

3-7-2006  
Tuesday

FP-11-0

GARY Bernath @ Greenhouse

Seniority 9-3-76 7677 St Clair Rd  
Elsie, MI 48

Doug Rademacher Interviewer

MARRIED - wife - Sidney / 2 daughters

Educational Leave from Fisher Body  
2 years in Marine Corp

Parents Father did a variety of jobs <sup>Montgomery Ward</sup> Shoe Sales

Mother small factory + head cook in school

Before Fisher Body funeral home (Carter in Elsie)  
Eugene Welding - Storage Racks  
Hired in as Janitor  
Tried to get the Teamsters in there.

Why Fisher Body? wanted to go to college and get  
an education. joined M.C. Discharged in 76  
Uncle Joe told him F.B. was hiring, and would  
bring him an application. I was living in  
the basement of my father's house. Having  
a good time. I filled out the app and was  
hired in 2 days later. Never showed my face  
and got a job.

Did you have any idea what went on inside  
F.B.?

No I didn't! Jim Beam was first  
supervisor, first job was vinyl tops on 98's  
88's and Toronados. Wouldn't have stayed long  
if it wasn't for the good job.

It was the nature of the beast. ~~the~~ ~~the~~

hired on the 1st Shift

Looking at 8 years before you could hold the day shift

Wife was on second shift, Did you meet her there? She hired in 1978. We have been married 26 ~~years~~ years.

I leveled off and went to the paint shop I sprayed the underbody of Oldsmobiles as they went down the line. It was god awful working conditions. It was the worst I ever had. It was so boring I went to my doctor and complained about headaches from fumes. Was put on the wet deck, just as bad of a job but I could talk to people. Used a side wheel.

Environment? The 70's it wasn't highly automated back then people did the sealer wands, wet sand, sprayed paint. The place just stunk.

Summer/winter) The ovens and the summer made the place really smell. The wet deck wasn't bad cause we could play with the water and it was a bit cooler.

The beginning of your time in F.B.? Back then I was amazed, installing vinyl tops was a great job I thought. Jim Shock was the committee man. My brothers would complain about the job. And they would take care of the job. Nobody wanted a new kid fighting a job it didn't look good. No women on day shift but there were on night shift. The people in the shop were wonderful.

Explain a 78?

(2)

The people were the greatest. Any imitation? No, I knew I belonged 'cause the older guys would invite me out for a beer, they would say "Come on kid!"

Taught <sup>me</sup> the job Ray Fish, Don Rathburn still bump into them at farm Auctions. 7 people were hired in the same day AS I WAS. I WAS sitting in the General formans office.

I went International 7 years ago. 76-99 I WAS on the Line. It would amaze me that Uncle Joe had 28 years and bolting in seat belt bolts. I do every 6<sup>th</sup> job and he did every car. He just came to work and kept his mouth shut. His supervisor would reward him occasionally and give him an easy job. When Uncle Joe retired bolting seat belts, when you see him today he is all bent over. I know why he walks that way. I self medicated and got threw it.

Transfers were the way to get off a bad job.

Name Changes? It will Always be Fisher Body.

~~There~~ <sup>there</sup> was a pride in Fisher Body. The Union was stronger, I ~~wasn't~~ had the pride. we lost that Identity, It's sad.

Being young on nights? Started a family later in life. Back then we didn't have the competition with foreign cars. If you wanted the day off you put your name on the Supervisors List.

PPH day were like Christmas better than your check.

30-35 people in an area 5 or 6 extra people for absentee replacement.

We liked to gamble / Andy Graham & Michelle Penfield we would cook in the ovens. Holiday we would do hams and turkeys. They knew how long it would take.

We would pitch nickles against the wall. Winner would scrape up the nickles it would elevate to Quarters.

First experience with Trades was when I was District Committee man. We got the wastewater treatment and power house. I would get a call and they would complain about their pay check and I was almost insulted. They had a nice environment to work in.

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Another Proud moment AS Shop Committee?

## Tag vs. Mass Relief

We had Tag relief. A relief man was a good job. Management wanted Mass Relief. Mid term they wanted to wipe out the Relief men. I told Zubkus that we were walking. Zubkus said no your not. Mine was a bluff, I didn't know. When the final push came down The Shop Committee was divided. Cal Rapson didn't want the Shop Committee divided. 9:30 AM Cal had to leave told us to talk about it. Lots of fighting ~~at~~ and yelling. Final vote was 5-2 in favor of mass relief. Cal came back and Cal called yockish and Cal came back with a 602 t-shirt on and I knew we were walking. The strike lasted 4 days we returned to work on Tuesday. It went to the employees for a vote. I put out a letter and told people to not numize the plant. Membership voted to keep Tag Relief. Then Bloody April - Mgmt said no new product till we went to mass Relief.

MAR 7 2006

GARRY BERNATH

WORKED IN A FUNERAL HOME + WORKED AT EUGENE WELDING PRIOR TO FISHER BODY.

DISCHARGED FROM MARINE IN JULY OF 1976 HIS UNCLE BROUGHT HIM A APPLICATION FROM FISHER BODY. HE FILLED IT OUT AND WAS CALLED 20 DAYS LATER. HIRED IN SEPT 3 1976. DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO WORK IN FACTORY. WANTED TO GO TO COLLEGE INSTEAD. WENT TO WORK IN WYNLE TOPS WHICH WAS A GOOD JOB. HIRED ON TO 1ST SHIFT. STAYED ON DAYS FOR 100 DAYS. GOT REDUCED OUT OF TRIM AND LEVELED OFF INTO THE PAINT SHOP. THOUGHT ABOUT QUITTING BECAUSE THE WORK CONDITIONS WERE SO BAD. HAD TO WEAR A PAINT SUIT IN VERY BAD CONDITIONS WHERE YOU WERE STUCK IN A BOOTH WEARING A HOOD THAT FED AIR TO YOU. YOU COULD NOT TALK OR ANYTHING IN THERE.