

Icing on the top of the cake!

On Tuesday, June 13, 2017 longtime Carousel volunteer Eric Long was assisted by Don Leonard and Spencer Breeding of GRC Construction in putting the final touch on the beloved Kingsport Carousel.

Valerie John recounted the story of the Carousel Topper, “My sister-in-law was looking for a suitable topper for the carousel building on e-Bay. She saw this 1940’s cast aluminum children’s carousel horse listed from Philadelphia. She bought it from the pictures and information given. She and my brother wanted to give something to the project.”

Jim and Linda (Edwards) and Valerie drove to Philadelphia and found the house that had had the little horse in their garden for years. The owners had purchased it from an antique store in Cape May and had it for their grandchildren, now grown.

Valerie’s brother had to saw off the pole rusted to the horse so it would fit in her car!! Valerie, Jim and Linda presented the horse to the carousel project which had just opened to the public. Valerie eventually found Jon Cordell to do the necessary repair work and then contacted carousel painters Jessi Odum and Kathy Snapp to paint and put the finished coats on the topper. Valerie’s sister-in-law Linda approved the colors!

After the little horse had been refurbished, Eric Long, who has been involved with the Carousel for years and serves as chief mechanic, contacted GRC, the builders of the round house, and together they designed the method of securing the horse to the top of the building! Our little horse flies!!!

- ~Carousel Roundhouse Horse Topper
- ~Donated by Jim and Linda Edwards
- ~Repairing and painting donated by Valerie Joh
- ~Repaired by Jon Cordell
- ~Painted by Jessi Owen and Kathy Snap
- ~Flight courtesy of Eric Long and GRC

Valerie and all the carousel volunteers are delighted. Valerie commented, “This is another example of the magic of a carousel and how people working together can make anything happen!”

