

Lonsing Fisher Body Historical Team
9:20 am

1-26-05

Interviewer = Cheryl McQuaid
Interviewee = Gerald Taylor
Seniority = 4-8-68 Retired =
Married = Yes (3) children
Education = High school 1 1/2 yrs College
Military = Yes Vietnam 1969-70
USNR 1967-1973

First Day = went to paint shop, He was delineating with to his future supervisor in Fisher Body.

* Reason for being = Father in law, and brother in law were already working there.

* Backs when Jerry hired in no one wanted to work in a factory, not being outside. Within the first 6 months he was utility then he had the same job after that.

* First Day = The plant was overwhelming, rough time adjusting to this work environment and being indoors.

* First people worked with = Lots of women in the paint shop at this time.

A words = A man in the paint booth thought Jerry was a new hire and he wasn't although many pranks were used on people, Over all the department was a good group of people that worked ~~together~~ together and played hard hand and got along with everyone.

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Another story was the power went out and the South people had to find their way out and about 4 people hit the door on the booth and fell in the darkness and were walked over.

* Injuries in the plant - an electrician was working on the car carriers and on a downward hill, the gentleman then was crushed between both car carriers.

From paint he went to the trim shop. Paint vs Trim = Basically the same, once you get to a department and started making friends and co-workers on everybody. When Jerry hired in alot of the shifts were 10.3 hrs and 11.4 hours very much overtime and Saturday work.

△ Paint vs Trim = Not so many women in Trim shops until late 70's but there was in the paint shop. One thing that had to be done was more bathrooms for women, a separate locker room for women also.

* One reason for Jerry coming into the plant was for the wages and the benefits because he was planning to get married. Wages at hire in \$3.34 hr to wages being paid now. \$28.00 per hour

Transportation - drove for awhile and also in a van pool for a time being

(3)

12 Lunch + breaks = There was a wagon that come around the plant with pop, milk etc. Some people packed their own lunch, some went to cafeteria, some went to Harry's Bar. to eat or cash your checks from Fisher.

* Henry remembered that there was check books, football pools, and even a "loan sharks" loaning money in the plant.

* Dinners and Raffles were happening all the time. Collections for people in need, Henry felt that in the past it was more like a family than it is now. No white black, Spanish, Mexican etc. This has never been the same when Aldsmobile took over in 1984.

* Union = 1983 began as an alternate-alternate committeeman = then to alternate, then to committeeman. Then Union Awareness classes were given and Henry was asked to teach these classes to employees in the plant. Then he was asked to run for Workers Comp Representative. He ran for this job and was voted in this position for about 7 1/2 years until he retired. Henry didn't have any training from the previous man who held this position. So he had help from the Workmen's Comp attorneys that were hired in at the Union Hall

(4)

Henry also believed that honesty was the best policy for dealing with people. Always return phone calls to members who leave messages with him. Also sometimes he would have to work with benefits representatives while doing case work.

• There is a stigma about factory work. J.M. done it. It a bad rap.