

In one man's garage, Christmas carousel is crafted

BY R.D. ROBERTS
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

As visitors to Waunakee's Rotary in Lights display marvel at the sights, few know that one Waunakee man has been hard at work for many months in his garage.

Last year, Bob Ziegler was asked by Phil Willems of the Waunakee Rotary Club to help with the light display at Village Park. Ziegler said he was happy to oblige, and he made metal brackets that would serve as the frame for Christmas trees displayed near the entrance and by the gazebo, near the bridge over Sixmile Creek, and at another location in the park for the 2006 display.

The metal pipe used to construct the frame was donated by Endres Manufacturing here. The labor to do the construction was donated by Ziegler, and the lights were purchased from the Rotary Club's Waunakee Holiday Light budget.

This year in April, Willems again asked Ziegler to help with the 2007 Village Park Holiday Lights exhibit and suggested a carousel that would have a diameter of 12 feet and revolve under the gazebo from which the Waunakee Community Band performs in the summer.

painting the wood characters that would be on the carousel," Ziegler said.

When they were finally done with that part of the project, they had produced 12 painted character sets that are about three to five feet wide and two to five feet high.

"In October, I was able to start working with the steel framework that would form the carousel," Ziegler said. "The bottom tier of the structure has eight sides, and the metal frame on the sides narrows to a square, and the four piece train is attached to the top."

Again this year, the metal was provided by Endres Manufacturing.

"In early November, I was able to start assembling the display. I incorporated a wagon axle donated from Statz Implement. From the center axle, eight rods extend to the eight corners of the base octagon and which forms a twelve foot diameter," Ziegler said.

In the center, a 1/12 horsepower electric motor drives the structure which rotates at about two revolutions per minute. The train on the top consists of four hand-painted train cars, and at the base, the eight hand-painted character sets that include images of Mr. and



Bob Ziegler worked on this carousel project during recovery from an accident and said the project was therapeutic. (Photo by R.D. Roberts)



