TRANSCRIPT

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EPISODE NAME: Remembering the Titanic: a Model Replica of the Ship Constructed by Herman Danielowich of Rutland Vermont

Today on Across the Fence one of the most famous ships ever built was rebuilt by a Vermonter. We're going to meet the master craftsmen behind this perfect model replica of the Titanic. Good afternoon and thanks for joining us; I am Judy Simpson. This weekend is the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic and it has obviously drawn lots of attention. If you think you've seen and heard everything about the Titanic then you haven't met my guest this afternoon. Herman Danielowich is a master craftsman from Rutland. He's been with us before and dazzled us with his incredible models and now he's modeled the Titanic and it's just amazing. It's great to have you back thanks for bringing this in.

Herman.: Thank you for having me.

Judy.: I bet one of the first questions that you get is how long did it take you to build this? It came in a kit tell us a little bit about that.

Herman.: There are only three kits that we knew of. One was in Australia one was in England and the other one was in Florida. My son's purchased the model for me. I don't know what the cost of it was. I got it for Christmas present but I couldn't wait until Christmas Day. I started on December 20 of 2010. It took me 1688 hours to put together.

Judy.: There so much detail what is the scale model?

Herman.: Scale model is 1 to 250 which is very very unusual but the actual ship was 888 feet long. In order to make a model it was scaled down to the scale of this model 1 to 250. To reach the length of the actual Titanic you would need 225 of this model end to end to get to the other end of the Titanic.

Judy.: Oh my goodness. You brought in some historic photos of the Titanic maybe you can talk a little bit about what we're seeing here. The first show some construction?

Herman.: There were over 3000 workers that worked on the ship. It was 10 stories high. You can imagine a 10 story building and then the funnels were another 65 feet high. You can imagine how high this thing was.

Judy.: It was formally known as the RMS Titanic which meant it was a mail ship.
Herman.: It was a mail ship it was primarily built not to carry passengers when it was built only I think because of the monetary cost to build a ship like this. It cost $7.5 million in 1912.

Judy.: Here is a picture of the propellers which are massive.

Herman.: You can see the size of the men. If the 6 foot man was standing on the back on this model he would be less than 1/4 inch which this picture shows how small those men are in contrast to just the propellers.

Judy.: And note it's nearly three football fields in length this boat the Titanic?

Herman.: Three football fields almost three football fields and it was nine decks that’s huge.

Judy.: Of course they needed massive boilers I think there's a picture of the boiler room.

Herman.: It's unbelievable the boilers consumed over 800 tons of coal a day. Between six and 8000 tons of coal on the ship alone just to fire the boilers.

Judy.: I think the last picture shows the massive funnels.

Herman.: Oh yes they are 23 feet across. Again that the Fellows are standing there and you can see how huge they are. The ship was so massive that people that saw it couldn't believe it was a ship.

Judy.: There was a swimming pool and squash courts and a gym?

Herman.: Yes.

Judy.: That's incredible. Let's move your model up so we can take a closer look at it. I'm a little nervous or what you move it. It took you nearly 1700 hours in this model. There are nearly 1000 portholes in the hole and you drill that each one by hand. Tell me a little bit about that.

Herman.: That was a delicate process.

Judy.: I guess just look there teeny tiny little dots and there all holes with a little metal.

Herman.: I have a little drill and a drill every one of them and then I glued every single one of those portholes in.

Judy.: We should mention this is just one side of the ship and there's portholes on both sides.

Herman.: Is one side of the ship just what I thought I was done I had a whole other side.

Judy.: Did this model come with instructions?

Herman.: Yes, somewhat, but everything was in Italian. I'm not Italian. Only because of the previous models that I built I could figure out what to do at the time it was needed. But you can reach a point of no return in other words if you did something below that shouldn't have been there or something on top
you can't go back and reverse the procedure because it's all glued in. You might as well go buy another model.

Judy.: How many pieces came in the kit?

Herman.: Not counting the wood strips because as you can see there a little wood pieces that there's an excess of 4500 pieces to do the whole thing.

Judy.: There's little staircases there's even in the bow a little hook.

Herman.: Nothing was together.

Judy.: I know I'm wearing eyeglasses because otherwise I wouldn't be able to see the detail it is amazing.

Herman.: It was extremely and when I use that word I am using it loosely it was extremely difficult to build this model. That I wouldn't suggest that this would be the first model that someone should attempt to build.

Judy.: I guess not.

Herman.: You can imagine that none of the parts are together there all on sheets metal plate sheets cut out by laser beams and so forth and so on.

Judy.: Oh my goodness. There are couple of people we should mention. There's one person right here I think the cameras getting there. Very tiny.

Herman.: You can see he's less than 1/4 inch and then there's one way forward who standing right there and how they got in there.

Judy.: You can just see the top of his head which gives you the scale of exactly how huge for the ship was.

Herman.: It was enormous.

Judy.: Did you ever get frustrated and have to walk away for a while? I would just think that it would be so intense.

Herman.: No it was something I look forward to every day to do something on it. Sometimes especially the curvature of the boards, I have to wet them twist them and turn them. But if I got tired of drilling holes I'd work on the funnels and if I got tired of the funnels I would do the lifeboats and so forth and so on. At no time did I ever get bored. I just love to do it.

Judy.: So you didn't necessarily builder from the bottom up you can work on different pieces at different times.

Herman.: All the things on deck we're in a box ready to be placed on top.
Judy.: Was their photograph that came with the kit so you would know where the lifeboats would go or where the stairs should go?

Herman.: Yes and no. There were 20 lifeboats, but they're not all the same. This one was different than that one and so forth and so on. I had them all listed on the actual lifeboats and then it even has life boats way up on top. I think they could have put a lot more of them on. Of course that was never done. I think it would've taken 48 lifeboats to handle the people.

Judy.: And their only how many on board. How many lifeboats?

Herman.: 20 all total. They needed double at least for the amount of people.

Judy.: Tell me a little bit about the windows because those are pretty unique little squares.

Herman.: I was really amazed the first class staterooms that they were not portholes they're actually glass windows just like you have in your house. I was really surprised because of rough weather. They must've been really good glass.

Judy.: I would think structurally they wouldn't be as strong.

Herman.: As you can see the top deck is deck number one and they had nine decks all total. Way down below was where the coal was storage and refrigeration. I was amazed at what was on the ship.

Judy.: That's incredible. Even the stacks have little letters to go up.

Herman.: That's amazing I was under the impression that they would be mainly used for the exhaust from the furnaces but in reality it was the steam that ran the propeller and drove the turbines.

Judy.: Tell me a little bit about some of the other details we see there. I'm not sure what these are sticking up?

Herman.: Those are the air intakes.

Judy.: For fresh air.

Herman.: You can imagine for nine decks. Their 10,000 light bulbs by the way on the ship. Way back in 1912 they had generators and freezers and everything else. So it was quite elaborate. To build this Titanic today it would cost about 400,000,000 in American dollars.

Judy.: Really? Tell me about when you're building this model what he discovered about how the ship itself was built. You mentioned the ballasts in such and the different decking and bulkheads?

Herman.: Of course when a ship is being built they lay the keel the main part of a ship then there are all the bulkheads all across. This was very unique for this ship where they could close the compartment. Then you could call them compartments and they had steel doors or they could close all these compartments but they didn't ever ever take into consideration that there would be a gash of 300 feet. That's 1/3 of the ship. Of course all the water was just going in. The mailroom was way up front and it started to fill up and these bulkheads were not high enough. They never ever thought. They called it ABCDEFG for the decks and they only went up to the C deck. As a result the compartment
started to fill up and go over the top of the other compartments because the bulkheads were not built high enough.

Judy.: Tell me a little bit about the patience of your wife for having you do this.

Herman.: Oh my goodness it can't believe you brought that up because I was going to.

Judy.: Because this obviously consumed a lot of your time.

Herman.: Arlene was just wonderful. I built the entire ship sitting in my easy chair in my living room. I would have prints all over the place parts all over pieces of wood all over. Arlene would ask Herm maybe we ought to clean the place up a little bit. So I clean everything up nice and so forth and so on and two days later we're back to where we were. She was very patient I think she had one thing in mind that eventually I was going to complete it. But now well were on the subject one quick thing. This was my last model.

Judy.: Really?

Herman.: You won't believe what I'm going to do next.

Judy.: What?

Herman.: I've always wanted to play the accordion. I'm going to get an accordion and learn to play the accordion.

Judy.: Will you come back and play for us.

Herman.: I will come back here in played the accordion.

Judy.: You can come back here and take a show on the road it will be great.

Herman.: Yeah.

Judy.: Herman thank you so much for bringing this amazing model ship for us to see and talking about it you do great work.

Herman.: It's so much fun to come and it's so much fun to be with you people.

Judy.: Thanks so much. That’s our program for today. I’m Judy Simpson we’ll see you again next time on Across the Fence.

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