



# CENTENNIAL ELEVATOR INDUSTRIES, INC.

## Centennial News

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### - Barricades - By Reinhold Peper

New York is the world's tallest city, boasting about 60,000 elevators, more than in Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Dallas combined. Based on available statistics from December, 2004, New York's elevators made around 30 million journeys daily. During those billions of trips there were 139 serious accidents 30 of which resulted in the death of a person. The two major causes of death are falls and being caught in or between moving parts of the elevator. Given the size of the elevator population in the city and the fact that about half of the fatalities are from people falling down shafts, the placement of barricades around a work site becomes much more than a formality. Their presence provides both a visual and physical deterrent against injuries and fatalities to a sometimes unsuspecting public.

According to the "Field Employees Handbook", the following rules must be followed when erecting barricades:

1. Barricades shall be positioned to restrict public access to the hoistway where doors are open greater than 5 inches.
2. Barricades shall be a minimum of 42 inches high
3. Barricades shall be securely attached to the entrance frame, hoistway wall and or floor
4. All sections shall be connected.
5. A system shall be in place to keep the barricade rigid.



Barricades must be erected before any work begins on dismantling, building or other site preparation and they must not be removed or partly dismantled until the area is safe to enter. A perimeter barricade can prevent unauthorized persons from gaining access to your work site where they can be at risk for not only falls but also many other types of injuries. While a properly erected barrier and safety signage will

not always stop those who are determined to gain access to your work area (vandals, thieves, or just plain foolish people) it will discourage the vast majority of them and demonstrate that you have taken reasonable steps to meet your responsibilities because contractors, employers and workers have a legal obligation to protect others and members of the general public from the hazards of building or maintenance work.

So, for many reasons barricades are an important factor in the safety of a worksite and underscores the concept that a well maintained worksite not only includes the personal safety of the worker but also considers the safety of others. Pictured above R. Peper, Ray Martinez, Darryl Statler and Ryan Choy.

**Please Note— The Staff of Centennial News would like to be informed of any births, graduations and weddings that are associated with our field workers, their children or grandchildren so they may be published in subsequent editions of the newsletter. Also please inform us if there are any important topics that we have neglected. Call Jerry L'Esperance at 718-726-5900 Ext 26**

### Mozart in the Motor Room



When Reinhold Peper and I paid a site visit to 118-18 Union Turnpike, we entered the elevator and rode to the 20<sup>th</sup> floor and took the stairs to get to the roof. When we emerged, we were treated to spectacular views of Queens with Forest Park to the West and Flushing Meadow Lake to the east and soon realized that this beautiful portrait was accompanied by the faint strains of classical music. Not knowing its source we sought our destination which was the rooftop motor room to visit Technical Assistant German Tkachenko (pictured below with Reinhold Peper and Field Technician Mario Lorenz (pictured left with Jerry L'Esperance). When we entered the motor room Reinhold saw the radio and shouted, "that must be PBS 96.3 FM". Of course he was right and sure enough we found both men on lunch break relaxing to the soothing music, which, to them, was a welcome antidote to the whirring of motors and clicking of switches in the motor room. Their work area was found to be neat, well constructed and above all safe, which can be attributed to good work habits and, in some unaccountable way, the music.



### Commencement Corner

Springtime is the season for baseball, flowers, weddings and, of course, graduations, and Centennial Elevator has several to announce at this time. First, is VP for Operations, Efrain Rodriguez and his wife, Angelica are celebrating the graduation of their son Jonathan, (pictured right), from Joseph A. Foran High School in Milford, Connecticut. In the fall he will be attending Western Connecticut State University in Danbury., Rumor has it that he may have medical school on his agenda. The Rodriguez family has one more graduate to speak of, Paula Rodriguez will move from Orange Avenue Elementary to Harborside Middle School in the fall where she will enter the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. How time flies!



Centennial's Director of Engineering, Dave Ghirardi, is proud to announce that his son, Andrew, has graduated from St. John's University with a degree in Sports Management. Dave and his wife, Anita, see a future for him in the front office with their favorite team, the **Mets**.

Perry Minando, Centennial Superintendent, and his wife, Maria, are very proud that their daughter, Sophia, has graduated from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Traphagen Elementary School to 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Waldwick Middle School. Sophia currently plays center field for the Waldwick softball traveling team and according to her dad she is an excellent hitter.

Finally Al Casanova's son, Allan, (pictured right with Allan) a former Centennial Employee himself, just graduated from Phillips Beth Israel Nursing School **Cum Laude**. As soon as he passes the Nursing Boards to be certified as a registered nurse, he will be ready to heal the sick. **Best of Luck to all the graduates!**



## Office Spotlight—Brian Hunt



Brian Hunt (pictured right to left with JoAnn Susca and Dave Ghirardi) is currently the Vice President of Sales at Centennial Elevator but his path to that position was not in any shape, way or form direct. But before we get to that story lets start at the beginning. Brian Hunt may live in Staten Island but his heart is in Brooklyn where he was born and raised. Some say he could talk at birth which is

probably more legend than fact, but what is known is that he was born and raised in Canarsie, attended the local public schools and graduated from Canarsie High School where he excelled at track and, were it not for a bout of mono, was to attend the Penn Relays to run the mile relay among other events. Upon graduation he attended trade school for air conditioning repair and worked for several private contractors before arriving at the air conditioning unit of Mainco in 1983. While there he estimated and supervised projects, was a field supervisor, ran a division of 26 mechanics as well as being involved in sales. So how did Brian end up in the elevator business? He was asked by his boss to reorganize the dispatching unit which was in terrible disarray and along the way became knowledgeable with elevator technology. From there he returned to sales and became the sales manager. He indicated that he “wore many hats at Mainco”, being involved in various aspects of maintenance, repair, modernization and violations which set him up for the next move in his career. He became known to CEO Richard L’Esperance and Executive VP Gus Catanzaro by their mutual attendance at various presentations over a 5 year period prior to his arrival at Centennial in 2006.

Along the way Brian’s personal life took a turn for the better. As Brian tells it, he was in attendance at a wedding in 1982 and asked a young lady named Linda to dance. He was so taken with her that he requested her phone number which she promptly wrote on a napkin with lipstick. In a cruel quirk of fate an efficient waiter disposed of the napkin, and hence the phone number was lost. Although Brian persisted by asking the bride to tell Linda to call him, she wisely left it up to him to seek her out. Undaunted, Brian knew she worked on Broad Street in Manhattan and waited at the subway station for her arrival. The rest is history since they just celebrated 25 years of marriage with twins, Adam and Megan, attending St. John’s University and a 9 year old at St. Joseph/St. Thomas Elementary School on Staten Island. When asked about the most challenging part of his job, Brian laughed and said, “sitting next to Director of Engineering Dave Ghirardi”. He commented that Centennial was a very busy company and “keeping up with the pace of the work” was his greatest challenge. He derives the greatest satisfaction from the process of doing the research, making the presentation to a potential customer and ultimately being awarded the job. Brian’s work ethic, background, and friendly demeanor have made him a perfect fit at Centennial.

## Meeting at the “Moonrock”

On Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> Reinhold Peper and Jerry L’Esperance had a safety meeting at the Moonrock Diner on West 57<sup>th</sup> Street with Superintendent Alan Haa, Maintenance Foreman Tommy Nelson and Field Technicians, Khalis Abdelhadi, Mike Donovan, John Makula, Chris Markopoulos, Bobby Phillips, Rob Ryan and John Scimeca. This was somewhat of a historic meeting since it is difficult to locate, let alone meet as a group, with maintenance personnel



due to the fact that they are in constant motion following their daily routes. Since they meet over breakfast at the Moonrock each Monday morning at 7:30 it seemed like the perfect opportunity to corral this dispersed group of technicians for a breakfast /safety meeting. And so it was over a hearty breakfast Reinhold Peper discussed

various safety issues including the wearing of hardhats, clothing issues such as dangling keys, long hair and long sleeved shirts. This mirrored one of the themes of the April '09 newsletter which focused on proper attire. We also used this meeting to distribute equipment such as hard hats, gloves and goggles to those who needed replacements to their safety gear.

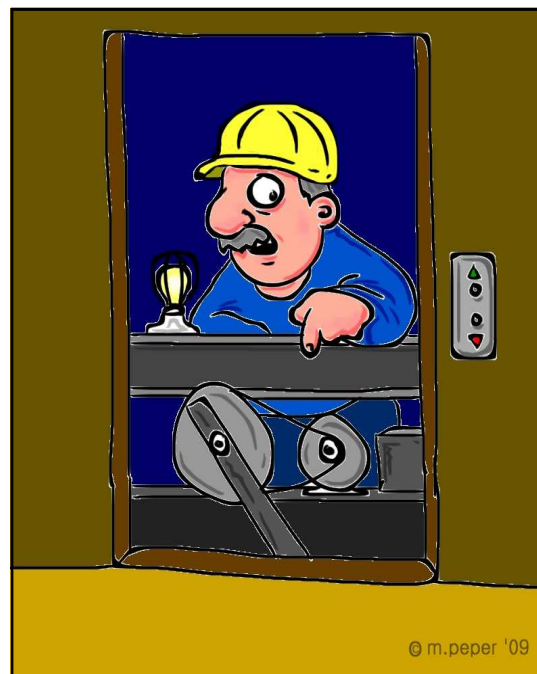
By 8:20 when all of the eggs, bacon and toast had been eaten and the last cup of coffee had been sipped the men rose out of their seats and made their way to their appointed rounds, each one a little more safety conscious than they were before breakfast.

## Breakfast at Tiffanys?

After the successful meeting at the Moonrock Diner with uptown maintenance it was decided that it might be a good idea to meet with the mid-town maintenance crew. We discussed the possibility of such an event with Mike Messina who told us that it would be an easy task because the mid-town crew meets each Monday at 7:30 AM. Although the title of this article indicates we might have eaten at Tiffanys, that is impossible because Tiffanys does not serve food, even Audrey Hepburn could not have eaten there. So we met them at a similarly classy place called Jimmy’s Diner on 36th Street and 6th Avenue where Reinhold, Mike and I set out once again to extol the virtues of safety in the workplace.

Mike Messina was a gracious host, perhaps because the pancakes were just light enough to “elevate” his mood for the day. Our first objective was to distribute mini First Aid Kits to all the men as well as any gloves we had on hand (no pun intended). We discussed the use of hard hats, dust masks, back braces, goggles, and gloves. We also presented the group with the sample canvas bag that would be used to carry safety equipment from job to job, since transporting hardhats, goggles, gloves etc can be difficult for the maintenance division because of their constant movement from building to building.

The meeting was well received by those present which included those pictured below from left to right; Donny Ramsuchit, Steven Minando, Roscoe Gallman, Sean Ryan, Reinhold Peper, Israel Rigal and Tony Yip. Special thanks to Foreman Mike Messina for supporting his men and his enthusiasm for safety issues in general.



Safety Sam Says:

**Where are the barricades?**

## Centennial Elevator Industries

**Richard L’Esperance – President/CEO**

**Richard L’Esperance Jr. – Executive Vice President**

**Gus Catanzaro – Executive Vice President**

**John Lioi – CFO Vice President**

**Efrain Rodriguez – Vice President/Director of Operations**

**John O’Sullivan – Vice President – Business Development**

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