



From left, elevator work crew Terry Hurley, Leonard Evans, and Ronnie Evans take a ride down the 1950 Basin Park Hotel elevator shaft on top of the cab to see what needs doing. The elevator modernization is expected to go on into mid-February, although the hotel will reopen for business Jan 25, Kathryn Lucariello / Carroll County News

Days of the oh-so-slow Basin Park elevator nearing an end

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

By Kathryn Lucariello, Carroll County News

EUREKA SPRINGS -- Some people might have stories to tell about getting stuck in the elevator at the 1905 Basin Park Hotel or bemused stories about how long it takes to go from the lobby to the sixth floor.

Those stories may become distant memories, as the elevator is getting "modernized," along with other changes that have shut down the hotel for several weeks.

Marty and Elise Roenigk, who also own the 1886 Crescent Hotel, on which they have done extensive renovations, shut down the Basin Park Hotel one other time. They demolished the lobby and returned it to its original size and authenticity.

The Roenigks' commitment to historical authenticity -- or at least replication when that is not possible -- is seen in their renovations, said Jack Moyer, hotel general manager.

"We found an original doorknob at the Crescent Hotel, then replicated another 77 to put on our guest rooms."

Moyer said the elevator's original cage was an open-style metal mesh, and he tried to get one, but it was not possible.

The inside of the cab, which will keep its wooden interior, is not original, either. Its design was added in the last 12 years of Moyer's tenure.

"The wainscoting replicates some of the original woodwork found downstairs."

The current elevator was installed in the early 1980s. Only the elevator shaft goes back to 1905.

Moyer said the last installment of the elevator "lacked the components to guarantee reliability" and noted with irony that the elevator, from the "Reliable Elevator Co.," is no longer reliable.

"We were without an elevator a lot this past year. When it did break down, it was down a long time."

The work is being done by Texas firm **SETEC Elevators of Fort Worth**.

The elevator will get a new controller, cables, wiring, motors, hardware in the doors and service buttons. Only the car and the rail will remain.

The work is expected to cost around \$200,000.

In addition to modernizing the elevator, the remaining smoking floor of the Basin Park will be converted to non-smoking, and some of the rooms will be restyled to turn-of-the-century decor. The Serenity Spa will be expanded and upgraded with a new floor, new treatment rooms and a new hot tub on the Sun Deck, and more rooms will be converted to spa suites.

Although the hotel will reopen Jan. 25, the elevator itself will out of commission longer than that, Moyer said.

They hope to have it up and running (and down) by Valentine's Day.

And it might run just a little faster, too.

About SETEC Elevators

SETEC Elevators is a full service elevator contractor offering elevator services, repairs, modernizations, installations, and custom solutions for commercial, industrial, and residential lifting concerns. SETEC is also a leading national source for Q.E.I. certified industry inspectors, registered engineers, elevator technicians, and elevator consultants.