

Living Fisher Body Historical Team
10:20 am

6-29-06

Interviewer - Cheryl McQuaid

Interviewee - Randy Thayer

Seniority = 6-13-73

Married = Yes. 2 grown daughters 24 yrs and 26 yrs

Education = BSME GME '78 - MSME GA Tech '80

Military = None

First Day = Hired in the day after graduation
then to GME in Flint. At 17 yrs it was very

scary being so young in a large factory.

Born in Lansing. Father worked at Oldsmobile

Mother worked at Fuyham Medical as nurse and

worked in Manufacturing Engineering first in
the plant. Then to Georgia Tech for

Master's Degree in Parts Manufacturing.

* Fisher Body = in 1985 with reorganization
between Fisher Body and Oldsmobile Randy
came from Oldsmobile to Fisher Body.

Most of his time was spent different
areas of Manufacturing between Lansing
and Detroit and to Atlanta at Doraville
Georgia plant

* When the organizations merged together there
were alot of different attitudes and
personal feelings had to be worked
out and the local agreements were
totally different between local 652
and local 607. So supervision

needed to work these problems through.
 Randy compared US to Decatur Georgia.
 He basically thought we were about
 the same workforce. When the second
 shift was put on 2300 people were
 added to the plant. This was a different
 culture altogether. Problems arose and
 Randy saw people not getting along and
 internal fighting that went on.

* Growing up in Fanning Randy knew
 he wanted to go to work at General
 Motors in Engineering and his father got
 him all the information he needed.

He attended Everett's school in Fanning.
 Randy spoke about integrated bussing
 that was going on when he grew up.
 He cannot think of any events at
 Fisher Body that where there was a
 problem with integrated employees. Fisher
 Body employees would always seem to
 work together and get along well.

* Growing up in a GM family it didn't
 seem like his father had a job because
 he worked midnight from 12-8 am
 so he was home with his kids
 and his wife at night and then
 he went into work at night.

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Today Rody's schedule is OK because his birds are grown and it is easier now than before.

* Rody is also involved in community events and on the executive boards of places such as United Way, Camp Highfields etc.

Rody does take some vacation when he can. He has a Harley Davidson motorcycle, takes trips when he can, loves to ski, he has a cottage up north but doesn't spend enough time at because of the new LDT plant.

* Rody spoke about an event back in the early 1990's about problems in the ~~plant~~ paint shop. That the paint shop had to be totally blown out because of silicon in the air supply of the paint shop quality in the plant.

* Rody spoke about the plant closing. Initially, he has gone through two closings, one at Oldsmobile, and one at Fisher Body. But to him this was a blessing in disguise because ~~we~~ had a new plant being built at Lansing Delta Township so it was just a small transition to a new plant.

★ Memorable events = Roudy couldn't really think of any bad events in the plant. All except for the breakdowns that had occurred over the years. His time spent here at Fisher Body was an enjoyable time in his life.

★ Roudy spoke about the events leading to front wheel vehicles, from rear wheel car projects. This was when the Grand Con, Matibu, and Corvair.

★ Roudy would not believe that there was a salary cafeteria in Fisher Body. There was a problem that he saw with this between management & hourly.

★ Pranks = John LaRosa's wedding. The Bachelor party above Romano's restaurant. Roudy brought a camera and recorder from the plant out at night and then back to the plant on Saturday morning.

★ Rusty Ziegler firing = while putting on emblems, he was putting on wrong emblems. Rusty was being set up by another person down the line who didn't like Rusty. But he was later brought back and the person was found out.

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Roady feels he has the best job at GM. A brand new plant in his hometown, with a great group of people and a fun job to work at.

* Capital of Quality in Lansing = Roady stated that we have always ranked high in ratings for quality and good workforce. The ratings today have gone higher because of imports, and other vehicles in the world today.

We have to have continuous improvement on a daily basis to do a better job, with workforce, UAW and GM.

* Roady also felt that our bids will never live as well as we do. Because of the fact that jobs are harder to come by, unemployment was high etc.