CASE HISTORY

A coater ushers in a new era by relying on innovation and quality

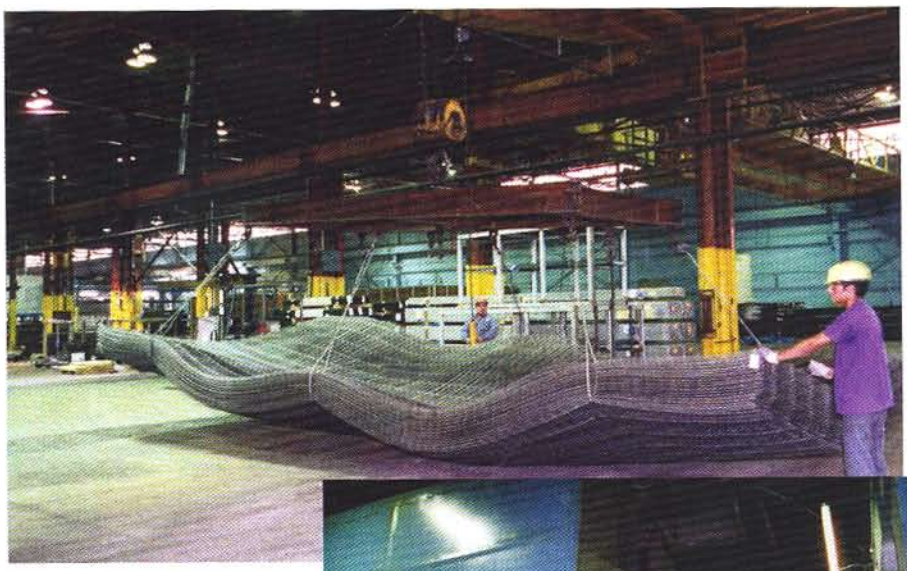
A Midwestern finishing pioneer has built an empire that provides a host of coating technologies, including powder applied on 12 lines.

Fifty-one light poles strategically positioned along a street that parallels Interstate 15 and serves as a shortcut to Ceasar's Palace and other casinos in Las Vegas may seem like mundane infrastructure to most. But when they enhance the memory of a beloved blue-eyed crooner, the lighting earns a new significance on the street named Frank Sinatra Drive. And while Ol' Blue Eyes, may have liked to throw the dice between gigs in his adopted home of Las Vegas, the selection of B.L. Downey Co. to supply those light poles was no gamble.

In fact, it was a safe bet, because B.L. Downey Co. has made a name for itself, during the course of its 52 years in business, as a place where innovation and technology come together to solve vexing problems involving the protective and decorative coatings of all types of metal products. In the case of the Las Vegas project light poles were fabricated by B.L. Downey Co., shot blasted, and then powder coated with a special color to provide a top-notch, long-lasting finish: a fitting tribute to an American icon.

From carbon steel to magnesium to aluminum and beyond, B.L. Downey Co. has developed processes that allow fabricated metal products to be cleaned, masked if needed, and coated with either an electrocoat (e-coat) or a powder coat, or both, depending on customer requirements.

The company can handle almost any size project from large, oddly shaped pieces—measuring up to 50 feet in length and weighing up to 10,000 pounds—to tiny parts sent to the company by the tens of thousands. As an example, B.L. Downey Co. recently coated a curving, decorative Gone-with-the-Wind-style wrought iron staircase that measured two stories tall. At the same time, thousands of 1-inch- to 16-inch-long roofing screws were going through the e-coating pro-



The company coats metal products that are embedded in roadways, bridges, and parking facilities. Because moisture laden with road salt permeates concrete in many states, coated metal products, such as rebar, effectively last longer.