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University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: Allen Woodcock, Jr., State Senator, Interviewed at Scene of Bangor's New Auditorium

Date: October 14th, 1954

Recording number: T.1.4

Length of recording: 6:11

[transcript begins]

W.C. Mincher: Last Monday the voters of Bangor approved a referendum question which added two hundred thousand dollars to the amount which can be spent for the new municipal auditorium. The building has been under construction now for about three weeks, possibly a little bit more. The steel framework is going up at, what it would seem to this inexperienced observer, a pretty fast clip. It's about seventy-two feet high on one end and out of the many columns there are, let's see, seven, eight, nine, ten up already and there are to be several more, of course, to go up to hold the roof up as the building is apparently, if it were all jammed together here, it will be just about half completed, speaking of the length of the building. Some of the top garters have gone on too. The framework, steel framework, is up now for the seats and one end of the bleacher of the building and a steel crew is down here now on the park grounds from Bethlehem Steel, I believe, erecting the steel which work is expected I think to be completed somewhere around the end of this month. We have with us this afternoon, and this tape recording is being made on Thursday afternoon, State Senator elect, Allen Woodcock, of Bangor, who had a great deal to do with this auditorium. With the inception of the idea and also with some of the legal hassles through which the thing had to go before, this much of it at least, came about. Allen, must make you feel pretty good to see things as they are today.

Allen: Well it certainly does, Bill, believe me, after working on this project for five straight years, this really gives us all a great thrill to see the building actually in the process of construction.

Mincher: Well you no doubt have been keeping your finger on the pulse of things down here. Were my statements a minute ago just about right, that is when the work will be through, when it started, and so on?

Allen: Well, yes Bill, actually the building, ground was broken for the building in April of this year and it is expected that the work will be completed early in the spring of 1955 and you are right about the steel construction. They expect that to be finished in approximately three weeks.

Mincher: The cement work here of course, the foundation, was started on just as soon as the ground was broken right?

Allen: That's right, Bill.

Mincher: Isn't it unusual for the people from Bethlehem Steel to be here to do this job?

Allen: Yes, I think it is Bill. As it was told to me, the general contractor can request the subcontractor who gets the steel to do the construction and under unusual circumstances the steel company can cause the steel to be erected.

Mincher: Well this, I would think, should certainly be considered quite a job by anyone in the construction business, wouldn't you? Is it considered a middle sized job or what?

Allen: Well, actually Bill, this is considered to be a very large job. The workers here are usually employed as bridge workers. Now the steel beams, the cross beams for example, are one hundred and eight feet long and I was told by the Bethlehem superintendent that they are the longest steel beams he has ever put up except on a bridge.

Mincher: Well I have seen beams around at various buildings like this and these right beside us here now are very comparable, I should say, to those that have gone into the new Bangor-Brewer bridge down there. They're not quite as deep perhaps because they don't have to stand the same kind of stress and strain, but it seems to me that they are as long and I would imagine that they are just about as heavy. You don't happen to know the weight of these do you?

Allen: Well, yes I do Bill. They are one hundred eight foot cross beams, weigh about twelve tons, and your upright beams weigh from eight to ten tons.

Mincher: That apparently is about the same size, roughly, as in the bridge because they are thirty-five tons, but they are about nine feet deep at the bowl. Well, over at one corner here on the site there is a big diesel crane which a moment ago I believe was taking a small girder up to the top structure. Well some of the Bethlehem men are striding about, seventy to seventy-five feet above the ground just as nonchalantly as you and I would walk about on the ground. They are letting the hook down now, apparently going to hook up another piece of metal to take up to the top of the structure connecting two of the huge upright members on the side of the building. Let's get into dimensions just a minute Allen. We haven't got too much time, about a half minute left, but what are some of the final dimensions going to be of this building?

Allen: Well, Bill, that's a very interesting question. The building overall will be approximately three hundred twenty feet long. It will be approximately one hundred forty-three feet wide. At the outside of each end column it will be seventy-five feet high and incidentally I think it will be interesting to the listeners to know that there are going to be seventeen columns on each side and the end one will be seventy-five feet high and at each twenty-foot interval where the next column comes, the building roof pitches down three and a half feet. Now that is so that during construction and subsequently in maintenance, the building will be much cheaper to build and to maintain. Now at a low point in the roof, which is in the middle of the floor, it is forty-five feet high. So you can see you lose about twenty-seven feet in height from the outside back to the center of the building.

Mincher: Thank you very much Allen. There are lots more facts and figures to be gone into concerning the new building and we intend to keep up the progress of this new municipal auditorium here in Bangor, bringing you from time to time interviews with some of the people intimately connected with it

and also probably some of the workers on the job so that you can find out just about what it is that's going into the work of building your new auditorium.

[transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

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