

'Copper Carousel' New Landmark In Spokane Park

Spokane has a sparkling new landmark, a copper-shingled carousel, thanks to a team effort of CDA and a copper shingle manufacturer born and raised in Spokane.

At the carousel's recent dedication attended by civic and government dignitaries, U.S. Representative Tom Foley, the majority whip in Congress, thanked the copper and brass industry and copper shingle manufacturer Joe Zappone, head of Zappone Manufacturing Co., for helping create a "new focal point for Spokane . . . a spectacular lifetime gift to the City."



Spokane's newest landmark is a copper-topped carousel in the city's downtown Riverfront Park. The antique merry go-round is housed in a glass-walled building with a four-foot high copper fascia, a copper-shingled roof, and a copper horse. More than 10,000 copper shingles make up the glistening roof.



A copper-clad, hand-carved horse sits astride the copper-shingled roof of Spokane's new landmark, a vintage carousel in downtown Riverfront park.



Close-up of the copper shingles used in the carousel's fascia reveals an embossed design mirroring the copper horse atop its copper-shingled roof.

10,000 Copper Shingles

Located in the 100-acre downtown Riverfront Park created when Spokane hosted the World's Fair in 1978, the carousel—which had been in storage for a decade—is now housed in a 5,000 square-foot, round, glass-walled building. The structure is crowned with more than 10,000 copper shingles on its four-foot high fascia and roof.

A special part of the Saturday morning dedication ceremony was the unveiling of a copper-clad, hand-carved horse which sits atop the copper roof. Designer-artist Kim Reidt of Zappone Manufacturing Co., created the sculpture.

Each copper shingle of the fascia which rings the top of the carousel is embossed with a design mirroring the horse at the peak of the roof. Both the fascia and the roof have been protected by Inctalac, a clear spray lacquer, so as to remain "penny bright" for years.

"This is the first time our copper shingle with an embossed logo has ever been on the exterior of a building," notes Mr. Zappone.

"Previous applications have been for interiors, such as cladding a wall in a restaurant and bar with an embossed shamrock design," he says.

"Commercial applications of the embossed copper shingle—whether used inside or outside—are exciting and limitless, particularly for fast-food outlets, and other businesses where high visibility and design memorability are important criteria," Mr. Zappone declares.

The 60-horse Spokane carousel has been hailed by the two official carousel associations as the most beautiful operating carousel in the U.S. When the merry-go-round's original home, Natatorium Park, was razed in 1973, Spokane officials organized fund drives to purchase the relic from a private owner, with "Save the Carousel" buttons being sported by local citizens.

Not only is the colorful carousel the most popular place in the park, it also helps pay for other park activities. According to the park manager, the carousel should gross \$125,000 this year, on an anticipated operating cost of about \$50,000. The surplus money will go for other park activities and for park improvements.

While most applications of the Zappone copper shingles are residential, the Spokane carousel building dramatizes how "correct" copper shingles are for many commercial structures, believes Paul A. Anderson, CDA's vice president for building construction markets.

Best Uses of Copper

"It's one of the best uses of the copper shingle we at CDA have seen. The pink copper color of the shingles—to be preserved for many years by a clear spray lacquer—plus the cozy rhythm set up by the pattern of the shingles, establishes a light-hearted, festive spirit that would be of enormous value to other types of commercial establishments," explains Mr. Anderson.