

Still Reaching for the Stars

Once upon a time, waaaaay back in 1965, a brave man named Bill Klammer—and his even braver wife, Irene, purchased a very small business from it's local owner. It was known as *Associated Engineering* and was located just two blocks away from our present day facility. *AE* had a mere 3 employees, then, and was known for free lance engineering and design work.

Bill Klammer continued doing some design work, but began to branch into liquid spray painting as a way to maintain a more consistent cash flow for his new enterprise. *AE* began to grow steadily, more employees were hired, and new accounts secured. All was well in *AE* land.

Then, KABOOM!! The year 1976 dawned, and Bill's health took a dramatic downward turn. This, ultimately, required that he pass his CEO baton to his eldest son, Chuck. [Sidebar: Now, understand that this boy possessed a solid business head but, no knowledge of engineering.]

What to do?! Well, son, Chuck, took one look at all the math and engineering books his dad had piled on his desk, and decided to change the direction of *Associated Engineering* to the one existing element he did understand—painting!

Dad said, "Go for it, boy", and Chuck took off on his leg of the marathon run! So began the metamorphosis of the company you have come to know as **Associated Finishing, Incorporated**.

Powder coating was in it's infancy in the 1970's. Chuck was keenly interested in this particular technology, and convinced his father to take a leap of financial faith, and let him add a powder coating line to our services. This gave *AE* an entirely new market to draw upon. Pretty soon our small plant was bursting at the seams with orders for powder coating applications.

"What to do? Hmmm. Build a bigger and more user friendly building, of course!" Since it's erection in 1980, our Mallard Lane facility has added production space 4 different times to accommodate new equipment and expanding services. Currently, we have 34,000 square feet of space under one roof in which to operate. (And, pssst! We're getting a mite crowded again.)

Associated Engineering became **Associated Finishing, Inc.** during 1988, in an effort to better reflect the type of work we are really about, these days.

On January 1st of 1991, AFI made another very important change. We became an ESOP Company (Employee Stock Ownership Plan). Now, each employee would have the opportunity to become a partner in AFI's progress.

So.... Are we finished making changes? NEVER. Free enterprise is all about change and adaptation. One day in the not-to-distant future, it will be CEO Klammer's turn to pass on the baton. When that day arrives, Chuck, will say to his successor, "Get'er Done!" And, that man will take off, carrying AFI headlong into the future. WE hope to see you and your company there, as well!

Powder Coating — Liquid Coating — Pad Printing
Paint Striping — Silkscreening — R.F.I. Shielding

AFI 40th Anniversary

1965 - 2005

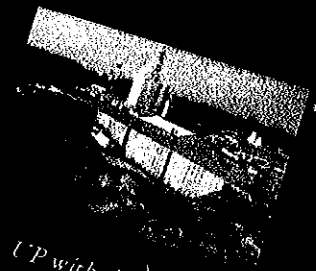


DOWN with the old



January 1, 1993.

We become an ESOP Company!!



UP with the new!



Recognizing Corporate
Excellence and Initiative



Each employee becoming "vested"
in AFI is a reason to celebrate.



"All work and no play?" AFI-er's can
kick up their heels with the best of 'em.

Associated Engineering Company

- QUALITY INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING
- INDUSTRIAL PROCESS SYSTEMS
- MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE FOR INDUSTRIES
- TURNKEY CHIMNEY PANELS
- PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

'Since 1954' ... from a start at

Associated Engineering and design work on a part-time basis in 1954. In an initial, full-time effort in 1955, in Southern Minnesota, we are proud to have arrived at our present operating standards. Our team building and the addition of absolutely modern machinery and equipment have opened up many new markets to manufacturers in this area. Through the facilities of Associated Engineering Co., Fred Gault, and Larry Galt, Major Gault saw the need for such a service, and they have carried it forth in a modern, forward operation serving all of Southern Minnesota.

Photo and Video

Photo and Video services are available for all types of industrial and commercial photography. We have a large staff of experienced photographers and videographers who can handle all your needs. We are also a full-service company, offering a wide range of services to our clients. We are proud to have been in business for over 40 years, and we look forward to continuing our tradition of excellence for many more years to come.

LOOK TO ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING FOR ASSISTANCE

Mankato Free Press, Fri, Feb. 28, 1958, p. 36



Embracing our unique differences!



Irene Klammer, now 88, is
still at work almost every day!