



2009 Elevator U Conference

by Robert S. Caporale, MSc

an early morning registration during which photos were taken of each attendee as they passed through the conference registration line. This provided an opportunity for EU to gather pictures of the association's active members and event supporters that will be posted on the EU website. This was one of many innovative concepts introduced at this year's EU conference.

EU President Ed Jaskowak of Penn State University gave the opening address. Education Chair Terri Emmons followed with a brief orientation of upcoming events and expressions of gratitude to those that helped organize the conference. The annual president's award was presented to Tom Sybert of C.J. Anderson and Co. Sybert assists EU by developing and administering the association's website. He also helped put together this year's conference. Sybert graciously accepted the award and thanked the EU officers, directors and members for not only recognizing his efforts to help the association but also for giving him the opportunity to do so.

The first speaker of the day was Barbara Allen of the Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation (EESF). Allen updated the group on the progress EESF has made spreading their safety program

This year's Elevator U (EU) Conference was held in Quincy, Illinois June 16-19 at the Holiday Inn Express. The event included three days of educational sessions, business meetings, social events and a factory tour of the Hollister-Whitney manufacturing facility.

With 45 EU members representing 25 schools and 76 elevator industry members composed of consultants, suppliers and manufacturers, the event offered numerous opportunities for attendees to interact with their peers and discuss elevator industry issues and concerns.

The first day of the conference started with





Allen



Gregory



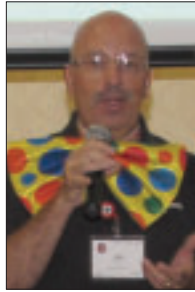
Gorman



Emmons



Hausenbauer



Yaeger



(l-r) Miller, Emmons, Oliveri, and Shapiro

throughout the industry and to the elevator and escalator riding public. It was also reported that a program specifically targeting college and university students was in developmental stages. Recommendations for this program were received from various university student task groups and the results of how these groups felt it would be best to effectively deliver a safety message to student bodies was presented.

The next subject on the conference agenda was history, development and the latest updates to the ASME A17 Code. Dick Gregory of Vertex Elevator Consulting Group and John Rearick of CodeDataPLate.com included a discussion of some of the items that are often overlooked during elevator inspections. The maintenance repair and replacement section of the ASME A17 Code, including the much debated Maintenance Control Program provisions, sparked a lively discussion.

The next session was billed on the conference program as "Vendormercials." Each consisted of 5 to 15 minute presentations by equipment suppliers' and manufacturers' representatives who extolled the attributes of their specific products, systems and services. This new feature encouraged any and all methods they felt appropriate in order to spotlight their offerings.

Lift Solutions' Jed Shapiro simulated a TV-style game show, asking audience members to join a panel and answer questions about specific features incorporated in Elevator Controls Corporation's controllers. It was a unique method that gave a detailed description of the control systems the company offers to the industry.

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(l-r) Sybert & Jawskowak





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Tom Hausenbauer of Minnesota Elevator Inc. (MEI) showcased a full line of products. The company's history, various custom system and product design options available to the industry were described. These included specialized freight elevators (which constitute approximately 30% of MEI's business), machine-room-less (MRL) elevators, specialized and customized elevator cabs, and complete elevator systems.

Yet another comical approach was taken by Motion Control Engineering's representatives. By means of a Q&A Exchange with another MCE employee planted in the audience, Jeff Yaeger described their company history, which began in 1983, and emphasized that in addition to their traditional elevator control systems they now have a complete MRL package that is also available to the industry.

Rearick once again took to the podium and discussed ASME A17 Code – required Code Data Plates, where they must be located in an elevator system and what specific information they must contain. He emphasized that they must be provided on new installations and equipment that has been updated through either major equipment replacement or a complete modernization.

Hal Gorman of Gorman Hydraulics then offered a brief look at hydraulic elevators, the important aspects that must be considered, features that should be provided when specifying and contracting for the installation of this equipment.

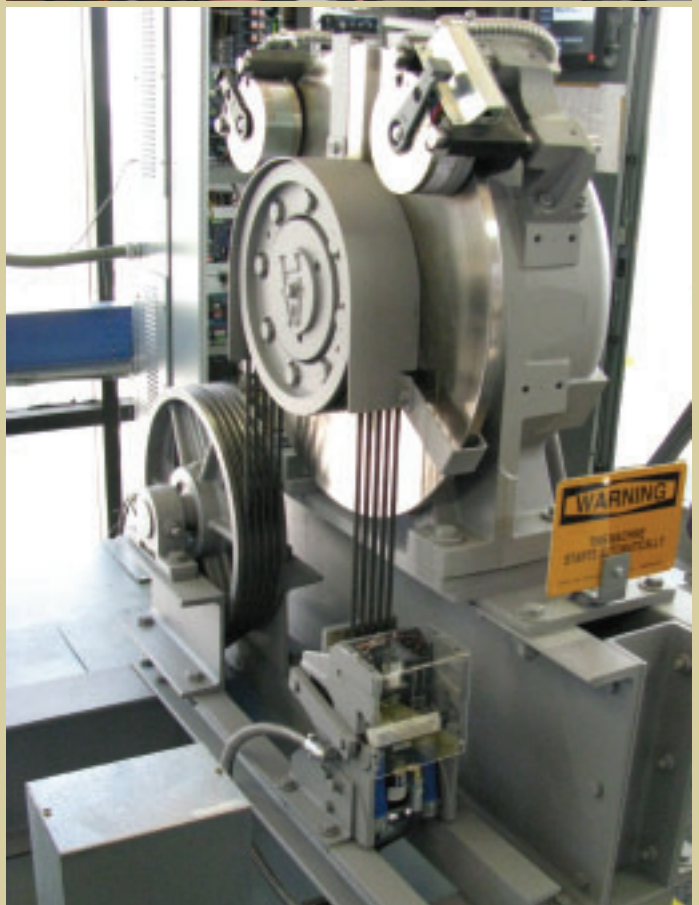
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Factory Tour and Dinner Party

The second afternoon of the conference was dedicated to a tour of the Hollister-Whitney (H-W) Factory and meetings with the H-W and GAL staff to discuss their companies' latest product offerings. Highlights of the tour included the unveiling of a new H-W Permanent Magnet AC Gearless Machine and GAL's Remote Elevator Monitoring system. An H-W sponsored dinner was also provided at the residence of Frank Musholt, where numerous activities and musical entertainment were provided for the attendees to enjoy.

Guest speaker Quincy Mayor John Spring



H-W PMAC gearless machine

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Zogbi



Keopke



Duke

Continued

Singing an original song entitled "Hole Drillers" to the tune of the popular song "Ghost Busters," representatives from Ortman Hydraulic, a family-owned company, sang about the services they provide and their ability to overcome hole-drilling problems and challenges that they have encountered. The song was written by Mark Ortman, and the "Ghost Busters" costumes and unusual coreography were original Ortman family compositions. In this extremely humorous and entertaining style, the elevator hydraulic hole-drilling company's message came through loud and clear and the performance concluded with a standing ovation from the audience.

Gilbert Zogbi of Smartrise Engineering, Inc. discussed his company's goal to minimize the size and number of required wires that are utilized in an elevator installation and how this has been accomplished. He stated that, "... utilizing the latest technology, Smartrise™ has created a simpler, more reliable elevator controller with a universal design that reduces the number of boards, relays and wiring. It is a non-proprietary elevator controller for which parts can be purchased from Smartrise or on the open market." He emphasized, "Now you have a choice!"

Following lunch and reverting back to conventional educational style, the design and operational characteristics of steel wire ropes were covered by Wayne Keopke of Bethlehem Wire Rope Works. The manufacturing processes, proper installation and handling techniques of these important elevator system components and proper inspection methods and rope retirement criteria were discussed.

Next up, Dan Winslow and Chris Duke of CNY Elevator Consultants noted various code-mandated items that must be routinely inspected and tested in elevator pits, hoistways and machine rooms. A significant emphasis was placed on properly testing fire service and standby power operations and the need to document when these tests are performed.

Following dinner, and during an extensive Vendor Show, a silent auction was held to raise money for EESF. This event was successful for the exhibitors as well as the EESF as it generated an extensive amount of traffic in the exhibit area and also raised US\$5,500 for the Foundation.

Tony DeFrancesco of VTX Consulting presented the first draft of a Heavy-Duty College and University Elevator Specification that he and other EU members had compiled. The proposal included provisions for elevators of a robust design, that are capable of intensive use. Generic control equipment and open source coding of control systems were also discussed during the proposal. A Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) specification format was developed and included many of the provisions that are included in the American Public Transit Association Elevator Design Specifications that DeFrancesco's company helped develop. This proposed EU guideline specification will be posted on the EU website for members to comment on and utilize as they see fit.

Dotty Stanlaske of NAESA International (NAESAI) was up next, presenting a brief history and organizational structure of the organization. The association currently has more than 2,000 members and certifies more than 2,500 Qualified Elevator Inspectors annually. After showing a promotional video,



The Ortman Hole Busters



Miller



DeFrancisco



Stanlaske



Ortman



Milefchik



Swett


Stanlaske described the QEI Certification process and how annual continuing education (CE) credits can be obtained and how various CE programs are evaluated in accordance with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) QEI Standard and the NAESAI QEI Program Manual.

On Thursday morning your author was asked to talk about new technology and how it can be used to solve problems. Topics covered included products and systems that address environmental issues, space efficiency, maintenance monitoring and management, traffic-handling challenges, the use of the ASME A17.7 Code to commission new technology and a new product that has been designed to withstand severe impacts on elevator door panels. The session concluded with a presentation by SEES, Inc. of the impact tests that were performed on the Enforcer Door Gib, which was designed as a solution to the mentioned door panel problem.

The conference host, Jeff Miller, with the assistance of Ortman, covered "Hydraulic Holes – Problems and Solutions." Hole-drilling specifications and contract special clauses were a part of discussion to help attendees become more aware of what they might encounter during what is often the most difficult part of a hydraulic elevator installation. Jack replacement and hole redrilling should be properly performed to create the least amount of disruption in an existing building with minimum elevator down time. Numerous specification and contract hole drilling clauses should be included in project documents to minimize the cost of hole drilling.

Rick Milefchik of KONE Spares focused on the need to not only have a proper supply of spare parts on hand, but the importance of developing a method to accurately keep track of these items. How to obtain spare parts on a fast track basis when needed and the need to maintain good relationships with parts suppliers were discussed. It was also suggested that customers develop a system of grading parts suppliers in terms of their ability to provide good service and customer support and to refer to this grading system when deciding on who to call. The importance of identifying and keeping an inventory of critical parts that might be needed on an immediate basis was emphasized. In closing, Milefchik indicated that KONE Spares carries a full-range of spare parts and wiring diagrams for most major equipment manufacturers' and suppliers' systems and these can be made available on an overnight delivery schedule.

The final conference speaker was Shelia Swett of Swett and Associates, who covered natural disasters and their effect on the elevator industry, as well as industry responses to hurricanes, floods and terrorist attacks. Swett noted that various conferences and building code committees have been developed to address this issue along with code committee recommendations and proposals. The ASME A17.1 Emergency Operations Committee is also working on a proposal for the use of elevators in fires and other emergencies, and appropriate code provisions to address this issue.

As the conference drew to a close, the attendees were thanked for their participation, and it was announced that the 2010 EU Conference will be held at Purdue University, June 8-10, and hosted by Jeff Cooper. Cooper was not only one of the founding members of this group but also hosted the first two EU Conferences. For more information, visit the EU website: www.elevatoru.org. 

EU Board of Directors meeting and General Membership Meeting

During the EU Business Meeting new officers and directors were elected and sworn in. The EU officers and directors for the year 2009/2010 are as follows:

- James Aninich: president
- Matt Wright: vice president
- James Oliveri: treasurer
- Brad O'Guynn: secretary
- Tom Sybert: director
- Martin Culp; director
- Brad Halderman; Director



(l-r) Aninich and Jaskowak