

It Was A Struggle— But Windmill Returns To Our Skyline

It was not an easy task but by late Saturday afternoon the windmill on the water tower behind the Country Mansion was in place and working.

Its return was a welcome sight for the Dwight skyline and while restoration efforts were long and difficult, the end result has to be satisfying to all those who worked on the project.

The first schedule for the restoration of the windmill had been set for Saturday, November 5, but transit problems created a delay and it wasn't until last Tuesday afternoon that everything arrived at the scene.

The 16 foot windmill and all of its parts tipped the scales at 3,000 pounds and on Wednesday Jesse Allnut of Tri-State Pump Service, Blainstown, Ia., and his assistant, Russ Furler, worked on the assembly process.

Zingre Crane Service of Coal City sent an extra big hydraulic crane to raise the mill 110 feet to the top of the tower and all was set for a Thursday noon completion. However, strong winds swept across Dwight that day and the operation had to be scratched.

Some television publicity was given to the event when a Channel 7 crew arrived that afternoon and did a short film clip that was shown on the 6 o'clock news that evening.

Calmer weather prevailed Saturday and shortly before 8 o'clock workmen began their tedious tasks. Furler was joined by Allnut's son, Steve, and the pair went skyward to take off the old rigging and prepare things for the new mill.

This particular chore was a time consuming one and the chilly weather added to their problems. About 10 o'clock the old rigging was removed and lowered to the ground.

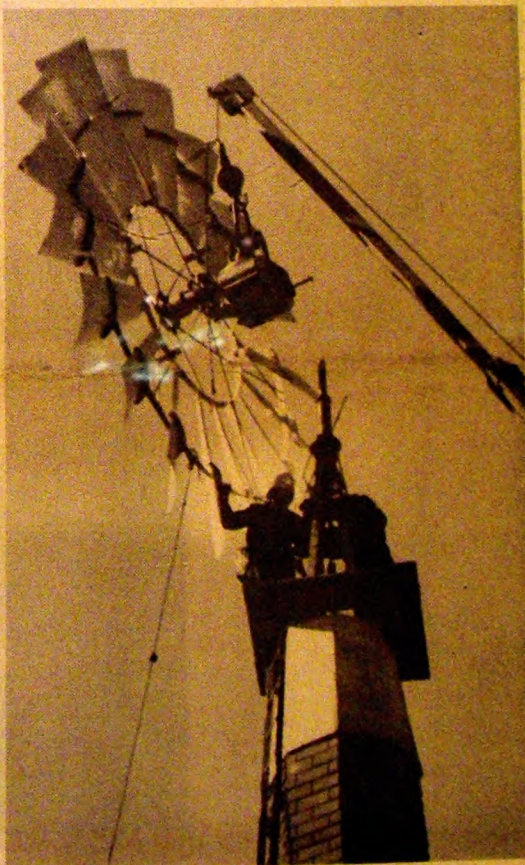
The stage was now set for the raising of the new mill and shortly after noon it was back to the top for Steve and Russ. The crane first lifted the mill and it was set in place—then came the rest of the parts and by late in the afternoon all rigging was in place and best of all, it worked.

The mill had been built in Argentina and then shipped to Dwight by way of Texas, Omaha, Neb. and Blainstown, Ia.

All this activity on the site brought out many spectators and most of them came equipped with cameras, to record on film the restoration of one of Dwight's historic sites.



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