

12-14-05
@ UAW Hall
9:10 AM

Mrs Donald & Doreen Brown Married, 3 children, 4 grandchildren
11th grade 37 years service

Don - Construction worker 1st hired in 1950 - worked 2 days
glass dept didn't like the job & quit.
truck driver,

Then hired Paint dept 1954

Son hired 1981 @ Fisher

Doreen - Aug 1950 - large, noisy, Nurses aide prior
plant made more money. Roomed with the people
who worked in personnel. Hired into paint dept
relief, 98 lbs most women in paint

Union Activity - Pope - \$5.00 to join - didn't have to join them

Strikes - 70 days - Sept 14th contract ended, orderly shut
down plant - don't destroy. Every entry would be closed off.

Doreen - train ~~at~~ duty - ^{Rail} not let in plant

Strike Pay - \$25.00 @ Hall Zone Committee 19 years on Committee

Con Con Delegate - Met Cesar Chavez at Van Nuys
Calif. President Walter Ruther was there

Black Lake was ok'd ^{to build} at this convention, Florida

Don - Shop Chair 6 years, needed more time for
Committee calls

Coveralls - fight who got them and who didn't.

Don Marched @ 30 ^{years} and out

No ~~with~~ ^{Benefit} benefits

In ^{beginning} ~~the~~ Women in Plant, Few blacks,

Women ~~on~~ ^{couldn't work over} 54 hours/week, 10 hours/night

Worked X-mas eve,

Equity in gender & race came around 70's

Plant dinners - once in awhile
took up collections for babies, etc.

Pay women 10¢ less/hour, late 70's caught up
separate seniority lists

Met at work - 1955, married in 1957, collection + coffee pot.
Change overs @ work - no women worked during this time.

Foreman worked on line at many times - many
215 grievances, mgt to wear white shirts to identify
Collection's taken up in groups

No annual UAW picnic

Baseball diamonds - mgt vs hourly

Diningroom was always separate

Birth of 602 Union hall - St Joe store front was where 1st
UAW meeting - Sold bricks \$1 each for a brick to build
the Hall. How long to build? Contracted out to build hall

53' gm car made @ plant Bought many GM products
over the years.

"Capital of Quality" - People - hard work, pride in work
people helping others. Working together

Quality of work life - Started up program for employees
to have more input into the build process.

Don Chenoweth - plant mgt - setup meeting

Drinking prevalent, not so much drugs until about 1970's
Mgt and hourly alike.

Football pools, Not able to have radio or newspapers.

Name Changes - Always be Fisher Body to us.

~~1985~~ 1985 model - worked out training, get older employees
out so young could continue to work.

Dorein - Chair of Election committee - Vote - pay

Eight people 24 hours

swing shift election - 4 week days / 4 weeks nights
liked the swing shift

Most appreciated benefit - Pension + health care

Pranks -

Wagon - 7-8 days out on strike, Increased line speed for 6 min break

Coffee - 54 to 74 went on boycott

No vending machines at first, later they went to vending machines in satellite areas, got rid of the wagon

Spent a lot of money promoting this issue. Union Voted - turned down
Population of Plant approx 6,000 people 1984 around 5,000.

Flowers in front of Plant - made Coach symbol

Fisher Body Symbol - known as a good place to work

Shop rats - looked down upon because they were uneducated.

No Eye, hearing, prescriptions, Trusmanes - Paid own

Joined the Union - now get these.

Harry's Bar - went in shifts to Bar to drink and eat