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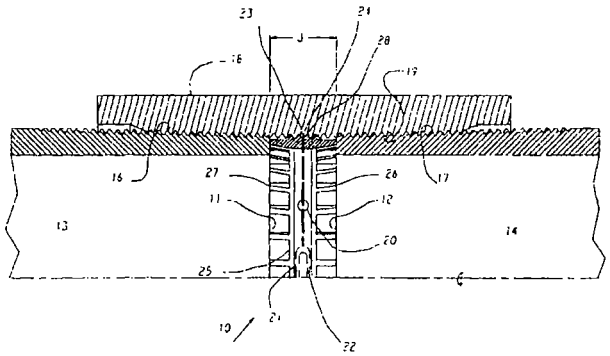
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(54) Title: DATA RESOURCE MOUNTED WITHIN A THREADED PIPE COUPLING



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(57) Abstract: A data resource (22) specific to a pipe coupling (18) centrally positioned within the coupling (18), intermediate the coupling ends. Multiple couplings (18) are employed to connect together a string of well pipe (p). The data resource (22) is adapted to be deployed at the coupling center (J) in the space formed between the abutting ends of pipe (p) made up into the coupling (18). The data resource (22) provides information regarding the physical characteristics and locations of the coupling (18), the attached string pipe (p) or the environment within which the coupling (18) is disposed. The data resource (22) may be a read-only component or it may be a readable and writeable component. The resource (22) communicates with an instrument (I) movable through the pipe (p) and coupling (18). The data resource (22) may be removably positioned at the center of the coupling (18) or it may be permanently cemented in place. The data resource (22) may take on the form of an annular ring (10) with a crushable structure (26) and suitable recesses (21) for holding a data source (22) module. A circular communication antenna (23) may be carried in the ring (10). A preferred form of the data resource (22) is an externally threaded Teflon ring (10) equipped with axially extending resilient fingers (26). The resilient fingers (26) are deformable upon engagement with the rotating ends of the pipe (p) sections so that advancing the pipe (p) sections beyond their optimum depth into the coupling (18) deforms the fingers (26) without rotating and thus displacing the ring (10). The body (25) of the ring (10) remains in the gap between the pipe (p) and where it is protected from crushing.

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