

1:10 pm

Loring Fisher Body Historical Team

3-15-06

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Interviewee - Karel F. Taborsky II

Interviewer - Doug Radmacher

Birthdate - 7-13-71

Military - US Army 68-70 (Draftee)

Married - No - Yes (1) Daughter 16 yrs old.

Education = High school, 3 years of college,
Electrical 4 year Apprenticeship.

* Grew up in Flint for a few years then
to Holt and then to Lansing, and
stayed in Lansing, East Lansing also.

His mom was a home maker, his dad was
a teacher at J.W. Sexton high school.

Karel remembers growing up and watching
through the glass at the workers on
the assembly line. He finally lived just
around 1-2 blocks from the Fisher
Body plant. He marveled at the precious
flowers out in front of the plants
growing right inside the Fisher coach.

* Reason for hire was his reemployment
had run out from the Tool and Die
company, and what he needed for his
lifestyle as what he wanted for now.

* Karel came into the plant on his first
day and was nervous but he had
some experience with skilled trades. Al
Jackson was his first supervisor at Fisher.
In skilled trades he knew quite a

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but about the trade dept already. The plant at one time had the longest set of new hires to be hired in. Tracks for building cars about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long.

A Pranks - Karel didn't go in for any of these because he was just back from Vietnam. He also has a nickname called Frisbee. Because of his hair was frizzed out. Lunch breaks - $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. He would just go across the street to his parents home and have a sandwich and go back to work.

★ Being on Apprentice = 7300 hrs of on the job training and going to school also. When Karel started he was making \$4.06 hr. ~~This~~ This was good because every hour of school was paid a good hourly rate to go to school. When Karel was on second shift he was always called trades program. Most people that he dealt with were like bad tempered men. But he always had a good job and would pass shifts to management. He always felt that the union was the best thing they had to him. He Karel always treated his men under him at equal

★ Saint Joes - He has done some work for other people in some things that people would that they would be found on ground they would ~~not~~ look back and seeing all of these people for a judge hand.

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First Women E-lectician = 1st Women was Linda Day, she would fight back but never did at all. There wasn't very blocks or orientals or mexicans in the plant. Most tradesman worked together very well. Many of the women were not physically built strong enough to take on the work. So most women wouldn't do these tasks. Karel had friends at work and friends outside the plant so they don't mix.

* Good supervisor = have employee integrity and give them what they want but the same respect for the supervisor, he will go to bat for his team, don't lie cheat or steal. If you're wrong you are wrong.

* Bad supervisor = Not supporting his people, lying to them, not having integrity or having trust between employees and supervisor.

Karel would always believe that if you would need something on their job he was there to support his team.

* Karel also had some good relationships with some of the plant managers. Also he would butt heads with manager who didn't ~~do~~ do their share or push work onto someone else.

* Name changes = Fisher Body and Chassis were not the same people, the cultures would clash over almost everything.

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New plant vs old plant = In the old plant there was not very much paperwork and reports etc.. But the new plant has numerous reports and lots and lots of paperwork. But in the new plant instead of a pyramid style ~~is~~ from the old plant then the new plant is an upside down pyramid or funnel with the higher mgmt at the bottom.

★ Closing and tearing down of the plant - Very sad day, Karel has seen everything he built from one ~~piece~~ piece for another.

Also living in the neighborhood and seeing changes in the plant through the years.

But he is also looking forward to the new plant and creating new vehicles.

★ His father is 83 years old and he will get to see the sunset that he could never see because of the plant.

★ Future people = Most people today are in a throwaway world. Fisher Body plant is a tradition with a strong foundation and a heritage to last forever.

The core values of history are not being taught to our young children as they were taught to us when we were younger.