

Lansing Fisher Body Historical Team 2-9-06

12:45 -
Pm

Interviewer - Marilyn Coulter

Interviewee - Marta M. Babillo

Seniority - 8-24-77 (Hired in Day Shift)

Married - Divorced (4) (2 boys (2) girls

Education - High School - (4 years College

First Day = First job in conditions assembly.

Then to Body Shop to hang doors on cars. (15 ^{Hired} people) (3 women 12 men)

Born in Cuba and raised until age

Military - 7-15 military school in Cuba.

* Father came to work at Fisher and also retired from here. Spoke to Marta about working here

Reason for hire = Money, raising a family at home, also with relatives.

* Marta also had relatives who worked at Fisher Body and was very thankful.

* Very few women in the Body Shop, much harassment from co-workers, even walking to the bathroom brought whistles and sexual remarks from men in the shop.

* No women's bathrooms close in this dept.

Trim vs Body Shop - Trim was basically street clothes, Body Shop was a hair net and overalls, also safety glasses.

* Pranks = 15¢ 90 days moving you around, hide her lunch, lunch hour was for resting, break times were used to keep her stocked up and prepared for when the line started back up.

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Then Marta went to the hood job, but she also had a partner who was very tall and it was hard for her to work,

* Supervision = Marta felt that she had to prove to other employees and supervisors that they could continue working under these circumstances.

Going from the body shop back to trim was a drastic change also, not very much cooperation between employees and management.

* Pranks = hide her tools, put the wrong tools in her tool pouch and change tools.

= But mostly Marta had fun with her co-workers.

Marta also did some clerical work for a couple that she worked for working for him.

* Most of the start was day shift testing with man power shortages.

Days vs Nights = Dayshift were older and least abusive, The factory in ~~the Delta~~ ^{night shift} ~~working~~ will have low age people ~~that no one would say it the exact~~ who would have more fun and talk more. They listen to more music than day shift.

* Marta said that she was fortunate that her dad worked in Fisher and her mom would watch ~~her~~ ^{her} kids while she was at work or anytime.

* Husband and wife were working at Fisher and came to work together. Hood level

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together. Rode in and home also together.

* When marta was put into the paint shop, there was a big difference, had to wear coveralls, gloves, the smell and the lead in the paint. Hot in the summer. Also paint was very dirty, so they had their own locker rooms to change in.

* She then was on the sealant line for a few months where the holes on the car body were plugged with sealant. Then marta went back to trim where there were more women in 1978 year.

* They became her family. And different events were celebrated together. Birthdays, weddings, graduations, vacations.

* Union activity = marta started later in life but was asked by 10 workers and friends to become union active. Marta ~~was~~ has brought her own family into her union family and they came ~~to~~ together.

* AUL, UAW 130, Quality control, and early involvement with the new vehicles that come into the plant. Marta had to take a test to be on quality team.

* Being a woman and minority other employees wondered how she came to receive these good jobs, But she

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told them that she put in for these jobs and she earned them.

Capital of Quality - Fisher Body people always cared about what kind of job they did and the cars that they built.

A Even supervisors believe that employee input is a positive thing for our organization. Fisher this worked very well.

A. Union position = Trustee of UAW 602.
Community Activities, Church Advent House.
Vice Pres - CLUW Coalition of Labor Union Women
Also Philip Randolph Institute member.

A Marta was also involved in translating language for other employees with problems, such as grievance problems, or people in the hospital.

A Marta also does union involvement such as bringing people into the Union activity.

A Plant closing = Very sad because this felt like blame for Marta and her family.

A Fisher to Delta = She hopes the same family environment carries to Delta Township.
- Women then vs. Now = Not equal yet but getting closer than ~~was~~ we were in the past.

Marta is proud of herself and all of us on this team and she is here to serve any and all members of UAW Local 602.

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Marta wanted to let everyone know that we are all hard workers, that we are not just beer drinking bouncers, we care about ourselves and each other as human beings and we also care about our communities.