

Labor Relations Conf. Room.

Carla Gates Oct 13, 2005 9: am

Sept 9, 1976 - just 18

People yelled at you when you came in to fillout applications.

- First day sent me to Body Shop cause "I looked strong"
- The B.S. was called the "jungle" - it was over whelming. I + all looked the same to me - sparks were flying everywhere!
- First prank - the operator let me load parts wrong so he could have a break.
- Job weld. - the gun made your hands stiff.
- The men weren't acustomed to women and would change their clothes in front of us women - they didnt mean any harm - but supervisors made them use the locker Room.

Supervision 4 years. I did this cause I could work
Then went back to production as a ^{days} hot sealer operation. Then started preparing myself for the skilled trades test (1980)
I took the test more than once.

And in 1985 they offered me a place as a trainee as an electrician.

Not many women in trades then.
One trades and one female super.
An older guy (62) had been in trade
in construction. I was gonna work
hard for him. When the day was over
he said he'd been "concerned" but
wasn't anymore. I felt I'd really
passed the "test" to be accepted
by the electricians & maintenance.

Right after app. program I was laid off
for 6 weeks in 88

And in 92 for 6 mos. While I was
finishing a degree in psychology from
MSU.

Electronics has helped to find problems
and results in less need for tradesmen.

Typical day. Second shift - arrive before prod.
left and see how it was running &
check it for next shift. I liked to make
sure the equipment was in working order.

The majority of the production people I
worked with. My only problem was with
people trying to do my work. It wasn't
safe for them to do it. In fact some
people were injured before they realized it.

We work safer now. We are now required to wear special clothes to turn off breakers. People were getting burned & not realizing it was really dangerous & bad.

Friends. When you are moved around you develop lots of friends. So when you come back to an area you have lots of catching up to do.

Closing - It's gonna be difficult! I don't want to see it taken apart. I don't think I could take this place apart. It would be like hurting your Mom!

I'm looking forward to the challenge of the new plant.

Weld guns were great spray guns when the copper tip.

Lunches - They let us play catch in the body shop.

Holiday dinners - Maint. retirees all came and it was great to see them.

My mom was known for her cakes that I would bring in.

Outside activities my education
Fast Break Club - MSU Women's Basketball

Words of Wisdom

GM-UAW TAP pay for your classes
Education is something no one can
take it away from you. Take the
skill trades test.