

# RECREATING THE NØRRE SNEDE WINDMILL



Reconstructing the mill  
in Elk Horn, Iowa.



By early fall, the cap of the windmill had been added, and the silhouette of the mill was almost complete. Only the four huge stocks remained missing.



The completed mill, 1977.

The Danish carpenters who dismantled the windmill carefully numbered each piece, section by section. They also constructed a 10:1 scale model of the windmill with each piece numbered to correspond with the actual mill pieces. One of the early problems faced by the Elk Horn carpenters was the use of metric measurements. Many times the carpenters checked the placement of mill pieces with the model on display on Main Street.

The Elk Horn Danes built an interior scaffold to support the weight of the mill. Using gin poles and block and tackle, they pulled the heavy beams into place and secured the beams with wood pegs. In the spring of 1976 the structure received a "Rejsekrans", a Danish symbol of good luck.

Thousands of well-wishers arrived in Elk Horn for Memorial Day 1976 to celebrate the dedication of the windmill. Throughout the summer construction continued, including fitting the windshaft, brake wheel, counter shaft and gear, and the fantail used to turn the windshaft into the wind. The combined weight of the fantail section is 10 tons.



Preparing the  
millstone for  
installation.

Over 300 volunteers worked for over a year to refurbish and reassemble the windmill restoring it to working condition. Organized into work crews by banker Lamont Christensen, the people of Elk Horn, Kimballton, Audubon, Harlan, Atlantic, Hamlin, Brayton and Jacksonville mobilized to build their windmill. Farmers and townspeople alike supplied labor for this project.