Since 1927

Mayflower Park Hotel

Celebrating

92

Years
Message from the Owners

We are very excited to be celebrating the 92nd Anniversary of the Mayflower Park Hotel. Built in 1927 by local owners, it was one of Seattle’s finest hotels, and now 92 years later, it is still locally owned and still an important part of our community.

When we bought the hotel in 1974, it was not our intention to become as totally involved as we did. The hotel had been neglected, and was in bad repair. But as the renovation of the building progressed, we, as so many others, fell in love with its emerging charm and became dedicated to its restoration.

Along the way we were fortunate to work with wonderful employees, architects, designers, and others who shared our vision and contributed ideas, dedication, and loyalty. They are all part of the Mayflower Park Hotel’s family and to them we offer our profound thanks. Also, much gratitude must be expressed to our partners for their incredible and unwavering support over the years.

Most importantly, a hotel is about people. Over its many years the Mayflower Park Hotel has been privileged to be a participant in the major and minor events of people’s lives...mostly happy, occasionally sad, but always important to those involved. To our guests, many of whom have returned to us time and time again, we are deeply indebted.

For us, it has been a privilege to be caretakers of this lovely and very special hotel. The past years have brought us much satisfaction and joy and we are dedicated to the tradition of making the Mayflower Park “quite simply, one of a kind.”

Birney and Marie Dempcy
The History of
The Mayflower Park Hotel

The Mayflower Park Hotel started life as the Bergonian Hotel on July 16, 1927 and has been in continuous operation ever since. One of Seattle’s first “uptown” hotels, it was designed by architect B. Dudley Stuart, took six months to build and cost $750,000. The name “Bergonian” came from the owner Stephen Berg, a prominent builder of the time, who also built the Andra Hotel. The hotel had 240 rooms and according to the Seattle Daily Times of July 15, 1927, boasted “all with baths.” The lobby was decorated with deeply napped Oriental carpets, palm trees, mirrors, brass, iron fixtures and a fountain filled with goldfish in the center. The Front Desk was located across from the lobby elevator, in what is now Oliver’s upper section. The Mezzanine was described as the most strikingly beautiful room in the entire building. Hotel brochures of that era show painted palm trees on the walls and a rendition of the ship, the Mayflower, painted over the fireplace. The color scheme was rich reds with heavy silk draperies, and chairs upholstered with Morocco leather. One of the original stained glass windows with the letter “B” for Bergonian remains.

Since the hotel was built during Prohibition no areas were designed to serve liquor. What is now Oliver’s was then one of the first Bartell Drug Stores. The dining experience consisted of The Coffee Shop taking up about two-thirds of what is now Andaluca, plus meeting and dining areas in the Plymouth and Rose rooms. The other third of Andaluca was a barber shop which could be reached from the lobby or from Olive Way. A smoke shop with handsome walnut cabinets occupied the area where the concierge desk is now. Prices

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in the Coffee Shop, which seated 54 ranged from 20 cents for a cup of chicken broth to $2.00 for a sirloin steak for two. Coffee was 10 cents. Opening prices for rooms at this new deluxe hotel ranged from $2.00 to $3.50 for 1 person and $3.00 to $4.50 for 2 persons. Rooms with twin beds were more expensive, $4.00 to $5.50, and Suites ranged from $5.00 to $10.00.

In the ensuing years the Mayflower Park Hotel had various owners, the most prominent being Western International, now known as Westin. The Mayflower was one of their first hotels. In 1947 Bartell Drug Store was replaced by the Carousel Room. This restaurant and bar had large carousel horses suspended from the ceiling and big colorful clowns and balloons on the outside walls both on 4th Avenue and Olive Way. The hotel was then purchased by the Doric Company, a chain of west coast hotels which eventually went bankrupt, selling the hotel to investors who let the hotel deteriorate until 1972 when the hotel was put up for sale again after foreclosure.

In 1974 Birney Dempcy formed a limited partnership to purchase the hotel. The name was changed to the Mayflower Park Hotel in anticipation of the city’s plan to develop Westlake Park. As Birney recalls, he came home one night and told his wife, Marie, “I bought a hotel today!” Marie went down to look at this purchase and nearly cried. The hotel had been sadly neglected. The carpets were stained and torn, the furniture old and many of the windows were broken. Renovation was started and it has become an ongoing tradition to restore this lovely hotel to its former grandeur.
In 1976 the 4th Avenue entrance was added. At the time it was an Indian Silver crafts shop. Oliver’s replaced the Carousel Room and became the State of Washington’s first “daylight” bar. Until then Washington “Blue Laws” prohibited anyone from looking into a lounge where hard liquor was sold. With new laws, customers could now look out on the street scene, and pedestrians could watch the bartender mixing drinks. The lobby was completely redone that year with a new front desk, carpets, furniture, drapes, and a skylight found under some boards over the front desk and restored by local artisans. The crystal chandelier was purchased from the Grand Ballroom at the Olympic Hotel and the marble for the table tops in Oliver’s was salvaged from the lobby of the historic White Henry Stuart Building.

1988 proved to be a big year for the Mayflower Park Hotel. After two years of dust and construction, Westlake Center was completed. In conjunction with its opening, the Food and Beverage offices on the Mezzanine were torn down, a door connecting us to the Center was constructed, the whole area was remodeled with new carpets and furniture, and on October 22, 1988 we opened our doors directly into the Center and a new phase of our history.

Over the years, each area of the Mayflower Park Hotel has been refurbished and upgraded time and again. The hotel has now taken its place as one of Seattle’s most successful, garnering many awards. The strides taken over the past years have most recently been recognized by the hotel being named as one of the Historic Hotels of America based on its historic significance, architecture and ambiance.
Old World Charm…

The lobby as it looked in 1927.

Yesterday, and Today.

The lobby as it looks today.
1927

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TELEVISION IS FIRST SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED IN NEW YORK

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