



Lee Badger. Victorian Clock Tower. *Photos by Todd Herbst, Sutter Photographers*
The Victorian Clock Tower followed the Gothic Revival Clock Tower's example. Fourteen feet taller and three times more massive, it was designed to display another historic tower clock, a giant Howard #3 in the collection of the Sanfilippo Foundation in Barrington Hills, Illinois. Like its predecessor, Lee Pharr developed the tower's complex design and Badger created it in his shop. The tower combines more than 11 tons of hand forged elements, castings, stampings, ornamental and structural steel. Decorative pressed steel sheet used in the tower's capitals and cornices came from the W.F. Norman Company's 1909 "Hi-Art" catalog still available today. Six other specialty services and suppliers provided parts and pieces for the project. The tower was assembled

in eight sections including three upper frames, four column assemblies and the base. Badger hired a local rigging company to move the pieces around his shop and stack completed sections outdoors. The growing structure outside the Anvil Works shop drew press attention and the wonderment of casual passers-by.

After ten months in construction and final assembly in a Sanfilippo showroom, mechanical restoration experts on the Foundation staff installed the historic clock. Operational fittings and adjustments took another year, along with the elaborate painted and gilded finish. Equally ornate and unusual mechanical antiques surround the tower in its permanent setting including a European salon carousel, fairground and dance hall organs, several steam engines, and a locomotive.

