Claims

1. A slewing apparatus, comprising a slewing bearing means for the operation of a reel ~~(1)~~ or similar which is rotatably supported by the slewing bearing means, the slewing bearing means being supported by a stationary structure ~~(6)~~, and having
- a first slewing bearing ~~(10)~~, which is arranged to drive and operate the reel, and
- a second slewing bearing ~~(20)~~, which is arranged to freewheel and not carry any operational loads when the reel is operated by the first slewing bearing, further **characterized by**:

- the first slewing bearing ~~(10)~~ having a first slewing gear rim ~~(11)~~ and a first bearing raceway ~~(12)~~ configured for mutual relative movements,
  - the first slewing gear rim ~~(11)~~ being connected to one of the reel ~~(1)~~ or the stationary structure ~~(6)~~, and
  - the first bearing raceway ~~(12)~~ being connected to the other one of the reel ~~(1)~~ or the stationary structure ~~(6)~~; and
- the second slewing bearing ~~(20)~~ having a second slewing gear rim ~~(21)~~ and a second bearing raceway ~~(22)~~ configured for mutual relative movements,
  - the second slewing gear rim ~~(21)~~ comprising means ~~(25, 250)~~ for connection to one of the reel ~~(1)~~ or the stationary structure ~~(6)~~, and
  - the second bearing raceway ~~(22)~~ comprising means ~~(26, 260)~~ for connection to the other one of the reel ~~(1)~~ or the stationary structure ~~(6)~~; and
  - the second slewing gear rim ~~(21)~~ thus may be connected to one of the reel ~~(1)~~ or the stationary structure ~~(6)~~, while the second bearing raceway ~~(22)~~ is not connected to the other one of the reel ~~(1)~~ or the stationary structure ~~(6)~~;
- whereby the first slewing bearing ~~(10)~~ is operatively connected to the reel, while the second slewing bearing ~~(20)~~ is not operatively connected to the reel.

2. The slewing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first slewing bearing ~~(10)~~ is configured to carry torsion and axial loads in the reel, while the second slewing bearing ~~(20)~~ is configured not to carry substantial torsion and axial loads in the reel, whereby the second slewing bearing ~~(20)~~ functions as a back-up bearing for the reel, while the first slewing bearing ~~(10)~~ operates the reel and thus serves as the primary slewing bearing for the reel.

3. The slewing apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second slewing bearing ~~(20)~~ is arranged radially within the first slewing bearing ~~(10)~~.

4. The slewing apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first slewing bearing ~~(10)~~ comprises gear teeth ~~(18)~~ extending radially outwards and the second slewing bearing ~~(20)~~ comprises gear teeth ~~(28)~~ extending radially inwards.

5. The slewing apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first slewing bearing ~~(10)~~ and the second slewing bearing ~~(20)~~ are arranged concentrically.

6. The slewing apparatus of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the operational loads comprise loads for driving and/or controlling the movements of the reel, and/or other loads imposed on the stationary structure by the reel.