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Stevens to retire after long Union career

Dorothy Stevens, Zone Committeeperson and 32-year employe, will retire this year after a long and dedicated career as a union representative.

During her career, she became a leader among women by being one of the first women to seek a "man's" job on the line and also becoming a union representative.

When Dorothy began work in the Cushion Room in 1952, two seniority lists were maintained—one for men and the other for women. "In 1957 I was laid off because of the separate lists," said Dorothy, "and a man with lesser seniority did my job. This changed in 1958 when the two lists were combined."

"Also, through negotiations at that time, we were finally allowed to do the traditional men's jobs on the trim line—I had wanted to work there because it paid more money," Dorothy explained. "I had to fight to get the trim job—but I wanted it and 63A transfers gave me the right. I was the only one from the Cushion Room—I begged the other women to ask for a transfer too, but none would join me."

When asked how she saw it through, she replied, "I was deter-



Dorothy Stevens in the Union Work Center.

mined—I just wouldn't give up the fight."

Dorothy's determination has followed her throughout her years here. She was elected committeeperson in 1967 from the Cushion Room and was on the shop committee in 1979-81. In 1981 she was elected zone committeeperson. "I've always represented the people on the floor and their problems became my problems," she said.

Some of the biggest changes she has seen over the years have been the guaranteed 40-hour week and full health care coverage. Looking to the future, she said, "I would like to see more women involved in the union. I feel a

woman can do as good a job as a man, but the old saying 'women have to work twice as hard to prove they are half as good as a man' is still there," she added.

Curly Jones, incoming Zone Committeeman, said of Dorothy, "She is one determined woman — she never gives up. She has always fought for the people on the floor, no matter how tough the fight. And she hasn't given up just because she is retiring—she is still fighting for them. She is one tough lady. I admire her."

Rocky Wright, G-Trim Shift Superintendent, echoed Curly's comments and said, "Dorothy has always been a fighter but is willing to listen and work on a problem. She knows her contract well and always knew the employe's operation on the line when negotiating. She was always dependable."

Dorothy's retirement plans include visiting her vacation home on Lake George and traveling to England with her sister Jean. Dorothy's husband, Mark, retired from Fisher Lansing in 1979 and spends much of the summer farming. Dorothy has a son, Mark, still at home.



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2. TOOL LOST

FISHER BODY DIVISION GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION LANSING PLANT

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