

Joe Abraham

6-9-06

Birth date 7-18-51 Senerity Date 8-10-81

Education - High School - MSU - Labor Studies

Married - ^{32 yrs.} Children - 2 daughters - Kans. ^{Coerr} St. Lawrence

St. Serards - graduated Waverly - 1 1/2 Lec -

parents mother workers in Wash. father military

mother worked for state father main plant S.M.

Joe worked at Gas station - went to Allet

worked at Lincoln Metal - came back to

Kans. in 1976 worked Burnett Chemical until

got job at Fisher - went there for benefits

and job security (got in at age 30) someone

told him to go sign up saw line at

plant - wife told him to go back get

in line when came home because it was

raining - alot of people in front & alot

behind him. Burnett (old boss) said dont hire

because he was a good worker. Body shop

door area - Cafeteria talked a little safety

then took to their area. Was close to

the jingle (hand held welders looked like

a jingle) He loaded doors on car pulled

jig down put hinges on each end of door

on each car (each door weighed 40 lbs)

48 doors an hour. Ergo wasnt around

then - Alot of safety issues - back

then it was shoes, glasses and gloves.

Wore coveralls everyday. Had lockers, showers. Exhaust system wasn't very good. End of 1st day (Trainer showed him 3 jobs and left) didn't dare to miss anything or would be replaced, had people who wanted your job. Didn't stay in Body shop long, went to Paint Shop and Trim after that.

1st child had to pay cash for so was glad to have insurance for 2nd child. Was a great relief to wife.

Got to know people close around you, was a job using your motor skills.

Loved S. M. Cars. Can hardly wait for new plant so can see the car completely built, been so use to only seeing the body part - People who hired in with Roy Page and alot more, we have a good Union we have a close knit union unlike some others.

When joined - explain to a certain extent what your rights were - Supervisor was listened to more, now we have more rights seem to have more rights and listened

To more.

Supervisor came down and talked to him about blowing holes in cars, but guys were pulling a prank on him. Body shop was really old school supervision

A couple of older women who were ready to retire were the only women he remembers. Posters on the walls, girly magazines smoking on the job.

Then went upstairs to paint shop
3 different cars 88-98 - cutthro - Cline
1 1/2 body, then went to paint - (reduced out of body.) Paint wear coveral, rubber boots rubber gloves, hats, masks. Then go into booths, metal grated floors with water running underneath you - enamel paint could be brushed off. People working side by side (30) every 5 ft making friends, talking getting to know each other. Has a single co-worker influence your life - no not really - Pretty much had to look up to himself - took care of himself. Lunch - Cafeteria, bring your own, taverns, or had dinners
Paint hard to have dinners because.

of environment.

Aleum - would take paint off boots worked, don't see that anymore.

Used a cleaner that after using, you could taste later, cause it got in your system. Utility would do peoples job if not there or had vacation, Paint no music, sealer line you could.

Reading could also become a problem depended on the area.

Mandatory cleaning boots became the rule before Joe left the area, because they make a mess all over the plant.

Then was reduced to Trim - could write up job if couldn't get it done. People seemed happier, more relaxed could wear shorts, T-shirts.

While in paint 3 people lost their lives and Joe had to do their jobs the next day - that made him feel very uncomfortable - saw a woman get leg caught between body carriers working up the line. (Trim Area)

Job in trim Area - Doors off line Grand Am line ⁸⁸⁻⁸⁹ 90

Alot better parties in trim than

Paint or Body.

Bacalava his speciality - grape leaves, squash, meat loaf - lamb meat dish -

In plant vending - tacos, subs were quite good.

Supervisor - good + bad -

good - would listen - Nelson Thorn

Randy Dingrich

Ted Thelen

Joy Klink

Bill Marshal

Bill Johnson

Richard Thompson

Material - Transferred - Jim - Utility
Jim - Body - Paint

Got to know alot of people - V.P. Doug Rademacher
got to know alot of the plant, that never
knew existed. Had to be very aware of
surrounding - People in particular

Best Memory - 1st Home - 25yrs - The
People - everything he has - most important
day when hired in.

Happiest - ^{Settling 1/3} Strike

Saddest - Tragic death of people in
paint pit.

Funniest - The Spider Man collected pop cans - guys screwed a can 20ft up on a beam, and he went up and got the can.

Old vending machines use to drop cups after the coffee or 2 cups and no cup at all.

Capitol of Quality - why? workers took pride in what they built.

Even though names have changed it will always be Fisher Body - started as Durrant Building.

Union Meeting - didn't attend many meeting - though his representation was very good.

When people talk about Toyota he tells them to wait when they fold and don't have Union support.

Labor studies class information was excellent, wishes new hires could get this class - factory work they don't want ^{you} to use your brain you are their Robot -

Votes for Union endorsed candidates votes in Union + Gen elections

Loves the T.A.P. program for furthering his education. ~~He~~ Wishes spouses could use it.

Volunteer work - can't think of any.

Opportunity to express views, pretty cool.