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(54) Title: BLOWOUT PREVENTER WITH PRESSURE-ISOLATED OPERATING PISTON ASSEMBLY

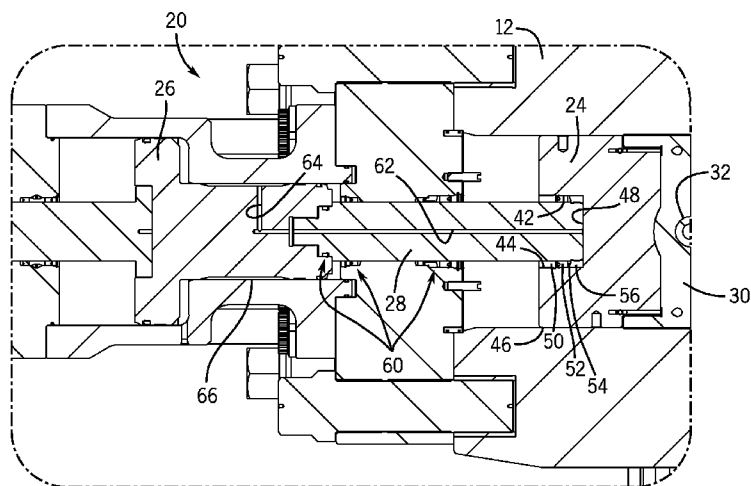


FIG. 8

(57) Abstract: A ram-type blowout preventer (10) including an operating piston assembly (26, 28) isolated from wellbore pressure effects is provided. In one embodiment, a blowout preventer includes piston (26) coupled to a ram (24) by a connecting rod (28), and the connecting rod is inserted into a recess (42) in the ram. A pressure isolating seal (52) may be provided in the recess between the connecting rod and the ram to isolate the end of the connecting rod within the recess from wellbore pressure in the blowout preventer. Additional systems, devices, and methods are also disclosed.