

① Fisher Body Historical Team

2-20-06

Interviewee Clayton Stevens (Commander)

VFW Post 6132

Interviewer (Doug Radewacher)

3104 W St Joseph St

(Douglas McDonald)

Sonoma CA 94917

Started VFW Post

DOB 1-3-39

85 years ago.

Education - 12 grade

Military = Navy (10 years) Left in 1967

~~Boats~~ = Heating & Air Conditioning employee.

Years at Post - 16 years (Commander 13 years)

= Veterans of Foreign Wars = helps veterans with health insurance, injuries, loans, etc.

= This site is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the Fisher Body plant.

Clayton was a Heating & Cooling businessman. He and his crew did all the contracting for the Fisher Body Plant (Heating & Cooling). When they were in the plant & maintenance they were always friendly & cordial.

He was amazed at how a car was started at one end and driven off the other end.

Clayton remembers helping at least 3 or

4 Fisher Body employees that the VFW

actually helped fill out forms and help them try to get certain benefits.

Meals from this VFW Post were sold

every Friday at the Fisher Body Plant

They had Fish and Rib dinners

that were delivered right into the

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plant. Usually on Friday there were between 85 to 175 dinners ^{were} delivered right to the Fisha Body gates.

* One major impact with the plant closing was poppie sales from UFW. Now with the plant closed they are losing about \$1000⁰⁰ a year. In a good year they would sell \$1600⁰⁰ worth, now it is about \$700⁰⁰ a year.

* Clayton is from Onaway Michigan, a few miles from Black Lake Family Education Center. Dad Clayton actually installed the heating and air conditioning at the Black Lake Facility. He and his crew were working there when Walter Renthens plane crashed.

This UFW also delivers meals to the elderly, and to needy families. They also do benefits or dinners for Make a Wish Foundation, Cancer Victims, elderly.

* G M has been a major fundraiser, but the UAW membership has donated much much more through poppie sales, and dinners. This money is used for different parties for children. Such as halloween, easter, Christmas, birthdays etc.

* Businesses in the area are seeing the loss of income and traffic from

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the closing of the plant. Businesses all around the Fisher Body Plant are suffering from the layoffs + closing. Plant Closing - Clayton believes that this is a major part of Lansing's History. There should be some kind of monument left in its place. Because of its rich history, Capital of Quality - Clayton feels that the UAW members make the plant. They believe that we build good quality products and really care what we do each day.

★ This VFW Hall has already started delivering meals to the new Delta Township Plant. ~~in~~ and Clayton hopes this will continue and the numbers will be larger.

Clayton said now that the familiar sounds of Fisher Body (trucks, people working, railroad ~~cars~~ cars) and now there is an ~~an~~ unusual silence here.

★ Saddest Moment - Fisher Body Plant Closing.

No activity in and around the plant.

★ Happier Moments - Clayton always felt happy when he was called to work at the plant because of the camaraderie at the plant.

Best Franchiser, "Make a wish Foundation"

The ~~that~~ UAW donations were well and above the call like as always. It also misses the ~~the~~ people that don't

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~~visit~~ visit on an everyday basis like when the plant was open

* Closing remarks = Clayton said to listen to these tapes and learn how the history of forming and Fisher Body have began. Take a drive in and around the ~~city~~ city and ~~look~~ look at small factories that are not running at production anymore.

A member of UAW local 388, members and pipefitters at B + B Refrigeration for 35 years