

9:25 AM L onsing Fisher Body Historical Team 4-27-06

Interviewer - Cheryl McQuaid

Interviewee - Marlene Storrans

Seniority - Oct 21 - 1968 (24) years old

Military - None

Education - K-12, some LCC College.

Married - Divorced (2) daughters

Born and raised in Eaton Rapids

Worked in the sixties for Coca Cola Comp. for about 3 years then hired in to Fisher Body on Oct 21 1968

= Her Father worked at Oldsmobile for 10 years & brother worked for 3 years and quit.

= First Day = Trim Shop, biggest plant she has ever been in, had to ask for directions many times to find her department. She liked the people she worked with and they helped her learn the jobs she was doing. She was also very scared when she walked in her first day at Fisher Body. She had never been in an Assembly Plant before. Most of her family had worked in factories. She basically worked in Trim with a few weeks in the paint dept and then back to the trim shop. When she hired in she had 2 daughters at home. Working nightshift was a little different than days at home, but she had a good baby sitter and things were fine

(1)

when Marlene hired in there were few women in the trim dept. But Marlene always worked well with everyone in trim

* Pranks = put gum on your tools, take your tools from you, but most people helped each other out on their jobs.

= Back in the 1970's the lines were more congested than they are doing today

While on skilled trades Marlene went all over the plant for tool repair to fix tools.

= The body shop was very dirty, smoky and looked like a "jungle". Forge welders etc.

Some of the spot welders in the body shop were very heavy and about 3-4 ft tall.

and weighed from "30 lbs - 250 lbs" at the rate of about 60 jobs an hour.

Marlene stated that the body shop was dangerous because you were working with raw steel and sharp metal. Even with these jobs there were more men than women working in the plant. But the women on this job were giving help and getting

help from all of their co workers.

= Skilled Trades - Marlene was good with her hands. She had to take almost 4000 hours of education for this job. Work during the day and go to school at night for approximately 4 years.

(3)

Skilled Trades was different than working in the trim shops. Maileene felt everybody that she had to prove herself to her male co workers. There was some tension between these people for quite awhile. She almost made the decision to return to the trim shops but she stayed in Skilled Trades dept. Eventually more respect was granted over a period of time.

Everyone always helped each other in the crib.

★ Best Memories = Hard to choose just one. But she remembers the best to be working in the trim shop with a certain group of employees. She always had fun with them.

★ She would tell people with small children on 2nd shift to try to go to midnights or days. To spend time with their family. This she would have changed because she missed some times with her children.