

Interviewer = Marilyn Coulter

Interviewee = Lyle McFadden

Seniority = 11-7-1956 Ret =

Married - Widowed (4) boys (4) grandchildren

Education High School (1955) (3) years college.

Military = None

# First Day = Hard work but he needed a job

The money was very good, also benefits.

Lyle's mother said Fisher was a blessing.

# Born in Lansing ~~and~~ and knew about Fisher

because he walked by everyday to

school and could look in of the plant

and see people working in the plant.

# Reason for hiring = A good job, money + benefits

1956 very few blacks in Fisher Plant,

some segregation still in the city at this time.

Lyle had brothers who worked in the plant.

Also back then there were "sewing shifts"

which are 5 weeks days and 5 weeks on

nights until approx 1959 when the shifts

were frozen by voting by membership.

# Also back then the plant didn't work

year round, you had the summer off

and came back in the fall. About

1958-1959 the plant then operated

year round.

# In 1966 Lyle transferred to the

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security dept. where you would make more money being on security.

- \* security vs workers = Lyle thought the exchange was very well being in security.
- # Responsibilities = Check people in and out of the plant, check visitors, answer phone, ambulance runs, controlling people etc.
- \* 1993 C.M. sold security to an outside company. and on all around security.
- \* Good Times and bad Times in the plant.  
= Kids that he would coach became workers when they graduated. Bad time was when the 3 gentlemen died in the joint tanks.
- \* Lyle actually was able to pull one of the gentlemen out of the tank and save him. Lyle was very distraught.
- \* After this event the health and safety rules were put in place and the plant is safer today because of this. One of the funny times in the plant was escorting drunk employees out of the plant on Friday or Saturday. Breaking up fights or altercations in the plant also.
- \* Most rewarding time = Retirement and seeing past + present co-workers at retail stores or restaurants in the city of Lansing.

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Checking lunch boxes in the guard shack. Checks lodges, also when you left you were checked also. Usually Kyle said you could tell when someone was trying to take something out of the plant.

\* The biggest thing being ~~stole~~ stole was a quarter-panel. a gentlemen ~~was~~ was acting very strange and was pulled aside.

\* Opening a locker 1 day that was full of money. Finding wallets was common. One time Kyle found a man who was lining on the roof of Fisher Body.

\* When the security company changed the job was about the same but the pay was way less than if you kept working.

↳ Strikes = They weren't bad as strikes go people ~~are~~ were not disruptive. Sometimes bomb threats were called into the plant.

\* Kyle has been also working at Sexton High School for approximately 30+ years and recently he was in the working hall of fame.

\* There are underground steam tunnels reaching from Fisher to the Powerhouse and also to Aldamule plant III.

\* Fisher also used to generate their own power from coal burned in the Powerhouse.

(4)

Plant closing = Lyle thought it was like losing a good friend. People back in the 60's said that Fisher was going to be ~~to~~ closed and torn down. No one believed this at all.

\* Lyle ~~is~~ enjoyed his time at Fisher. They have been very good to his family by money and benefits. He ~~was~~ is enjoying his retirement with his children.