

Fisher Body Historical Team

11:15 am

10-17-05

Interviewer = Dorreen Howard.

Interviewee = Lee V. Richardson III

Security Date: 9-27-77

First Day = applied to Fisher and Aldermobile both started at Fisher on night got called to Aldermobile and tried to work at both locations

Thought the cars were moving slow until working on the line how fast they were moving. First job was door wires. Was thankful for safety glasses because almost had an accident with parts.

School = J W Sexton school, he thought Fisher was the longest building in the world. Never actually expected to work at Fisher Body.

Growing up next to a plant was the paint smell in the air back in the 70's and 80's. Then it went from bad to worse. Some people wonder if their deaths were related to these paint fumes.

First wanted to work 6 months to 1 year and go to school but then stayed on afterward. Communications Arts & Sciences was studying in college.

Worked mostly in the trim department, E.P.G. representative. Sometimes a supervisor. Supervision looks more at money, than just hourly building a car. He suggested that a program where hourly worked with supervisor and vice versa.

He believed that work ethic and craftsmanship was special here at Fisher Body.

The disciplinary difference between high school and Fisher were really different

Best job = any job that you worked on every other car instead of every car. But as years went on less people and more work was the major concern. Ergonomics was the best thing that ever happened in C.M.

As a black man hiring in he saw some of the good ol boy mentality, young people had not worked with people of color before cultural shock. Sometimes there would be only 1-2 black or Mexican people in a department. Even after 28 years not much has changed in this area. Not many females in the plant at hire in, but as the years went on more females came into the workforce.

Made friendships outside the plant, golf, home dinner at each others houses. Birthday dinners, death in the family. (Collect money and put it in a card). His 50th birthday dinner in the plant was a special day.

Big Brothers + Big Sisters, working with young people. M.K. Holiday Commission, Mayoral Commission
Alpha pi alpha fraternity member (black organization)
West side neighborhood board member.

Concerned about Fisher building being removed from neighborhood. Sadness, didn't think of the bad times, just the good times to be remembered.

Favorite Memory = Relationships with people here, support from co-workers, not one real favorite memory but a whole bunch of smaller memories

a good time was watching the Sexton ball games from the roof of Fisher Body. Looking back those some jobs that were available back then are not available anymore that don't require some sort of schooling.

Overall this has been a good experience. A blessing to have worked here, people are the best thing here that has kept this going for so many years.