

Mike Lienhart  
Painter/CARPENTER

10:05 A.M. LR Conf. Room

Oct 21, 1985 hired in

B-O-C at the time

13 years prior to wkd at GM Plants around the state in construction maintenance.

I hired in here because in because -  
Lucrative work as construction - more than  
line worker. Later the perks were thrown out  
when UAW - ~~AFL~~ joined. So I came here  
when they did that cause the extras were no  
longer there.

Things have changed a lot since then.  
We don't have large jobs like we used to.  
Combined trades: There were 12 painters  
hired in - I was the last. So they combined  
us with carpenters so we had extra help.  
Made it an EIT program so you  
get training on the job or you can go to school.  
Married - 3 kids

H.S. grad. Then started in a car wash and  
worked to manager. Not enough money.

Thompson Paint Cont. - worked for them  
for 2 yrs as an apprentice painter  
and went to LCC in their 3 yr. ap. program.  
Graduated from that and ended up teaching  
the class to other UAW members.



Terrible Week - 1973-74  
First job - Set Bldg 15 on fire!

Was sent on another job the next day  
Acceptance: 1/2 The people in here were  
from my former local.

I worked with a lot of people in the other  
trades on the outside too. I think  
the people worked in here may have resented  
us thinking they had seniority and deserved  
a painters job.

Safety: I had my lungs burned. 2 substances  
mixed wrong. So safety rules in place  
now so that doesn't happen.

Member of ERT.

Paint sludge tank. Painted appropriately <sup>but</sup> toxic  
We wore protective equipment. Later  
They put 3 men in there to clean it -  
without proper equipment. They died.

E R T

Training with putting out fires at airport.  
We use to have lots of fires in plant but  
now we keep it pretty clean so we don't  
have many fires

Most runs now as medical. We just  
package and ship.

Best Day

I was having a rough time. Divorcing  
I had a truck, a diaper bag and 3 kids



Some of the guys asked me to meet them out front. They had 7 boxes of clothes for my kids.

My coworkers are my friends as a contractor you didn't have to commiserate. Here you had friends made plans to meet for dinner on the weekends.

Five workers didn't want to smell the paint. They also saw us sitting around drinking coffee - they didn't see us work - so they might have had some animosity.

Supervisor "Where Are You"

Another diff was outside contractors know their trade - even the bosses.

While supers here do not.

Charges here?

Less adversarial now

People aren't bid dosged anymore.

Now I can just take the work orders and manage the jobs I do more efficiently.

This building is awfully inefficient. Everything here is a 1 of. You can't buy things standard it is a maintenance night mare.

This place was called Fort Lansing. Nobody in GM works like this plant



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Just a different way of doing things.  
Like Lake Orion people would featherbed their job. Here people stayed a long time and know how to fix things.

Unusual here - Committeeman would go to supervisor and negotiate a deal rather than go through grievance procedure.

My dad retired from Main Plant and a brother is a toolmaker there too and a brother is a truck driver.

Words of wisdom GM Most trades aren't recognized on the outside. Because only trains for GM jobs.

I would like to see a history of the plant from the beginning. Some stories haven't been told. I think GM led the way in putting people on an equal footing. Everybody is going to work - no special privileges just cause you're the boss's son.

Working with women - They were equal  
"I better watch the jokes I tell."

People don't understand on how much money is made here that propels other people's wages.



1979 FORD -

1984 FORD TRUCK

Some of the guys hit it with a  
Maurice vehicle

So after that I bought 9M trucks.  
But because they beat the price