

Place Top On Steel

Pavilion at Worlds Fair

A 40-foot long, 2-ton top section of a 100-foot high pylon was swung into place over the Rotunda entrance of Ford Motor Company's New York World's Fair Pavilion today to mark completion of structural steel erection on the massive building.

The Ford Pavilion is the first major show and exhibit building to reach this stage of completion. It is one of the largest structures on the Fair grounds.

To mark the occasion, iron workers of U. S. Steel's American Bridge Division went aloft in a personnel bucket with a six-foot fir tree, appropriately decorated with miniature automobiles. It was "planted" on the final steel section and flanked with flags of the United States and the United Nations, the latter symbolic of the international character of the Fair itself.

Robert Lamerson, Ford resident engineer assigned to the

project, said that exceptional weather during the past few weeks enabled the American Bridge crew to complete this phase of work on the Pavilion ahead of schedule. The building will contain 3,400 tons of structural and finishing steel.

The "topping out" ceremony on the Ford Pavilion was part of a tradition that has its origin in legend and superstition. History traces the custom back to the pre-Christian era in Scandinavian countries where neighbors helped one another erect homes and then held a community "raising bee" to celebrate finished work on the highest point in the house. A branch of an evergreen tree was usually attached to this high point, and the local religious leader would give his blessing to the household while friends and neighbors joined in a community feast that included singing and dancing.