

Fisher Body Historical Team

11-3-05

Friendship = ~~Bill Klien~~ Linda Johnson

Interviewee = Bill Klien

Seniority = 1-10-71 Now. 12-17-70 First

Married = Yes (5) Children (6) grandchildren (1) on way

Military = None

First = Trim Dept (Overwhelmed) (New Kid)

Reason = wanted money for college.

Fisher Story. Came in first day for physical

Then next day could not see how to get to Fisher
Went to Motor Club to get directions to Fisher.

Pranks = Give you wrong directions to Rest Rooms

Job Status = Air and Conditioning Repairman

Comes from Fowler about 25 miles away.

Mostly carpooling to and from work.

most stopped at the Willow Bar on the way home from work.

He said that Fisher Body will always mean Fisher Body as well to him.

After being here for 35 years it will be hard to leave and go to LDT.

Been laid off numerous times and come back to Fisher Body.

He said the Lushion Room was the worst place to work in the plant.

Apprenticeship = 5-1978 Pipefitter first.

4 years and a number of hours in school, and hours on the job.

Working Conditions = Both then weren't very good in the early 70's, No safety at all.

Trim was easiest, quietest, and clean.

In the beginning skilled trades worked out of a central crib until the early 80's when this central crib was broken up into smaller places to work.

Production vs Trades = In production everyone needs to get along or the work was harder. Also in Trades the same way. Bill has an uncle and a younger brother Tom works here.

Dinners = Not so much production because of time frames, Trades were much nicer retirement, More time was given for this. Most of these were potlucks, later on it was easier to be catered or Pizza.

Wagons = Looked forward to these breaks in production to rest up or eat.

Women and Minors in Trades = Not until the mid 1980's that they come into trades. Women coming into the trades. There was resistance at first, but after a few years this died down.

Best Memory = Bill suggested that the refrigeration units being installed for the cafeteria. Bill changed the system around and saved the company millions of Dollars.

He was given a suggestion board that was quite substantial. Suggestions were written on things that you run across on the job.

Co-workers are considered brothers + sisters in a family oriented workplace. As you speak to these people, hunting trips, fishing trips, hospital visits etc.

Bill stated that his friend Gary Welber and (Bub Welner dated his sister for awhile) They have done things together as with their families.

Driving alone is a large monetary amount

Jobs outside the plant, plumbing at other peoples house, air conditioners repair and installation at peoples houses and church.

Union Activity = did not attend monthly meetings. Always voted on contract agreements

Forwaite Bargained Benefit = Health Care.

Come here to save money for college and winded up using Tuition Assistance Program for his schooling for skilled trades dept. Bills children have also used the T.A.P. for their own education \$1000⁰⁰ each year. He always attended the talent shows that G.M. used to sponsor at different locations in the city.

Plant name changes = a large change when the plants combined 657 and 607. 607 management grew very fast. He felt this was a large deterrent with the way skilled trades and hourly worked together.

Favorite Boss - Ken Eisenburger, people person, didn't talk down to you, came right out of Trades

Plant Closing = A gradual change but had to leave ~~here~~ here, but grateful for the choice to have a job and the income

Best advice for young workers = not want to be in their shoes because of all the changes in the auto industry