

Parting Shots

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One WTCA member sent in these pictures of cut girder trusses discovered during the remodel of a local restaurant. A contractor who works regularly with this component manufacturer was doing interior remodeling and re-roofing on the restaurant when they noticed a previous contractor had cut some of the girders. The contractor recognized the problem and immediately contacted the component manufacturer.

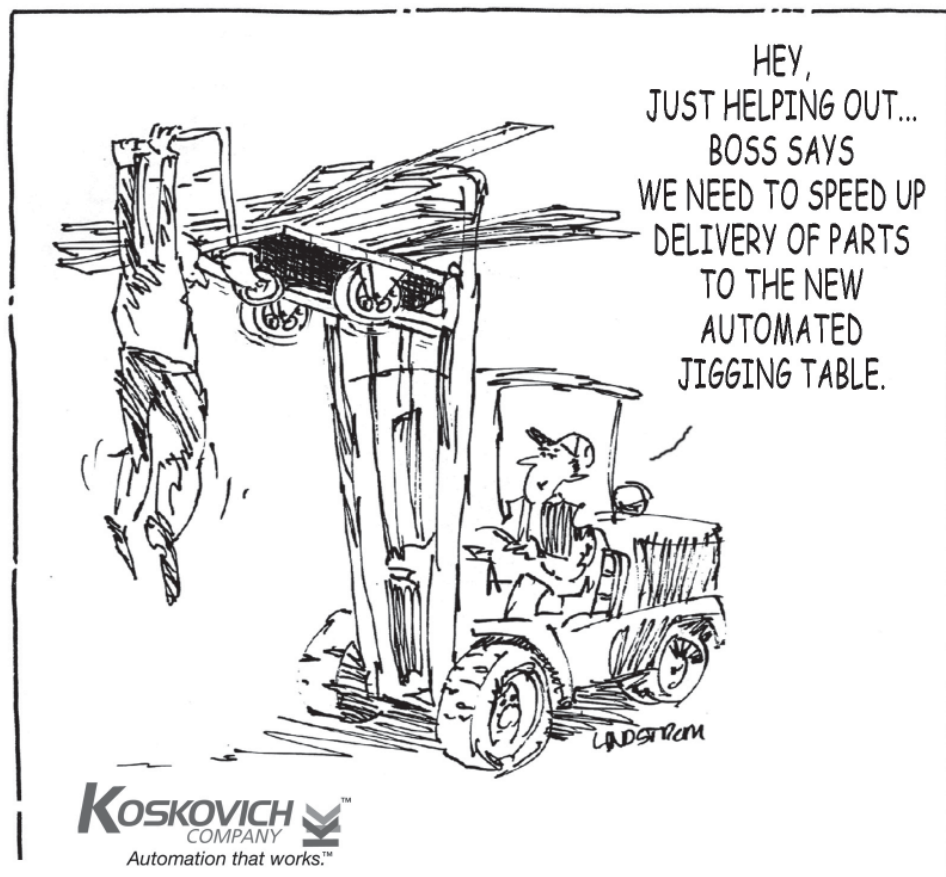
The CM commented, "We've seen other remodeling jobs with damaged or cut trusses but nothing like this with girder trusses."

What's so remarkable is that the trusses were cut to allow duct work for heating and air conditioning units estimated to weigh approximately 2,000



lbs. sitting directly on the trusses. Despite the incorrect alterations and the snow, ice and rain loads for the last 15 years, the trusses held up without any noticeable problems. The CM, who asked not to be named, was very surprised that the structure lasted this long, especially given it was a clear-span flat roof with no interior walls.

In the end, the CM repaired the damaged trusses by putting in clearspan beams for support. "In the past it was more common to see incorrectly cut or altered trusses," said the contact. "But now with education, building officials and contractors being more aware finding cut trusses is not as frequent." **SBC**



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