

LCC

ARMY 69-71

MOVED TO LANSING AT 19 ^{LIVED} WITH AUNT

HIRED IN SAME DAY AS APPLIED FEB 11 1969

PEOPLE TOLD HIM HOW LUCKY HE WAS TO HAVE ONE

OF THE BEST PAYING JOBS IN LANSING

STARTED IN BODY SHOP SUPERVISOR FRED BEECH

WAS HIS 1ST IT WAS VERY DEMANDING PHYSICALLY PEOPLE

WERE SHOUTING AT HIM ON THE JOB AS HE WAS

TRYING TO LEARN THE JOB, APPLYING PARTS TO FIXTURES

TO BEGIN WITH THEN MOVED TO SPOT WELDING ON SIDE

FRAMES. PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, GLASSES, NOISEY ~~AND~~ COMMUNICATION

WAS DIFFICULT YOU TALKED TO THE PERSON RIGHT NEXT TO

YOU AND THAT WAS ABOUT IT AFTER WORKING 3 MONTHS HE

WENT FOR A PHYSICAL THEN 3 MONTHS LATER WAS DRAFTED.

SERVED HIS TIME IN ARMY IN NAM AND CAME BACK TO

THE BODY SHOP. NO BREAK IN SENIORITY WITH MILITARY

SERVICE. ATTITUDE CHANGED AFTER SERVICE. FELT LIKE HE

COULD HANDLE ANYTHING IN THE PLANT. MILITARY HELPED

KNOWING THAT PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF COLOR. LEARNED

DISCIPLINE SO IT HELPED WITH WORK.

FAVORITE JOB IN BODY WAS FEEDING A MACHINE

FLOOR PANS. LEAST FAVORITE WAS HIS FIRST JOB BECAUSE HIS

HANDS HURT SO MUCH.

PEOPLE SAID HE WAS GOING TO PARADISE WHEN HE FOUND

OUT HE WAS GOING TO TRIM BECAUSE OF A MEDICAL CONDITION

BECAUSE OF THE FUMES + SMOKE IN THE BODY SHOP

No gloves, coveralls no smoke.

Trim FELT IT WAS PARADISE BUT JOBS WERE FASTER PACED. MET MORE PEOPLE IN TRIM BECAUSE IT WAS EASIER TO COMMUNICATE, EASIER TO MEET WOMEN IN TRIM BECAUSE THEY HAD MORE IN TRIM AND YOU COULD SEE WHAT PEOPLE LOOKED LIKE WITH NO COVERALLS SPENT LUNCHES SMOKING + DRINKING WITH CO-WORKERS AND SOME TIMES AFTER WORK, LOVED THE WAGON BECAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO MUNCH ON. THEY WOULD PUSH A CART TO CERTAIN AREAS WITH JUICES DONUTS, chip, cardy. PEOPLE LOVED THE WAGON. 1ST JOB IN TRIM WAS PUTTING A DOOR RUBBER ON. I WAS BACK TO USING MY HANDS AND IT REMINDER ME OF MY 1ST JOB, NIGHT SHIFT IN TRIM. Sold pop AND SANDWICHES IN TRIM SAW OTHERS DOING IT AND WENT IN WITH THE GUYS ON DAYS. DID WALL WITH VENDING BECAUSE OF THE CONVENIENCE PLAYED IN CHECK POOLS AND FOOTBALLS POOLS BUT NEVER WON MUCH. MAYBE ONE WON ONE FOOTBALL POOL IN MY WHOLE TIME IN THE SHOP. HAPPIEST MOMENT WAS WHEN I GOT MY 30 YEAR AWARD, WHEN I GOT INVOLVED IN THE UNION I HAD SO MANY HAPPY MOMENTS. MY WIFE GOT INVOLVED IN THE UNION AND ASKED ME TO GET INVOLVED IN THE UNION. THEY HAD A PROGRAM BLACK MEN IN THE UNION THAT SET THE FIRE UNDER ME TO GET INVOLVED. I THINK MY PART BEING A EPG LEADER HELPED WITH ME GETTING INVOLVED.

YOU HAD TO BE ELECTED TO EPG. I WON AGAINST A VERY POPULAR PERSON IN MY AREA. AFTER THAT I RAN FOR PRESERVATION AND VETERAN, ~~REP.~~ I THINK THEY ARE STARTING TO LISTEN MORE SO NOW THEN WHEN THEY HAD EPG. REGARDLESS THE PEOPLE BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES AND BELIEVE IN BUILDING A QUALITY PRODUCT. EVEN THOUGH. THEY MIGHT NOT TRUST IN MANAGEMENT.

UNIVERSITY OF FISHER BODY IF YOU DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BEING AROUND DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND LEARN FROM IT I'M DISAPPOINTED BY IT.

IT TAKE ME BACK WHERE I PLAYED A SONG TO A YOUNG LADY THAT I DEDICATED A SONG TO THAT WAS HAVING A HARD TIME IN LIFE AND IT CHEERED HER UP. I LIKED PLAYING WITH SOME OTHER PEOPLE IN THE SHOP LIKE LYLE BIRCHMAN. HAD A BAND IN '76 THAT IS PART OF THE REASON HE TURNED DOWN HIS OFFER TO GO ON MANAGEMENT BECAUSE OF THE SWING SHIFT THEY DID.