

# Loring Fisher Body Historical Team

J-15-06

10:30

Interviewee = Doug Radamacher

Interviewer = Cheryl McQuaid

Sensivity = 10-4-78 and 10-11-78

Height married = Yes (2) children 2 daughters

Education = High School + some college

A Father worked at a liquor store and his mother worked in downtown Lansing. Military - None.

A Doug grew up right in the neighborhood that surrounded Fisher Body, a very nice friendly spot in the city of Lansing.

A. First job Doug ever had was being a newspaper delivery boy. Also as Doug was growing up around the plant he would ride bikes in the large employee parking lots and the semi ~~trailer~~ trailers in the parking lots.

A Also Doug and his friends would come up to the plant and look into the windows. There was some segregation in the neighborhood while growing up there was only certain boundaries that you would play in.

Doug also spoke about the Fisher Body work out in front of the Factory where a carriage was built in front of this Fisher plant with flowers in them.

(2)

A person for hire in Fisher Body - college was not spoke about at Doug's home. There were alot of people standing in line that day. But Doug had gotten ~~a~~ hired. Doug was in line with people he

11-11-70. Oct 4-77. knew. He hired in the next couple of days. Then as he was hired in there was ~~for~~ no knowledge of what went on in Fisher. Doug was ~~be~~ picked with some others to go to their jobs. He was very overbelieved and amazed at the site inside the factory. How large this was. When Doug started employment he had a very easy job to start but eventually went to the trim shop he was put on a very large and hard job.

~~John~~ ~~Doug~~ ~~was~~ Junches = Doug would stay very close to his job, he would grow up not wanting to leave his job for a very long time, easy to get lost,

\* Supervisors = had their own cafeteria and also had their own parking lot.

\* Favorite supervisors = Don Andrews. was very friendly and as long as you performed your job and came to work everyday he would respect you and stand behind you. if you did what he expected.

(3)

2-15-06

Doug then wondered where all these  
cars were going. He thought that we  
built all the cars in the ~~world~~-world.

\* Doug was on the second shift and to  
pass the time Doug and his co-workers  
would sing songs and music lists.

\* ~~Probs~~ = Releasing your air gun from your  
air hose and placing a screw into  
the air hose and replace it. So you  
would go to the line and thinking your  
gun was stuck. People would fill your  
gloves with screws, ~~or~~ or with taler,  
or to the inside of the gloves.

\* Doug spoke about moving around  
the plant from job to job. But some  
people would work the same job for  
20+ years and never venture anywhere  
else in the plant. Heat was always  
a factor in the summertime in the plant.  
Doug spoke about lunchtime going to  
the store for beer and then going  
to an apartment complex close to  
the plant and going swimming and then  
going back to the plant to finish work.  
Factory work does take over your  
life when you walk into the plant.  
People would play radios during their  
working hours. Sometimes there

(4)  
were radio users. Doug went out and bought a large radio to bring into the plant. But this was taken away by a supervisor for a period of time for being ~~stated~~ played too loud.

\* Doug worked in trim, sealer line, body shop, material handling, also was a Team coordinator for a period of time.

This was a person that had the same or somewhat some responsibilities as a supervisor, or a bathroom breaks for your team members or your team.

Some jobs in the plant the equity in labor between certain jobs was far apart.

\* Breaks = some dept. in the plant had tag relief or mass relief, tag relief was a person would come to you and give you a break while the line was running.

Mass relief was when the entire dept would take breaks at the same time. Also 2 times per shift there was a wagon breaks.

This was where the cafeteria staff coming out on the floor with small carts full of milk, doughnuts, pop, juice etc. These breaks were approx 7 minutes each shift.

\* Union Active - great to have a union in the shop. Doug went 10 years before he got involved in the union. The reason

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for this was to change some things that Doug wanted to change in the plant.

Δ at UAW Local 602 all the standing committee chairpersons are on the executive board. All other locals have just the true executive board or panel.

\* Best Bargained Benefit = The fact that men and women years earlier in 1937 had a sit down strike, where the UAW was recognized as the sole bargaining unit for the Automotive Industry. G.M. Ford + Chrysler

# Doug plans to continue to be involved and move the Union movement forward.

# Plant closing = Growing up around the plant Doug cannot hardly imagine the building being closed, painful events in today's economy being shipped to overseas companies. Believe it or not this plant was one of the most efficient anywhere in this country.

\* Friendships = Yes many of these co-workers are still very good friends, outside the plant.

Some of these are turned into long term relationships. Doug spoke about the Union Industry Trade Show. This large coming together of union brother + sisters "and get what you can."

Solidarity      Solidarity      Solidarity.