

# Loring Fisher Body Historical Team 2-27-06

12:30  
pm

①

Interviewer - Cheryl McQuaid

Interviewee - Mike - Lee Bobrovay

Seniority = 8-25-76 19 years old

Married - Yes (3) children (Stepson)

Military - None

Education - (1974) <sup>graduated</sup> Waverly High School (2 years college)  
at Loring Community College.

\* Parents - Mom was a housewife and his  
Dad was also a Fisher Body employee.

Reason for Fisher = Grandfather and father's  
lifestyle, also friends who worked at  
Fisher Body. The money and benefits also.

His father hired in 1946. His grandfather  
actually made his father get a job.

Mike actually worked for his father  
a few times before his dad retired.

\* Coming into Fisher = 1976 was his first  
interview = This happened very quickly  
and went to work 2 weeks later.

\* First Day = Tom ~~the~~ fee was the person  
who took Mike to the body shop.

Smalley, Bob, and many conveyors  
running through the body shop.

His first job was welding the floor  
pan and the trunk and seat brackets  
piece together. Toronados were ~~to~~ very  
hard to do and he would try to

(2)

2-27-06

stay up the time for this job. He was on the ninety eight and Delta 88 line. This job was hot and very smoky. Mike then went onto utility which is an absence replacement person that performed a different job everyday. Mike then ran a tag relief and then

A Team Coordinator until the plant closed. Many of the people that Mike worked with back in the early days are still around today and are friends with Mike. At one time Mike knew almost every job in the body shop at Louie Car Assembly certain jobs in the body shop there were booths that women were not allowed to work in. This was in the jungle, where welders are hanging from the ceiling on railings and any job would be performed. In 1976 there was minorities in the plant and there were pitted against each other. From the beginning out of 12 women who work normally in the body shop, only about 6 or 7 people lived to work there for 30 years. you could come back to the plant. Mike met his wife in the plant. and this was hard sometimes but they are still married. Day shift and night shift = night shift goes against (your family life) there was

(3)

1-27-06

⊕ Different on nights and to ~~off~~ days.

⊕ ~~Pranks~~ Pranks - sealer in gloves, sealer on the phone, put a cigarette inside your back conceal pocket, someone always take and eat your lunch.

⊕ Wagon = This was a contractual break where cafeteria workers would bring food to you on carts, also juice, fruit and sandwiches. 7 times a night 6 minutes.

⊕ Chagozera = (24 or 25) Chagozera in his time at Fisher Body. Mostly maintenance helper and welder. Moved around a lot, changed chains in the paint shop. Mostly what the millwrights would do. Next worked with pipefitters = built piping, learned how to thread piping. Extra income during these times. Today Mike continues friendships with skilled tradesmen outside the plant.

⊕ Also Mike worked and heating and fishing with a man from Ironia at a plant in that city.

⊕ Good Boss = People persons, relate to employees well. Communicate well and cared about you.

Bad Bosses = want things done their way.

Thought they were better than you.

This also worked well for Mike that he had access to these tradesmen on his job in the body shops for work.

- (4) Bill was a boss who would actually thank you for working for them that shift. Really cared for you.
- \* Best job = Utility = absentee replacement. employee involvement for a while.
  - \* Best (relief job for your team). Team coordinator.
  - \* Dept dinners + activities = Thanksgiving and Christmas were major celebrations with homemade food and brought in from home.
  - \* Formes who worked in the plant would bring in things from their gardens also.
  - \* Bowling leagues were a favorite of Mike's. also a golf league was a favorite.
  - \* Softball leagues were also a big thing. Once the workforce got older there was less and less people involved.
  - \* Most of these events were for charity.
  - \* Being a 3rd generation of Fisher Body has given him a good life and lots of friends from the beginning until now when he has 30+ years in. People are more involved now when there is room for improvement.
  - \* Mike is very union oriented, and thinks foreign cars is one of the ~~worst~~ worst things in America today. Also his union involvement has taken him into alternate committee

5

2-77-06

Then acting committeeman and then  
Conservation and Recreation Chairperson.  
Then District Committeeman for a  
while - nothing but positive comments  
about training and activities at

\* UAW Block Lake Education Center.

1. Conservation Alderman UAW outdoor club

The only COO member on the executive  
board of this organization. only one.

2. Lions Club in Delta Township.

Also on the executive board here.

3. Hunter & Safety instructor

4. Trainer at Waverly High School.

\* Happiest moment - when Mike got his

\* Saddest part - Fiber Body sign come down.

Also when the plant closed, and he knew  
he would never return to the inside this  
factory or work with some of these people.

This is still Fiber Body to him.