

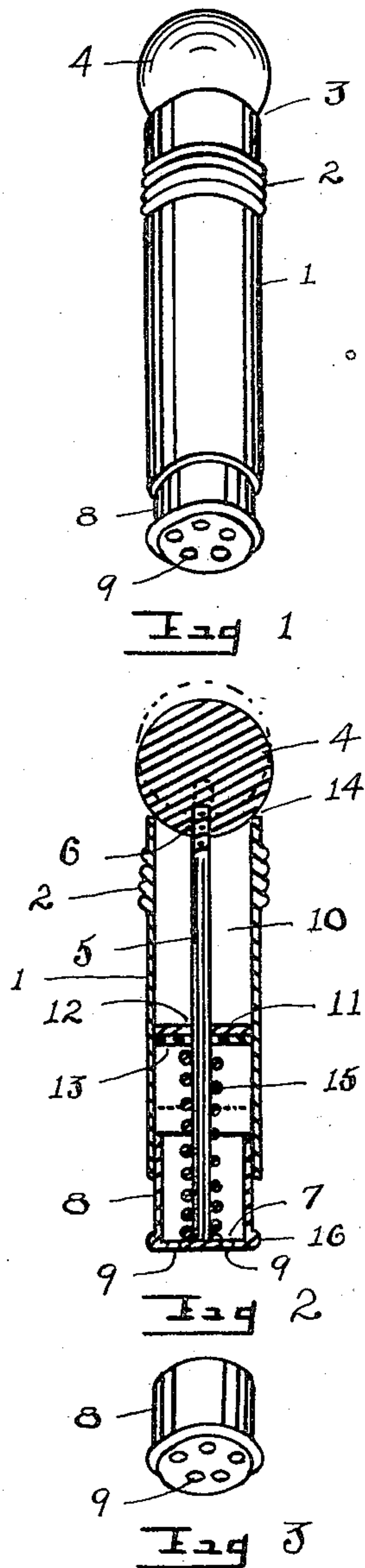
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H. S. GORDON

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EARTH HOLDER FOR FUNERAL SERVICES

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Inventor

Harry S. Gordon

By

Thomas L. Wilder  
Attorney



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## EARTH HOLDER FOR FUNERAL SERVICES

Harry S. Gordon, Utica, N. Y.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 221—62)

My invention relates to an earth holder, for funeral services and I declare the following to be a full, clear, concise and exact description thereof sufficient to enable anyone skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing in which like reference characters refer to like parts throughout the specification.

The object of the invention is to provide an earth holder used particularly by ministers of the gospel in the committal service for the dead. The device can be carried in the pocket of the user and easily extracted therefrom at the time of committing the body to the grave when the minister pronounces the words "Earth to earth and ashes to ashes".

Moreover the device is arranged to securely hold the sand or earth therein until it is emptied at the time above suggested. Heretofore some trouble has been experienced in devices of this nature due to the leaking out of the sand or earth while the container is in the user's pocket. This defect is accompanied with the inconvenience of necessitating the emptying of the user's pocket from time to time of the sand or earth that has accumulated therein.

Furthermore, the device is designed to allow the sand or earth to flow freely from the container without clogging when the sand is needed.

The object will be understood by referring to the drawing, in which,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device.

Fig. 2 is a central vertical section of the device showing parts in full.

Fig. 3 is a detail view showing a perspective of a sliding cup employed.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the device embodies a cylindrical casing or tube 1 preferably of such dimensions that it can be placed easily in a person's coat pocket and withdrawn therefrom at will. The upper interior part of container 1 is serrated at 2 to aid the fingers in holding the container 1 in a firm manner.

Both ends of the cylindrical container 1 are closed by members now to be described. The top part 3 from which the sand flows is enclosed by a yieldingly mounted spherical ball 4. Ball 4 is used to avoid any sharp corners. It is held temporarily on its seat against the upper edge 3 of container 1 by the following mechanism. A rod 5 is screw threaded at 6 to ball 4. Rod 5 projects downward through the central part of container 1. Its lower end is fastened permanently by brazing, soldering or otherwise to the

inner end surface 7 of the slide cup closing member 8.

Member 8 has a sliding fit within cylindrical container 1. Its outer end surface has vent apertures 9 therethrough to prevent air pressure when pushing said member 8 inward with respect to cylindrical casing 1.

A chamber 10 for holding sand is formed in the upper part of container 1 by a disk partition 11 which is attached permanently to the inner surface of container 1 by brazing or otherwise. Rod 5 projects down through an aperture 12 made in disk partition 11 and can slide freely with respect thereto. A felt or rubber washer 13 aids in sealing aperture 12, whereby to prevent the sand or earth from leaking therethrough.

The means for holding ball 4 yieldingly against the upper edge 14 of cylindrical container 1 embodies a coiled spring 15 that is mounted on rod 5. Spring 15 presses at one end against the under surface of washer 13 and at the other end against the inner end surface 7 of slide cup closing member 8.

In operation, the user first opens chamber 10 by pressing on end surface 7 of member 8 to offset ball 4 and thereby give access to said chamber.

He then fills it with sand or earth. The device is carried in the pocket. At the proper time the minister takes it from his pocket and, grasping the upper serrated portion 2 with his thumb and forefinger, pushes with one of his other fingers on the outer end surface 7 of cup 8, whereby to raise ball 4 off its seat. This movement of ball 4 will allow the sand or earth to be poured freely out of chamber 10 of container 1.

An annular edge 16 prevents the movement of cup 8 from sliding beyond a predetermined limit within cylindrical container 1.

When chamber 10 is emptied and the pressure on surface 7 of member 8 is withdrawn ball 4 will automatically reseal itself under the force of coiled spring 15.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. In an earth holder for funeral services, a container for holding sand, a ball shaped member for closing one end of said container, a cup member for closing the other end of said container, a rod engaging said ball shaped and cup members whereby the movement of the one will effect the movement of the other, a partition member mounted in said container and a spring mounted on said rod between said partition and cup mem-



bers, whereby to hold the ball shaped member in closed position.

2. In an earth holder for funeral services, a container for holding sand, a partition member  
5 mounted in said container, whereby to form separate chambers therein, a ball shaped member for closing one end of said container, a sliding member for closing the other end of said  
10 container, a rod connecting said ball shaped member and said sliding member, whereby the movement of the one will cause the movement of the other, and a spring mounted upon  
15 said rod between said partition and cup shaped members, whereby to hold said ball shaped member in closed position.

3. In an earth holder for funeral services, a cylindrical container having open ends, a partition member mounted in said cylindrical member  
20 for dividing it into separate chambers, a ball shaped member for closing one end of said cylindrical member, a sliding cup mounted in said cylindrical member, whereby to close the opposite end thereof, a rod connecting said ball shaped  
and sliding cup members, whereby the movement

of said cup shaped member will effect a like movement of said ball shaped member, a spring mounted upon said rod between said partition member and said sliding cup member, whereby to yield-  
5 ingly hold said ball shaped member in closed position.

4. In an earth holder for funeral services, a cylindrical container having open ends, a partition member mounted in said cylindrical member  
10 for dividing it into separate chambers, a washer to aid in sealing said partition member, a ball shaped member for closing one end of said cylindrical member, a sliding cup mounted in  
15 said cylindrical member, whereby to close the opposite end thereof, a rod connecting said ball shaped and sliding cup members, whereby the movement of said cup shaped member will  
effect a like movement of said ball shaped member, and a spring mounted upon said rod between  
20 said partition member and said sliding cup member, whereby to yieldingly hold said ball shaped member in closed position.

HARRY S. GORDON.