[0019] A bridge racker crane also mounted in the upper part of the derrick removes tubular stands from the auxiliary tubular racking station and transports them to either the top drive, or to another tubular racking station in the derrick. Using the auxiliary tubular racking station, the offline stand building operation is advantageously uninterrupted when the bridge racker crane is unavailable due to its need to participate in the simultaneously occurring drilling operations.

[0019a] In view of the above, according to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for moving a plurality of tubulars to a borehole wherein the tubulars are provided, at least partially, from a primary tubular advancing station and, at least partially, from an auxiliary tubular handling station, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) drilling the borehole through a well center in a drilling deck;

(b) running at least a first tubular through said well center into a portion of the borehole; and

(c) during at least a portion of the time that steps (a) and (b) are performed, (i) moving a second tubular to said auxiliary tubular handling station in a guided path that does not intersect said well center, and (ii) after the step of moving the second tubular, lowering a portion of the second tubular while in a substantially vertical position below said drilling deck, wherein step (c) is performed independently of and during at least a portion of the same time as steps (a) and (b) and wherein step (c) is performed in a substantially vertical first plane.

[0019b] According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for moving a plurality of tubulars to a borehole across a drilling deck, wherein the plurality of tubulars are provided, at least partially, from a primary tubular advancing station and, at least partially, from an auxiliary tubular handling station, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) drilling the borehole through a well center in the drilling deck;

(b) running at least a first tubular from said primary tubular advancing station through said well center and into a portion of the borehole; and

(c) during at least a portion of the time for performing steps (a) and (b), (i) moving a second tubular with a guided path arm in a guided path so as not to intersect said well center, and (ii) after the step of moving the second tubular, positioning a portion of the second tubular with said guided path arm in a preparation hole in the drilling deck, wherein step (c) is performed independently of and during at least a portion of the same time as steps (a) and (b), and wherein the first tubular does not interfere with said guided path arm during steps (a) to (c).

[0019c] According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for moving a plurality of tubulars to a borehole from a drilling deck, said method being performed, at least partially, from a primary tubular advancing station and, at least partially, from an auxiliary tubular handling station, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) drilling the borehole through a well center in the drilling deck;

(b) moving a first tubular with said primary tubular advancing station to said well center in a substantially vertical first plane comprising said well center; and

(c) during at least a portion of the time for performing steps (a) and (b), (i) moving a second tubular in a guided path in a substantially vertical second plane so as not to intersect said first plane; (ii) positioning a portion of the second tubular in a preparation hole substantially in said second plane in the drilling deck; and (iii) lifting the second tubular to an auxiliary tubular racking station, wherein step (c) is performed independently of and during at least a portion of the same time as steps (a) and (b).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] A better understanding of the present invention can be obtained with the following detailed descriptions of the various disclosed embodiments in the drawings:

[0021] FIG. 1 is an elevational view of the present invention on an exemplary embodiment of a drilling rig.

[0022] FIG. 2 is a section plan view taken along line 2-2 of FIG. 1 showing the catwalk, the primary tubular advancing station, the primary tubular handling station, and the auxiliary tubular handling station.

[0023] FIG. 2A is a plan view showing the stand arm, the preparation hole, and the auxiliary tubular racking station in alternative locations relative to each other as compared with FIG. 2 and the other drawings.