Lansing Fisher Body Historical Team

Interviewer - Marilyn Courter
Interviewee - Richard Heymon
Married - Yes
Education - Graduated from J.W. Sexton 1947
Military - None

Born and raised in Lansing
History of Lansing - The smell of new cars coming out of the factory. The factory was more open at the time.

Good memories were the way the grounds were beautiful all around Fisher Body.

Boys in the thirties were watching the ball games at the park on Vogow St. Richard remembered people loitering at them walking along Verinder Ave from Fisher Body plant. Calling them names and derogatory comments. Eventually they began to throw rocks at the Fisher employees. Every time they did this they would stop the line because of the kids throwing clay out rocks.

There were very few houses around the factory's block in the 30's and 40's. Boys at this time was when the U.S.W. was trying to organize G.M. and the national guard had machine guns on and around the different plants.
Maintain order back in 1936. In school at Sexton m Haxman ron trock in the Fisher Body Parking lot. Because there was no where to run trock at.

Richard never worked at Fisher Body Gute plant but worked at Plant II Forge plant. He also got a call from Fisher and the Forge plant together. People that he knew at Fisher Body told him not to come in because blacks people were put on the worst and hardest jobs. So he went to works at Plant II.

His father worked on the railroad cars back then and she knew many of the people who lived in Lansing and RE aide mobility wanted some good writers for his hotel and hired his father. Jobs have then were hard to get so it helped to know people, or the in the right organization, the right church etc.

Richard also feels that Lansing has benefitted from GM, but also GM has benefitted from the hard work of many individuals.

Plant Chrysler = very proud to be and witness, Richard believed that back in the seventies AM has lost to many files in the past because they are not doing the right things and get stuck over again.
Boys then also would kids walk where they were going because they had no money or bikes to ride.

Richard was a benefit rep. for UAW beginning in 1969 or 1970. This was a daily battle. Much turmoil in the factories and also in the UAW. He was fortunate in his term as benefit rep. got to meet Walter Reuther, travel around the U.S., got to visit the White House etc. Richard was also strongly against the retirees who are in court for their benefits. He feels that they need to leave UAW and the UAW to work this out and he feels they are jeopardizing his pension and the future pensions of future retirees.