Oct. 31, 1950 J. A. HAACKE 2,527,721

CASKET EXTENSION HANDLE

Filed June 6, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

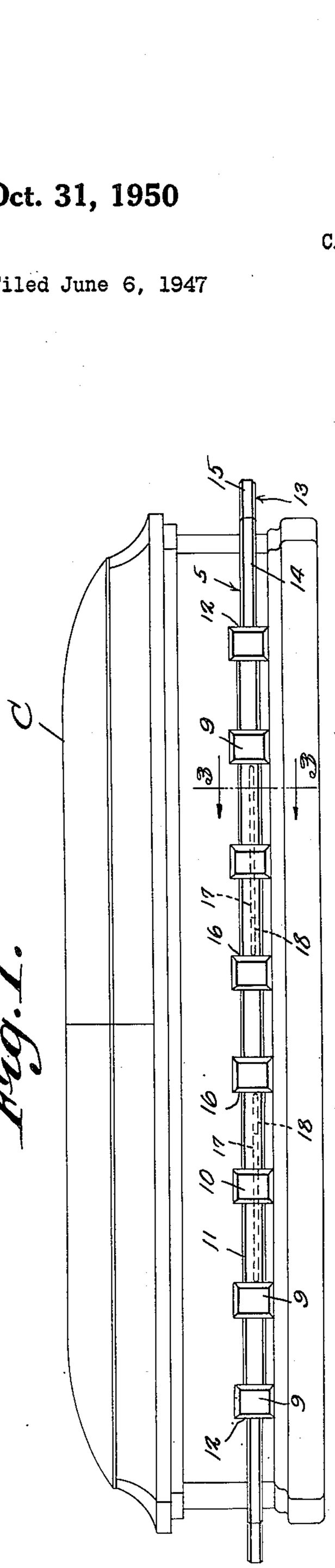

Fig. 1.

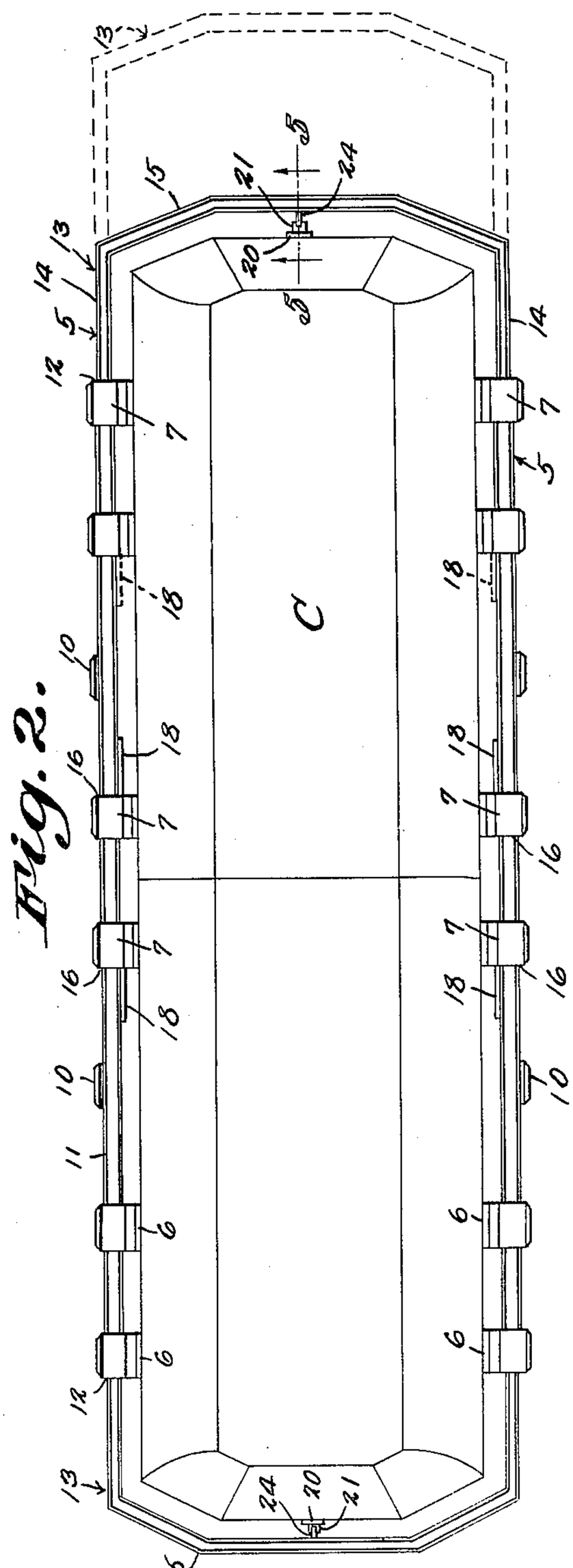

Fig. 2.

J. A. Haacke

INVENTOR

BY C. A. Snow & Co.

ATTORNEYS.

Oct. 31, 1950

J. A. HAACKE

2,527,721

CASKET EXTENSION HANDLE

Filed June 6, 1947

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

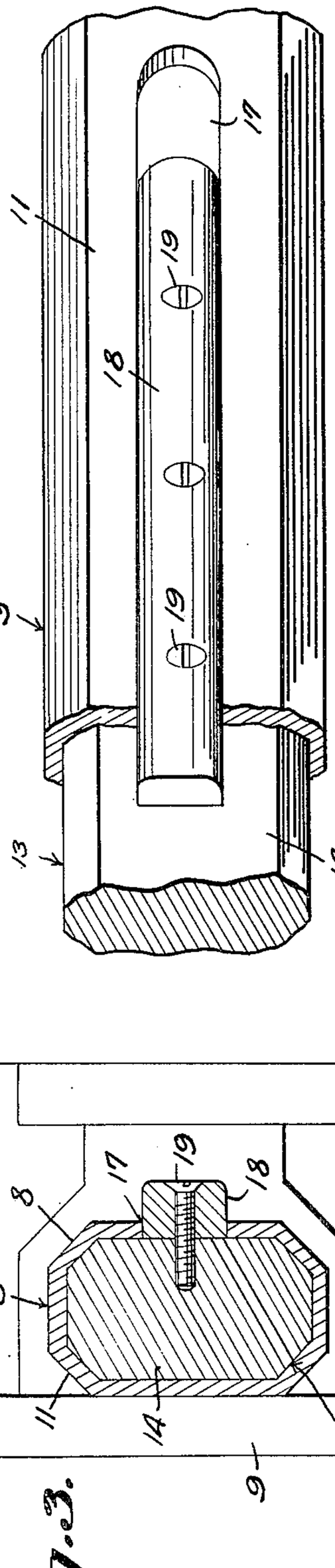

Fig. 4.

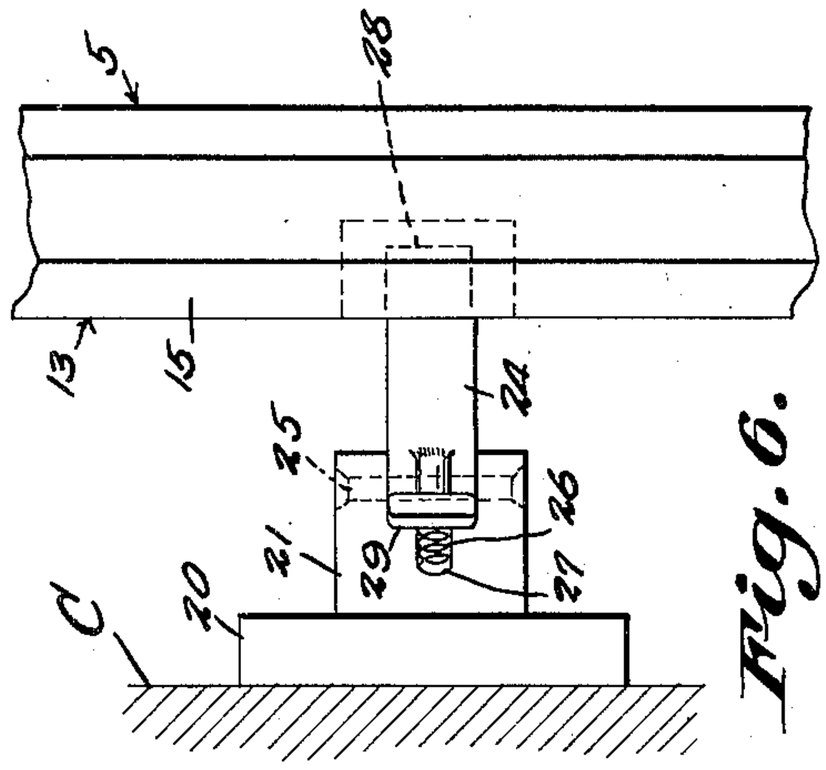

Fig. 6.

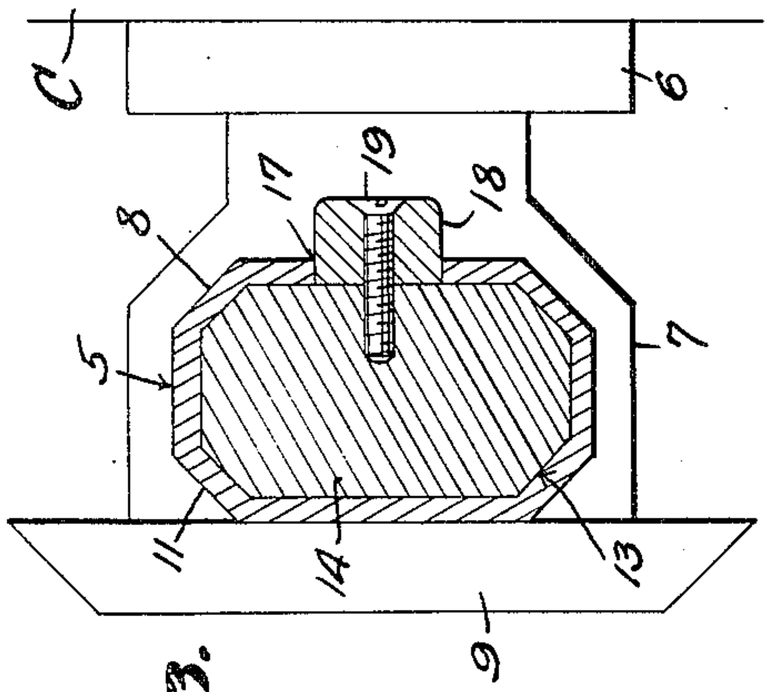

Fig. 3.

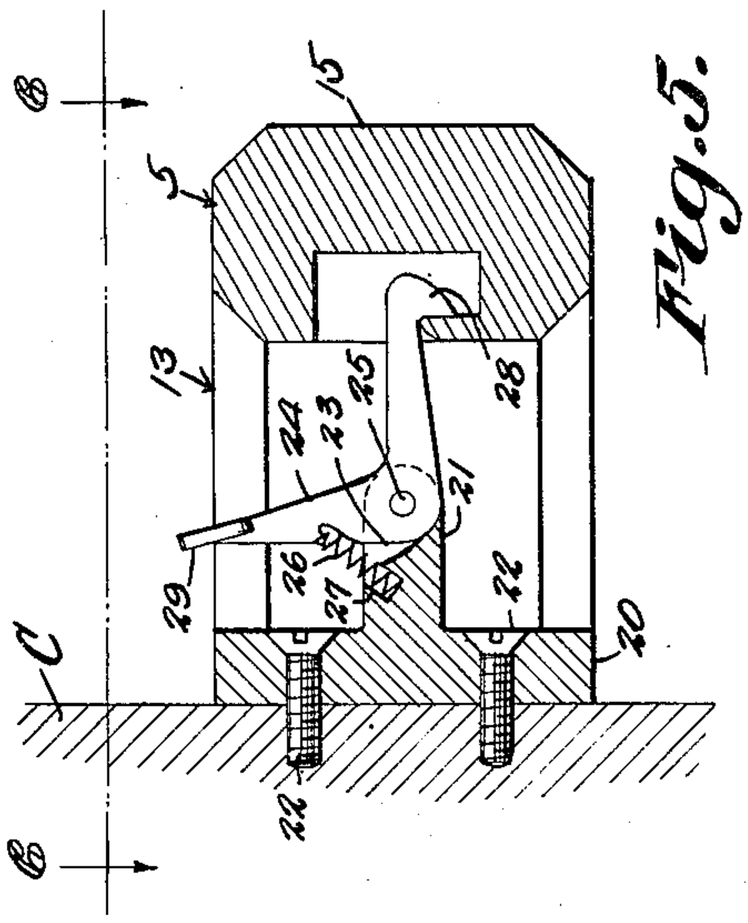

Fig. 5.

J. A. Haacke

INVENTOR

BY Cathow & Co.

ATTORNEYS.

Patented Oct. 31, 1950 2,527,721

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,527,721

CASKET EXTENSION HANDLE

Joseph A. Haacke, Dallas, Tex.

Application June 6, 1947, Serial No. 752,945

3 Claims. (Cl. 16—115)

1

This invention relates to casket handles, and has for its primary object the provision of a casket handle that can be attached to caskets of conventional construction, whereby to greatly facilitate the carrying of the casket from place to place.

Stated in its broadest aspects, the invention contemplates the formation of a casket handle that extends completely around the casket, and which is extendible at its ends.

It is well known that pall bearers, when carrying a casket, have considerable difficulty in doing so, by reason of the fact that with three pall bearers or attendants positioned on each side, there is a tendency for those in the middle and rear to trip, since it is often necessary that they bunch close together in maneuvering the casket down steps, around corners, and through other places in which there is little freedom of movement.

Additionally, it is an important object of the invention to provide a casket handle whereby the casket can be maneuvered with ease through narrow doorways, and in other closely cramped quarters.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a casket handle that is extendible at either or both ends, and in which is embodied means for retaining the extendible part efficiently and without possibility of accidental movement in either open or normally closed position.

A further important object of the invention is to provide an extendible handle of the type described which, though adapted with unusual efficiency to perform the functions stated, may nevertheless be constructed without impairment of any type as regards the ornamental and attractive appearance thereof, and which is capable of easy and speedy attachment to a casket, can be constructed without noticeable increase in expense over conventional handles, and which yet is unusually strong and simple of operation.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists of certain novel details of construction and combinations of parts, hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claims, it being understood that changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit of the invention as claimed.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of a casket, with my extendible handle mounted thereon, the handle being shown in closed position at both ends.

2

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the casket, the dotted lines indicating the extendible position of one of the ends.

Figure 3 is an enlarged detail view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view, showing means embodied in the invention for stopping the extendible movement of the handle.

Figure 5 is an enlarged detail view taken on line 5—5 of Figure 2.

Figure 6 is an enlarged detail view taken on line 6—6 of Figure 5.

Referring to the drawing in detail, the reference character C designates a casket of conventional construction, to which the handle constituting the invention is attached. The reference character 5 has general reference to the handle. By particular reference to Figure 2, it is seen that the handle 5 extends completely around the side wall of the casket, and when in normal position, is preferably equidistant at all points from the side wall. The handle is spaced from the side wall sufficiently to enable those carrying the casket to obtain a proper grip thereon, at any point, this being possible whether the handle is in normal or extended position.

Longitudinally aligned in spaced relation along each side wall of the casket is a plurality of mounting plates 6, from each of which is outwardly extended a handle supporting member 7, the members 7 having longitudinally registering openings 8.

The openings 8 may be of any desired outline, conforming to the outline in cross section of the particular handle being used.

Ornamental face plates 9 may additionally be mounted on the outer ends of the supporting members 7, as desired, and in fact, additional face plates 10 can be mounted on the handle 5, without interference or detriment to the operation of the handle.

Embodied in the handle 5 are opposed tubular members 11, said members being mounted in parallel relation to extend along opposed sides of the casket. These are carried in the openings 8, and are retained therein by any suitable means so as to be stationary relative to the casket. Preferably, the ends of each tubular member 11 terminate at 12, being flush with the opposed outer walls of the end supporting members 7.

The reference character 13 designates generally the movable or extendible portions of the handle 5, these being positioned at each end of the casket, and being each of substantially U-

shaped formation, having opposed side arms 14, and a connecting end member 15. In cross section, the side arms 14 correspond to the conformation in cross section of the bores of the stationary tubular members 11, and are slidable therein. When the extendible portions of the handle 5 are in their normal or closed position, as shown by full lines in Figure 2, the inner ends of the side arms 14 preferably terminate approximately at 16, that is, slightly short of the center point of the casket C. Thus, the extendible portions 13 can be withdrawn relative to the casket a relatively substantial distance at either end, and this permits the pall bearers to space themselves apart a considerable distance in carrying the casket, whenever necessary or desired.

To prevent withdrawal of the side arms 14 from the tubular members 11 to no more than the desired extent, I form each tubular member 11 with a longitudinal closed slot 17 extending along the inner wall of the tubular member, there being one of these slots formed on either side of the center point of the tubular member, as clearly shown in Figure 1.

The slots 17 communicate with the bore of the tubular member 11, and carried in the slots 17 are stop pieces 18, that are slidably movable in the slots. These are fixedly secured, as by screws 19 or the like, to the inner wall of each side arm 14, and thus, when the side arms 14 are withdrawn from the respective tubular members 11, the stop pieces 18 effectively serve to precent withdrawal beyond a desired point.

When it is desired that the extendible portions 13 of the handle 5 be retained in normal or closed position, they are engaged by fastening means mounted on each end of the casket. These each comprise preferably a mounting plate 20, having integrally formed therewith the outwardly extended ear 21. The mounting plates 20 are rigidly joined to the ends of the casket C by means of screws 22 or the like. The outwardly extended ends of the respective ears 21 are formed with slots or grooves 23 in which are received angular levers 24, that are pivotally mounted by means of pins 25 or the like.

A spring 26 is secured at one end to each lever 24, and at the other end is preferably recessed as at 27 in the ear 21. This spring is held under compression, and its normal tendency to expand urges the lever 24 outwardly and downwardly. The outwardly extended end of the lever 24 is formed with a hook 28, which is adapted to engage the end member 15 of the extendible handle portion 13. At the other end of the lever, a finger grip 29 is preferably provided, whereby the lever may be withdrawn from engagement with the end member 15 as desired, for the purpose of lengthening the handle as described above. When the end member 15 is returned to its normal closed position, it is adapted to become automatically engaged by the lever 24, as clearly shown in Figure 5.

By reason of the construction of my casket handle, it is readily observed that it possesses unusual versatility, in permitting ease of carrying of the casket, and ready maneuverability thereof under all conditions. Either or both ends of the handle may be withdrawn as desired, as for instance, in carrying the casket down steps, at the option of the bearers, the front end of the handle may be retained in normal closed position, with the rear end extended. Or, both may be extended, if this is believed more appropriate.

When the casket is being carried through a narrow doorway, the bearers can position themselves at the ends of the casket, the all-around formation of the handle permitting them to grip it at the most suitable point.

In the illustrated example of the invention, it may be noted from Figs. 1 and 2 that the casket handle is disposed well away from the sides and ends of the casket, further away, in fact, than the peripheral edges of the casket cover or base. In commercial embodiments of the invention, however, the handle would be positioned close to the side and end walls, and would be disposed preferably no more than a distance of perhaps 2½ inches away from said side and end walls. This construction would be desirable in view of the small amount of side and end clearance space for the casket when it is positioned in a burial box or vault or in the ordinary grave space.

What is claimed is:

1. A handle for a casket, comprising opposite tubular members stationarily mounted along opposite side walls of the casket, substantially U-shaped end portions at the ends of the casket each extending around one end of the casket and each sildably mounted in the opposite tubular members, means preventing extension of the end portions beyond a set extended position, and a single latch means for each U-shaped end portion, said latch means adapted for releasably retaining the end portions in normally retracted position.

2. A handle for a casket, comprising handle supporting members extended outwardly from the opposite side walls of the casket, opposite tubular members fixedly retained therein, substantially U-shaped end portions extending around the respective ends of the casket, each end portion being slidable in the opposite tubular members, the tubular members each having longitudinal slots formed in their respective inner walls, stop pieces carried by the end portions slidable in the slots, and a single latch means for each U-shaped end portion, said latch means adapted for releasably retaining the end portions in normally retracted position.

3. A handle for a casket, comprising opposite stationary members extended longitudinally of the side walls of the casket, movable U-shaped end portions slidably carried thereby, each end portion extending around one end of a casket, means for preventing extension of the end portions relative to the stationary members beyond a desired point, and a single latch means for each end portion adapted for automatically latching an end portion to the adjacent casket end wall, said latch means each being positioned medially of one end wall of the casket and adapted for manual release without removal of a hand supporting an end portion.

JOSEPH A. HAACKE.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
354,749	Smedes	Dec. 21, 1886
869,423	Cowan	Oct. 29, 1907
2,091,495	Steen	Aug. 31, 1937