired to extend the extension arms 19 or to move the same outwardly this is accomplished by the exertion of a minimum amount of force because said arms ride on the anti-friction devices 22. When the arms have been moved outwardly a sufficient distance the casket supported thereby will cause a slight overbalancing of the extension arms 19 to overcome their normal equilibrium. When this occurs the rollers 25 carried by the legs 24 of the extension arms will then ride on the floor and thus maintain the ease of moving the arms and casket thereon to a still further forward position, movement to the extended position being further aided by the forward anti-friction devices 23. Transverse pins 26 between the lower inner end portions of the channeled extension arms 19 engage the legs 18 and limit the forward extension of said members 19.

In the normal position of the display rack it is of course possible to view the exterior of the lower casket and also the cover or lid of the upper casket may be raised, for the inspection of the interior thereof. However, in this position, because of interference from the upper casket, it is impossible to open the cover or lid of the lower casket. The extension arms 19, however, permit the complete extension of the lower casket from a position below the upper casket to such a position, as illustrated in Fig. 2, that the lower casket may be opened up and both caskets completely viewed and inspected simultaneously. This arrangement further permits of the construction of a supporting stand which is relatively low so that the upper casket will be completely within the range of vision of a prospective purchaser. The extensibility of the lower arms or brackets 19 is such that after inspection, the lower casket may be easily returned to its position below the upper casket, providing for compactness and minimizing the amount of floor space required for the display of caskets.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that the improved casket display rack is of very simple and novel construction, and is well adapted for the purposes described.

What is claimed as the invention is:

1. A display rack, comprising a supporting structure, a pair of horizontal arms carried in spaced relation by upper portions of said supporting structure, a pair of horizontal arms carried in spaced relation by lower portions of said supporting structure, extension arms telescopically surrounding said lower arms throughout the lengths of the latter, and anti-friction devices interposed between said lower arms and the extension arms.

2. A display rack, comprising a supporting structure, a pair of horizontal arms carried in spaced relation by upper portions of said supporting structure, a pair of horizontal arms carried in spaced relation by lower portions of said supporting structure, legs depending from the outer ends of said lower arms, extension arms telescopically mounted on said

lower arms, anti-friction devices interposed between said lower arms and the extension arms, and normally inactive legs depended from the outer ends of said extension arms.

3. A display rack, comprising a supporting structure, a pair of horizontal arms carried in spaced relation by upper portions of said supporting structure, a pair of horizontal arms carried in spaced relation by lower portions of said supporting structure, legs depending from the outer ends of said lower arms, extension arms telescopically mounted with respect to said lower arms, anti-friction devices interposed between said lower arms and the extension arms, and normally inactive legs depended from the outer ends of said extension arms, said legs being slidably engageable with a supporting surface upon an extension of said extension arms and slight overbalancing of the same due to a weight borne thereon.

4. A casket display rack, comprising a pair of spaced upright posts, brackets adjustably mounted on the upper ends of said posts and provided with horizontal arms for supporting a casket, connections between said posts to maintain the same in spaced relationship, brackets mounted on the lower end portions of said posts and provided with horizontal supporting arms, supporting legs depending from the outer ends of said lower arms, extension arms telescopically mounted on said lower arms for supporting a casket below the upper arms, anti-friction devices interposed between said extension arms and said lower arms, and legs depending from the outer ends of said extension arms, said legs, in the non-extended position of said extension arms being elevated from the floor, but upon extension of said arms and a slight overbalancing of the same said legs slidably contacting with the floor.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

FRED. LEICHT.