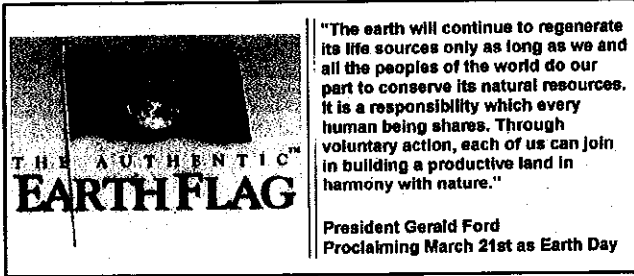


Earth Day 2001



The celebration of Earth Day, spearheaded by John McConnell, began on March 21st, 1970 to coincide with the beginning of Spring (the Vernal Equinox). Its intent was to give the world community a common day to reflect upon our mutual home and how we might best cooperate to make it the best that it can be. To remind humanity that, "the stewardship and care of Earth requires *action* to produce and use materials and services, that help nurture, conserve & recycle - without destructive pollution - the organisms and nutrients of Earth's web of life." (J. McConnell, 1976).

We share this ideal at AFI. In this issue, we hope to relate

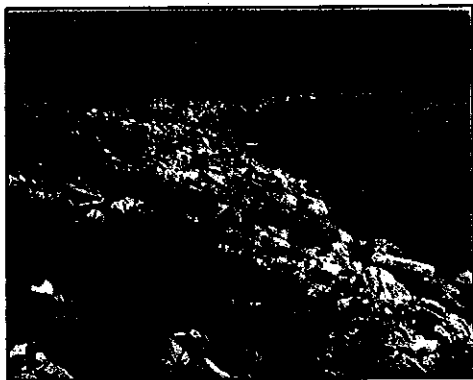
some of the ways we have been able to fulfill our role as "trustees" of our corner of planet Earth.

Fostering Community Pride

Occasionally, it is our privilege to be able to help out on a community or area project which makes Southern Minnesota a better place for us all to live. Two of the most visible of late have been the Quad Lakes (and surrounding watershed) Restoration Project and Old Town Beautification in Mankato, MN.

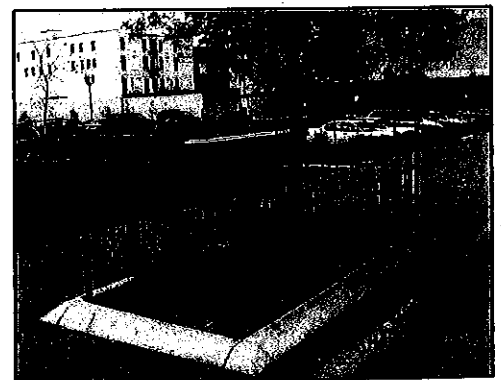
Over many decades the Quad Lakes watershed outside of Mapleton, MN had become silted to the point of almost becoming swampland. Area residents remembered when this chain of lakes had been a favorite fishing and recreational area. Under the direction of Robert Brush, long term plans were set in motion to return the watershed to its former glory. Lura Lake was the 'first phase' of this immense project. It was dredged of the silt and the shorelines were reshaped and planted with a variety of trees by local school children. Logs and rocks helped stabilize the soil. AFI was able to contribute 5,960 tons of rip rap (unearthed during the last phase of our own building project) for erosion control of 25,000 feet (nearly 5 miles) of lake shoreline. Minnesota DNR has since stocked this lake with over a half ton of northern pike to help balance the returning populations of perch, walleyes, crappies and sunfish.

Soon Lura Lake may wish to add swimming beaches for the enjoyment of all its new visitors. It just so happens that AFI's excavating also uncovered all the beautiful white sand Lura Lake Association could want!

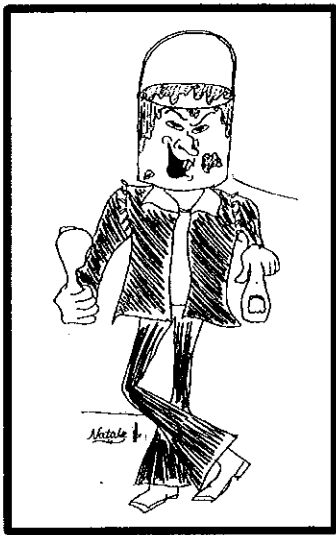


Left: Part of the newly restored shoreline of Lura Lake

Right: This is part of the historic section in Mankato, MN - "Old Town". Take careful note of those nifty green powder coated wrought iron fences enhancing the flower beds. (We do good work!)



**Powder Coating -- Liquid Coating -- Pad Printing Paint
Stripping -- Silkscreening -- R.F.I. Shielding**



AFI Theatre Presents: a tale of unusual intrigue..... **CAN MAN**

"Hey, Youse out der! You don't THINK you know me, but listen up. I represent one of da largest populations in dis joint.

I suppose you're thinkin' I'm just your average ordinary paint pail. But, around here, I'm da man - The One...The Only... **CAN MAN** !

And, from manufacture to meltdown - **DIS is MY LIFE."**

CAN MAN - Created by Miss
Natalie Schreyer, 12 yr old
daughter of Ted Schreyer, Vice
President of Operations.

While other poor saps in our profession end up rusting away in dreary landfills, me and my buddies at Associated Finishing live a *charmed life*. We're shipped in by the truckloads from the best paint manufacturers in da country - in all colors and quantities. We take up residence in climate controlled quarters (Aaaaye, that's cool!) Until, one by one, the boss gives us our assignments.

My pigment - a classy florescent orange - is used for one of the more prestigious (read that *colorful*) jobs in the plant. By now, bits and pieces of me are traveling round the world with fisherman who are beating down the doors of sporting goods stores to buy the thousands of "flashers" I coated. While not every paint gets such a terrific reception as the Can Man, here, youse can see da 'life blood' of my buddies everywhere - on any product finished with either a powder or liquid paint. Whoa! We are a popular commodity!

I have to admit, my life as a working can has had true meaning. I've been productive since the day I was opened, enhanced the quality of each and every part I coated - and, have contributed to the healthy economy of my fatherland. I am proud to be an American paint.

Now, that I've *given my all*, I still have years of usefulness ahead. At dis place, we paint pails are treated with respect. The boss wants us to enjoy our recyclement.

Wha da ya mean dat ain't a word?! People work toward retirement, correct-o-munde? Well, paint pails look forward to *recyclement*! Get my drift?

Steel cans, such as ourselves, are a valuable commodity. The good people at AFI know that, and they treat us right. We are one of the largest recyclable populations at AFI. Boss says that 1,750 of us were recycled last year - which includes everyone from da big 5 gallon boys down to little 'pip-squeak pints' and spray cans.

When our duty is done, we all get a top-notch cleaning at company expense in a state-of-the-art burnoff oven. We like to think of it as our own private sauna. Once or twice a week this beauty is fired up. We bask about 4 hours in an 800 degree Fahrenheit climate, which removes any paint residue left on us. Only our residue (ash) ends up in approved & permitted landfills - not us.

Next, we are transported *in style* to steel collection facilities, where we meet up with steel from all over the state. What a gathering - all the 'incoming' have stories to tell! Once out of the holding areas, we're crushed, sold to smelting facilities, and reshaped into a variety of new products.

I have co-workers who were recently assembled into playground equipment. I hear they are real swingers these days! Others of a more patriotic persuasion requested military duty and are now part of tank divisions, aircraft, & weapons. Those fancy fences in Old Town Mankato that you read about on the flip side of this page?..... My main man, Rudy, is helping out in those. (Rudy once told me that his ancestors were originally gardening tools. I guess dis is his way of getting back to his roots.)

What about The Can Man, you ask? Whoa!.... None of dat flower stuff for me! I want adventure. Got my bid in with both the Buell & Harley-Davidson Motorcycle boys. I figure to shoot for a front fender position, so nuttin' blocks my view! Ahhh, the thrill of the open road. Now, that's 'recyclement' at it's finest!