

Russ Dahlstrom -

1-3-06

Seniority - 8-7-78 - married ~ High

School - 4yr. Marine Corp. 1st day - military Calif

wifes father supt in body shop - had job lined up
befor getting out. Was meat cutter in Wis. befor
military. 1st day - orientations - floor - motors ^{structural} mechanic

same as military Tom Duke Supt. Farmer Pete

pick up man he was great - Union met at
time of entering plant - Supervisor pickedyou. - 1st job loading rear seats 1hr to learn
bolting in seats - 4 days learned all jobs -17 days learned repair went to ~~Chair~~ ^{olds} for 2 1/2 years -

in repair - worked with 20-30 year people they

were great to you - (still Fisher Body employee) 2nd

shift for 26 years - Laid off in 81 for 7 months

TRA - Trade Reassurance Adjustment pay -

never broke seniority - No strikes - Environment?

pranks? Permagum fights, water ~~balloons~~ fights

Urethane phone of Paul West supervision -

Not many dinners, had a good time - radios

mostly country - talked alot - friends outside

plant (Wayne Barker) softball teams, hunted

worked on each others homes -

Butcher at one time, why Automobile plant,

security, retirement, benefits. A day in

the plant - check in with boss did utility

see what job to cover. Repair check what job to

do then do 8 hrs or if need to work over

do so. Divorced - Remarried women who worked in the plant. Wife now retired - Family members - brother-in-law + Nephew.

How was working with minorities or women - everyone the same - treat everyone as though human and they react the same. Work family + now work family worked well together -

Group - when everyone worked well together, but when management showed favoritism it messed up the whole group.

Supervisors who were honest were greatly respected. Don't have that anymore.

Contract supervisors - pathetic don't know contract, — when plant went down was T.C. (Team Coord.) -

Hung wrong door - was told if do again would be fired - Now could stop line or fix unless Super - won't let you stop the line -

You cover the line while people who need can call - (bathroom break) committee call etc. T.C. who refused can call - never did that some T.C.'s did, not him.

Check pool - last 3 digits of check number + maybe wild numbers to win a pot - never ran one, but was in one.

Made a difference in someone else's day, tried to do that daily -

Bad day or worst day can't think of one -

Best job - Repair at Olds

Worst job - Body Shop - welding spot was so glad to go back to Trim

worked Body Shop - worst job - went back to trim went back to body shop & had 3 welders liked job. Worked paint didn't like smell - liked Trim - place to be, Working conditions come along way from when came in to present - a lot cleaner, quieter, not so much lifting, standing upright now -

Lunch - went for burger - then for Beer. Very busy, served fast - had box with cards for tabs everyone paid up on pay days - cashed checks - had own bank - kept change for cashing checks.

Wagon - breaks - food - extra breaks - employee vending Waryl Mangles - sold Ice Cream bars in summer - Another guy would sell burritos for breakfast - Great Crafts not right off hand (couldn't think of any)

Military & plant similarities - a lot - tools - punching in working on their time, shift 2nd - in new plant will be working

3rd shift.

Hates to see plant close - but contract super - short of people, union not sticking up for employees, low quality was glad plant was closing for these reasons.

Towards the end everyone was considered utility instead of their jobs.

People in plant played cards, dice, bible study groups, own little city in side -

Changes every 10 years - Supervisors knew every job when he went into plant - QWL (Quality Work Life) GM 20 pilot listened to hourly changed some GM X 20 - changed some more - Union & Management has changed a lot -

Skilled trades used a lot change racks - ramps - slow but were great.

Name changes - BOC - LCA - will always be Fisher Body -

Body by Fisher had seen on side plates of vehicles knew nothing else.

Misconceptions people think jobs are piece of cake, don't know what it's really like.

JAP - Never used, but know lots of people who have.

Benefits - Vacations & Healthcare

A lot of good supervisors & a lot of good people - It's been really good.

Tell someone who might come into auto industry - pay attention go to meetings - listen keep eyes open pay attention to what's going on in the plant.

New plant hope they have the people who know how to run it - Listen to the work force - Don't go for the all mighty dollar go for quality -

Found love of your life, thank you for interview

Jeri Smith