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IB: Ah, this is Shirley Bradley and Lisa Fine, we are at the home of Doris Faustman in Williamston and this is June 23, 1992. We are going to be talking about Reo memories.

IB: Okay, since we don't have a you know, a lot of background information about you at Reo, why don't we start with, you know, when you worked at Reo and what you did there and then we usually go into other sort of background about you, but because we don't have that to start with, why don't we start with that.

IA: That's wonderful.

Faustman: I was first hired in January of 1945.

IB: Okay. Okay. And where did you work when you came in?

Faustman: I worked in parts and service

IB: Okay.

Faustman: with Rellison Swisher, that was Dollar, people remember him by the name of Dollar.

IB: Dohler, D a h

Faustman: Just like bill, B o l l a r, they called him that for a nickname.

IB: Oh, what was his name,

Faustman: His name was Rellison Swisher.

IB: Swisher?

Faustman: Ah huh, if anybody needed a part on their truck or something, they called him to place an order and he was really good, you know, he knew all these parts and everything. So I was the one that typed them and sent the order, you know, started the order then.

IB: Ah huh, was it just you two that worked in the department?

Faustman: Oh no, it was a quite a big department, parts and service was. He was under Judd McClurnan, you might have run into him. And Judd was under Pete Hamlick.

IA: That's a name that I've seen.

IB: Pete.

Faustman: H a m e l i n k. H a m e n e l i k

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IB: (Can't tell who is talking.) Or Hamelik, okay, okay. Okay, and how long were you in parts and service doing that job?

Faustman: I worked see, until about July of '47.

IB: Okay, there.

Faustman: Ah huh.

IB: And then you moved on.

Faustman: Well I have two daughters, I went back to work again.

IB: Oh okay.

Faustman: So I went back to work in ah, probably in '49 and I worked for two years and until 1951.

IB: Okay.

Faustman: And then I went back in '67 and worked until it was closed down. And I went back on the same job although they kept getting a little bit different.

IB: Okay, but in the same department part and services?

Faustman: Ah huh, parts and service. And then they became a warehouse and so my job, I became an order clerk and an expediter and this is what, that was our group.

IB: For their regions?

Faustman: Ah huh, and I was back up for all of them. But I had my own

IB: This was your territory

Faustman: No, I was up for all, I was a backup for everybody? And then I had all the national accounts and warehouses and stuff.

IA: Oh my goodness.

IB: So Pat ... was for the south and Marty was for the northwest. (everybody sounds alike) and the midwest. Clark Cooper was for the Michigan mid-west area, Ohio, Indiana, looks like Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. And Sara Ward was for the east. Okay.

Faustman: And so any order for any part went through, you know, through us.

IB: Those people,

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Faustman: I was responsible for, you know, to back them all up.

IB: Were you the supervisor of all these people too?

Faustman: No, I could have been.

IB: You could have been?

Faustman: No, but he was the only guy and so I, you know, I didn't really care about getting any further advanced. This was a pretty good job. This was a Class 7 when I was there and 8 was the highest for me, any women, you know.

IB: So it went as high as 8 and you were a 7.

Faustman: Ah huh, ah huh, and that's what we all were. And I was really the oldest one

IB: More seniority.

Faustman: more seniority. Really it wasn't seniority because that was something different, but,

IB: In terms of experience on the job, knowing what

Faustman: Yeah, see when this became a warehouse, they took me and I trained all them. So they had to, they had to hire me, even though they might have wanted somebody else. Because I was the one that, see I was a getting a, was a level of 5 and all these people working for me was 7, so when they opened up the job I became, they asked me to take the, you know, it is not that, what do they call it

IB: The coordinator.

Faustman: Yeah, but they call it like interviewing and say we were unionized. And I just didn't want to be with those girls. I could see, you know, I was the oldest gal there and stuff, so I told Jim Cantline, you've probably talked about him.

IB: Yes.

Faustman: He was our boss.

IB: Okay.

IA: Oh okay.

Faustman: At this time, in the warehouse time and I told him I thought Clark would be better.

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IB: Hum, for the

Faustman: ... supervisor. My kids were growing up, you know, pretty well and stuff and I didn't really want to get involved in that. So,

IB: Now you did this after you came back in '67.

Faustman: See I can't remember when the warehouse became.

IA: Was it in the same area as you'd been in before?

Faustman: Ah huh, see it was always parts and services, it's parts and ah, if a truck broke down or anything like that and they needed a part, then they called for us. If we didn't have it on hand, they we'd have to find,

IB: Where it was.

Faustman: where it was, someplace in the United States or some and we had computers and stuff like that.

IB: Oh you did?

Faustman: We had a lot of phoning and stuff to do. We were on the phone almost continually to get that truck back on the road. That was our job. These were the guys that were on the

IB: The sales.

Faustman: They were on the sales and stuff for

IB: Now this is wonderful that you saved this.

IA: Oh gosh yes.

Faustman: I just, I thought I had some other stuff, but

IB: West ... was in the western area, Ralph ... in central. I'm just saying these for the tape. Richard, Bill Richards was in southern sales and Johnblanco with northeastern. And they were um, the part sales regional

Faustman: Representatives.

IB: representatives. Okay.

IA: So they would be out in the field in their areas and they would be expediting and troubleshooting, that kind of thing.

Faustman: Ah huh.

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IA: What a job.

IB: They kind of hardly saw their families very much doing something like that.

Faustman: Probably a lot of, I'm sure he is dead now, but they probably

IA: That is west Fort you are talking.

Faustman: Fuller.

IA: Fuller that might be passed away.

IB: So were you physically um, based in the warehouse itself.

Faustman: When it became a warehouse. When we became a warehouse in that, we were well, we had to go out in shop too. You know, and we had a lot of contact with the supervisors and stuff that made parts. You know that was responsible for making parts.

IB: Ah huh.

Faustman: But it was really quite a job, but an interesting one.

IB: It sounds like it would be different everyday.

Faustman: It was and I mean you were busy and I enjoyed being busy.

IA: Well the problem solving for people across the United States.

Faustman: Then we had, of course, you know somebody would call us and they'd say well our truck is down and something is wrong, so we'd have people that would, you know, guys that knew where all the parts were and everything and then they'd have to go and find the parts. You know the part numbers for us and stuff.

IB: Like a big tool crib kind of thing?

Faustman: Ah huh, well, this was office. And then we actually didn't work in the warehouse. We were the office for the warehouse.

IB: Okay. Did the office itself physically, did that stay the same, in the same place or were you moved

Faustman: No.

IB: when you became a warehouse to some other part of the building.

Faustman: Yeah. We were always on the third floor.

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IB: Oh you were on the third floor? Facing Washington?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IB: Okay.

Faustman: And then when Webic came we went down on first and was over well, it would have been south of where we were, on the first floor there.

IA: Okay.

IB: Was it difficult to come back and go in and out of the Reo the way you did?

Faustman: No, it wasn't.

IB: Because we really haven't met anybody, interviewed anybody that was back and forth, in and out of the

Faustman: In fact, I worked with some of the same ones and I can't remember the last time, Larry Devine was my boss when I went back in and he hired me because well I worked in there before and people knew me and you know.

IB: How long did you stay when you started the last time in '67? Did you stay until '75?

Faustman: '75 ah huh.

IB: Okay. That's you there until they closed up.

Faustman: Ah huh. Um, and you came back in and out for your family, because you felt like you needed to be at home sometimes so stayed home.

Faustman: Well I stopped to, I had my two daughters, two girls and then when I went back to work I had my son. Another one. I didn't go back to work that time until he was about a junior in high school.

IB: Oh that's right between '57 and '67. Oh no it was '51.

Faustman: Yeah.

IB: '51 and '67, so that is a long time that you were out. And there was no problem, they didn't have any problem taking you back.

Faustman: No, no problem at all.

IB: Did you keep your seniority?

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Faustman: Well my records got lost somehow and they never could find them.
Because you know that was

.....

Faustman: Yeah and ah, so I actually, even though I had more seniority than
it showed when it came down legally, I didn't really have it,
because it had gotten lost.

IB: Now the first time you were in, there wasn't a union?

Faustman: No. But I probably the last time,

IB: The last time, it was not the second time, but the last time it
was. Did that make any changes that you could see?

Faustman: I didn't like working for the union.

IB: You didn't like the union?

Faustman: Un huh. I always thought it didn't help the people that wanted to
work, it helped the stinkers. (laughter)

IA: Those that wanted to goof off and didn't want to be

IB: We've heard that from other people too. Why do you think that
happened? You know, what made it that way, why did the union make
it that way?

Faustman: Well, anyway it seemed to me like it always backed up somebody
that caused trouble, you know, they were the ones that ah,

IB: Used the protection

Faustman: Yeah.

IB: of the union?

IA: The rest of you knew your job and were doing, you should be doing
everyday.

Faustman: Most of us, you know, people really enjoyed, I think, putting out
a good days work and stuff. Except you get some people in there
that just didn't, so that made you work, you know,

IB: Less, felt like you didn't need to work as hard.

IA: Or maybe you had to work harder to take up what they had done?

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Faustman: Since I've backed up some of them, you know, I usually got them when they were mad. You know they didn't get their parts and stuff and when they got me they were upset.

IB: So you had to kind of be diplomatic and be the liaison between the customer and the factory, kind of sooth them down.

IA: Did it improve any, like your wages or conditions

Faustman: Oh yeah. When we became union. Yeah.

IA: You don't buy a big difference?

Faustman: ... great a difference there really. But see it used to be, you could make on your own merits, but when you became a union, you didn't get it on your merits.

IB: You just got whatever everybody else got? How about with respect to the grading system, did you think that made things a little fairer in terms of being able to work your way up?

Faustman: Oh I think it made a lot more problem?

IB: You think it did?

Faustman: Ah huh. In the mind?

IB: Ah huh, in your area?

Faustman: At least in that respect. See we are all classified the same, you know, actually and stuff, but we all got the same pay except he got, I think he got 5 percent more or something for being the leader. You know, all that.

IB: It wasn't because he was a man that he was being paid more?

Faustman: No, it was because, no that was just

IB: Just curious.

Faustman: But see what they might have done, you know, they put this, when this warehouse became a part, they put it on to typing, you know, and since I was the oldest one and I could type fairly good, I got all this work training those girls, those people, but I mean actually work until I complained and then because of the union, that's the only thing I ever thought helped.

IB: Ah huh.

Faustman: They had to post the job.

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IB: So they ... about what everybody had to do.

Faustman: And so when they posted the job, they couldn't turn me down. But they'd rather held me there where it made a lot of difference in the amount of work I did. See, so they had to hire somebody else to. In fact, they hired I think three people to do my job when I left. When I, you know, left the job that I had on there.

IB: Oh I see.

IA: Three people?

IB: My goodness, that has got to be a little bit of satisfaction.

Faustman: They didn't have to work like we had to, like we used to have to work.

IB: Something was just handed to them, they did that and waited for something else to be handed to them.

IA: Now you said that women didn't usually go beyond grade 8.

Faustman: That's about the highest grade there was.

IB: For women?

Faustman: For anybody.

IB: Office work.

Faustman: Because they became on salary, you know, well of course we was on salary too, but I mean unless they got

IB: Managerial?

Faustman: Yeah.

IA:

Faustman: That was about.

IB: I wonder how that was arrived at the numbers?

Faustman: Well, you know how ... is, you are classified and stuff and it takes a lot and then they are not always, when they do those job classifications, that is not always what it entails.

IB: Yeah, they are not always accurate

Faustman: Ah huh.

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IB: represent what you are capable of.

Faustman: Sometimes they say in whatever it takes to get your job done.

IB: Oh they left that open-end there.

Faustman: A lot of those job classifications have that.

IB: Ah huh, but with the upper limits of the office,

Faustman: Ah huh.

IB: staff and then beyond that was managerial supervisory, sales,

Faustman: Yeah, sales was ah huh.

IB: Did people jump at all from the eight to the other?

Faustman: I don't really know if, you know, some of them did move up. But I don't

IB: Not many?

Faustman: Un huh.

IB: Because you know that's what they talk about now, they call it a glass ceiling. You know, that at least technically you could be able to, but for many people that are in that clerical labor force, there is glass ceiling, they can see up there, but they can't go for it. So I'm just curious if there was something like that.

Faustman: Well I think probably some of those people probably had more, you know, experience, college or you know, knew their trucks and stuff like that.

IB: And they used that to advance?

Faustman: Advance, ah huh, in sales, but they used to hire people from outside too. And, of course, with that being resold so many times, you know, they bring in their people.

IB: That's right.

Faustman: Like truck or vans something like that.

IB: So it is hard to tell what the

Faustman: So I never really questioned it too much.

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IB: Did this guy, did he advance, Clark Cooper?

Faustman: Clark was ah, I don't know what he does now. He never got out of there, what when I worked there.

IB: When you were there. Okay. Okay, so you were saying that, you know, you thought it would be better for him to be the supervisor, so that he would have more opportunity

Faustman: Well at that time a guy and he could use the five percent, you know, it didn't really matter that much, but I thought Clark had a better chance than any of us girls.

IB: Ah huh, of going up?

Faustman: Well I mean of being over

IB: Being supervisor in that area.

Faustman: Well, he was, you know, when the union is he is a leader.

IB: Ah huh.

Faustman: So, that's what you were called.

IA: Hum. Um, I'd like to come back to this, but in a minute, but I thought maybe I'd get some of the background stuff too, is that okay, Shirley?

IB: Yes.

IA: Um, we always ask the people we are interviewing about where they came from, where their parents were born So but again, you know, if there is anything you don't want to answer, you can certainly say it.

Faustman: Okay.

IA: Um, first of all, um, you let out when you were born so I don't have to ask that delicate question. Women we don't usually ... (laughter) Um, were you born in the Lansing area?

Faustman: I was born right out here on Noble Road in Williamston.

IA: In Williamston.

Faustman: Well it is in the country out here.

IA: Yeah.

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Faustman: Just a couple miles away.

IA: Did your parents farm out here then or

Faustman: Yes. They were farmers. Oh my father was a farmer and he kind of a horse trader I guess you know, he dealt with selling and horses and cows and stuff like that.

IA: Okay, and um, were they born here too? They were from here?

Faustman: Um, my mother was born in the Mason area.

IA: Okay.

Faustman: And my father was born down in Morrency(?), Ohio, so

IA: Oh in Ohio?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IA: And they came here to work the land. Okay. Were your grandparents from the United States?

Faustman: Ah yeah. They were from

IA: Okay. This is just to find out if they are immigrants or you know. Um, and so you went to school here in Williamston?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IA: Um, through high school?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IA: Wasn't probably back then?

Faustman: No, when I graduated.... (laughter)

IB: You had business courses?

Faustman: Ah huh. I took business.

IA: You did?

IB: That's where you learned to do your typing?

Faustman: Ah huh, they had them in the small high school for girls.

IB: Shorthand, typing and bookkeeping.

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Faustman: bookkeeping.

IA: Bookkeeping. Ah huh. And um, you hired in at Reo in '45, was that your first job?

Faustman: Oh no. I think the first job I had after I got out of school was a cashier down at the Kroger store down.

IA: In Williamston?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IA: Okay.

Faustman: And then I got married and gosh I worked all, I've worked quite a few different places. You know, small places.

IA: Ah huh, did you live in Williamston after you got married? You did?

Faustman: Well, went to Mississippi, because it was during the war.

IA: Oh really?

Faustman: My husband was in the Navy and so we lived at Gulfport for a year before we came back here.

IA: That is pretty.

Faustman: Yup it is. We went back once after it was, you know, after that just before the big hurricane that tore it all apart.

IA: Oh, that's right Camille. Wasn't it Camille?

Faustman: I think so.

IA: When was that?

Faustman: '69.

IA: '69.

Faustman: I think that was the big one down there. When it ripped everything up.

IA: Oh it did.

IB: Um, so then you both came back up here?

Faustman: Ah huh.

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IB: Did your husband work at Reo too?

Faustman: No, he worked at Lansing Oldsmobile.

IB: He was at Oldsmobile. ... that's, we've seen this a lot where one of the couple worked at Oldsmobile, the other one worked at Reo. Sometimes

Faustman: He retired from there.

IA: He retired from Oldsmobile?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IB: Huh. What did he do there?

Faustman: Well he worked in a lot of places. He retired as a supervisor in the toolroom.

IB: Oh.

Faustman: It was a grinding room. Anyway skilled trades.

IB: Did you always, you and your husband, and your children always live out here in Williamston?

Faustman: Yeah, we've lived here since ah, oh '47.

IA: Nice big backyard for the kids to play in.

IB: In this house?

Faustman: Well, we had a litty bitty house first. In fact, about where the garage is it was tore down.

IA: Oh in the same spot.

IB: So you built this house here?

Faustman: Yeah.

IA: Oh wow.

Faustman: My husband built this house.

IA: Oh my goodness. He did a good job.

IB: Yeah. That's wonderful.

IA: It is not that old, it is nice.

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IB: And just since 1947 in the same hum. Um, you mentioned you and your husband you had three children.

Faustman: Four.

IB: Four.

Faustman: I had one girl before we, before I went to work at Reo?

IB: Oh okay.

Faustman: So three girls and one boy.

IB: Ah huh.

Faustman: And finally had that boy.

IB: Okay, any other, ... covered this sheet, is there any other personal

IA: No, I guess I can't think of anything. I'm interested now in how she happen to go to Reo.

IB: Right.

Faustman: Let's see, how did I go. I guess well my daughter had been born, let me see, now, ... stop, she was born in '44 and my husband was in the Service, I guess I just went looking for a job.

IB: You just went downtown looking for a job.

IA: Maybe they had it advertised or something?

Faustman: I don't really recall you know.

IA: You knew about Reo though and did you know anyone that worked there?

Faustman: Oh my neighbor down here a couple of doors retired from Reo and he worked in the shop. But that was no reason why I would have ...

IA: Just that they were hiring and

Faustman: They were hiring and

IA: you needed a job.

IB: Did it have any particular reputation that attracted you, it wouldn't have mattered if it had been anyplace that you

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Faustman: At that time you didn't make very much money. But that was better than, see the war was on when I went in in '45. Yeah they were making trucks and, you know, Army trucks and stuff and

IB: But you obviously did, you obviously um, thought it was a good place to work since you kept coming back.

Faustman: Wasn't so easy to get a job like that. I might have went elsewhere if I had had a rough time getting back in.

IB: Ah huh.

Faustman: Because, you know like Oldsmobile they paid better than Reo?

IB: Reo.

Faustman: And I might have, you know, I could go down there and put in my application and I got hired, or got rehired or something and I guess that's why I went back there.

IA: I think it is so interesting, but you know people in the same department each time, you know, she knows this, let's take her back here. Um, wasn't there, during the war when you worked there too, was there, I know there was a price freeze, I'm wondering if there was a wage freeze.

Faustman: There probably was, I can't remember right offhand. I know it wasn't very much money. And when you got your raises then, you got them on merit.

IB: On what kind of job they thought you were doing.

Faustman: After you were there for so long and stuff like that.

IB: Ah huh.

Faustman: You'd get merit raises but

IB: I like that way of doing. I think that is the way people should be rated? Um, did you participate in the girls club?

Faustman: Not to much. No I had a family and driving back and forth to work and for a while I didn't have a car, you know, I had to pay for my ride, you know, ride with somebody that went back and forth. And so we didn't, I bowled with them, you know, I bowled in a league there.

IB: Oh you did.

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Faustman: Ah huh. But I don't think I, until after gee, until after I was back ah, finished up, that's when I, you know, got involved a little bit more, because I had all my own transportation and stuff. And then you get so confined to .. driver to

IB: So it was difficult to do a lot of the activities like after work and things, because you had to get home be with your family and find a ride, you know.

Faustman: You went with those, when the driver went, you went.

IB: Sure. It must have been a little bit easier during the last episode because your kids were already sort of grown up and didn't require quite as much care.

Faustman: Yeah, then I had, you know, I had a car to drive.

IB: Oh and right, the car.

IA: It gives you more freedom.

IB: That is a long way and we just came 15 miles.

IA: Fifteen miles.

IB: And now you can go on the expressway and you didn't have the expressway

Faustman: That's right you didn't.

IB: a few years ago.

Faustman: But they did keep Grand River open real good.

IA: Did they?

Faustman: I think so. Some days though, sometimes you'd get snowed in and you couldn't get out. So sometimes we couldn't even get past the, you know, the end of town out here.

IB: It must have been interesting taking that route over all of these years, how much it has changed.

Faustman: It is really something to go by the Reo and not have nothing there.

IB: Isn't that a shock, even though I know I'm not going to see anything, I'm still shocked when there is,

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IA: Of course, Silver Lead is there now with their warehouse, but you know nothing else is in it.

Faustman: It is kind of weird going down South Washington Avenue.

IB: How different it is.

IA: To see that big empty field.

Faustman: Yeah and territory, I mean it is not a place I'd want to walk at night.

IA: And it was different when you worked at Reo?

Faustman: Well, of course, I wasn't around there at night, you know, but the downtown, we used to go down there for lunch and stuff like that. But it is different.

IA: It was a safer world then. You could walk.

IB: Did you see, ah, Lansing as sort of your area when you went shopping and everything, or did you living out here in Williamston see the town down here as your town?

Faustman: Well we used to have a lot more stores, you know, like grocery stores down here, so we usually did most of our grocery shopping here. But for other things

IB: You'd go down to Lansing.

IA: That was sort of the center that you used.

Faustman: Yeah, before there were malls and the other things, Washington Avenue, Maurice's was down there and J. C. Penneys and Knapps.

IB: Right, my husband used to shop at Knapps when he was a kid.

Faustman: I used to work at Knapps.

IB: That was the store and Arbaugh's was a close second.

IA: And then the Reo shut down in '75, do you think all the stuff, the Lansing changed around the same time? That changes started happening in Lansing around the same time or before or after or

Faustman: Well I don't know.

IA: You don't know. I'm just trying to get what Reo had to do with all that, you now, whether that was responsible or just sort of another, just one more thing that was

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Faustman: I'm sure it was a lot of downfall, because there was a lot of people put out of work and stuff when they left.

IA: Ah huh, that was a very bad time, wasn't it?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IB: Did that happen to you, you were just put right out of work?

Faustman: Well, I was out of work, I ended up having surgery and I took time off for that and stuff and then I went back to work at Michigan State as a Kelly Girl in Office Services.

IA: Oh ah huh, oh so you worked at State.

Faustman: For four years I worked up there.

IB: Which departments did you work in?

Faustman: All over, mostly Athletic.

IB: Oh.

Faustman: I worked at Theater and Agriculture Engineering I think probably the most. So, I enjoyed doing that. It was interesting to see how different areas of the college worked.

IB: But you said you found your job at Reo interesting too?

Faustman: Ah huh, I did. You know you are on the phone and talking, well you are busy, you know, it was interesting.

IB: Ah huh, and you said that um, you didn't think the Reo paid as much as some other places you might have worked?

Faustman: I don't think as much as Olds.

IB: Olds, okay. Right.

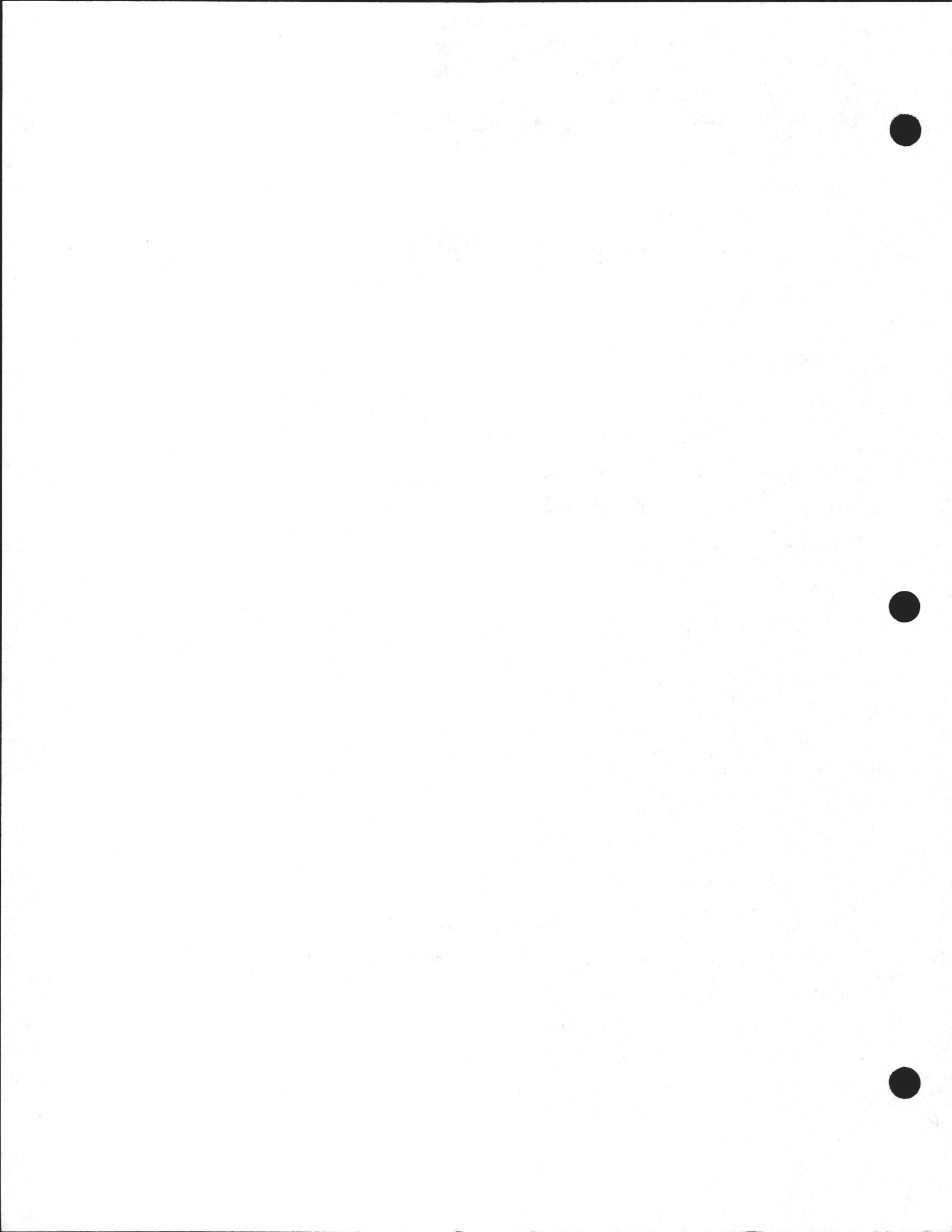
IA: Maybe the benefits were greater at Olds too, I don't know.

Faustman: Yeah, it was really back then Olds was a better place to work, you know. We had an old, old building that Reo, it really needed to be tore down.

IA: Or renovated or something.

Faustman: Yeah.

IA: Ah, were the office workers over at Oldsmobile unionized?



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Faustman: You know, I don't know.

IB: Because I was very surprised when I first found out that they were unionized at Reo, because office workers weren't really unionized that much.

Faustman: I think maybe we might have been some of the first ones or something.

IA: Yeah.

Faustman: I know they were recalled at Olds, but

IB: I'll have to look into that because I'm not sure myself. And it was the UAW that was unionized then, the office workers? Just like the automobile workers.

Faustman: Ah huh.

IB: Was it, it wasn't in one big union though, right, I mean you had different

Faustman: Yeah, it was changed. I didn't really get to involved with the union. You know, you had to take part in certain things and stuff like that and stuff, but I don't know if she gave you Marty Tumi, she was an active

IA: Union person?

Faustman: union person.

IA: Oh okay.

Faustman: Really.

IA: You mean Doris gave us her name?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IA: No I don't think so.

Faustman: She is still working someplace. I've seen her at the reunion last year, but she was, you know, she like she went up north there to that ah,

IB: Black Lake?

Faustman: Yeah, Black Lake and went through that, took that course that they give up there. And she was a real active person.

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IB: Okay. Well we were coming close, we talked about the Reo closing, you must have sensed that the end was coming, did you?

Faustman: Well you got so you couldn't get parts and it just got to be a lot of, a lot of headaches and the money you could see, you know, what we worked in, you know have to check on how much the dealers owed and stuff like that, you could just see things weren't right.

IB: They weren't running smoothly or efficiently anymore?

IA: That must, was that difficult to be on the phone to someone on the other part of the United States and you didn't have what they wanted, what they ordered and you didn't think it was going to be produced?

Faustman: Of course, you know they are upset sometimes because they've got this truck that cost a fortune for them and they need parts and they can't get them and we can't get them for them and so you know a lot of stuff, one thing Reo did they customized a lot of stuff.

IB: Yeah, we found out.

IA: So thinks weren't interchangeable, you had to have those parts for that engine.

Faustman: Yeah, and they had to be made, you know, if they called in and maybe had to be made from scratch. You got some that was really hot.

IB: Were you able to work with them and solve the problems?

Faustman: Most of the time.

IB: Most of the time you could get something for them.

Faustman: Yeah, and like we had, we had these

IB: It seems like that would be kind of stressful it seems like the last few years.

Faustman: It was, but anyway, I mean this was a normal thing. The jobs we had, these people, you know, it is just like you break down one side of the road and you got to have a part and the people don't have it right there, then they are calling, or the dealer is calling And sometimes it is the dealer can't satisfy them, then the person gets on them that owns this truck.

IB: Oh. Oh dear. Did you notice as much change with some of the other ownerships, White Motors and ... and then at the last when Capered had it? Was the stress load kind of the same or

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Faustman: Well I think after Capered got in, everybody could almost see what he is doing, you know, he is just taking all the gravy out of there, you know, and

IB: Squeezing it dry.

Faustman: Ah huh.

IB: Yeah.

IA: Letting people go.

Faustman: Yeah.

IB: Did anybody, any of your supervisors were they let go, were they out under Capered's reign? We've heard that a lot of supervision was just suddenly given, you know, you are done, clean out your desk and I just wondered if any of your bosses, that happened to them?

Faustman: I was trying to think, you know, when we became a warehouse and left our, you know, our area, you could see a lot of people going, you know, and you really didn't know why. Because we are over here so busy that you don't have time to talk and stuff, you are kind of buy yourself.

IB: I see.

Faustman: But you'd see some of our ones that were under or something they are combining jobs and stuff. But I worked for Jim Cantline under that, you know, when we became a warehouse and he left ah, after I did, but he went to work at the Olds for a long time. He just retired.

IB: Yeah, Marjorie Koehler we just talked with her and she

Faustman: Oh Marge?

IA: She mentioned Jim, in fact, ah, weren't those where the notebooks came from?

IB: Yeah. She showed us some pictures that he gave her of the old Reo from 1916.

IA: That he saved before the end. Because I imagine, I don't know, but I'm assuming that maybe a lot of things were just being sent to the trash or something when the offices were being emptied. And he saved a lot of negatives and things.

IB: Yeah, beautiful photographs.

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IA: Oh yes.

Faustman: Have you met Jim Cataline.

IB: Not yet.

Faustman: He's a nice guy.

IA: Very much like to.

IB: That's what Margery said too. She said, yeah,

Faustman: He was my boss for a long time.

IA: Ah huh, and he was a good man to work for?

IB: We saw pictures of him at her retirement.

IA: Oh that's right.

IB: She had her retirement party I think, we saw some pictures.

IA: That's right, we did. And then there were some pictures of the some of the different supervisors. Um, how about the girl's club, I don't mean the girl's club, I'm sorry, the clubhouse, did you ever have any dealings in the clubhouse?

Faustman: Well, you went to them. My husband can remember when they used to give those movies and going to those movies, because he lived in Lansing, go down to them. But I never went to any.

IB: How about the big picnics or the dances or any of the other things that the Reo sponsored?

Faustman: Well he used to go the fairs.

IB: Fairs, yeah. He'd go to some of those things.

Faustman: Yeah.

IB: With your kids sometimes?

Faustman: Well I never took my kids to too many things up there.

IB: Okay.

IA: Hilda Smith was telling us about the Christmas baskets that the office staff used to

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Faustman: Yeah, they used to do a lot for. You know, they would kind of look after their people that worked there too?

IA: At the Reo?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IA: Yeah.

Faustman: It was kind of a family, a lot of them, they still kind of cling to each other.

IA: Ah huh, you sound like you don't feel that you didn't feel that way as much as some other people did?

Faustman: No, we still have lots of friends, you know, that I worked with there. But you know after we retired and go to Florida six months of the year, it makes a lot of difference.

IB: Ah huh, well it is hard to keep up as much.

IA: There are a lot of Reo people in Florida too. And I guess this year was the first year that they haven't had a big reunion down there during all that sort of thing, they finally have decided that they are scattered and it is too much work for whoever has to coordinate all this and I guess this is a first year since ... memorial that they haven't done it.

Faustman: I didn't know they didn't have it this year, but we've gone to it a couple three times.

IA: But you have down there in Florida? Where did they used to have it?

Faustman: Over at Bradenton. It is not at Bradenton, but it is right near there. It is like you got through Bradenton ... to the beach, I can't remember what the place is called, but that's

IB: Hum, where is that, I don't know anything about Florida?

IA: Sarasota? Below St. Petersburg.

IB: Okay, I've never been to Florida in my life.

IA: I've been there a few times, my sister-in-law lives in Bradenton Bradenton are ... you can't find any in that town, directionwise laid out so crazy and the other thing was ah, I loved the beach, Cocana Beach, I thought, that was my favorite watching the Cocana shows

- IB: Um, I'm very interested as a historian in what you thought were the big changes when you hired up, from between when you hired on in '45 to when you finished up in '75, because you were there, I mean obviously not continuously, but over the course of 30 years which is a long time. And what you've been more or less in the same department, but I'm just curious how you felt things changed at the Reo? What was different about working there from the beginning towards the end, to towards the end?
- Faustman: Well, I think that you could see a lot of difference in the pride the people, you know, in the job pride.
- IB: Okay, how the people felt about their own work.
- Faustman: A lot of it is, you know, towards the end, just to get in their time and get their money and stuff, they just didn't
- IA: They didn't have the same kind of commitment.
- IB: Why do you think that happened?
- IA: A lot of people are concerned about that now too, you know, that people don't care as much about their jobs.
- Faustman: I don't know, I don't know if it is the way they were brought up or what it is.
- IA: I wonder if some of that might have been because they felt it was going down.
- Faustman: Yeah, but I noticed that at Michigan State too.
- IA: Oh.
- IB: So you think it had more to do with the time period.
- Faustman: Ah huh, yeah, because I just don't think, these people just easy come, easy go and they don't care whether they do stuff or not.
- IB: And you didn't see that so much in the '40's and in the '50's when you worked the first two times?
- Faustman: No, see you know, if somebody said they were going to do something they usually did it. But boy once you got after them two or three times, you know, they just didn't do stuff. So if they could get away without doing it, then they didn't do it.
- IB: So that was like a change in peoples work ethics. That work ethics seemed to go down a little bit. Do you think that was just true where you worked or was that in the shops too.

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Faustman: Well I think it was in the shops too. It was everything, it was I think so, you know, those people just didn't put out. They got so they took all these breaks. It is just like the other day we were some place and ah, where was it. I think it was up at the hospital, my brother has been in the hospital, I maybe told you about that and ah, he said that

IB: Oh yes you did.

Faustman: Ah, I forgot what I was going to say. Oh anyway they were going to do oh, it come to me, wheeled somebody out in a wheelchair, person was ready to go and ah, didn't come and didn't come and they said well they been on their way. And he says, this old guy says I could have crawled on my hands and knees and got there faster, but I think they took a break, you know, a coffee break before they came down there. Here sets this old guy in that wheelchair and he gets really upset. But I just don't think. Anyplace in the hospitals and stuff, I don't think you find everybody that, they are there to get their money and that's what they are there for.

IB: We've undergone quite a change in this country, you know, morally, ethical.

Faustman: I have some of their stuff in here.

IB: Oh good. Also, I'm curious how things may have changed over time about the equipment that you used and the machinery or the, you know, the technology to do the office work, was there a big change? We talked a lot with it was Mabel

IA: Mabel McQueen.

IB: who started out on a very old-fashioned kind of a bookkeeping machine and then by the time she retired it was very, you know, fancy and high tech. I mean it wasn't a computer yet, but it was getting close. Did you see any change in that too?

Faustman: Oh there is a lot of difference, because you know we used to type on these old typewriters.

IA: Old manuals.

Faustman: Ah huh. And then it got so when we tried to put it on these punch cards

IA: Punch cards, sure.

Faustman: and stuff like that to make it faster, but that didn't work because we had so many customized things and things like that that

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couldn't put all the information on them and things, so they took that off, but when I left, we were having a computer to check for how much parts were on hand

IA: Oh I see.

Faustman: and the money.

IA: screen, ... screen.

Faustman: Yeah. And um, we got to the point where just the orders automatically went in, you know, and stuff like that.

IB: Did it print out the bills?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IB: It did. That's pretty good for 1975.

Faustman: But one bad thing that I found cost a fortune for them to go on and never really like it should.

IB: Problems?

Faustman: Yeah, there was so many problems and stuff.

IB: They hadn't worked out the bugs.

Faustman: It just

IA: So you had to end up doing some things by hand.

Faustman: It was faster and more accurate, that was the bad thing about

IB: It was so early in that technology, that is 12, you know that is almost 20 years ago now.

Faustman: But we did, you know, when somebody would call us for a part, we'd go and punch it in and see if we had it on hand. And where it might be or something like that.

IB: So that was helpful.

Faustman: Ah huh, so when they take inventory and stuff, then they come up with a lot of changes or something that they found parts that they didn't really have But it was computerized.

IB: Did you have any problem working on the computer?

Faustman: No, not really.

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IB: It didn't scare you?

Faustman: It was kind of a gradual thing. You know, you came out with maybe one punch in a dealership or something like that and get that, you know, information. But I know now, like everybody else, I'd have to take a course in it.

IA: If you were to start now? Yeah. But you didn't feel that way

Faustman: I didn't, but a lot of people didn't like doing that.

IA: Ah huh, so anything that is something new.

Faustman: Yeah.

IA: Well the secretary where we work I know still has trouble with that. One of the secretaries still has trouble with it doing letters and things on word processors.

Faustman: Is she older?

IA: Yeah.

Faustman: It makes a lot of differences because these young kids are coming up from almost like kindergarten

IA: I know.

IB: With computer awareness already.

Faustman: So that's, you know,

IA: It feels natural.

Faustman: ... it is a mess.

IA: That's right. And if you don't know how to do it, you know, by hand, then you are really in trouble. If you only know... computer then you are really in trouble.

Faustman: Yeah, you sure are.

IB: Well the person putting the information on those discs has got to know what they are doing too and that would result, and then there's time when all the computers are down due to some electronic glitch and everything stops.

Faustman: What's scary is that somebody punched something and erase all that stuff.

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IB: Yeah, and in the beginning the computers were sensitive to electric shocks and people walking by and it would erase the memory bank and all that.

Faustman: How cool they were, you know, they had to have a certain temperature.

IB: That's right.

IA: Yeah, that's true.

IB: That's right it couldn't be too hot.

IA: Sixty degrees or some such thing.

IB: You said you thought the office was old and old-fashioned and

Faustman: Well it was an old, old building.

IB: It was an old building. Okay. Because we saw some pictures of it, it looked like the machinery and the desks and all that seemed pretty up to date.

Faustman: Some areas it was.

IB: Yeah.

IA: But didn't put much money back in to.

Faustman: Well I think probably they lived within their budget, but you know, it kept changing. You know, first it was just Reo, then it became White Truck Company, and then Diamond Reo and stuff and in certain areas, well sales department always looked pretty good. You know they get that.

IB: Because it was for the public.

IA: Yeah, that's what shows.

Faustman: Yeah. And ours just looked like an old... I can't remember, once we had a great big office, and ... sat way off like that, he was telling me and he chewed tobacco and every once and a while I'd be typing along and oh ping, (laughter) and here is Tony doing that again. He had foreign stuff and he really was quite a smart man, he knew a lot of languages and things like that.

IA: He did the foreign market?

Faustman: Ah huh.

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IB: But he chewed tobacco.

Faustman: He chewed tobacco and even though it was a great big room, he wasn't separated by

IA: Right, petitions. We saw that. There was a picture of that.

Faustman: It was a huge space.

IA: Was hit Margery that spoke about how hot it was where she worked on the third floor?

IB: Yeah.

Faustman: I worked with Margery?

IA: Did you?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IA: She spoke about the heat and she said they didn't wear nylons and things because it was just so hot up there. Outside her window was this tar paper roof that reflected the heat back in and made it even worse. winter and ... summer.

Faustman: Then we had the bats, you know, we, the birdhouse was out in back of our office and those bats would come in once and a while and swooping down over the desks.

IA: (laughter) Creating a lot of chaos and screaming.

Faustman: Yup.

IB: I don't like bats.

Faustman: I don't either.

IA: Well they startle you too, swoop.

Faustman: You know they always said well, you know, they get in your hair.

IA: Like Alfred Hitchcock.

Faustman: Yeah.

IB: Did any of your kids work at Reo?

Faustman: No.

IB: They didn't.

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Faustman: Un huh.

IB: We've been noticing some families, you know, so that's what we always ask about parents and kids also if any of them worked in there.

Faustman: A couple of my sisters worked in the shop part.

IA: Oh really?

IB: Oh did they really? What did they do, do you recall?

Faustman: You know, I can't remember. Um, Eileen works, she is at the business office at Michigan State now and my sister, the other one, she retired from the State Police Personnel Department. So

IB: You know we'd love to talk to them if you will let them know about us.

IA: We had not had an opportunity to talk to very many women who worked in the shop during the war.

Faustman: See they didn't work there very long, but they

IB: That would be okay. Yeah. If you would let, you know, let them know about us.

IA: If they are interested?

Faustman: Okay.

IB: Yeah, we are not going to, we won't bother them, but you just let them know that they can call us.

Faustman: Okay.

IB: And we'd love to talk to them. And I'm right at State, so we could even come to her office during lunch or something if that would be convenient.

Faustman: Yeah, you might even know Eileen.

IA: Eileen?

Faustman: Nortman.

IA: Un huh.

Faustman: She's over in

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IA: In the Hannah Building?

Faustman: No she's over in Athletics.

IA: Oh she's in Athletics.

Faustman: Athletics, business office.

IA: Oh kind of where you were in the Athletic Department.

Faustman: Well, yeah, I worked most of the time in Munn Ice Arena.

IA: Oh. Oh.

IB: Did that allow you to see the games for less?

Faustman: We went to a few. My sister does, she gets..... you know, but she's been there for a long time.

IA: What have you here?

Faustman: Oh, this is well that was just something that ah, has happened since we had the girl's club, you know, they used to this is just something I had on hand. You can have it if you want to.

IA: Oh the 16th, oh you have an annual girl's club dinner too.

Faustman: Well I don't know if they still do that now or not. They ... to have that monthly one, that goes on at the the Goldengate.

IA: Ah huh, they do that every month, yeah, the fourth Thursday or something like that.

Faustman: Yeah. This is a, this is just, well that is a mess of, I don't know, got that, that was a Diamond Reo.....

IA: Oh from 1986. Oh.

IB: No we didn't get this, I think this

Faustman: That's what

IB: Doris keeps hold of this.

IA: Oh yes.

Faustman: That was my, when I got laid off.

IA: Salaried personnel status change from Diamond Reo Trucks. TOP .. hum, this is a slip that you got when you were laid off?

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Faustman: I think that is the one wasn't it.

IA: 1975.

IB: It said laid off from Department um, 42B reduction in force, Cataline, Hopper, Ellers, Saunders, Eaton. Was this when you were let off for your operation?

Faustman: No I had that after that, that was when we was done.

IA: Oh this is the very end, April 24, 1975 when you got your pink slip.

Faustman: Got my pink slip

IB: It is a pink page.

IA: Yeah, it is interesting, I've not seen one of those before.

Faustman: Oh I should give you this back.

IA: I know there is more things I'm just not thinking about right now.

IB: Were there a lot of other ah, women that worked in parts with you before you went to the districts kind of thing? Was it quite a large force?

Faustman: Yeah, there was a lot of girls that worked in there. I don't really know how, you know, how many.

IB: Oh I didn't mean, I just was curious if it was just a small office of may just yourself and

Faustman: No. Now see Marge Coor.

IA: She said she did the catalog. She said she spent most of her, do you remember that?

Faustman: That's right.

IA: That they had thousands of parts for the truck and that she worked primarily in compiling and typing the catalog that listed all the different specifications for the trucks.

Faustman: And see she kind of worked with all these field men too.

IA: Did she?

Faustman: Ah huh. They kind of reported in, you know, like to her for, you know, she was a secretary.

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IA: For the information?

Faustman: Yeah, yeah and stuff, but she kept track I think of where these guys were on the road and stuff too. But there must have been 15 girls in that office I would think, you know.

IA: When you first went there and as you kept, you know, coming and going, did you need any particular training, a specific training to work in that department or just your high school typing and bookkeeping was enough to get you started?

Faustman: Well you got somebody you know, you learned things gradually I guess.

IA: Somebody showed you the ropes?

Faustman: Ah huh.

IB: So on the job training?

Faustman: Yeah. That's really about what it was. You know, then after you were there for a while, you got a raise because, you know,

IB: You learned the job.

Faustman: you learned it, but some people, you know, after a while people come in with union, they started as much as maybe you were getting and you've been there for years.

IA: Gee that's got to be hard to take.

Faustman: It does, it makes, you know, it doesn't make for a very good feeling amongst the older people.

IA: No that would be kind of a breakdown

Faustman: Because nobody can come in and start doing what the person has been doing for years.

IA: And you

IB: Weren't there ranges within the different classifications? I mean you started out at a lower range and then you work your way up to the higher range? If you are in class 7 for example.

Faustman: Yeah, right. Well, see it used to be it was merit until after the union. I think the boss probably figured you were doing a good job, you know, you'd get a raise or something. Somebody else hear you got a pay raise and then they were after one. So, it is kind of

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IA: Well did you have like a yearly evaluation to go up from one range to another? Or they just, or the super, your boss decided when it was time?

Faustman: Yeah, I think your boss just

IA: Called you in and said look you've been doing a good job, I'm going to raise your classification.

Faustman: Well I don't

IA: I was just wondering how that was done.

Faustman: I know they do evaluations now, but I can't remember

IA: It was more personal then.

Faustman: I guess we did have some at Reo, but I couldn't, I don't remember very well.

IB: Generally speaking, it was just what your boss noticed on a daily basis.

Faustman: Well see, I think after we became unionized, I think they had to

IB: Do it regularly.

Faustman: Yeah.

IB: Yeah.

IA: Yeah.

IB: Somebody else we were speaking with, maybe it was Mabel said that before the union, if you had too much of a workload they couldn't get it all done, somebody at the next desk who maybe wasn't as busy would come and help you. And after the union you never saw that again.

Faustman: That's right. I know I worked for Ed Bankin before Oh did you talk to him?

IA: Ah huh.

Faustman: Is he back living in Lansing area?

IB: Yes.

Faustman: Is he?

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IB: Ah huh, remember he said he moved back from Florida or Texas

Faustman: Texas.

IB: Texas, he said he moved back from Texas. He didn't like it, so he's back and they are in an apartment I think.

Faustman: I liked working for Ed. He was

IA: He is nice.

Faustman: There was another girl and I when we were in this area, see it was my boss and ah, he backed you up in stuff, you know, and when the dealer or somebody would call us and say, ah, I want this part, you tell him what you were going to do to get it or something like that. And ah, then they'd call me to find out when I had ... or something like that and then they'd say I want to talk to Ed. So they did talk to Ed and he'd say well what did Doris tell you. And he'd tell and he says well that's just the way it's going to be then. He really backed you up.

IA: That's good, that's makes for good feelings, doesn't it in the department.

Faustman: And I had what they called LSD orders, it was Lansing Shipped Direct. That was before LSD was a drug.

IA: Yeah, I was going to say. (laughter)

Faustman: The orders came in for parts and stuff and then another girl that worked at the other desk, there was just two girls. They had warranty stuff, you know, stuff that was under warranty. But, now mine might be 150 orders a day that I had to get out, where maybe she'd have 10 or something like that. But he always said if one is setting around, both of them would be setting around. And he'd get after them. Because sometimes, you know, if the person was off you had to do their job too.

IA: So you might as well learn it and help out.

Faustman: So you could step in and do that. But not when it became union.

IA: Yeah. I was just interested in tracing a path, somebody calls you from say Texas and they need a dealer needs parts and then they call you directly and then you look at see if you've got the part and then do you go ahead an order it to be shipped out?

Faustman: Ah huh. You put in an order just like if you were calling, say you wanted to address you know, the order from someplace, you got the size of the part number and how much it costs and stuff. With

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these parts, it didn't have to be a truck down, but they wanted on hand or something. And maybe like the dealer, he'd order it, but you'd ship it direct to his customer.

IB: Oh.

IA: Oh.

Faustman: See like that.

IA: That's what your LSD was.

Faustman: Ah huh, Lansing Ship Direct. Shipped right out of Lansing too.

IA: Yeah, right out of Lansing too.

Faustman: Wherever you want, you know. It might be the dealer that wants it, it might be

IA: So you were the one that was responsible for the shipping part, plus the billing.

Faustman: No, it wasn't the billing.

IA: You didn't do the billing.

Faustman: Un huh.

IB: That went on somewhere else.

Faustman: That was, we after it was shipped to you we got it and then we forwarded it to

IA: Where did the order go from you like down to a receiving or shipping department and they actually packaged it up.

Faustman: Ah huh and shipped it out.

IA: Sent it out to the airport or whatever.

Faustman: And then when it was shipped it came back to us and ... down to our areas.

IA: The papers came back then.

Faustman: And then they were sent the billing.

IA: I see.

Faustman: To be filled out and stuff.

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IA: Did you ever have any big snafus where a part didn't get sent or it never arrived at its destination or

Faustman: I had one where I was so unhappy, I had worked on getting this part name in and it had taken a lot of shop work and a lot of hours and

IB: You had to have it specially made huh.

Faustman: And then a dealer came in from Chicago and he needed that part and he was out there and he seen it.

IB: Being made.

Faustman: No he seen it was done.

IB: Oh okay.

Faustman: So the person took and let him have that. Well boy I was just

IA: Oh without letting you know or

Faustman: Sure if I had known he wouldn't have got it. But anyway, he took it.

IB: Oh because you were having it made for someone else.

Faustman: But I mean he was charged for it and everything.

IB: Ah huh, but except you didn't know where it went and it was suppose to be for someone else.

Faustman: Yeah, so then I had to go through and I had quite a time about that. That was ...

IB: So you had to have another part made then and hurriedly shipped out.

Faustman: Hurriedly, it took a long time to get it made as it did for the other, but you know you used to, you had to follow up on those things to make sure they were gone. Because stuff happened liked that.

IB: I wonder if you ever had a part that was shipped off to somewhere and it never arrived or

Faustman: Yeah.

IB: And then you'd have to have another one shipped out.

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Faustman: It seemed they'd have to, I think we used to have a lot better mail service than we get now, you know, and stuff. But you had to trace that down and find out where it went and sometimes

IB: Oh really? Really. Kind of like an unsolved case in the police department.

IA: Lost in space.

Faustman: But you know, they may not get charged for it and so

.....

IB: It sounds like you took a lot of initiative on that job. It wasn't just sitting at a desk all day.

Faustman: No it wasn't.

IA: That would be more satisfying, wouldn't it?

Faustman: Yeah. It was because, you know, you had to go out in the shipping department and sometimes if they'd say well we don't have that part, you have to be out there and look in the bin and find it, but you had to make sure that it was the right part.

IA: You had to know your parts, didn't you?

Faustman: Well, you know, you learned a lot of things, but I didn't really know the parts. But you get a part number and then you maybe had to get a plan of it or something.

IB: Did you catch it at all when you used to go out there and look at stuff, you know, like a lady coming out from the office and looking at all of those, working down there?

Faustman: But I got along with most of the guys. You know they talk about guys talking dirty

IB: Yeah.

Faustman: but I still think that if you don't talk like that, they know how much they can say.

IA: They are going to respect you more and treat you the way that you act.

Faustman: Yeah. I think that is true.

IA: That is an interesting observation.

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IB: So you didn't have any trouble going down there.

IA: If you came out and found the part still in the bin that they said they didn't have.

Faustman: Most of the guys were real nice. I don't recall having any problems with them, no.

IB: That's interesting.

Faustman: But I know, even my husband tells me, you know, the guys talk different in the shops than they do at home.

(laughter)

IB: I think that's probably true. I worked in a shop for a period of time and I worked with mainly with women, there were a few men there and the women talked dirty and the men didn't. And my mother had worked in the Reo, so I mentally maybe was prepared, but not like walking in being there. And that really surprised me.

Faustman: Yeah, he says the women talk filthy.

IB: Yeah, I don't understand unless they are in a male, previously male kind of dominated areas, say in the shop on production lines. And whether they think they have to be that way to measure up or prove they can do, I don't know. It always kind of amazed me. They weren't very friendly and there was a barrier between the women down on the line where the grease and the dirty and the noise was and the women that worked in the office.

Faustman: Oh they are definitely

IA: There is a barrier.

IB: Yeah, because somehow you feel that they think, they don't, I'm sure, when you just feel like the dirty shop rat down here and if it weren't for me they wouldn't have their job up there and then they come down with their safety glasses and holding their skirts away from me, you know, just to walk a think line to get into the cafeteria for fear that, you know, you would have that feeling. I'm sure they aren't like that, but you know so there is a barrier, I don't know if there was then, but

Faustman: Sure, I'm sure you know, there was. I didn't have a lot to do with a lot of them out in the shop, but

IB: There weren't that many there by the '60's either anyway.

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Faustman: No, there wasn't so many.

IB: Yeah.

Faustman: During the war

IB: Right there were more.

Faustman: But at that time, I didn't have much to do except with the shipping department.

IA: Ah huh, that must have been very busy during the war with the military contracts and all the trucks and parts that they might have needed.

Faustman: I used to be so busy I can remember I didn't have much time to

IA: ... not being busy.

IB: You were just learning the job.

Faustman: Yeah.

IB: So.

Faustman: ... when I first went there.

Side B

... that does that.

IB: Didn't catch I think.

Faustman: I've got more coffee if anybody would like some.

IB: ... go.

IA: This is fine for me anyway. Ah, you mentioned earlier a Mr. Swisher.

Faustman: ... Rellison Swisher.

IA: Rellison I just wanted to get the name spelling for whoever is going to type this.

Faustman: Yeah, R e l l i s o n

IA: R e l l i s o n and it is S w i s h e r?

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Faustman: Ah huh and Dollar is ah

IA: And that's what he was called?

Faustman: Ah huh. Dollar.

IB: I think that's, I wonder how he got that nickname.

Faustman: I don't know.

IB: Maybe he'd ah,

Faustman: But he'd always say that's the way it is.

IB: That was his expression?

Faustman: They could call him on the phone and he knew right what part number they needed and everything. That was always remarkable. A little guy, you know.

IA: Oh really.

IB: With a name like that he would have to be a character.

IA: Yeah, that is what I was thinking.

Faustman: He was a nice guy. I worked for him both the first and second time, you know.

IB: Now you didn't go into the Reo in '45 because your sisters had gone in during the war?

Faustman: No.

IB: It had nothing to do with that either. Okay.

Faustman: But I was just looking for a job, I think.

IB: Did you go to do more work or just to get a job. I mean were you going in to answer the call for people to work for the war effort?

Faustman: No, I was just

IB: Just to get a job at that time.

IA: And your husband was away in the Service?

Faustman: Yeah.

IB: And he was away.

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IA: Okay.

Faustman: I had a daughter then that had been born the October before.

IA: Military pay wasn't that great.

Faustman: No I got \$50. I got \$91 a month.

.....

Faustman: That was a total, that is what I got. He had a special allotment for \$50 and I got \$41. So that was one reason why I went to work.

IB: Yeah, you needed to have the money. Did you have your family help you with your girl when you went to work?

Faustman: My mother.

IB: Yeah.

Faustman: Took care of her most of the time. It is nice to have family around.

IB: That's right.

IA: It is very important. Yeah.

Faustman: It surely is.

IB: Alright I'm all set, are you all set too?

IA: Yes I am.

IB: Alright.

IA: Thank you very much for talking with us today.