

Lansing Fisher Body Historical Team

5-3-06

9:15  
am

Interviewer - Cheryl McQuaid

Interviewee - Dave Brown

Security - 3-21-77

DOB 3-19-51

Married - Yes 2 sons 1 daughter

Education - High School, MSU, WMU.

~~Military~~ Military - None

Born in Battle Creek but was raised in Kalamazoo. His father worked for a Paper

Company in Kalamazoo and his mom was a homemaker. Dave used his Tuition assistance program to get his degrees that he has now.

# Reason hired at Fisher = mostly money and benefits. He was waiting to be hired into the school and they were not hiring at that time.

# First Day = in the paint dept, he had dreams later at night of cars coming down the line to point them. This dept was scary and dirty. Not a good dept. The people were very accommodating to him.

# Pranks - go to the gate for your free turkey.

# Shifts - Dave liked the second shift better. Didn't like getting up early and people were more laid back on the second shift.

Supervisors - There were some that were not good and some worked very well with people.

Col workers - Dave felt towards them as family and they grew closer after time. Dave felt that some of supervisors treated

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- their employees like they didn't know what they were talking about and didn't listen.
- # Pranks = a co-worker down the line from Dave didn't look at the "manifest" and painted the car a wrong ~~with~~ color for fun.
  - # Boels then there was hardly any protective equipment other than safety glasses. Today you have coveralls, hearing protection etc.
  - # Pranks - Taking the air line off of your gun and paint your co-workers boots etc.
  - # No radios were allowed in the paint shop.
- Leaches = Mostly brown bagged his lunch from home. After about 1970 he started to play euchre. Dave also remembered the "wagon" which was food juice etc brought out by the cafeteria and served
- = Henner = Boels then there weren't as many as there are in the shop today.
- Relationships = Dave met both his wives in the plant. He also kept his personal life quiet inside the shop
- # Best Memory - Dave isn't pin one down, but everyday was a good day for him at work. When he was elected to a Committeeman, Dave ran for this election and he won by about 10-15 votes. Dave even the checkpool one night and said that he would have a party if he were the

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\* I have run for other positions with lower security and didn't win the first few elections. But after that he didn't put his number of years security on his paperwork. When done became committeeman he had a very good time serving the memberships.

1981-1985 he served as committeeman.

\* Most calls were about - advancement opportunities were placed wrong on their jobs, <sup>(2)</sup> disciplinary issues for 1-2 hours a shift, or venting grievances against supervision or upper management.

\* Done felt that supervision was going in the wrong direction by using disciplinary actions instead of corrective action. The third thing Done did was represent people who just had problems on a daily basis.

Done then went on the Quality of Worklife. This also changed the name of the plant from Fisher Body to Buick Automobile, Cadillac<sup>B.O.C.</sup>

Done was also the joint ~~work~~ activities rep.

\* Done was then on day shift and this was hard for him because he didn't like to get up being on day shift so long, after every hour worked at the plant 104 was sent to the joint training.

\* Union Meetings = never attended one until he was elected did he attend a union meeting and for about 21 years he had a perfect record.

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for his attendance at his union meetings  
an joint training rep Dave had an office  
to work in, Today the quality of work  
life has been improved over the years.

# Dave recalled an instance where a lovely  
short woman was ~~was~~ put on a job that  
take into account that this person was not  
made for this job or department.

# Biggest changes = The ability to contribute to  
the company and share knowledge that we have.  
The suggestions plan was a good effective  
tool for employees to make some money  
but also suggest a different or implement.

A Capital of Quality = This is brought to us  
by the people of Joning who care about ~~us~~  
making a difference in the shop.

B Plant Closing = Very disheartening, gives you also  
a pain in your heart. But we have a new  
facility that we can change things in the future.

A Dave - alot of what he has learned and done  
has been able to use what he has outside  
the plant and into the community. Such as  
elected officials, teachers etc. Dave is  
retiring this year and getting his masters  
degree in Public Administration to go to  
work in the community and carry on  
his knowledge into Public office.