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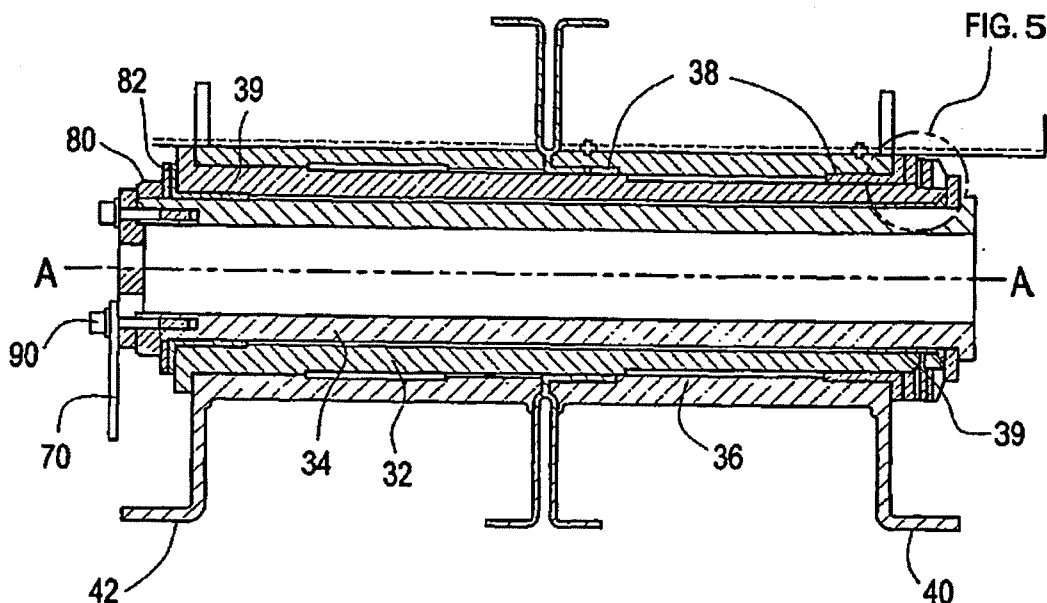
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(54) Title: **AMUSEMENT RIDE VEHICLE INCLUDING AN ARTICULATION JOINT**



(57) Abstract: An amusement ride vehicle includes a first vehicle section (12), a second vehicle section (14), and an articulation joint (30) connecting, and providing rotational movement between, the first and second vehicle sections. The articulation joint comprises a first shaft (32) for bearing loads during normal operation of the joint, and a second shaft (34) within the first shaft for bearing loads when the first shaft is inoperable. A test element (70), such as a lever, is attached to the second shaft. The second shaft is rotatable via the test element during normal operation of the joint. When the first shaft is inoperable, the second shaft handles loads acting on the articulation joint, and is not rotatable via the test element, thus indicating a failure of the first shaft.

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