

11:15 Fisher Body Historical Team 12-13-05

Interviewer Marilyn Coulter

Interviewee Karen Dunchel

Severity = 5-22-78 21 years old.

Married = Single 3 stepchildren

Education = Graduate Wovenry, some LCC classes.

First Day = Overwhelmed, like a meat market.

2nd shift, Door Aspers first job.

* Reason for hiring = No formal schooling, wanting a good job with benefits.

* P. Banks = None at this time.

Night shift = was a party time, with young people, house parties after work. Get together after work.

This shift had only about 30% women 70% men
Not enough facilities (bathrooms) for men and women

Layoff = 1984 gearing up for Pont. Grand am.

Karen was scared that no return date was given

She has always driven GM vehicles for years.

* Plant culture = Back in the beginning the supervisors were more laid back than now. More contract super.

(Ergonomics) played a role in the future years but it was too little too late. Most people already have a plan for this event. The older days the supervisors were more people related and would try to help you.

* Employees with major impact = A partner she had on front panels made her day go by easier and helped her out on a daily basis.

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* Collections = Mostly for people's deaths, or large collections at the gate. This was just like one big happy family helping each other.

Lunchtime = Going out to lunch at first to Hamp Bar, or going to the store and coming back to work. Then later on just playing cards or conversing with co-workers.

* Friends outside the plant = Home parties, camping trips together, Trips to Frankesmouth etc.

Name changes = Always will be Fisher Body to her.

* Sometimes she felt that the capital of quality was not always like that. She felt that

~~the~~ sometimes it was just get the cars out.

* No changeover work = When she had time available outside the plant she would take it.

* Radio Wars = People on the line all trying to listen to their own ~~was~~ music. Turning up music loud back and forth.

* Best Boss = A understanding boss, someone who gave you respect, and someone you could talk to.

* Best Memories = The people and the camaraderie, the friendships. Being put in the trunk of the car locked in and being sent through the water test booth and get wet.

* Family = 2 sisters, sometimes they talk about the negative things that happened in the plant.

* Retired = Karen is now out on a medical retirement from injuries that she had

sustained on her jobs in the plant. She felt that some of the future ergonomics could have helped her in the past jobs.

* Paragraph 179 = This is a part of the contract when on interview is given to determine if a job was available in the plant for you.

* Medical Dept = In the beginning the doctors were ~~so~~ very bad, but in the end their attitudes changed to treat people who got hurt in the plant. They seemed to be more sincere and caring.

* Karen is really stress free while she is on retirement

* Plant closing - Sad, but a time for change. Things will progress, she has heard some things about the new plant and too many restrictions on people coming in this plant.

* Smoking ban = she was affected at first but learned to live with the restrictions.

* Union Activity = no involvement but enjoyed the picnic and bingo for retirees.

* Employee Involvement = Karen felt that managers still didn't listen well to employees.

* Women in the plant = respect begins respect. Carry yourself in a certain manner. Some men in the beginning still thought that women didn't belong there.

* Sheltered work force = People who were injured in the plant ~~and~~ and given certain jobs.