

9:20 am

Fisher Body Historical Team

1-23-06

Interviewer Cheryl McQuaid

Interviewee = Margaret Cox, Dennis Cox

Seniority = (1984 to Present) (10-11-1963)

Married = Yes. (2) children

Education = (High school 1963 Dennis) Margaret

Military = No

(Dennis) Reason for Hiring = needing a job, just married and needed a good paying job. He liked the steady income and benefits.

* First day = was astonished at all the fluorescent lights from one end to another. Such a big place, how he was going to find his way back out. Day shift starts then to night. Put on utility (absentee replacement) then to reliefman and then to repairman. Sometimes this took them to automobile to work on jobs from Fisher Body.

* Union work as alternate committeemen, then to full time committee, then on to job placement person (coordinator) union appointed position (trying to bring people back to work who are out on workman's compensation).

* Union involvement. = Dennis got involved because the committeeman was never around the dept. so he said that he would always be in the dept and

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and always visible to his people.

* = Maggie explained that being moved to a second shift person was very difficult, missed out on alot of family activities until he went on 1st shift.

* = Denny liked the overtime but didn't like the work inside because he was an outdoorsman and would rather be outside.

There were 2 lines of production: A + B line. Denny always ~~liked~~ liked the ~~A~~ B line because the A line had bad supervisors and ran their lines different from one to another. Some supervisors didn't want you to talk to your co-workers. When Denny went on the committee he was told not to speak to supervision on the outside of the plant. The union disliked this behavior. Denny believed that this was wrong and had friendships with supervision outside the plant.

* Bad supervision = always wanted disruption within their dept or on the line

* Good supervision = A man or woman who would sit down with a person to try to find out their problem and discuss it between each other and try to solve their problem

* When a gentleman named 'Whitey' retired he took a piece of Denny with

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him, so he didn't have the time to talk to.
When Henry returned, all of the people he worked with signed a large card with retirement written all over it.

* New Hire Pranks = Tell the people ~~to~~ to go to the office for Christmas Turkey and their reward and given away at all.

= Take new hires and put them in the trunk and throw the key in with them.

= A gentleman was drinking a bottle as fast as he could before getting in trouble.

= Putting whiskey bottles right on the cars and going down the line in production.

* Most problems on committee = loud radios, fans being on, certain supervisors would call for committee and Henry knew just what the calls were about in that area.

* Henry would always try to not take his work home with ~~it~~ him but he got a lot of phone calls at home also.

Henry would have to deal with time study people, and he paid attention to this so he could see what was right and wrong. Being on committee you get closer to people and you know what they were about and they could be handled together.

* Time study = This was a case where

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A man with a watch would time your job from start to finish. No time to read the paper or talk to people.

When there were problems some supervisors were sympathetic and gave people some given bathroom breaks. Denny liked committee, but sometimes there were a few problems here.

★ Some supervisors would overlook things sometimes and some wouldn't even talk.

★ Denny didn't see too much harassment
Denny didn't remember anyone being hurt in the plant. But from committee he went to job placement which is a joint office (union & management) Denny's job was to protect the person from being re-hurt on this job. They would film the job that the person was coming back to. Some people really don't want to come back to work, but some people really needed a job. This also meant that a restricted person can displace a security person who is already there.

→ GM and the UAW has been very good to them. Being wages or benefits and retirement.

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Also Denny and Maggie wished to donate some items that he has accumulated over the years. Especially a ring that he had made with someone else from scratch into a ring.

A In ~~the~~ 1963 the wage was \$7.57 which was very good wages for back then.

A Margaret also spoke in closing about how good the UAW + GM have been to them and the people that they have met over the years at Fishel Body and at the UAW Union Hall. Their lives have been enriched from these organizations and these people.