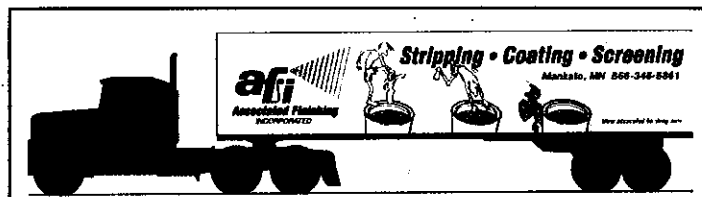


## Keep on Truckin'! AFI Mascots Hit the Road

"Strip", "Dip" and "Hip" are on the move! You may have first encountered this sprightly trio promoting AFI's numerous areas of expertise on our website or in a current brochure. Last winter they made their debut on our new company jackets and denim shirts.

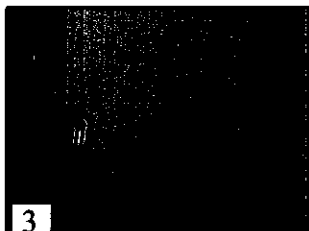


This season, the three will take up residence on all our over-the-road trucks and trailers. While we most certainly take our work seriously, we hope these comic gentlemen are successful in conveying to you that our service in all business dealings is both an honor and a joy.

## Fiesta with Flare



With Minnesota Winter 2001 behind us, it was high time to kick up our heels and have some fun. On July 27th, the AFI crew and their families headed out of the hot city to 'Bowl with Chickens' in the cool country air. It's amazing how a bit of ingenuity can transform the fiberglass lining of an old trailer and some empty pop bottles into a fine bowling alley. Ten small chickens purchased from a local meat market served as "fowl balls". Everyone from experienced bowlers like maintenance engineer, Larry Pfeffer (#1) to first timers like 6 year old Jessica Schreyer (#2) gave this new sport a whirl! After pitching chickens for awhile, Dale Flowers (#3) and a few buddies moved on to a friendly horseshoe competition, while others like Alan Baer's grandson, Dylan Baker (#4) threw darts to break hundreds of money-filled balloons. Reggie Williams (#5) has teenage boys to feed, so he set to grilling chicken & chops for his family early in the afternoon. Other folks (#6) just kicked back and swapped stories with coworkers and their families before hitting the chow line.



The frosting on the party cake comes at dusk. "Door Prizes"! No one goes away empty handed. The fun is in seeing who goes home with which prize. It's the luck of the draw - except for the Munchkins, who each receive an "age appropriate" toy especially chosen for them by the prize committee.



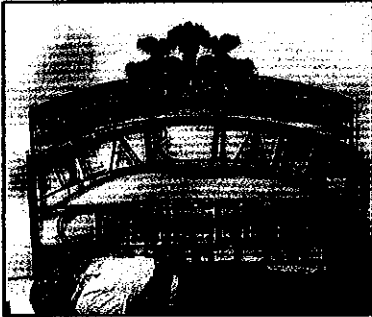
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When a "painting business" has been around 36 years, you can bet its employees have seen a few *strange* items come through the door.

We decided it would be fun to ask our various departments to reminisce, and then share their all time favorite stories about any "wild, weird, or whacky" jobs they may have been given during their years at AFI. It's interesting to note how the retelling of a tale, and the laughter sparked by the memory of those shared experiences, tends to soften the reality of even the most challenging assignments.



In the "weird" category we have Alan Baer (Quality Control), who was contacted about repainting a decorative arch and 2 pillar ornaments for a cemetery. When the items arrived, he discovered they came from *Bear Lake Cemetery* near Albert Lea, MN - the same region his own ancestors once inhabited. You see Al, pictured here - contemplating his roots, no doubt!



The crew on our JCI line voted these pumpkin stands produced by Heritage Iron Works of Eagle Lake, MN as the "whackiest" job they have had to paint in awhile. Actually, there are several different styles of these guys which make for a fine break in the usual 'industrial fare' assigned to this area of the plant. Pictured from left to right are Alison Hansen, Bonnie Smith, Rita Heller and Terry McMichael, who are probably in the midst of processing this years quota of little men whilst you leisurely read this issue of Associated Express.



Wild winds and several tornadoes devastated the neighboring town of St. Peter, MN back in the spring of 1998. The Nicollet County Court House sustained a great deal of damage that day. Larry Olfert, pictured next, recalls powder coating a 28 foot weather vane to replace the original copper version which had been mounted on top of that building. Now, that's not a job that comes thru the doors every day!



What's this? Down in the bottom left corner you see Tom Wanta holding the Silk Screener's candidate for consideration. Hmm, it must be some newly finagled form of dart. Tom's convinced he can hit the bull's eye with this model. Unfortunately, Uncle Sam only loans us these metal rifle casings long enough to be adorned with our impeccable printing. Then, he expects us to send 'em back! (Such a spoilsport).

So..... is there a "winner" to the above competition? Well, not really. Each department continues to have its own favorite. But, our employees did manage to find one job that seems to have an *almost* universal appeal. Ta Dah!

