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(54) Title: PIPE HANDLING APPARATUS WITH ARM STIFFENING

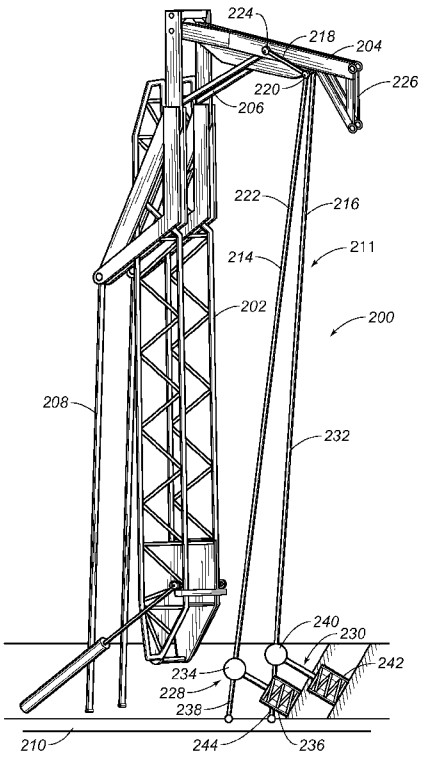


FIG. 10

(57) Abstract: A pipe handling apparatus (10) has a supporting structure (16), an arm (24) pivotally interconnected to the supporting structure (16) such that the supporting structure (16) and the arm (24) are movable between a first position and a second position within a single degree of freedom, and a stiffener cooperative with the arm (24) when the arm (24) and the supporting structure (16) are in the second position. The stiffener applies a mechanical resistance to the arm (24) in the second position. The second position is at an end of the travel of the supporting structure (16) and the arm (24). The stiffener applies a variable resistance to the arm (24) as the arm (24) moves from the first position to the second position. This variable resistance is at its greatest when the arm (24) is in the second position.

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