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Fisher Body (Historical) Team

1-23-06

Interviewer = Cheryl McQuade

Interviewee = Debra Burpee - Gay Burpee

Security 9-17-76

Education High school graduate (12th grade)

Military = None

Married = Yes

★ Fisher History = a stepbrother worked in the cafeteria so Debra knew about the plant. She put her application in in 8-76 and was hired in Sept. 17th 1976

★ First Day = scared to death. Going into the body shop, men weren't happy to see a woman new hire. They felt that females were taking away men's jobs.

Very hostile work environment, dusty smoky and very dirty place to work.

★ Younger employees were ok but older workers were not very friendly to her. She almost quit after the first week because of the work environment.

★ Sideframes in body shops, (hooking area) was putting large gates in for each style of body coming down the line.

★ Prams in body shop = water fights and gas bags for prams in shops.

The pit where the wheelwells were welded was about 12 ft by 4 ft and people were inside the pit to weld

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these parts together. Deb worked in the body shop for 22 years. In the beginning Deb had a hard time finding her way out of the plant.

= Wagons a six minute break getting food to people on the line.

= Being hurt in the plant, a man burned by the hydraulic oil from one of the big guns in the body shop.

* Gary and Deb hired in together and were friends for years until about 7 years ago and started dating and eventually they were married.

Deb finally went to material handling and had a hard job called (teggig)
This means a job of a person hauling baskets of merchandise to workers on the line in a set tour route. There wasn't very much training back in the early days as there is today. No safety training back then was not like it is today either.

* Management always said never shut the line down for any reason.

* Favorite job = Material Handling because this was off the production line.

* Favorite supervisor = Walt Beeb, Dick Thomas.

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Bob Ferguson = Earl Fuller = He was always looking bad and would always lecture.

Diversity = Black men hitting on white women but no other harassment.

Radios were on the forklifts for better background noise than the body shop.

Dinners were given for birthdays or retirements or special events.

Smoking vs Non-smoking = Most people didn't like this and smokers would still smoke in the plant. Some people were even disciplined for this.

Union Activity = None but Deb would vote in every election.

Best Bargained benefit = Pension, and medical insurance

Capital of Quality = Fisher people cared about the jobs they did everyday.

The new plant - Deb wasn't sure how the shop rules are going to be at Delta Assembly. Wished she would retire from Fisher.

Deb felt that the job bank was a mistake back then. Younger people are sitting around for nothing getting paid. This should have been looked at long ago because this was an expensive benefit for the Big Three.