

# Fisher Body Historical Team

10-14-05

8:15 am -

Interviewer Mike Fleming

Interviewee - Steve Pettinger

Security Date - 7-1992, Original 11-28-83

Departments - 652, 1618-10 years Union Tech Center 7 months

Military training in the Navy. (3 years)

Started at IBEW for apprentice.

First Day - all trades on 2nd shift, put on under body shop main line. At plant 2 (618) the health was only 8 per hr and Fisher Body was 68-87 per hr. (Major difference)

This would make production run at 54 per hour.

# In 1618 the robotic era was new to him so major training had to take place.

Past = production people used to handle the weld guns - called the (jungle) cables from the ceiling to the guns. Present now have hydraulic robots used in the welding. These would develop leaks and cause fires from the fluid. Then FANUC come into play. At M they used a hydraulic robot along side a FANUC electric robot and they were in production for 7 days. The FANUC robot proved to be the better machine in the long run so that was used.

Beginning of shift - putting new weld caps on robots. Sometimes caps were pulled and tradesmen got wet during the process.

Steve hoped that a book could be written to show the problems in trades.



This was just to be done for to become part of the team. Most things are about people and being part of a (team).

Fisher Body had a much higher demand than the other plants he has worked at. People in Fisher Body had a good reputation with the skilled trades dept.

When Steve hired in he would constantly walk the line and watch each process that takes place along the line. People test you when you're new. He enjoyed this and proved to his team that he can perform.

# Currently Steve teaches safety lockout procedures. Steve saw that there was not a common or some procedure from plant to plant. Lock out ~~is~~ means placing locks on machines or lines to take away the energy source from the machine.

The one process that Steve did one lockout took 39 locks to shut down the machine. Steve worked with engineering to try to narrow down the number of locks used for lockout, down to 1 or 5.

Prime concern is people safety and go home as well as you were when you came to work.

1 pipefitter and 1 electrician in 1987 were put on just for lockout procedures. They looked over the entire plant and did one machine at a time. Steve came on lockout in 1994

Alacards were designed for each machine in the plant



There would show an overview of the machine and cells that where locks need to be used to lockout machine. Columns on the placard showed what steps need to be taken to lock the machine out. People who were trained on lockout were issued 3 locks for safety. Then they come the key lock box for use of multiple locks with the same key and when finished return key and use your own locks to lock the key box.

\* Females in skilled trades = It didn't have a problem. Usually 1st year is probation. Also mexicans and black people were in the same groups. Treat people like you want to be treated. Steve felt it has taken a long time. He and Tom Douglas (a black man) come through training together and was not discriminated against. But others were treated bad. The plant closing; sod, one of the oldest plants, but we need to be more efficient in the new plant. People in the plant have a good working relationship and that will carry over to the new plant. Steve felt that being in a car town you should buy the cars you build. or GM cars. He did not want foreign cars coming in to the U.S. because the profits go back overseas and not in the U.S.