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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B66F 7/20, 9/075, 3/44		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/26886
			(43) International Publication Date: 6 September 1996 (06.09.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU96/00104		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 28 February 1996 (28.02.96)			
(30) Priority Data: PN 1419 28 February 1995 (28.02.95) AU			
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Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: COLUMN HOISTS

(57) Abstract

A column hoist for elevation of vehicles and the like for maintenance comprises a pair of upright columns (11, 12) supported on a base (14) having a pair of rollers (18) and steerable pneumatically tyres wheels (19). An electric drive motor (43) is mounted atop columns (11, 12) and is coupled to a screw threaded drive shaft (37) extending downwardly between columns (11, 12). A slidable carriage (24) is cantilevered from columns (11, 12) for movement therealong in an upright direction. Shaft (37) is coupled to carriage (24) by a pair of recirculating ball bearing assemblies (48a, 48b), the upper of which normally supports a load on the carriage (24). In the event of failure of upper bearing assembly (48a), load is transferred to the lower bearing assembly (48b) and a sensing switch (60) activates motor (43) to rotate shaft (37) only in a direction which effects lowering of carriage (24). Shaft (37) is suspended from an upper thrust bearing (35) to avoid bowing of the shaft under load.

