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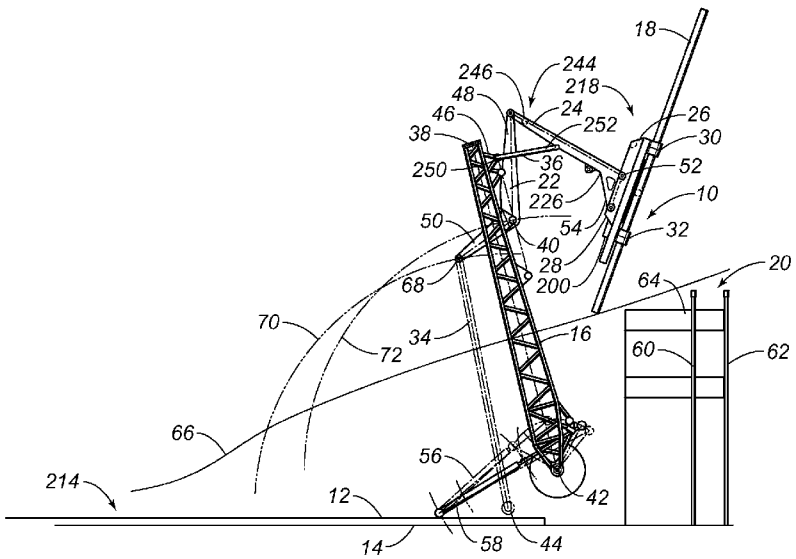


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A pipe handling apparatus (10) has a base (214), a main rotating structural member (16) pivotally connected to the base (214), a pipe handler (218) connected to the main rotating structural member (214) for moving a pipe (18) from a generally horizontal orientation to a vertical orientation, and a jack (200) connected to the pipe handler (218). The jack (200) exerts a downward force in generally parallel relation to the pipe when the pipe is in the vertical orientation. The pipe handler (218) has a gripping structure (26) for gripping an outer surface of the pipe. The gripping structure (26) has a stab frame (28). The jack (200) is affixed to the stab frame (28). The jack (200) has a piston-and-cylinder assembly positioned relative to the stab frame, and a hydraulic actuator (212) connected to the piston-and-cylinder assembly. The hydraulic actuator (212) is suitable for passing hydraulic fluid to the piston-and-cylinder assembly so as to move the piston-and-cylinder assembly from a retracted position to an extended position.

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