crewdriver is probably dead. Strike. I never knew much about him, other than that he worked at a local quarry. I also knew he was proud of his new false teeth, which were a topic of lively discussion among the regulars for a week or so.

"They only cost $150," he told anyone who showed an interest, usually flashing an enormous self-satisfied grin. In fact, he'd eagerly pop the false teeth out of his mouth and exhibit them on the polished bar whenever he was chided by other regulars, guys with nicknames like Sly and Eagle.

Come to think of it, I never knew any of these other characters well either. Not even their real names. But, for a short while, we all had a good time, even Screwdriver.

I know it's a poor substitute for the entertainment my former pals used to provide, but I check the net message boards from time to time to see what people have to say about the doings of several Green Industry companies. I've staked a small part of my financial future on them — the companies, not the people with the funny names.

What's in a name?
Ah, Screwdriver. I got to thinking about him again after trying to figure out the significance of some of the strange nicknames on the message boards, particularly the lively ServiceMaster board.

Characters calling themselves KaginKing, Encore, Bigmouse and (my favorite) Dangermousekaboom maintain a running commentary about the company and, sometimes, about nothing much at all.

Several seem to harbor a grudge against the company, or certain members of its management. They take every shot they can. They engage in arguments on the board with company defenders.

Occasionally, someone posts what appears to be solid information. Insider stuff. Whether it is or not, who knows? Mostly, I go the board for a good chuckle, which brings me back to Screwdriver.

He used to frequent a local hangout. He was a slight man, wrinkled and leathery, and I can still see his sun-creased face bathed in the haze of an unfiltered Lucky Strike. I never knew much about him, other than that he worked at a local quarry. I also knew he was proud of his new false teeth, which were a topic of lively discussion among the regulars for a week or so.

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Contact Ron at 440/891-2636 or e-mail at rhall@advanstar.com

Every once in a while someone will share what seems to be solid information.