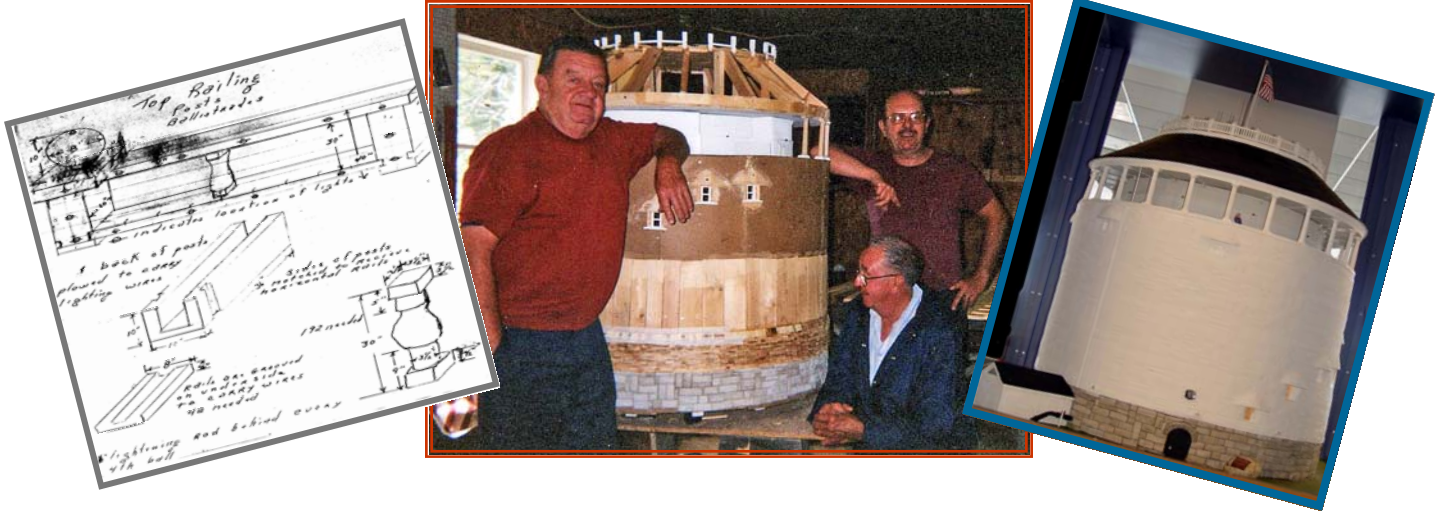


Three Brothers, A Standpipe, and A Labor of Love



In September 2000, three brothers, Warren Young, C. William Tuck, and Richard Tuck, decided that they wanted to do something together—just to enjoy each others company and friendship. They discussed several potential projects but settled on making a scale model of one of Bangor’s most famous landmarks. For the next six years on Wednesdays and Saturdays, they met to enjoy working on their project and just being together. The result of the many thousands of hours spend together over six years is an amazing scale model of the Thomas Hill Standpipe.

Their first task was to obtain a copy of the blueprints. However, they discovered that the plans to the standpipe were non-existent. Determined to not give up, they decided to create their own plans by physically measuring the building. The Bangor Water District allowed them complete access to the standpipe and the project continued to move forward.

After the measurements were taken, it was determined that the structure of 80 feet in diameter and 110 feet tall plus a 35 foot flag pole could not be done on the scale of 1 inch to 1 foot as originally planned as it would create a very cumbersome model. They also realized that a 1/4 inch to each foot scale would mean a significant loss of detail. They settled on a scale of 1/2 inch to each foot. This would result in a model 42 1/2” wide and 55” high. Not wanting to end up with something they could not get out of the house, they decided to set up shop in Dick’s garage.

After amassing the materials, they divided up the tasks and started construction. Dick built 32 knees and 15 legs, Bill started molding 385 foundation blocks, and Warren crafted 13 windows. After the basic frame was completed, the sheathing was applied. For stability, there were 8 wire rope cables and turnbuckles installed. The foundation was set in place, the windows were installed and it started to look like the Standpipe atop Thomas Hill.

About this time, word was getting out and people were asking “how is it coming?”, “when will it be done?”, “how much does it weigh?”.... One of those whose interest was caught was Mr. Phinney at the McKelvey Shipyard who donated a 120 year old board salvaged from the Penobscot River. This board yielded the 220,000 shingles, each 1/4” x 1/2” x 1/8”, that would be needed for the model. So as Dick manufactured 65,000 shingles that would eventually be cut the 220,000 smaller shingles, Bill applied them at a rate of one course every 4 hours for a total 128 courses applied using 3 quarts of Elmer’s glue. Meanwhile, Warren was working on the small utility building attached to the base of the Standpipe.

With Bill still finishing the shingles and foundation, Dick and Warren moved on to the Promenade Deck. While the rubber floor decking installed relatively easily, the 200 tongue depressors for the wainscoting took much more time and patience. But with the help of special jigs and tools, each 1/2” tongue depressor was crafted into “3 boards” and applied. Meanwhile, the manufacturing of 24 columns, 13 vents, 16 knees for the Promenade ceiling, and 4 doors was being undertaken. Special aluminum for the roof sheathing was obtained from the University of Maine and the “asphalt” shingles were made from 20 sheets of emery cloth. There are 192 balusters, 24 each of top and bottom rails that had to be made and placed.

Last but not least there was “the crown”. There was never any doubt that the standpipe model would have lights but how was the question. Christmas lights were too large, doll house lights were too large, expensive and wiring would be a challenge. Then the “light bulb” came on so to speak—fiber optics. After researching it, 400 feet of fiber optic wire was ordered, grooving of posts and rails was done to hide the wire for the 240 “bulbs” to be made from the wire, holes were drilled and the model was lit.

The model was completed in 2006 and on May 9, 2007 the model standpipe was unveiled at the Bangor International Airport where is can be viewed and enjoyed by the hundreds of thousands of travelers and the public.