

“KEEPING PACE” - #55

(Page 1)

CRANE FAILURE:



The owner admitted that he had been trying to remove this steel piling with his boom at a 10° angle to horizontal. That placed extreme overloads on his crane and immediately caused the boom supports to fail via severe bending.

The insurance company's policy did not cover damage caused by overloads on the crane.

(Continued on Page 2):

“KEEPING PACE” - #55

(Page 2)

CRANE TRIAL:



This photograph was taken to show that the boom of a crane had been overloaded at some point in time. The boom was warped by 1½ inches, as demonstrated by the taut string and the ruler. The new owner of the crane claimed that the trucking company which had transported the crane to his office had caused the overload.

By comparing the damage to the boom and the way the crane had been attached to the truck, I proved that the transport of the crane did not cause the overload. In a telephone conversation, the new owner of the crane admitted to me that the boom was “a little bent” when he inspected the crane prior to purchasing it. However, he insisted that the case go to trial, and so a one day trial took place in Prestonsburg, Kentucky.

After I showed this photograph and others to the jury and testified about the cause, our trucking company client reported that the jury took only 15 minutes to render a defense verdict.

Sincerely,
Frederick F. Franklin, P.E.
Forensic Engineer