

December 2004 News Letter

Cranes at Putnam Park – 1889 and 2004

About a week ago, our news letter photographer was driving by the park entrance and saw a huge crane lifting the big heavy beams up to the second floor and roof rafter area of the 1893 Pavilion. He turned around and went home to get his camera. He also took time to make a sandwich for a quick lunch. On his return to the park The giant crane was gone! Fortunately, the crane was similar to the one used to lift the massive Gen. Putnam bronze statue earlier this year, so the reader can just imagine the same crane (without the leaves on the trees).

The modern telescoping cranes are used by rigging companies to move everything from statues to heavy machinery. But what did they use when the work crews constructed Putnam Park back in the 1880's and 90's? We found the answer in one of the first park guide books which was printed before the turn of the century. The book resides at the Fairfield Historical Society.

The crane was made of a big telephone pole-sized support which was probably dragged around by mules. Cables held it upright. Then a big boom with block and tackle lifted the heavy loads in a full 360 degrees around the main pole.



Huge telescoping crane used to move the Gen. Putnam statue, and also to lift heavy beams to pavilion's roof earlier this month.



Park entrance December 2004

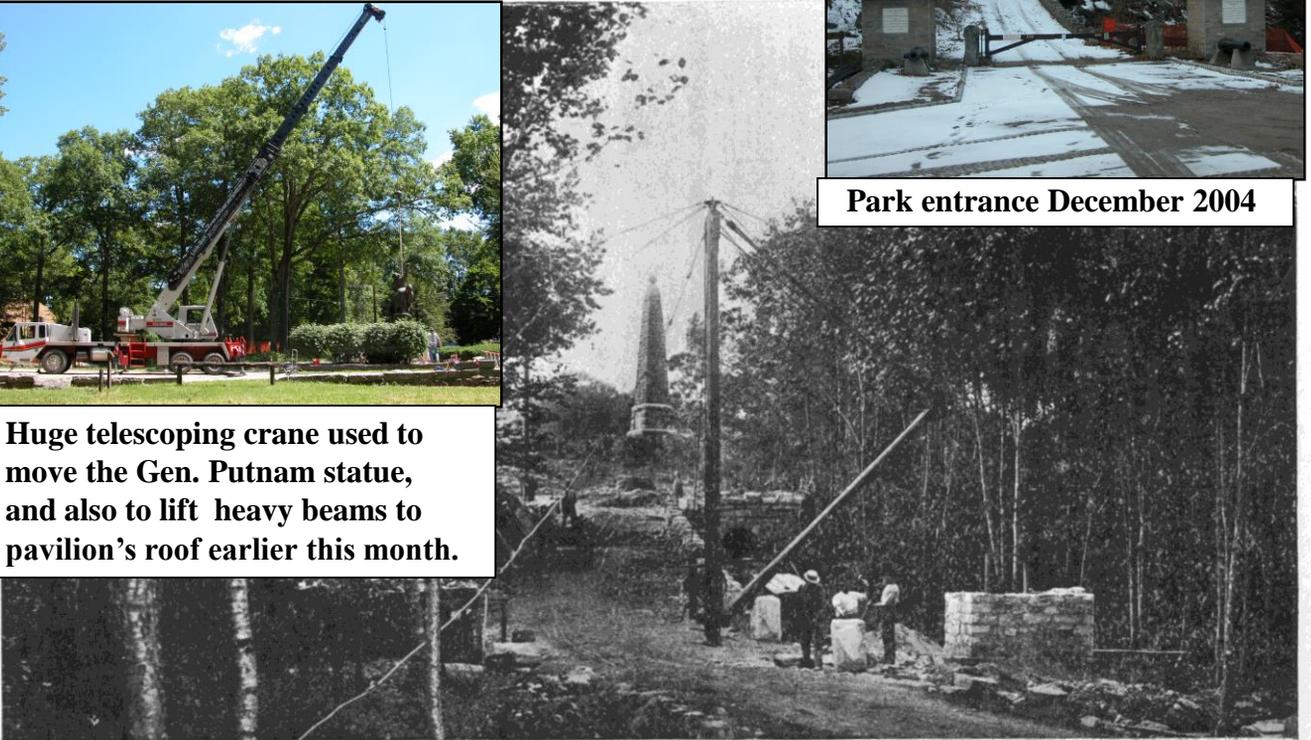


Photo from Fairfield Historical Society

Portable crane used when constructing the park around 1890. It was being used here in erecting the park entrance block houses and stone walls leading up and into the park.



There was no FAN's Meeting in December

Pavilion Puzzle Pieces "Decision Tool"

When re-assembling the pavilion this past month, some of the puzzle pieces did not make it back to the assembly line. We found out how the restoration workers picked and chose which pieces made the cut.

The "decision tool" was left sticking in one of the rejected pieces..... a green dart, which has obviously been thrown by one of the selection committee members!

The restoration crew must be doing something right, because the building is taking shape just fine.



Pavilion Decorated For The Holidays



The 1893 Pavilion is sporting its holiday wreath on the front gable, and small evergreen tree on top of the left gable.



Those aren't Santa's elves or Eskimos that you've seen working in sub-freezing weather they are the Kronenberger Restoration crews trying hard to get the roof on the pavilion.

The Pavilion-Visitor Center

The restoration crew has raised all four gable fronts now. They are now working on the complicated roof lines, four gables plus a huge sky light . The sky light was on the original 1893 building, but removed in later years of declining upkeep and maintenance.

The interior of the pavilion will show the old beams and paneling. The outside will be sheathed with insulation to protect the year-round climate controlled building of the future.

The sheathing looks like it has little rectangular windows But new custom windows are on order. Each giant window will fill up a complete half-moon opening, to retain the open-air style of the original shelter.



December 2004. The new 7 ½'x 18' long sky light will sit atop the front-to-back gable and will provide additional light right down to the first floor. It will contain 12 windows.



December 2004. Erecting the beams and supports in preparation for adding the second floor and the roof. New custom windows will fill the entire half-moon cut outs.



December 2004. The pavilion rises again behind the Old Guard House.

Next Meeting

The next FAN's Meeting will be on **Monday Evening January 10th** at the Redding Town Hall. The meeting will start at **7:00pm**. Please come and join with us in the planning of events and projects at Putnam Park.



Happy New Year

