

1 **Lue (Loo) Sudduth, an African American, discusses his 35-year career as a UAW**
2 **production worker and GM manager at the Fisher Body plant in Lansing, MI**
3
4

5 Marilyn Coulter: [recorder clicking] Lansing Fisher Body Historical Interview with Mr. [Louis
6 0:05] C. Sudduth, and it's December – 7th, is it?
7

8 Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
9

10 Marilyn Coulter: December 7th, uh, 2005. We're at UAW Local 602 Conference Room. Uh,
11 my name is Marilyn Coulter. And my co-interviewer is?
12

13 Doreen Howard: Doreen Howard.
14

15 Marilyn Coulter: [0:22] And, uh, Mr. Sudduth, could you please state your name and spell it for
16 us, please?
17

18 Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh. My name is Lue C. Sudduth; L-U-E, initial C, and S-U-D-D-U-T-H.
19

20 Marilyn Coulter: Thank you. [0:34] So Mr. Sudduth, um, [background movement] can you tell
21 us, um, [papers rustling] [sighing] are you a resident of Lansing?
22

23 Lue Sudduth: Yes, I am.
24

25 Marilyn Coulter: All right. [0:42] Are you married with children?
26

27 Lue Sudduth: Yes, I am; I'm married with a wife and three children. Do you want the
28 name?
29

30 Marilyn Coulter: If you want [inaudible 0:51].
31

32 Lue Sudduth: Okay. The oldest is [Deborah Jean Sudduth 0:54], [paper rustling] and she's
33 49; and the next one is [Johnny Glue Sudduth 0:54], [phone ringing] and he's
34 fr-, [inaudible 1:04]. [phone ringing] [clicking]
35

36 Doreen Howard: Okay.
37

38 Lue Sudduth: So, he worked at Fisher, you know.
39

40 Doreen Howard: Oh, you're [chair squeaking] all set.
41

42 Lue Sudduth: [Johnny] Glue Sudduth, and he's 47 years old, and he worked at Fisher Body
43 for, uh, 20-somethin' years [sniffing] and relocated to Doraville, Georgia. And
44 the, uh, youngest son, he, uh, went to California for a scholarship at UCLA in
45 football [papers rustling] and he got up there and he didn't like UCLA and I
46 don't neither. He wanted to go to USC, so I couldn't afford it, so he turns

1 around and he go to Cal Poly Tech to get a degree, then he goes to Long
2 Beach and get a degree, and he turns around and go to criminal justice and get
3 a degree; so he's in the, uh, law enforcement there, and, uh, last I talked to
4 him, he had passed his test for detective.
5
6Doreen Howard: Mm.
7
8Lue Sudduth: And I have about seven grandkids, six great-grandkids, and my wife and I, if
9 we live to see August of 2006, will be married for 50 years...
10
11Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 2:12].
12
13Lue Sudduth: ...without any, uh, divorce or any – I mean any, uh, split up, [inaudible 2:18]
14 any hang-ups, and we, uh, just enjoyed raisin' our children, and now the great-
15 grandchildren, we kinda like to get them every once in a while, you know,
16 enjoy'm.
17
18Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
19
20Lue Sudduth: So we just enjoy our life [chair squeaking] and we go to church.
21
22Doreen Howard: Oh.
23
24Lue Sudduth: And we, uh, usually we spend the winter in, uh, Arizona and California, but
25 when we start havin' grandkids, we, uh, kinda got stuck with them, like my
26 wife think can't nobody take care of'm but her. [laughter] And, uh, we just
27 enjoyed. And the oldest one is, uh, 14 and the youngest one is about 2 years
28 old. So but they scatter around; one is in, uh, Dallas, Texas with her mother
29 and dad, and another one's in, uh, Maryland with her [tapping] mother and
30 dad. [tapping] And we're just a happy-go-lucky kind of a family. We get
31 along good.
32
33Marilyn Coulter: Great.
34
35Lue Sudduth: And I didn't give my address.
36
37Marilyn Coulter: Oh.
38
39Doreen Howard: Oh, that, that...
40
41Lue Sudduth: And my address is 3627 Jerree Street, Lansing, Michigan 48911.
42
43Marilyn Coulter: All right. [3:42] Mr. Sudduth, can you tell us, um, what year did you hire into
44 Fisher Body?
45

1Lue Sudduth: F-, in ninet-, November of 1954, and, uh, I got hired in there, and I really,
2 really had a good time. I enjoyed it. I'd been from, uh, a worker, employee, to
3 supervisor, back to Skilled Trade, and I really, really enjoyed it...
4

5Marilyn Coulter: [background movement] [4:15] So...
6

7Lue Sudduth: ...and...
8

9Marilyn Coulter: ...um, n-, so when you walked in, what'd ya think a the building when you
10 first came in?
11

12Lue Sudduth: Well, I knew it was a place of work, but, uh, I just was, uh, surprised at the,
13 uh, building of automobiles and what it take to build an automobile...
14

15Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
16

17Lue Sudduth: ...and it was a real, real experience, and I guess I worked from, uh, the Body
18 Shop, Paint Shop, Trim; actually, I worked all over the place.
19

20Marilyn Coulter: [4:57] Which one did you hire in in initially?
21

22Lue Sudduth: I hired in in the, uh, Sealer Room.
23

24Marilyn Coulter: [5:02] So that would be...
25

26Lue Sudduth: That would be...
27

28Marilyn Coulter: in the Paint Shop?
29

30Lue Sudduth: ...mm-hm, Paint Shop. When I hired in, it was in the Sealer Room. [phone
31 ringing] And you know, it's a funny thing. We used to have to what they call
32 "truck in the bodies." We had to have one man in the front pullin' and one
33 man behind pushin', and I had a g-, a partn-, my partner was a big guy,
34 weighed about 280, and I was a little guy, and I was always on the back, but a
35 lotta times when we'd get to movin' it, I'd just on and ride the back. [laughter]
36 As a young man, I mean, it'd pay m-, didn't, didn't bother me. But I really
37 had s-, nice time. I really enjoyed it and I had a lot of friends that we went
38 fishing and huntin' after work and thing, and I really, really loved that. And I
39 just, um, was a guy that wouldn't, wouldn't take long. To me, I could look at a
40 job and in 20 minutes, I could do it. I didn't, didn't take no, uh, three days to
41 break, but they give ya three days to break in, but, uh, I look at a job and
42 decide I wanna do it, I just go ahead and do it.
43

44 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
45

1Lue Sudduth: And, uh, I really got along with all the supervisors, the plant managers. And,
2 uh, the people thought a lotta me everywhere I went after I [inaudible 6:29]
3 went into the Trade, when I went...
4
5Marilyn Coulter: [6:32] Uh...
6
7Lue Sudduth: ...into Trade.
8
9Marilyn Coulter: ...what trade were you in when you [inaudible 6:34].
10
11Lue Sudduth: Paint.
12
13Marilyn Coulter: You were in the Paint trade.
14
15Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm, and how to...
16
17Marilyn Coulter: [6:36] So...
18
19Lue Sudduth: ...make the paint, mix it.
20
21Marilyn Coulter: ...you were a Paint Mixture.
22
23Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
24
25Marilyn Coulter: Oh, okay. [6:40] And so were you, during your whole time there, did you
26 primarily do most of your time in the Paint Department?
27
28Lue Sudduth: I did 27 years in the Paint Department.
29
30Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
31
32Lue Sudduth: And, uh, I sent their samples in to the government so long till that they
33 wouldn't even test it no more, they, they'll test it. So I [sat in there 7:01] for
34 27 years and I took a 3-weeks vacation and somebody else sent it in and didn't
35 sign my name, so they sent three mens in there to close the shop down, and
36 when they got there to ask for me, because they thought I had retired, and they
37 said, "No, he's just on vacation." They said, "When will he be back?" They
38 said, "Well, he's supposed to be back Monday." And they said, "Well, we'll
39 let you run today and tomorrow," which was Thursday and Friday, said, "but,
40 uh, we gonna send three or four mens in." You got to run a efficiency test. A
41 paint consistency test consisted of, uh, really checkin' all the paints and the
42 viscosity. The viscosity was somethin' like a little #2 c-, #3 cup, and you had
43 to have their number, whether you run it for 30 seconds and how fast it ran out
44 would be like, uh, 3-5, the number of it, so and that way you wouldn't get a
45 lotta skim and stuff to go on the outside of the buildin'. So then, uh, after that,
46 we run the efficiency test and, uh, then from then on, anybody would send it

1 in, they'd sign my name to it and they, they'd never check mine. After they –
2 when I first started sendin' in, they checked it, but they never found nothin'
3 wrong with it for 27 years and, uh...
4

5Marilyn Coulter: [background movement] [8:30] How long in total did you work at Fisher
6 Body?
7

8Lue Sudduth: 35 years and 3 months.
9

10Doreen Howard: [door closing] Uh, Doreen Howard. Um, I wanted to go back to, um, when
11 you first hired in. [8:48] Can, can you describe what the factory was like when
12 you first hired in, what, ya know, what the environment was inside? You said
13 you hired into the P-, the Paint Department on the Sealer Line...
14

15Lue Sudduth: Yes, I...
16

17Doreen Howard: ...at that time?
18

19Lue Sudduth: ...yes, I did.
20

21Doreen Howard: Um, describe what, what was it like. What was the environment like in there?
22

23Lue Sudduth: It was, uh, a lotta ladies and the mens, and they worked together real good,
24 and you'd always find some mens don't wanna help a lady – or, I'll say a
25 "woman," at least – but to me, it didn't make any different y-, who – what
26 race you was, anything; I'd a help anybody. Because I used to go through the
27 – aft-, in the Paint Department, when I hired in, any job that anybody was
28 havin' problem with and if I was around, I would – they would a-, say, "Ask
29 LC." They called me LC. Say, "Ask LC," and I would either train'm or
30 show'm how to do the job, and then after I'd show'm how to do the job,
31 they'd look at me and thank me and say, "Thank you s-, very much." And I
32 had some womens that, uh, this one lady I guess I could say, but she, uh,
33 [chair squeaking] every third word that she'd cuss, and, uh, I didn't swear and
34 cuss and I d-, I didn't like to see a lady do that, and finally, I had told her one
35 day, if she gonna cuss around me that much, I wouldn't, wouldn't like to talk
36 with her or have a conversation with her. So and she told me later on, she said,
37 "I respect you for that," and said, "I'll try not to cuss and swear around you,"
38 and she did. She honored it real good. Ya know, it was nice to work with her,
39 'cause I worked with her for about 15 years.
40

41Marilyn Coulter: [10:41] Um, Mr. Sudduth, in 1954 when you hired in here, um, and there were
42 predominantly – there were a lotta women there, were – was there a good
43 mixture in terms of race and gender?
44

45Lue Sudduth: Not really.
46

1Marilyn Coulter: [10:55] What was...
2
3Lue Sudduth: Not...
4
5Marilyn Coulter: ...it like?
6
7Lue Sudduth: ...at all. When I hired in, they hired in 11 [tapping] peoples and I was the only
8 considered black person out the group.
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
11
12Lue Sudduth: And there was a lotta places that they didn't, uh, hire black in, but...
13
14Marilyn Coulter: [11:14] Such as what place?
15
16Lue Sudduth: Such as, uh, the Paint and the, uh, Sealer, Cushion Room. The most that, black
17 that they had in there, I'd say most negros they had in there was in what they
18 called "Wet Deck."
19
20Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
21
22Lue Sudduth: It was where they wet-sand the jobs [banging] and they ro-, wore, uh, aprons
23 [tapping] and rubber boots. [tapping] It wasn't a hard job, but it was in the
24 water all day long, and I know some a the mens, black and white, was, uh –
25 had looked like arthritis and their hands would be like, uh, wet all the time.
26 But, uh, afterward, looked like – after '54, they seen the black were just –
27 worked better than some a the Caucasian or Spanish guys, ya know.
28
29Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
30
31Lue Sudduth: Then, after that, because they didn't have, uh, one black supervisor in there
32 before, I think one before I went on, but, uh, after I went off, then I had, uh, a
33 better deal in the Paint Mixing Room.
34
35Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
36
37Lue Sudduth: So I enjoyed that more and I made more money, and I wasn't responsible for
38 nobody but LC.
39
40Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
41
42Lue Sudduth: Because when I was [tapping] supervisor, I was responsible 48 peoples...
43
44Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
45
46Lue Sudduth: ...and that's a lotta different characters to have to get along with.

1
2Marilyn Coulter: [12:47] How long were you a supervisor?
3
4Lue Sudduth: I think about 6 months or somewhere along there.
5
6Marilyn Coulter: Mm.
7
8Lue Sudduth: But I d-, I, I enjoyed it because the peoples that worked and then they found
9 out, people that knew I was a supervisor in the Sealer Room, everybody that
10 knew me upstairs put in a application to transfer to work for me. So they took
11 me in the office one day and they asked me why everybody wanted to work
12 for me, and all I told'm was, "Well, I treat everybody like I wanna be treated."
13 That's how I try to get along with everybody. Even the Plant Manager and all
14 the, uh, higher-up wanted to know how did I – why did everybody wanna
15 work for me, and I told'm, I explained to'm, I said, "You're not workin' for
16 me. I would only be your supervisor. You workin' for General Motors," but
17 they still want to come and work where I was. It's funny, it was – go ahead.
18
19Doreen Howard: [13:45] Y-, you were one of the first blacks in the, the Paint Department as, on
20 supervision [inaudible 13:50]?
21
22Lue Sudduth: I think I was the first or the second. I believe either the first or the second.
23
24Doreen Howard: Mm-hm. [13:56] Was there, um, any minorities in any a the other
25 departments?
26
27Lue Sudduth: Uh, [Al Kelly 14:01] was in, uh, third shift cleanup. [tapping] What'd they
28 call it? The Maintenance. He was in that. And then I think, uh, after that
29 [sniffing], [Stepta 14:09], [Cleve Stepta 14:11]...
30
31Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
32
33Lue Sudduth: ...same in.
34
35Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
36
37Doreen Howard: [writing] Okay. [writing] [14:20] So that was a big change going from...
38
39Lue Sudduth: Workin'...
40
41Doreen Howard: ...hourly to, to...
42
43Lue Sudduth: ...to salary...
44
45Doreen Howard: ...management...
46

1Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
2
3Doreen Howard: ...but it sounds like you [thumping] transitioned fairly well, that the people
4 accepted you...
5
6Lue Sudduth: Real well.
7
8Doreen Howard: ...in that...
9
10Lue Sudduth: They did...
11
12Doreen Howard: ...transition?
13
14Lue Sudduth: ...uh-huh.
15
16Doreen Howard: Mm.
17
18Marilyn Coulter: Um, during – well, Marilyn, uh, Marilyn Coulter. [14:44] Um, during your
19 time when you hired in, were there any types of [tsk] new hire pranks or jokes
20 that they played on people when they were?
21
22Lue Sudduth: You know, in the department I was in – [tapping] this is L, Lue C. Sudduth –
23 the department I was in, we didn't, uh, have too many peoples that, uh, come
24 in and they played jokes on'm. Not as I knew, at least. If they did, they didn't
25 do it around me.
26
27Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
28
29Lue Sudduth: And, uh, because I was a type a guy I, when I'm workin', I never joke, and if I
30 did drink, I didn't drink while I was workin', if I go out to the tavern or the
31 bar, I didn't – I wouldn't want to go to the bar and drink my lunch hour
32 [inaudible 15:32], 'cause I didn't believe in that, and I didn't do it, and, uh,
33 but I knew a lotta guys that did do it, and they would come back in, we call it
34 "halfway juiced up;" in other words, halfway drunk, and, uh, on that job, they
35 would, uh, make a lotta mistakes, but, uh, after a while, I think some of'm
36 kinda didn't really quit but they didn't drink as much durin' their lunch hour.
37
38Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
39
40Lue Sudduth: 'Cause we had a lotta guys that go to the bar and spend their time at the bar
41 and c-, when they come back, you can tell when people had had a little too
42 much to drink because they get a little loud.
43
44Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. Um – go ahead.
45

1Doreen Howard: Um, I'm Doreen Howard. [16:25] Um, I want to go back to, um, can you
2 describe the differences between when you first hired into the Paint Shop...
3
4Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
5
6Doreen Howard: ...to what it was like when you retired?
7
8Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
9
10Lue Sudduth: Oh...
11
12Doreen Howard: Some a the differences that...
13
14Lue Sudduth: ...the different things was, different was, that really different [inaudible 16:46]
15 is the, uh, you worked 3 weeks – this is Lue C. Sudduth – you worked 3
16 weeks nights and 3 weeks days, and, uh, goin' from one shift to the other
17 shift, you had a little problem, uh, you know, say sleepin' durin' the day
18 because you wasn't used to it. But, uh, when you work days, you could sleep
19 better at night. So, uh, it was quite a bit different before I retired because they
20 had a straight shift; you worked days or night. So and I mostly worked days
21 after I had the straight shift, and it was nice.
22
23Marilyn Coulter: Um...
24
25Doreen Howard: And as far – okay, you said, you said that started when you first hired in they
26 were on a swing shift...
27
28Lue Sudduth: H-...
29
30Doreen Howard: ...and...
31
32Lue Sudduth: ...this is Lue, this is Lue C. Sudduth. When I went in, it was on swing s-...
33
34Doreen Howard: ...and...
35
36Lue Sudduth: ...swing shift...
37
38Doreen Howard: ...and then...
39
40Lue Sudduth: ...when I started.
41
42Doreen Howard: ...then you went to a straight shift.
43
44Lue Sudduth: Yes.
45

1Doreen Howard: [17:44] Do you have, um, any idea what the timeframe was, what year or any
2 – that that...
3
4Lue Sudduth: Couldn't tell ya.
5
6Doreen Howard: ...may have occurred?
7
8Lue Sudduth: Ya know...
9
10Doreen Howard: You know what timeframe?
11
12Lue Sudduth: ...I r-, this is Lue Sudduth. I really kinda don't really know exactly what time,
13 but was in the, uh, '70s, I believe, uh, close to '80s that they went to, to
14 straight shift.
15
16Doreen Howard: Mm. [18:11] So you went through quite a few years of working a swing shift,
17 and now, y-, you were married during this timeframe. How did that affect
18 your family and your family life?
19
20Lue Sudduth: Well, it really, uh, didn't affect it real, real bad because I worked and my wife
21 stayed home with the kids for a long time, till, uh, [background movement]
22 they all got in school – this is Lue Sudduth – and, uh, I would spend a lotta
23 time with my childrens; ride bicycle with'm, I'd go to the games. Both of the
24 son played, uh, basketball and football and, uh, I would go to their, attend
25 their games, and it was, it was really nice.
26
27Marilyn Coulter: Mm.
28
29Doreen Howard: Now, when – oh. [recorder clicking] [19:11] Now, when you went to a
30 straight-shift operation, now, were you on a day shift or were you the, uh,
31 afternoon shift?
32
33Lue Sudduth: I was the day shift.
34
35Doreen Howard: [19:21] And what were the hours of operation for the day shift?
36
37Lue Sudduth: From, uh, for 8 hours, from 6:18 to 3:12, but a lotta days, we worked it
38 overtime; an hour, 6 minutes, 12 minutes, a half an hour. But I was in the
39 group that, uh, when I went to the paint d-, mixin', I worked from 5:18 till,
40 most a the time, 4:18; I would work 10 hours a day, and a lotta days I would
41 work that shift, and then the m-, except on Saturday or Sunday. I worked a
42 lotta Saturdays and Sundays and, uh, every New Year I had to work. So but
43 they paid to do it, you know, but I had to work every New Year's because
44 what I was doin', my group was 11 of us, we had to get the paint ready for the
45 startup after New Year's and steppin' to January [clicking] and once they start
46 the 2nd or the 3rd. But whatever day that would fall on [clicking], we'd have

1 to come in and mix paint [clicking] all day [clicking] and get it set up for the,
2 uh, start of the ship, [clicking] and...
3
4Doreen Howard: Now, you talk about mixing paint. [20:48] Describe what is it...
5
6Lue Sudduth: Oh...
7
8Doreen Howard: ...to mix paint, how...
9
10Lue Sudduth: ...mixin' paint...
11
12Doreen Howard: What do you do?
13
14Lue Sudduth: ...we'd have a...
15
16Doreen Howard: How do you do it, I...
17
18Lue Sudduth: Okay...
19
20Doreen Howard: ...guess?
21
22Lue Sudduth: ...okay, [clicking] we'd have, uh, what they'd call a tow tank. They'd bring it
23 in from Flint, and it's about, mm, over 5,000 gallons, and we'd set it up on the
24 ramp and then we'd hook a hose to the back of it and let it go th-, we had a
25 wall, like let it go through the wall into the mixing tank, and we'd put a
26 agitator in the top of it to keep it stirred up. Am I goin' too fast?
27
28Doreen Howard: No.
29
30Lue Sudduth: To keep it mixed up. [Inaudible 21:29] and we'd, we'd mix it by the pound.
31 We ran out three or four-hundred pounds into the mixin' tank. Then we'd run
32 like, uh, about, uh, 75 gallons a thinner in with it, and we'd turn the agitator
33 on and mix it into one, and we'd get ready to ship it upstairs. We'd put it over
34 to the what they call a runnin' tank that pumps it upstairs. And, uh, that did,
35 that took quite a while, but it was enjoyable. Can I give ya a story?
36
37Doreen Howard: Sure.
38
39Lue Sudduth: True story.
40
41Doreen Howard: We like stories.
42
43Lue Sudduth: Before I retired, I was getting' ready to retire, and I would never come back in
44 back somethin' happen and they want a paint mixer somebody to come back.
45 Uh, if they call me, I could refuse to come in on the other shift. I had, uh, 5
46 guys that come in from Australia on, [clicking] on nights, and they come in to

1 [clicking] see me, and they wanted to know everything about the paint. So
2 they asked the guys in the paint mixin' could they call me and I'll come back
3 in. They told him, said, "He don't come back." He said, "Well, if we pay him
4 will he come back?" Said, "He don't come back for nothin'." Said, "Once he
5 leave, he, uh, could leave everything he's doin' right here." So the Friday
6 mornin' when their plane was leavin' that Thursday night, but the Friday
7 mornin' when I came in, they were still there, 'cause the paint mixer
8 explained, said "If you wanna see him, you gotta wait till tomorrow," and they
9 wanna know was there anybody else could explain the paint to'm, and the
10 guys that was in there told'm said, "If you wanna know everything, you have
11 to ask him." So when I go in Friday mornin', everybody in the Shop knows
12 somebody lookin' for me. Everybody say, "There five guys in here last night
13 lookin' for you." I said, "From where?" They said, "I don't know." I said,
14 "Were they government men?" They said, "I don't know." So I said, "Where
15 were they from?" They said, "We don't know." So in the mornin', 'bout 8:00,
16 they came in lookin' for me, and I had two, uh, little Caucasian guys, they call
17 me Dad, ya know. Both of'm would walk up to me, ya know, and kiss me and
18 say, "Hi, Dad." So I didn't pay no attention, ya know, but they just was, uh –
19 they liked, they loved me, really. When they hired in, I was their supervisor,
20 and from that day on, they called me Dad, and, uh, the one little guy, he
21 looked at'm, he said, "What the H-E-L-L you want with my dad?" I was
22 sittin' over havin' coffee and a donut, readin' the paper, and they said, "Well,
23 we're from Australia and we come in and want to know about the paint." So
24 and they said, "Oh, there he is there." So they came over and they introduced
25 themselves to me, and, uh, so and I ask'm, I said, "You from Australia?" and
26 they said yeah. Said, "They told us" – "We was in here yesterday and they
27 told us to come see you, but you had gone home," and said, "We ca-, we
28 asked'm could we call ya or could we, uh – would ya come in and they said
29 no." Said, "We told'm if we pay you would you come in and they said no.
30 Said, 'If you wanna see'm, you got wait till tomorrow.'" I got one somewhere,
31 honey.

32
33 Doreen Howard: [Okay 24:55].

34
35 Lue Sudduth: Anyway, so that mornin' I came in, I took'm through the Shop, through the
36 paint mixer, and explained everything to'm, and all five of'm was writin', and
37 when they got through the writin', they offer me a job in Australia. So and I
38 just politely told'm, I said, "Well, you're 5 years and 3 months too late; I'm
39 retiring next month." And so the guys told me, said, "Here's my" – "Here's
40 our card. If you're ever in Australia," said, "look us up, and everything'll be
41 on us," but I haven't been to Australia yet. [laughter] I've been everywhere
42 else, but not to Australia. And I thought about that and I was tellin' some
43 peoples about it and they was laughin', said, "Why didn't you go to
44 Australia?" I said, "I've been here for 35 years and 3 months and retiring and
45 goin' back to work is nothin' I wanted to do." [laughter]

46

1Doreen Howard: [Inaudible 25:54].
2
3Lue Sudduth: So, mm-hm. And after the – but the main thing, after they went through and
4 they wrote down so much and I give'm so many numbers, and they looked at
5 me and that's when they offered me the job and say, uh, "You give us all of
6 this and, uh, you didn't pull a piece a paper or pad or nothin' out your
7 pocket," and they want to know, "How did you know – how ya" – I say, "If
8 you do somethin' for 27 years, you oughta retain some of it up here."
9 [laughter] And so they laughed. That's when they offered me a job and I said,
10 well, they were just too late.
11
12Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
13
14Lue Sudduth: But I said – I felt good and it was nice for somebody to offer me a job...
15
16Marilyn Coulter: Mm.
17
18Lue Sudduth: ...and I was getting' ready to retire...
19
20Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
21
22Lue Sudduth: ...but it was great. I think I'm, I know [tapping] I know I'm the only guy who
23 worked at Fisher Body that peoples workin' the Line thought enough of to
24 give me a surprise birthday party.
25
26Doreen Howard: Hm.
27
28Lue Sudduth: And it was great.
29
30Doreen Howard: [26:56] You...
31
32Lue Sudduth: A-...
33
34Doreen Howard: ...for which birthday?
35
36Marilyn Coulter: For which birthday was it?
37
38Lue Sudduth: Uh, what birthday was it?
39
40Marilyn Coulter: Uh-huh.
41
42Lue Sudduth: Let's see, I retired at 57. I was 57...
43
44Doreen Howard: Hm.
45

1Lue Sudduth: ...because I'm goin' on 75 now. At 57 years old, they thought enough a me to
2 give me a retire-, birthday party.
3
4Doreen Howard: Hm.
5
6Lue Sudduth: And everybody in the Shop knew that they gave, give me one.
7
8Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
9
10Lue Sudduth: [background movement] And ya know, sometime ya do things and other
11 peoples'll get jealous. So we had a guy in there that was in my group and he
12 had been there 44 years. He went downstairs and was complainin' to
13 management that the peoples give me a surprise birthday party and he been
14 there 44 years and they never give him one. [laughter] Them, the peoples
15 downstairs told him, said, "Yeah, we heard about that guy." I said, "Who is
16 he?" So he get my name and everything, and so, they said, "Yeah, we heard
17 about him say, uh, [background movement] Mr. So-and-So," said, "we, uh, we
18 can't do nothin' about that." Said, "If these people thought enough a him, they
19 workin' the Line thought enough a him to take their money and give him a
20 surprise birthday party," say, "ain't nothin' we can do about it."
21
22Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
23
24Lue Sudduth: So, it was kind of, it was nice, though. It was really, really nice.
25
26Marilyn Coulter: [28:13] So were dinners and birthday parties something that they didn't do in
27 the Paint Department much?
28
29Lue Sudduth: We had Thanks-, oh no, we had Thanksgiving dinner and we had a Christmas
30 dinner, but that was for everybody in it..
31
32Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
33
34Lue Sudduth: ...but just to give one person a surprise birthday party..
35
36Marilyn Coulter: Was something that [inaudible 28:32].
37
38Lue Sudduth: ...had never been done before. [tapping]
39
40Marilyn Coulter: Oh.
41
42Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
43
44Marilyn Coulter: [28:36] So, um, yours Thanksgiving dinners [inaudible 28:38], were those like
45 potlucks or did they order food in? How did they do that?
46

1Lue Sudduth: They had a tray about 24 or 22 inches wide full of barbeque chicken...
2
3Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
4
5Lue Sudduth: ...and baked chicken, and they a little a everything, pots, and, uh, I was
6 shocked. I didn't even know it, but when they did it, s-, I, I was, uh – I would
7 get on a little, I had a little flatbed Kalamazoo truck that I rode around in, and
8 I took my tools [background movement] and wore'm on the side, and when
9 I'd get off whenever I n-, I'd take'm off and lay'm on my truck, and, uh, some
10 a the other guys in there would take theirs off and lay'm on the truck, and
11 somebody'll go by and take one and threw it in the trash, but I could go
12 anywhere in the Shop, all over the Shop they knew me and never borrowed
13 my tools, and I would go someplace that they would have maybe a, a hose
14 broke upstairs, they had like upstairs, 'cause I'll be just ridin' around. I'd go
15 up there and sometime like where they put in the windshields, uh, one a the
16 hydraulic line would break where they was use, usin' the urethane, and, uh,
17 they had to take, get extra help to carry the windshields over to the cars to
18 put'm in, and the supervisor would ask me could I fix this hose for him, and,
19 uh, I would fix it probably about 5 second, and, uh, when they got to call
20 Maintenance to come up and fix it, and when they get there, they lookin' for it
21 and said, "Where's the hose that broke?" and somebody'll tell'm, "Oh," said,
22 "Lue was just by here and he fixed it." And he had a little card, about 3x10;
23 everything they do, they write it down, so I'd be the one to fix it, they'd take
24 the card, just rip it up and throw it in the trash. But then some of'm would, uh,
25 call a committeeman so when the, when – after they call a committeeman, the
26 rest a the guys would look down on him and say, "If Lue fix it, what's wrong
27 it?" Ya know, but I was just a person that if I could help anybody wherever I
28 went, I would do it.
29
30Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [30:57] Um, Lue Sudduth, during your time, um, that you were
31 workin' on the Line, were you ever laid off, and if so, did y-, were you ever
32 laid off and did you ever go on strike?
33
34Lue Sudduth: Well, when they laid off the whole – yes, I was laid off. I think I was laid off
35 my longest time was about 4 months, I believe, and, uh, I had a outside friend
36 that worked for Oddballs and I think I worked down there for about 3 a the
37 months with him.
38
39Marilyn Coulter: [31:30] And Oddballs was?
40
41Lue Sudduth: Oddballs Clothing Store.
42
43Marilyn Coulter: It was a...
44
45Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
46

1Marilyn Coulter: ...clothing store.
2
3Lue Sudduth: Yeah. And other than, once I was laid off again for about [chair squeaking] I
4 think 4 months, when they had a strike. So and I, I had another friend that
5 worked construction, [sniffing] and, uh, then I had another guy that him and I
6 used to [inaudible 31:52] together, he was inspector of the city, and, uh, he
7 wanted me to come and work with him, but instead a going working with him,
8 I set form for a contractor, a [C-Man 32:07].
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Oh.
11
12Lue Sudduth: Other than that. And, uh, I was so good to the man that owned the company,
13 he had a son, and his son, we didn't get along because he was jealous of my,
14 uh, settin' forms was so much better than he could that he s-, he kinda, he s-
15 it, his dad came to me and me, he said, "He won't be around anymore; I'm
16 moving him." His father moved him away from around me.
17
18Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
19
20Lue Sudduth: 'Cause this, that's what would happen.
21
22Marilyn Coulter: Hm.
23
24Lue Sudduth: And so I probably woulda took that hammer and hit'm upside the head with it.
25 [laughter] Pardon me. But, but it was nice that his father thought enough a me.
26 And then after I told'm I was goin' back to General Motors, he offered me,
27 uh, [papers rustling] a job guarantee...
28
29Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
30
31Lue Sudduth: ...with his company, and, uh, my mother had f-, my mother was there and my
32 mother had found out that h-, his son and I had some worries [sniffing], and
33 she told me said, "Son, you go back to where you were, 'cause blood is
34 thicker than water," and he came to my house and cried and asked me to come
35 back with him.
36
37Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
38
39Lue Sudduth: But I told him I, uh, I think it's better if I go back to where I was, and so I
40 went back, but that was in the early '60s, and I think I only had about 6 or 7 or
41 8 years [tapping] in there. I had about 8 years, and so I went back, came back
42 to General Motors and, uh, stayed there for the rest a [sniffing] my time.
43
44Marilyn Coulter: [33:36] So, um, how long had you worked before you became a Paint Mixer?
45

1Lue Sudduth: [tapping] Oh, a paint mixer? I think I had worked about, let's see, 35, 27,
2 about 8 years.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: Been there 8 years. [33:55] And in th-...
5
6Lue Sudduth: Yeah.
7
8Marilyn Coulter: ...in that 8-year timespan, it sounds as though the Paint Mixer was a preferred
9 job, yes?
10
11Lue Sudduth: Yes, it was.
12
13Marilyn Coulter: How – what type a reaction did you get with you bein' a, um, African-
14 American male, got that job back in those days, a preferred job such as that?
15 Was that well-received by your coworkers?
16
17Lue Sudduth: Yes, it was. Mm-hm.
18
19Marilyn Coulter: [tapping] Okay. [34:21] Um, so what were some of the big changes that you
20 saw in terms of race and gender in the Paint Department over your, um, long
21 years of working there?
22
23Lue Sudduth: Well, it was [inaudible 34:38] up and down, you know? You had different
24 peoples do different things [sniffing] and, uh, some peoples looked like could
25 do anything, and, uh, they would let it go, but then some peoples that would,
26 uh, just to be truthful which is some people would misuse the bathroom
27 breaks.
28
29Marilyn Coulter: [35:02] And this was across the board?
30
31Lue Sudduth: Yes, mm-hm. And, uh, then some of'm, you didn't have no problem with'm
32 about misusin' the bathroom breaks. They would get a relief like 15 minutes,
33 10 minutes, or 12 minutes, but then some of'm would use that for different
34 things, and then they'd a-, want a bathroom break, and some of'm would
35 misuse the bathroom break. But other than that, it was, it was good to work
36 with a lotta people, good to work with.
37
38Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
39
40Lue Sudduth: And the most job I worked on I could do myself. Now just for me, if you were
41 behind me or in front of me, I could do your job [clicking] and the job I was
42 doin' too. I could really do that.
43
44Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
45

1Lue Sudduth: And, uh, 'cause I had a – well, I he wasn't a – he was a friend or coworker,
2 and, uh, he went on [inaudible 36:00] too; name was [Ray Dunn 36:01].
3
4Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
5
6Lue Sudduth: And, uh, Ray and I would get together sometime and spray a car, and we
7 would spray, uh, 2 and a half job before guy wanted a break, wanted to smoke
8 a cigarette...
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
11
12Lue Sudduth: ...or anything.
13
14Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
15
16Lue Sudduth: We would – him and I would work our job and, uh, another half of another
17 man job, and he'd do the other half. We could do that.
18
19Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
20
21Lue Sudduth: But, uh, [clicking] a lotta peoples wouldn't do it, but him and I didn't mind
22 because we were [clicking] [sniffing], you know, he was a tall guy...
23
24Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
25
26Lue Sudduth: ...and long arms. When we were sprayin', if I didn't watch him, the hole in the
27 floor a the car, he'd take and cut his air hole off and scoop through there and
28 spray my shoe. [laughter] He'd load my shoes up with paint, and, uh, when I
29 found out he's doin' it, I w-, he'd turn his back on me, and when he's turned
30 his back, I'd go up and down his back with my hose [laughter], my paint. And
31 so, uh, well, it was all in fun. We never had any argument about it, anything.
32 Afterward, we would laugh and had play, uh, clean jokes like on one another.
33 We didn't ever get in a fist fight or anything, no...
34
35Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
36
37Lue Sudduth: ...nothin' like that. This was just, uh, somethin' that we enjoyed doin'...
38
39Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
40
41Lue Sudduth: ...because we was both young and about 20-somethin' years old and, uh, it – I
42 think about it now, you know what, we would laugh so hard until, uh, the
43 other peoples that workin' with us, 'cause I – most of'm was older than we
44 were, they would laugh with us about because we could get away it, and when
45 the, uh, supervisor came in and he'd be loaded with paint, either my shoes are
46 loaded with paint, the pant legs and thing, and he said, "How'd you get all that

1 paint on ya?" and, uh, I'd like across at my partner, and his name was Ray, I
2 said, "Ray sprayed me." "What'd he do that for?" "Aw, he just wanted
3 somethin' to do." [laughter] And we'd like it go. It was really nice. We, we
4 had a lotta, lotta good workers and good sprayers and good painters.
5
6Doreen Howard: Hm.
7
8Marilyn Coulter: [38:22] So when you say you sprayed paint, was there a particular part of the
9 job that you pai-, that you sprayed? What were you spra-, you know, what
10 were you spraying when you say you were spraying paint?
11
12Lue Sudduth: We would have to spray say, uh, either 'round the door, the front a the car and
13 open the door up and spray the inside a the door, and on the 2-doors it was
14 easy to spray, but the 4-doors was you had to be a little quicker. We had
15 certain spots, and then, uh, we'd have to spray the, uh, underneath the truck
16 layer, which was a little, little different, but and I said him and I would just
17 spray around the edge of the windshield and the doors and the back of the
18 windshield, and then a lotta time we'd have to spray [sniffing] edge a the
19 wheelhouse...
20
21Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
22
23Lue Sudduth: ...and it was in certain spots of a car you had to spray, because you had to – in
24 color, you had to change your hose for different colors of cars, but you know,
25 when, uh, after doin' it so long, after I got, got out on the Line, I was mixin'
26 the paint, they would run back with what they call blocks. A block is like
27 about 29 one color, but either 50 or 60 or 70 of one solid color, and that made
28 it real easy for the guys that were doin' the paint because they wouldn't have
29 to change their hose so often. And, uh, it was somethin'. Really, it was nice to
30 see. If you've never been in there, you never worked there, anybody that
31 drives a car, if they get a chance just to go and see what it is to – because at
32 this time [sniffing] when I was workin' and I started there, they didn't have
33 the robots; the robots came in just before I retired, some part of'm, and we
34 had, uh, what they, ya know, they had a overhead sprayer and a side sprayer,
35 but whoever's workin' next to that had to change the hose for it to run through
36 there, and then they got the computer, when they got a comp-, when we got
37 the computer I was still workin' there, and, uh, it was [tapping] guy on the
38 desk outside, he'd punch it in [tapping] from out there and the machine would
39 do it himself, [sniffing] and that was really somethin' to see...
40
41Doreen Howard: [40:59] So...
42
43Lue Sudduth: ...from the way...
44
45Doreen Howard: ...they went from the m-, this is Doreen Howard...
46

1Lue Sudduth: ...man-, went from manual...
2
3Doreen Howard: ...from a manual spray – and how...
4
5Lue Sudduth: ...to...
6
7Doreen Howard: ...how many people [tapping] do you think were in a booth...
8
9Lue Sudduth: Hm.
10
11Doreen Howard: ...sprayin’ at that time compared to when you saw the automation come in?
12 How many people...
13
14Lue Sudduth: It’d be, like, uh...
15
16Doreen Howard: ...did that eliminate?
17
18Lue Sudduth: ...it elimi-, it eliminated about [clicking] 15 or s-, ‘bout 16 people. [tapping]
19 Before that, it’d be about 24 peoples in there, be about 12 on each side...
20
21Doreen Howard: Mm.
22
23Lue Sudduth: ...and when they got the, uh, [sniffing] computers in there, it eliminated about
24 80% of the workers.
25
26Doreen Howard: [41:41] Now, how, how big is this booth that you’re talkin’ about? To have 24
27 people in it, it’d have to be quite large.
28
29Lue Sudduth: Uh, it, it ran about, uh, 28 to 30 feet long; say, uh, at least 28 or 30 feet long,
30 or more. [sniffing]
31
32Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
33
34Lue Sudduth: It was quite large.
35
36Doreen Howard: So that woulda been crowded, fairly crowded then t-, to have...
37
38Lue Sudduth: It was, uh...
39
40Doreen Howard: ...that many people...
41
42Lue Sudduth: ...uh...
43
44Doreen Howard: ...in there.
45

1Lue Sudduth: ...it wasn't – it might a been longer than that, but it was, it was an – like, east
2 side'd have about 12.
3
4Doreen Howard: Oh, okay.
5
6Lue Sudduth: So, and they'd be spaced out like different, mm-hm.
7
8Doreen Howard: Okay.
9
10Lue Sudduth: [sniffing] And, uh, they had like, uh, you had like about, your – each one had
11 about 6 to 8 feet that you worked in...
12
13Doreen Howard: [background movement] All right.
14
15Lue Sudduth: ...so that musta been more than 20-somethin' feet.
16
17Doreen Howard: So it was very, very large. [sniffing]
18
19Lue Sudduth: It was about, yeah, probably 38 or 40 feet, or maybe, maybe 50.
20
21Doreen Howard: Okay. [42:36] So...
22
23Lue Sudduth: It was quite long.
24
25Doreen Howard: ...now, you said in the beginning when they did the manual spraying that they
26 n-, would change colors, like one car would come in and be black, the next
27 one would be white, so they would have to change their hoses in...
28
29Lue Sudduth: Right.
30
31Doreen Howard: ...between each vehicle?
32
33Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh.
34
35Doreen Howard: [42:52] And then, as – when the automation came in, is that when they went
36 to the block painting?
37
38Lue Sudduth: R-, right. Mm-hm.
39
40Doreen Howard: Okay. [42:59] And that helped to reduce, uh, quality issues? Is that what the...
41
42Lue Sudduth: No, it really...
43
44Doreen Howard: ...the reason?
45
46Lue Sudduth: ...it, actually all it did was reduce the labor...

1
2Doreen Howard: Okay.
3
4Lue Sudduth: ...because there wasn't as many peoples; reduced the labor real, real...
5
6Doreen Howard: Okay.
7
8Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, we had a guy in there and, uh, he was lookin' at the com-, robot,
9 and, uh, some supervisor wanted somebody to look at it, so and he asked'm,
10 said, "What do you think about that? That take care a five men." He said,
11 "Yeah, that's nice," and he said, "but that robot don't buy no car."
12
13Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
14
15Lue Sudduth: So.
16
17Doreen Howard: [43:40] So when the, um, they went and they went to automation, it reduced
18 the number of, of employees in there, and, and th-, also at that time, they went
19 to the block painting.
20
21Lue Sudduth: Right. Mm-hm.
22
23Doreen Howard: Okay. [43:59] And, um, they went to that, I assume, because it was easier for
24 someone to not have to change the robots programming...
25
26Lue Sudduth: Right.
27
28Doreen Howard: ...aft-, after every...
29
30Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
31
32Doreen Howard: ...single vehicle versus maybe 10 or how many ever vehicles that they would
33 program to spray...
34
35Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
36
37Doreen Howard: ...one particular color?
38
39Lue Sudduth: They, they, they ran f-, in the, in the block, they ran at least 28 to 70.
40
41Doreen Howard: Okay. [tapping]
42
43Lue Sudduth: So you have quite a while a one color goin' through, and it made it, uh, well,
44 it was convenient for the workers because they didn't have to change their
45 hoses, and, uh, the hose would be hangin' on the wall. You'd reach back and
46 get that number...

1
2Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
3
4Lue Sudduth: ...and you had a certain area to spray it [tapping] and ya have so many feets to,
5 to spray it, the time to spray it in, and they would run like, uh, 60 jobs an hour,
6 1 job a minute, and then sometime it'd be 52 jobs an hour..
7
8Doreen Howard: Hm.
9
10Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh...
11
12Marilyn Coulter: Um, not only was – Marilyn Coulter. Not only was automation in paint
13 changing constantly, the name – Fisher Body, BOC, Lansing Car Assembly –
14 changed. What's your reaction to the changes? How'd it affect you? How do
15 you view the Plant? What do you call it?
16
17Lue Sudduth: Well, I was always used to Fisher Body [tapping] but I think when I retired,
18 they had it all was GM. I really didn't pay that much, uh – it really didn't
19 concern me that much, I'll put it that way. It really didn't concern me that
20 much, but, uh, to me, it was always a place where they built cars, and, uh,
21 there was sometime I would go out into the, to the layout where the, uh, I had
22 a lotta time, really, on my job after I was mixin' paint, because a lotta time I
23 wouldn't have to do nothin' in 2, 3 hours or more, and I had a lotta time to
24 kill, and I'd go out and see what they, uh, started buildin' next model, and
25 you'd be surprised at, uh, how much work and how many, uh, peoples is in
26 this building a new body, a new style, I'd say. It was a new style. Say the next,
27 next year they would have to go through, uh, a period of times at least 4 or 5
28 or 6 months to get this body style that they want for the next year, and, uh, I
29 just enjoyed lookin' at everything they had on the wall and on the tables, and
30 I'd go and just look at it and see, and they would have every [papers rustling]
31 spot-weld number in there [papers rustling], like the number a spot-welds on
32 that body. They'd have all of'm numbered, and, uh, it was, uh, looked like a
33 Chinese checkerboard. [laughter] But it was really n-, really somethin' to see.
34
35Doreen Howard: Doreen Howard. Um, I'd like to go back to, um, what you were describing
36 earlier about paint, the paint mixing and the p-, um, some a the procedures and
37 steps that you did during that. Um, you talked about these huge trucks coming
38 in with, with paint and they you mixed them with, uh, a solvent and...
39
40Lue Sudduth: A thinner.
41
42Doreen Howard: A thinner?
43
44Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh.
45

1Doreen Howard: [47:56] And you actually put a color. Is, is that what your – is that why you
2 were mixing the paint? You were making – you actually went in there and put
3 the certain amounts of each color to come out with X, Y, Z...
4
5Lue Sudduth: No.
6
7Doreen Howard: ...color when, at the other end.
8
9Lue Sudduth: No.
10
11Doreen Howard: No?
12
13Lue Sudduth: They would bring it in what they call a tow tank...
14
15Doreen Howard: Okay.
16
17Lue Sudduth: ...and they'd have a number on it. If it's 22, it's blue...
18
19Doreen Howard: Okay.
20
21Lue Sudduth: ...and if it's, uh, 40, it's white, and what it is, the paint is in the tow, but we'd
22 have to mix thinner in it to get it where we could spray it outta the gun.
23
24Doreen Howard: Oh, 'cause it was thickened.
25
26Lue Sudduth: It was thickened, uh-huh.
27
28Doreen Howard: Okay.
29
30Lue Sudduth: And that's w-, in the top of it we had like a, what they call a agitator, and it
31 run by, uh, air, and we'd put the, oh, take the top off and drop this agitator
32 down in the top of it and put this, uh, uh, agitator...
33
34Marilyn Coulter: [48:55] Like a big blender?
35
36Lue Sudduth: ...uh, agitator. It was small. You'd be surprised.
37
38Marilyn Coulter: Mm.
39
40Lue Sudduth: Probably about 10 inches 'round.
41
42Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
43
44Lue Sudduth: But it, it had like a bottom had blades on it...
45
46Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

1
2Lue Sudduth: ...and it had a little cup around it. We'd put it in there and we would agitate it
3 for about, oh, 10 or 12 hours.
4
5Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
6
7Doreen Howard: Oh.
8
9Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh, and then we would pump it out into a mixin' tank. We would take
10 and pump out like from three to four-hundred pounds; we'd mix it by the
11 pound.
12
13Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
14
15Lue Sudduth: And then we would add about, uh, 60 pounds or 75 pounds of thinner is what
16 they call it.
17
18Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
19
20Lue Sudduth: It was called a 6202, a thinner to mix it so that that would – because when it
21 comes in, it's real thick like.
22
23Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
24
25Lue Sudduth: And, uh, we'd mix it by the pound, and then when we'd get it – mix it up,
26 we'd put then a tank on the other side that we'd mix it in. They had two tanks;
27 one would pump it upstairs through the line and the, wouldn't believe it, but
28 the line would be about 32 miles...
29
30Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
31
32Lue Sudduth: ...through the – you wouldn't think a that much room in there of where the
33 line would go...
34
35Doreen Howard: [50:07] That's what I was...
36
37Lue Sudduth: ...and...
38
39Doreen Howard: ...wondering, how it got from...
40
41Lue Sudduth: From the mixer...
42
43Doreen Howard: ...the, the – 'cause the paint mix area is not anywhere near where the...
44
45Lue Sudduth: What they're usin'...
46

1Doreen Howard: ...Paint Dep-, where they actually painted at in...
2
3Lue Sudduth: Right.
4
5Doreen Howard: ...in the facility, correct?
6
7Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh. It's a long ways.
8
9Doreen Howard: Okay.
10
11Lue Sudduth: And, uh, pump it upst-, and, uh, up through the line, and it had, uh, a up pu-,
12 you pumped it through the line and the return would turn back because you
13 couldn't just let it sit; if it sit, then it would dry like. You had to keep it turned
14 and keep it movin', goin' up and comin' back...
15
16Doreen Howard: Okay...
17
18Lue Sudduth: ...and it'd come back and the same thing, in the tank.
19
20Doreen Howard: [50:44] Now, is that why the – 'cause you said you worked just horrendous
21 amounts of hours. Eh, did you have to come in so much earlier in order to get
22 the paint flowed and have it to the area where they needed it by the time that
23 the p-, the, the other employees for the Paint Department came in and used to
24 s-, to spray? Is that why you had to come in so much earlier?
25
26Lue Sudduth: R-, right. We'd come in early enough to, uh, mix up the paints, all the
27 different colors a paint, which was 13, to make sure that we got enough in the
28 tank for them to start with.
29
30Doreen Howard: To start the [inaudible 51:23].
31
32Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh. But then, after when they started runnin' the blocks, we had it made.
33 It was, uh, 'cause we'd look on the, either on the computer or on the sheet.
34 Every shift would leave them a note and we'd know what's running to which,
35 which color's runnin' to which, and we'd mix that up. We would take our
36 time with the rest of it. And, uh, it, it was very easy, but you know, have you
37 really, uh – to me, some peoples don't mind readin' and studyin', and, uh,
38 they would send us to school one day a month and one week a year, but they'd
39 pay us for it, [rattling]...
40
41Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
42
43Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, I never did turn it down, but a lotta guys, they, they would go to
44 school and go to sleep [tapping], but whenever I went, I always read
45 everything that they put in front a me, and, uh, [tapping] it was, uh, a job, if
46 you wanted to do it and do it right, you could enjoy it, because the, uh, what

1 we use, we use some high thinner to clean the lines with. Actually, we use
2 ether, but they n-, 99% of the peoples in the job didn't know that we used
3 ether down there...
4
5Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
6
7Lue Sudduth: ...and uh, when we was usin' it, I was the only one that wasn't afraid of it...
8
9Doreen Howard: Hm.
10
11Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, because I would put a Scott pack on it, put on a rubber apron,
12 [inaudible 52:55]...
13
14Marilyn Coulter: A Scott pack is what, please?
15
16Lue Sudduth: Is a air con-, is a, is a air conditioned – not air condition – it's really, uh, like,
17 uh, breathing, so you...
18
19Marilyn Coulter: A breathing tank.
20
21Lue Sudduth: ...can breathe – mm-hm, breathing tank. Mm-hm. And, uh, I didn't mind usin'
22 it. And, uh, I, I read up on it and know how to handle it. The main thing when
23 we get into somethin' dangerous, we don't read the instruction before we start
24 usin' it...
25
26Marilyn Coulter: So – Marilyn Coulter. [53:23] So, your job was, number one, sounds like it
27 was very dangerous; number two, it sounds like you worked in a, um,
28 authorized personnel only area, correct?
29
30Lue Sudduth: Correct.
31
32Marilyn Coulter: [53:35] So...
33
34Lue Sudduth: Y-...
35
36Marilyn Coulter: ...ya had to have special training in order to be down in the paint mixing
37 [inaudible 53:39].
38
39Lue Sudduth: Right, you, you, you have to have the trainin' or somebody in there know
40 what they was doin'...
41
42Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
43
44Lue Sudduth: ...to use it, [background conversation] because I had two brothers to work in
45 there with me, and, uh, it was [inaudible 53:53] [Larry 53:53], and uh, one
46 name was Larry and I forget the younger name. Anyway, but they worked in

1 there with me when we, we would use ether, they would, uh, they would just
2 go out and ask me did I need any help, and I'd tell'm no, I said I knew what
3 I'm doin', say, "Best for you to go out?" And with the Scott pack on, it's like
4 a air blowin' through here all the time, I was getting' fresh air...
5
6Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
7
8Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, [background conversation] then, when we, uh, pump it back out, I'd
9 put a tow tank and put it back through the line and hooked the, uh,
10 [background conversation] line up [background conversation] to the back in
11 the old tow and let it pump in the, uh, tow tank, and, mm, take about probably
12 30 minute to get about, uh, 5,500 tow tank full back, [background
13 conversation] and then we would put a tag on it, set it outside, and some truck
14 would come in [background conversation] and haul it away. [background
15 conversation] Now, where they hauled it, we didn't know...
16
17Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
18
19Lue Sudduth: ...and we didn't ask.
20
21Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
22
23Lue Sudduth: But we didn't ever leave it inside. We'd close it up tight and set it outside,
24 and...
25
26Doreen Howard: Doreen Howard. [55:04] Um, you, you said th-, it was called a Scott pack? Is
27 that what that, the apparatus, the protective equipment...
28
29Lue Sudduth: It was, uh, it was like a, uh, oxygen in it.
30
31Doreen Howard: Oxygen tank...
32
33Lue Sudduth: Oxygen tank...
34
35Doreen Howard: ...like oxygen...
36
37Lue Sudduth: ...uh-huh.
38
39Doreen Howard: ...tank – so...
40
41Lue Sudduth: Oxygen tank.
42
43Doreen Howard: ...so...
44
45Lue Sudduth: Just put – you strap it on your shoulder...
46

1Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
2
3Lue Sudduth: ...and you had a [background conversation], a little turner on it, [background
4 conversation] and you'd turn it up to get as much air you want comin' out
5 through your...
6
7Doreen Howard: [55:31] So, was a confined space that, that you were in, d-...
8
9Lue Sudduth: To use it.
10
11Doreen Howard: ...t-, in order to use that...
12
13Lue Sudduth: Ah, yes, it was.
14
15Doreen Howard: ...you said th-, for the most part, you were in there alone...
16
17Lue Sudduth: Well, I, I, I would...
18
19Doreen Howard: ...[inaudible 55:44]?
20
21Lue Sudduth: ...yeah, I would be in there alone, mm-hm. [background conversation] But the
22 guys knew I was in there...
23
24Doreen Howard: [background conversation] Okay.
25
26Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, they, uh...
27
28Doreen Howard: [background conversation] Keep an eye...
29
30Lue Sudduth: ...keep...
31
32Doreen Howard: ...on ya?
33
34Lue Sudduth: Oh yeah, they – if I went out, in, uh, say 15 or 20 minutes, they would come
35 around and, and look...
36
37Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
38
39Lue Sudduth: ...and check.
40
41Doreen Howard: [55:59] Now, I can recall when I worked in the Paint Department [background
42 conversation] they talked about some, [background conversation] um, a
43 button, some kind of a, a button that if, if the person who was inside, they
44 would push some button and make the paint drop or, or somethin' to that
45 effect so that they could... and they had so many seconds to get out of
46 [background conversation] that confined space.

1
2Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
3
4Doreen Howard: I'm not, not...
5
6Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 56:29]...
7
8Doreen Howard: ...really sure what it was all...
9
10Marilyn Coulter: ...[inaudible 56:29] fire?
11
12Lue Sudduth: That's in case of fire.
13
14Doreen Howard: That w-, what was for f-...
15
16Lue Sudduth: 45 seconds. You had 45 seconds...
17
18Doreen Howard: ...that was for fire.
19
20Lue Sudduth: ...to get out.
21
22Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
23
24Lue Sudduth: And, uh, they used to tease me about it, and we had a big ol', uh, [background
25 conversation] forklift in there. [background conversation] [recorder clicking]
26
27Doreen Howard: Okay.
28
29Lue Sudduth: Now...
30
31Doreen Howard: So, um, that was used for, um, in case of a fire. [56:51] Was fire something
32 that would occur? D-, did that every happen during your time...
33
34Lue Sudduth: Not, not...
35
36Doreen Howard: ...there? Were...
37
38Lue Sudduth: ...not...
39
40Doreen Howard: ...they...
41
42Lue Sudduth: ...not while I was there, a fire never occurred, but we had a young engineer
43 that come in and didn't know what he was doin', and what he did, he pushed
44 the button twice, and it, when it pushed that button, the doors lock, and, uh,
45 the oxide is a big tank sittin' outside, they call it oxide, and what it does, it
46 would come in and smother everything and couldn't nobody breathe in there;

1 if you were still in there, you couldn't breathe, and but ya had 45 seconds to
2 get out, and the doors would automatically lock, and when they talked to me
3 about it, I tell'm, I say, "You see that [electric 57:36] truck up there?" I say,
4 "It won't kill that," I said, "but if it every happen, I'm makin' me a new door
5 through that, uh, block wall over there. I'm goin' out through that door with
6 that big truck, [laughter] making a new door. I'm getting' outta here." And
7 they just laugh and said, "Well, you got nerve." I said, "Well, no, I'm just
8 particular [background conversation] about [sniffing] what I can do to get
9 out"...

10
11Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.

12
13Lue Sudduth: ...but just so happen when he did it, wasn't anybody in there, and, uh, he
14 pushed the button twice. What [sniffing] they was doin', they was gonna bring
15 him down there as a supervisor, but after that, hey, we said, "No, we don't
16 want this young fella. Not, not in here. If he don't know what he's doin', he's
17 just punchin' buttons because they're up there. And it was a big red button
18 about 5 inches around. He didn't know what it was; didn't read it, didn't look
19 at it or nothin'. He just, just punched it, and it shut everything down, and, uh,
20 so, ya know, I don't know what they did with him, but, uh, they sent him to
21 school [laughter] for engineer...

22
23Doreen Howard: Hm.

24
25Lue Sudduth: ...but this is what he come in and did, and after he did that, I didn't see him
26 anymore. [laughter]

27
28Doreen Howard: [58:53] Now, if they, if they did something like that and you say it shuts
29 everything down, everything meaning just [tapping], just the paint mix area,
30 or did it affect the whole entire Paint Department, or the whole Plant? How,
31 how far...

32
33Lue Sudduth: It just...

34
35Doreen Howard: ...reaching...

36
37Lue Sudduth: ...mm-hm.

38
39Doreen Howard: ...was this particular...

40
41Lue Sudduth: It would just shut the Paint...

42
43Doreen Howard: Just the...

44
45Lue Sudduth: ...Department...

46

1Doreen Howard: ...just the...
2
3Lue Sudduth: ...down, uh-huh.
4
5Doreen Howard: ...Paint Department alone?
6
7Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh. P-, Paint Department alone. Everything, it would kill everything. In
8 other word, it just smother it...
9
10Doreen Howard: Hm.
11
12Lue Sudduth: ...and it was like, uh, a foam comin' out [papers rustling] of, uh, [chair
13 squeaking] a place that had in there...
14
15Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
16
17Lue Sudduth: ...it's like a white foam, and what it did, [papers rustling] it smothered
18 everything...
19
20Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
21
22Lue Sudduth: ...'cause the fire won't burn unless it get air.
23
24Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
25
26Lue Sudduth: So this is what it, what it do.
27
28Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
29
30Doreen Howard: [59:40] So like Marilyn was saying earlier that, um, it's, uh, was a very
31 dangerous job if you didn't know what you were doing and you didn't have
32 the correct training, and so you said that the training was ongoing...
33
34Lue Sudduth: It was, yes; the training was...
35
36Doreen Howard: ...the whole time...
37
38Lue Sudduth: ...ongoing...
39
40Doreen Howard: ...and...
41
42Lue Sudduth: ...uh-huh, it...
43
44Doreen Howard: ...they – the whole time you worked there, you had to continually be retrained
45 on...
46

1Lue Sudduth: For the twenty...
2
3Doreen Howard: ...[inaudible 60:06]...
4
5Lue Sudduth: ...for the 27 years I worked in there, I would go to school 1 day a month. They
6 would send me to school 1 day a month and 1 week a year.
7
8Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
9
10Lue Sudduth: And everything that come in, I would read it, and, uh, I would read up on
11 everything. [background noises] We had some, uh, a thinner, [background
12 conversation] it was 60 O [background conversation] 1. We couldn't use, uh,
13 uh, wa-, we had to use brass tools to open it up, [background conversation]
14 and anything we did in around it, we always had to have brass screwdriver, a
15 brass channel locks, a brass [background conversation], uh, wrench to open it
16 up, because a spark from, uh, any kind of a tool would set it off.
17
18Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
19
20Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
21
22Doreen Howard: Hm.
23
24Lue Sudduth: And see, these are the thing that you should read up on, and the main thing
25 was [background conversation] they furnished us the tools. We didn't have to
26 buy the tools; they furnished us the tools.
27
28Doreen Howard: Doreen Howard again. [61:18] Now, during your time there, did th-, did the
29 paint system stay the same or did, did anything ever change as far as the paint
30 or the way in which it was mixed or the type of, uh, chemicals that you used
31 or, or was that pretty much consistent during the whole time that you worked
32 there?
33
34Lue Sudduth: The who-, y-, yes, [background conversation] the whole time I worked there,
35 [background conversation] it was, uh, the mixer that you, the m-, the
36 chemica-, [background conversation] actually, the thinner that you use, some
37 of it would cau-, [background conversation] some a the paint would, you'd
38 have to use more thinner in different one, because if you didn't, [background
39 conversation] if you got it too thin, and when you spray it on the p-, job, on
40 the car, [background conversation] it ran [background conversation] like, uh,
41 water was in it or somethin'. And another thing, some of it was a little heavier,
42 you use it a little heavier, and then some areas you could spray it a little
43 heavier, like on the roof and the, uh, hood and the side a the cars and the
44 trunk. Now, around the doors, you could spray it a little heavier around the
45 door because it would stay a little better.
46

1Doreen Howard: [62:32] So each sh-, color had its own...
2
3Lue Sudduth: Number.
4
5Doreen Howard: ...viscosity? Is that what they...
6
7Lue Sudduth: Right.
8
9Doreen Howard: ...call it?
10
11Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh.
12
13Doreen Howard: An-, and, and then each area of the car also h-, had, uh, [background
14 conversation] different, um, paint viscosities also depending on where they
15 were spraying it...
16
17Lue Sudduth: Right.
18
19Doreen Howard: ...and how much paint they wanted...
20
21Lue Sudduth: How much paint...
22
23Doreen Howard: ...to go on...
24
25Lue Sudduth: ...they want on it, uh-huh.
26
27Doreen Howard: Oh. [background conversation]
28
29Marilyn Coulter: [62:56] Um, so, um, in that – just kinda movin’ away from how to paint a
30 car...
31
32Doreen Howard: Yeah.
33
34Marilyn Coulter: ...a little bit, [background conversation] what would you say – I know you
35 said that you had a surprise birthday party. Was that your best memory in the
36 Plant? [background conversation] Or what was your best memory of the
37 Plant? [background conversation]
38
39Lue Sudduth: I think probably my birthday, because [background conversation] was the best
40 memory of, uh, the people’s that I didn’t know that knew me. [background
41 conversation] I really didn’t know that everybody in the Plant knew me...
42
43Marilyn Coulter: That well.
44
45Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, to find out that you work at a place this many years and everybody
46 knew you and they all gave me a r-, l-, respected me...

1
2Marilyn Coulter: [background conversation] Mm-hm.
3
4Lue Sudduth: ...because, uh, [background conversation] mostly everyone in there that knew
5 me [coughing] knew I went to church and, uh, [background conversation]
6 knew I was a [background conversation] type a guy [background
7 conversation] that would try to do anything to help anybody that was ask.
8 [background conversation] Wasn't, wasn't anybody in there that asked me
9 somethin' and if I could help'm or tell'm, I did.
10
11Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
12
13Marilyn Coulter: [64:12] N-, now, you said that you, um, were at church. I know that they had
14 bible study groups and things like that. Did you participate in those groups at
15 work?
16
17Lue Sudduth: Yes, I did. I'm s-, mm-hm, I really did, [background conversation] and we, uh,
18 like a bible class during our lunch hour, because our lunch hour, most lunch
19 hour was 42 minutes, and for the 42 minutes, we would sit down in certain
20 area with certain peoples that wanted to have it [background conversation]
21 and we'd have our lunch [background conversation], and while we're there,
22 because I used to go to different places in the Shop where they had the bible
23 class durin' lunch hour...
24
25Marilyn Coulter: Mm.
26
27Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh...
28
29Marilyn Coulter: [64:52] They have'm in Po-, Body, Paint, Trim?
30
31Lue Sudduth: Everywhere in there, uh-huh; different peoples, and different people was in it.
32
33Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
34
35Lue Sudduth: And, uh, you, you know, if you, uh, [background conversation] treat peoples
36 right...
37
38Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
39
40Lue Sudduth: ...and treat'm like you wanna be treated, everybody [background
41 conversation] in different places would somehow or another, you'd get
42 known...
43
44Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
45
46Lue Sudduth: ...that this is [background conversation] who he is or who they are...

1
2Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
3
4Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, they was just, uh – it was really enjoyable.
5
6Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [65:23] So, um, [background conversation]...
7
8Doreen Howard: I, I had a question.
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
11
12Doreen Howard: Um, Doreen Howard again. [65:29] Um, earlier, you talked about your son
13 and you had a son that, that worked there. Did you, um, encourage you family
14 to come to work for General Motors?
15
16Lue Sudduth: I really didn't. His, his idea was that, uh, he wanted a job and he didn't wanna
17 go to school. Now, my oldest daughter, she went to school in Missouri, and
18 the youngest one, [background conversation] he, uh, had a scholarship
19 [background conversation] for UCLA, a 4-year scholarship, and when he got
20 to California – but the son that worked there, he took up, uh, aviation and he
21 finished school in that, went, uh, down Lansing Community, and, uh, he
22 wanted a job in there, [background conversation] and I got him, I turned his
23 name in and he come in 2 days after high school and, uh, but the, but the
24 youngest one, since he had a offer for UCLA, he went to UCLA right after
25 high school, and I think it was nineteen-seventy – let's see, he was born in
26 nineteen-sixty...
27
28Marilyn Coulter: 1978.
29
30Lue Sudduth: 1978.
31
32Marilyn Coulter: I went to school with your son.
33
34Lue Sudduth: With [Larell 66:51]? [Rodell 66:51]?
35
36Marilyn Coulter: Rodell.
37
38Lue Sudduth: Oh did ya?
39
40Marilyn Coulter: Yeah.
41
42Lue Sudduth: And he went to, uh – so he flew out to California. My wife had two sisters
43 lived in Inglewood and a brother [background conversation] lived up in
44 Baldwin Hill [background noises] and he, uh, didn't wanna go, he wouldn't
45 go to UCLA.
46

1Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
2
3Lue Sudduth: He wanted to go to USC. And you know, things work out for ya I guess right.
4 I had a first cousin I'd never seen before, till '98, [papers rustling] and she
5 taught at USC [background conversation] and retired from USC, and I met her
6 in 1998 when my son out there, her son was graduatin' from high school and
7 she's up in the stand, and she lives in Sacramento now...
8
9Doreen Howard: Mm.
10
11Lue Sudduth: ...but, uh, I got to meet her in '98, [background conversation] and she told me
12 after I told my son we met her that she woulda got him into school free if, uh,
13 she'd a known, but we had never met and didn't even know one another.
14
15Marilyn Coulter: Things happen like that.
16
17Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh, and then to turn around, his two daughters started the school that
18 year, see, for smart kids, and, uh, [background conversation], so the one
19 of'm's [background conversation] 13 now, she's in the 8th Grade, [tapping]
20 and they told her [tapping] they didn't have to pay nothin', and they still don't
21 have to pay noth-, but they have to transfer'm home, from home back and
22 forth to school/
23
24Doreen Howard: Mm.
25
26Marilyn Coulter: [68:18] So now, does your son that worked here in the Plant, does he still
27 work at Fisher Body?
28
29Lue Sudduth: He work at General – he, he transferred to Doraville, Georgia...
30
31Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
32
33Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, he's still workin' at Doraville. [sniffing] He's, I think he's got about
34 28 years [tapping]...
35
36Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
37
38Lue Sudduth: ...but he's, he called and told me that they was gonna close in 2008...
39
40Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
41
42Lue Sudduth: ...but, uh, so he's was goin' to school for management, so he signed up to go
43 back and finish his schoolin'.
44
45Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
46

1Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh, and the, uh, the one in California, [chair squeaking] he's got three
2 degrees. I said, "What, what you doin' with three degrees anyway?" but he
3 said, "Well, Dad," said, "the more ya know, the better chance you have."
4
5Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
6
7Lue Sudduth: And uh, he's been on the force for 15 or 16 years...
8
9Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
10
11Lue Sudduth: ...and he's been in different places, and he's, uh. [recorder clicking]
12
13Marilyn Coulter: Couple more.
14
15Doreen Howard: [69:13] During your time in the paint mix area, you said you had a lot of, uh,
16 hours of free time. Was there anything in particular that you did during that,
17 that time when you had, ya know, 2 or 3 hours to do what, what you wanted to
18 do?
19
20Lue Sudduth: Well, I'd go take a nap. [laughter]
21
22Doreen Howard: Take a nap. Okay.
23
24Lue Sudduth: Sorry to put that one there, but.
25
26Doreen Howard: First, first order of business.
27
28Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm. [laughter]
29
30Doreen Howard: Yeah.
31
32Marilyn Coulter: Then...
33
34Lue Sudduth: Take some time...
35
36Marilyn Coulter: ...you're well-rested.
37
38Lue Sudduth: ...mm-hm. Sometime I would take a nap, and, uh, we had places that was, uh,
39 off-limit to this workin' peoples, and to tell it now, I guess it won't hurt. We
40 had eight beds in there [laughter] and, uh, I would, uh, go get in the best bed.
41
42Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
43
44Lue Sudduth: I always got in the best bed...
45
46Doreen Howard: [papers rustling] Mm-hm.

1
2Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, the guys in there knew me, so and they wouldn't do no work quiet
3 I'm sleepin' under there, if I go to sleep, I'd get on the bench. We had a
4 couple flaps, one go on this and one goin' ahead, and I'd get under and some
5 people would come in to fix a gun or a hose, [background conversation] and
6 he would get on the vice and start openin' up, and the guy sittin' there, he
7 said, "What you fixin' to do?" Said, "I'm fixin' to repair this hose here."
8 [background conversation] [tapping] He said, "No, not yet." [thumping] He
9 had to 'bout [laughter], 'bout 150 feets, see, he have to go up to the other end.
10 He said, "Why?" He said, "Lue asleep under there," and the, they knew who I
11 was, so they'd just goin' up th-, I didn't even know they was in there. Come in
12 there, repair the gun, [clicking] do the same thing, he'd say, "Lue asleep under
13 there." And, uh, [background conversation] I had a friend work at Olds' and
14 he come in here lookin' for me for at least 15 or 20 years [background
15 conversation] and never found me. [laughter] I would either be [background
16 conversation] up on the floor [background conversation] and, uh, [background
17 conversation] [background movement] we had, uh, [tapping] what ya call a
18 55-gallon, uh, call it urethane. [clicking] It's, uh, what they stick the
19 windshield [inaudible 71:37]...

20
21Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 71:37].

22
23Lue Sudduth: ...seal the windshield...

24
25Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.

26
27Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, [tapping] [background conversation] so they called me in one day
28 and they're havin' a meetin'. They was shippin' back like from 17 to 18
29 [inaudible 71:50], [chair squeaking] [background conversation] and I forget
30 the price of'm, but it was a heck of a price on'm, and they asked me, uh,
31 called me into a special meetin', right, and asked me, uh, [background
32 conversation] what about the pumps that pumps it? They had all the
33 millwrights in a meetin' I was in, and the pump they had in there was what
34 they call, uh, a hydraulic pump, but a hydraulic pump could be any pump, but
35 dif-, this kind wh-, when the pump go down, it pumped the material out, and
36 when it went up, it pumped the material out; [background conversation] it
37 pumped it out both ways, and, uh, most a the millwrights didn't know what it
38 was [background conversation] and so they had me in there and, uh, the, the,
39 uh, [inaudible 72:38] was in there, the Plant Manager, and, uh, so I, he said
40 that, uh, "They do what?" I said, "Pump the material both way," and some a
41 the guy, you know, you gonna get some smart guys in there, [inaudible
42 72:52], "What you mean it pump both way?" and I said, [tapping] "You the
43 millwright, you outta know," and I told, told'm, I say "The-, all these guys
44 you got sittin' around here don't none of'm know how it work," [background
45 conversation] and nobody said they knew. And there was another guy named
46 [Mike 73:09], Big Mike I call him. So [inaudible 73:12] always got along real

1 good with Big Mike, he was a millwright, and he said, "Lue," said, "how does
2 it work?" He said, I said, "Mike, there all these guys sittin'." I said, "What
3 they payin' all these guys for?" [laughter] "I, I ain't gettin' paid for it." I said,
4 "You guys getting' paid for to fix these and repair'm and know how they
5 work." You know, so the Plant Manager asked me, said, "Well, Lue, you
6 know how it work?" I said, "Yeah, I know how it work." He said, "Well, what
7 – how does it work?" and I explained it to him. I said, [tapping] "It pumps the
8 material both ways, and the material, when you put it on the car, it could sit
9 there for a week on that, 'round that windshield...
10
11Marilyn Coulter: Mm.
12
13Lue Sudduth: ...and you put the windshield in it, it'll stick, but when it's in the drum and ya
14 open it up and let the air to it, it, it plugs up, it won't pump no more, the
15 material ain't workin', it won't pump no more.
16
17Marilyn Coulter: Mm.
18
19Lue Sudduth: So and, uh, they asked me to take care of it. I said, "Take care of it?"
20 [coughing] I said, he said, "Yeah," said, "We'll pay ya." Said, "Anytime
21 somethin' goes wrong," they just said, "we'll, if we call you in and if you stay
22 here an hour, 2 hours," said, "we'll double your time; if it's a holiday, we'll
23 triple your time." So and I took care of it for a long time and didn't have no
24 trouble, but they was sendin' back like 17 and 18 drums back to the company
25 that they had opened it up and let the air hit it, and when the air hit it, it just
26 ruins it; it wouldn't pump out.
27
28Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. Skim over.
29
30Lue Sudduth: Uh-huh, skim over and everything and it was thick and it wouldn't pump out...
31
32Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
33
34Lue Sudduth: And then when they did put on a windshield, it wasn't, wasn't, uh, stickin', it
35 wouldn't hold the windshield like it should.
36
37Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
38
39Lue Sudduth: So then when I got ready to retire, they asked me to train three more guys how
40 to do it.
41
42Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
43
44Lue Sudduth: So and I took [inaudible 75:03] two more guys up there every time I change it,
45 because you had it on the floor and roll it, put on the roller, and you could roll
46 it for a week and it still wouldn't hurt it, no matter how long you wanna rolled

1 it, and I explained to him that you can't let the air hit it; you got to make sure
2 you put the top back on it and, uh, keep it flowin' through the hose [coughing]
3 back in and out [coughing] of the, if it's a week or weekend. But anyway,
4 these guys that was in there s-, in, when I told'm that, uh, "You got all these
5 guys. What you payin'm' for?" All of'm looked at me and turned red
6 [laughter]. 'Scuse me, honey, don't mean any harm, but the [inaudible 75:47]
7 turned red, wanted to know how I know how it worked. And I told'm, I said,
8 "I read it. You guys do somethin', you don't read everything ya do. Ya take it
9 for granted that you know how to do it," you know.
10
11Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
12
13Lue Sudduth: So I had read up on it, and then after that, they didn't ha-, when they sent the,
14 the, uh, drum back, it didn't have [sniffing] nothin' in it but a little thinner,
15 you know, to wash'm out. So they, but they paid me, and I didn't mind it.
16 And, uh...
17
18Marilyn Coulter: [76:19] Um, [clicking] [inaudible 76:19] I wanted to know, I know you told
19 me that, um, you still keep in touch with some a the people that you made as
20 friends here, yes?
21
22Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
23
24Marilyn Coulter: [76:31] And, um, what are some a the things that you do [clicking] with, with
25 the people outside of here?
26
27Lue Sudduth: Well, some a, one or two of'm, we go to the same church...
28
29Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
30
31Lue Sudduth: ...and we just go to church together, and, uh...
32
33Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
34
35Lue Sudduth: ...we have, uh, a event or somethin' at church, you know...
36
37Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
38
39Lue Sudduth: ...it's nice to have somebody to talk to and visit.
40
41Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
42
43Lue Sudduth: And, uh, but a lot of'm that I fish and hunt with have already passed, you
44 know, they're gone, and but the one that I know now just go to church and do
45 because...
46

1Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
2
3Lue Sudduth: ...some of'm play golf...
4
5Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
6
7Lue Sudduth: ...which I don't, but I c-, should have...
8
9Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
10
11Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, some of'm takes vacation, and [coughing] they, uh, wanna – ya
12 know, some peoples'll ask you, "How can you go to California and Arizona
13 and stay 6 months?"
14
15Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
16
17Lue Sudduth: And so they wanna know how'd I do it. I said, "I just do it."
18
19Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
20
21Lue Sudduth: Because you, uh, you work 35 years and you join nice, us, pay...
22
23Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
24
25Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh [recorder clicking] – s-, is that runnin'?
26
27Marilyn Coulter: Yeah.
28
29Lue Sudduth: S-, so, it's just a f-, f-, uh, few of'm that I do know that's retired like I am,
30 and, uh, they, uh – I don't know why they try to live above their means or
31 what, but you know, you can, you can adjust to anything if you're willing to.
32
33Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
34
35Lue Sudduth: And so, uh, I haven't did any kinda job for pay since I've been out, and it's
36 been, see, uh, eighty-, '89, and this – well, this, be 16, 16 years this month,
37 and, uh...
38
39Marilyn Coulter: That's wonderful.
40
41Lue Sudduth: ...it's good...
42
43Marilyn Coulter: [78:21] Now, before you left, I know that you said that you were a supervisor,
44 but were you [clicking] – did you ever get involved with the union activities
45 around the union? Did you have any, um, dealings with the union?
46

1Lue Sudduth: Oh, yeah.
2
3Marilyn Coulter: [78:37] What types of things did you do for the union?
4
5Lue Sudduth: Well, when you go in there, they tell ya you don't hit a supervisor or you
6 don't steal. I had a young man that was workin' when I was a supervisor, and,
7 uh, him and his mother-in-law worked there, and, uh, he was stealin' wires,
8 you know, electric wires...
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
11
12Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, when I, when I took him to the office, uh, they asked him what was
13 he doin' with his wires. He first said he wasn't doin' it. And he said, asked
14 him, "What, what, what you be doin' with the wires?" He said, "Wirin' up my
15 garage." And that was all I had to do, all I – that was it...
16
17Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
18
19Lue Sudduth: ...you know, and they fired him...
20
21Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
22
23Lue Sudduth: ...and then later on they asked me what kinda worker he was, and I told'm he
24 was a good work. I hate to see him get fired.
25
26Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
27
28Lue Sudduth: He had a wife and two kids.
29
30Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
31
32Lue Sudduth: So I told'm I hate to see'm get fired for somethin' like that...
33
34Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
35
36Lue Sudduth: ...because he coulda took one paycheck and bought all the wires he wanted.
37
38Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
39
40Lue Sudduth: And, uh, but then his mother-in-law came up to me afterward and told me...
41
42Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
43
44Lue Sudduth: ...she said, uh, "Lue, I don't blame, blame you for him gettin' fired."
45
46Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

1
2Lue Sudduth: She said, "I blame him."
3
4Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
5
6Lue Sudduth: "So I hope you don't hold that against me that I think I'm, I'm blaming you,"
7 and I told her, "I thank you, but, uh," I told her, "I just felt like it was bad for
8 him to get fired with a wife and two kids."
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
11
12Lue Sudduth: And she said, "Well, he didn't use good judgement." So I told her, "That's
13 true." 'Cause he coulda, the wires he was stealin'...
14
15Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
16
17Lue Sudduth: ...wasn't worth his job.
18
19Marilyn Coulter: No.
20
21Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm. But other than that, I didn't have no problem. I, uh – well, I had one
22 more guy that, uh, he drank a lot.
23
24Marilyn Coulter: Ah.
25
26Lue Sudduth: And, uh, what I did, I took him in the office...
27
28Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
29
30Lue Sudduth: ...and didn't nobody warn him...
31
32Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
33
34Lue Sudduth: ...and he had 20-somethin' years there.
35
36Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
37
38Lue Sudduth: His name was [Hank 80:32], we call'm Hank, and I told him in the [inaudible
39 80:37] and I sit him and I told'm, I said, "Hank, I got a job to do and you got a
40 job to do."
41
42Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
43
44Lue Sudduth: And I said, "I would, I would appreciate it while your, while I'm your
45 supervisor"...
46

1Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
2
3Lue Sudduth: ...I really would appreciate it..
4
5Marilyn Coulter: [door opening] Mm-hm.
6
7Lue Sudduth: ...if you didn't go out and drink at lunchtime..
8
9Marilyn Coulter: [door closing] Mm-hm.
10
11Lue Sudduth: ...while you're workin' for me.
12
13Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
14
15Lue Sudduth: So, and, uh, he got up [clicking] and shook my hand and he told me, "Thank
16 you."
17
18Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
19
20Lue Sudduth: He said, "While the whole while I work for you, I won't take another drink
21 durin' lunch hour," and he didn't.
22
23Marilyn Coulter: That's good.
24
25Lue Sudduth: So and the, uh, supervisor that he was workin' for...
26
27Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
28
29Lue Sudduth: ...before and afterward, they asked me what did I tell him...
30
31Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
32
33Lue Sudduth: ...that he stopped drinkin', and I told'm, I said, "I tr-, I didn't have to tell him;
34 he told'm. He cussed'm out and then told him, said, "He treat me like a man."
35
36Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
37
38Lue Sudduth: And which I did.
39
40Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
41
42Lue Sudduth: And said, he "I" – he told'm, said, "I respect that."
43
44Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
45

1Lue Sudduth: Said, "You talk to me like a man and treat me like a man." But the rest
2 [inaudible 81:46], I mean they really, I felt sorry for'm, you know? They
3 would give'm 3 days off and, uh, a week off...
4
5Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
6
7Lue Sudduth: ...because he would drink so much.
8
9Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
10
11Lue Sudduth: Uh, and, uh, but I think he stayed there long enough to retire, I'm not for sure.
12
13Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
14
15Lue Sudduth: But other than that, that's the only thing that, uh, I felt bad about...
16
17Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
18
19Lue Sudduth: ...while I was there.
20
21Marilyn Coulter: Hm. [82:11] Now, did you, um, did you attend union meetings [inaudible
22 82:14]?
23
24Lue Sudduth: Yes, mm-hm.
25
26Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
27
28Lue Sudduth: Yes, I did.
29
30Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [82:18] Did you ever get involved in any of the committees or any
31 things over the years of working here?
32
33Lue Sudduth: No, I didn't. Uh-uh. Uh, I just, uh, when I worked in Chicago, I was a
34 committeeman. I was a, was a welder then, and, uh, I had had, uh, things that
35 happened in that that shouldn't have happened...
36
37Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
38
39Lue Sudduth: ...when I was young and didn't, didn't care what I said...
40
41Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
42
43Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, would threaten to whoop [inaudible 82:45] while they get in my
44 face, 'cause I, I was, uh, in a gang, really.
45
46Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

1
2Lue Sudduth: I was in a bad gang then.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: Mm.
5
6Lue Sudduth: And, uh, most of us carried guns, and, uh, and I tell people, m-, my mother
7 prayed for me when I didn't know it.
8
9Marilyn Coulter: [Mm-hm 83:05].
10
11Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
12
13Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
14
15Lue Sudduth: And, uh, but I, I, I haven't carried any gun since I been here.
16
17Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
18
19Lue Sudduth: [Inaudible 83:15] go huntin', but I haven't hunted in probably 30 years.
20
21Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
22
23Lue Sudduth: And, uh, I still have guns, but I don't use'm for nothin'.
24
25Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. And now they're just collectibles, though.
26
27Lue Sudduth: Yeah, mm-hm.
28
29Marilyn Coulter: [83:27] Well, that's – did you participate in any of the union-sponsored
30 activities, any of the programs, the picnics, or anything like that?
31
32Lue Sudduth: Oh yeah, mm-hm. I s-, I still do. Yeah. And my wife likes to go out to [Eagle
33 83:43], you know, out to Eagle.
34
35Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
36
37Lue Sudduth: Before that, we was goin' out to Park Lake, wasn't it? [Inaudible 83:47].
38
39Marilyn Coulter: Um...
40
41Lue Sudduth: I don't know.
42
43Marilyn Coulter: Hollow. Sleepy Hollow.
44
45Lue Sudduth: Sleepy Hollow, yeah.
46

1Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
2
3Lue Sudduth: Out to Sleepy Hollow, mm-hm.
4
5Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. All right. [tapping] [83:56] Um, as we, um, wrap it up here, can you
6 say what's your most appreciated bargained benefit?
7
8Lue Sudduth: Fro-, uh, for General Motors?
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm, from as employee of General Motors, member of UAW, what's your
11 most – w-, what are some of your most, um, appreciated bargained benefits?
12
13Lue Sudduth: [tapping] I think with the, uh, holiday pays [tapping] and there used to be they
14 gave us those, uh, extra days that you'd have a doctor appointment, a dentist
15 appointment and get...
16
17Marilyn Coulter: Personal paid holidays?
18
19Lue Sudduth: ...personal paid holidays, mm-hm.
20
21Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
22
23Lue Sudduth: I thought that was real nice.
24
25Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
26
27Lue Sudduth: You know, the vacation pay, because...
28
29Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
30
31Lue Sudduth: ...once, I took a vacation once and I went to Hawaii, and, uh, my wife
32 wouldn't go, and my youngest son wouldn't go, so I went with, uh, another
33 couple and their two kids, and, uh, but I had a good time...
34
35Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
36
37Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, other than that, we – I used to take – wherever – when, uh, my
38 children was growin' up, wherever vacation my wife and I would take, I'd
39 always take the kids.
40
41Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
42
43Lue Sudduth: She didn't wanna take'm all the time, but I would.
44
45Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
46

1Lue Sudduth: I would tell her, I said, “No. If the kids can’t go, we don’t need to go.”
2
3Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
4
5Lue Sudduth: With three childrens, and, uh, that all w-, always went with us.
6
7Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
8
9Lue Sudduth: And the one named **Johnny**, I’d like to leave about 9:00 or 10:00 at night, and
10 wherever I’m goin’, you know, like the next day about 11:00 or 12:00 I’d be
11 there, and, uh, I looked back through the back glass, and the rest of’m be
12 asleep, his little head would be stickin’ up like this in the middle a the glass
13 and he’d read the map for me. He was only about 6 or 7 years old.
14
15Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
16
17 Lue Sudduth: He could read the map, I showed him how to read the map, and he would
18 always read the map and the others would sleep all the way. [laughter] But
19 **Johnny** would stay awake. I remember once, one day I had a brother that was
20 in World War I, and he lost one a his lungs overseas, and, uh, he lived in
21 Denver, Colorado. So I took my father out there to see him like in, uh, ’77,
22 and I was drivin’ through, uh, Nebraska, an electric storm, and my wife was
23 asleep, and, uh, two a the kids were asleep, my dad was awake, and, uh, it was
24 lightnin’ so bad, ‘cause the lightin’ was just light goin’ back down the
25 highway, I didn’t really have to use my lights, but I left’m on, and I looked
26 back through the mirror, up in the mirror there, there’s **Johnny** little head
27 stickin’ up right there. [laughter] He was somethin’. And whene-, whenever I
28 get to where I’m goin’, he’d go to sleep and sleep most a the first day.
29 [laughter] But w-, it was nice because he, uh, he paid attention...
30
31Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
32
33Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, if the rest of’m were asleep, he was awake. It was really good and,
34 uh, when he got up big enough, they, uh, **[inaudible 87:17]** follow ya after...
35
36Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
37
38Lue Sudduth: ...14 or 15 years old, they won’t go with ya if they, they can. [laughter] But
39 they were 7, 8, about 7 or 8 years old. And then I used to, I had a pickup and I
40 had a camper on the back of it, and, uh, I used to take different guys with me;
41 **[Marshall Moe 87:37]**, **[Lewis Thornton 87:38]**, uh, **[Jerton 87:41]**, and
42 different guys that would go up **[inaudible 87:45]** with me fishin’.
43
44Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
45

1Lue Sudduth: I had a boat and I still got the boat. I was tryin' to give it away and I give it to
2 a guy he haven't come got it, a 15-foot fiberglass with a 50 [inaudible 87:45],
3 but, uh, gee, I haven't fished with him since, uh, in the '70s...
4

5Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
6

7Lue Sudduth: ...and, uh, I used to go up there and stay a week. I took'm, t-, two boys and my
8 wife would go once in a while, and, uh, but they'd go up there and go
9 shoppin', and the daughter, she went once. Anyway, the two boys would go
10 with me. We went up there once with, uh, I think it was, uh, Jerton, and we c-,
11 we come with 92 pounds of bluegills; I mean, a lotta fish.
12

13Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
14

15Doreen Howard: Uh, Doreen Howard again. [88:39] Um, I, I wanted to go back to, um, your
16 time in the, in the Paint Mix Department, and you said that, um, it was quite a
17 hazardous job as far as the chemicals and the things that you worked with...
18

19Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
20

21Doreen Howard: ...and you talked a little bit about the Personal Protection Equipment that you
22 had to wear. Um, did you ever have any problems with other health issues or,
23 or being around the chemicals or did anybody you work with ever have any,
24 any problems associated with being around those chemicals? I know other
25 people that would just walk into the, the Paint, uh, Department, you would get
26 hit with the fumes of the paint...
27

28Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
29

30Doreen Howard: ...things like, um – did ya ever have any, any problems being around the
31 chemicals?
32

33Lue Sudduth: No, I didn't. You know what I did was...
34

35Marilyn Coulter: Doreen.
36

37Doreen Howard: Doreen.
38

39Lue Sudduth: ...Doreen, you know what I did? Whenever I went in in the mornin', I always
40 had a jar a Vaseline. I'd take it all in my nose real good, up in my nose, and
41 keep it in there, and I'd put on my – sometime I'd put it on a little mask, and,
42 uh, I would put a little grease and my face, around my ears and thing, and, uh,
43 every day I'd do that, and then when I'd come out, we had a room, like you
44 said, uh, off limit to anybody, you know, couldn't anybody come in, and we
45 had coffee and newspaper and radio, [inaudible 90:16] had a TV in there, had
46 a refrigerator. [laughter]

1
2Doreen Howard: Just like home.
3
4Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm. We had a crock pot, had a skillet for, electric skillet, and, uh, when
5 I'd go in there, I'd take the soft tissue and blow my nose and wipe the – off
6 my face, every day, and then we had a trash can with [copper 90:41] and
7 we'd, I'd drop it in there. But the most a the people come in, their nose is dry
8 and their ears is dry and their face, and, uh, they didn't do, use no protection
9 or nothin', but I had read in there, like in some a the, uh, reading I had read to
10 keep the Vaseline up your nose, and what that would do, it keep'm soft, and if
11 you smelled anything like that, it didn't go right in through your nose,
12 somethin' or other. Anyway, I found out that really, really helped me every
13 day and I never had any problem with it.
14
15Doreen Howard: Mm.
16
17Lue Sudduth: But, uh, some a the guys, I know some a the guys, like, uh, they would have a
18 breathin', after they quit, they had breathin' problem...
19
20Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
21
22Lue Sudduth: ... 'cause they had inhaled so much a that stuff, and, uh, I would use the, uh,
23 [writing] they had like a cleaner to rub over our hand, like a soap like or
24 somethin', it's kind of a grayish lookin' buncha, and I'd rub that over my hand
25 and wash my hand with soap and warm water. But that's the only thing I think
26 that helped me, that I tried to protect myself in there.
27
28Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
29
30Lue Sudduth: And I wore long sleeves. I didn't ever go in without long sleeves. I didn't
31 wear short sleeves in there.
32
33Marilyn Coulter: [92:00] So you exposed as little skin as possible to the solvents.
34
35Lue Sudduth: Right, that's what I did, uh-huh. I didn't expose it. And I always wore a cap
36 on my head, mm-hm. [background conversation] 'Cause...
37
38Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
39
40Lue Sudduth: ...uh, before I retired, they'll furnish everything if, even furnish my shoes,
41 everything but my socks and underclothes, you know, they furnish the
42 coveralls, and we got like, uh, five pair a coveralls a week. You didn't have to
43 go in and put on the same one you had on yesterday. And that, I think that
44 [inaudible 92:31] a lot, 'cause I never [inaudible 92:35] and my birthday I'll
45 be 75 years old and I still haven't had a breathin' problem or anything.
46

1Doreen Howard: Mm.
2
3Marilyn Coulter: That's good.
4
5Doreen Howard: That's wonderful.
6
7Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
8
9Doreen Howard: Okay. Well, um, is there anything that you wanted to, to talk about at all that
10 we have not talked about, um, [background conversation] before we wrap up
11 here?

13Lue Sudduth: Not really.
14
15Marilyn Coulter: There's only one thing I really want to ask. [92:59] You said that you had a
16 discussion with one of the plant managers about your [ethic 93:06]. You
17 wanna share that?
18
19Lue Sudduth: One a the plant manager?
20
21Marilyn Coulter: You said something about he knew that you were a good worker or somethin'
22 like that.
23
24Lue Sudduth: Well, he had heard about, yeah...
25
26Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
27
28Lue Sudduth: ...one a the plant manager, I think it was the one that died, you know, the one
29 had a heart attack, I forget his name now, but, uh, he said that, uh, he had
30 heard about me...
31
32Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
33
34Lue Sudduth: ...but he had never had a conversation with me, and, uh, he wished, said he
35 wished he had got to know me better...
36
37Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
38
39Lue Sudduth: Be-, because that was a time when I was in the paint mixin' for 20-somethin'
40 years, if any color go wrong on the night shift, they didn't bother fixin' it.
41
42Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
43
44Lue Sudduth: They sprayed the cars and they repaired'm the next day, but they had a log
45 upstairs, I was supposed to read it every day...
46

1Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
2
3Lue Sudduth: ...but I didn't.
4
5Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
6
7Lue Sudduth: I had the two little guys that I was tellin' you about called me Dad...
8
9Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
10
11Lue Sudduth: ...because it was 21 steps to go up there...
12
13Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
14
15Lue Sudduth: ...and one a them would go up there and they'd come back, and I'd say, they
16 said, "Lue," – they didn't call me Lue – they'd say, "Dad," they said, "It's so-
17 and-so and so-and-so that they paint was bad," in the mornin', and, uh, so
18 when they went up, well, I'd tell'm, I said, "When you go up and read it, just
19 put 'LS' – 'LCS' on there."
20
21Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
22
23Lue Sudduth: "LCS" on there. That's my initials like...
24
25Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
26
27Lue Sudduth: ...you know. And they would sign it...
28
29Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
30
31Lue Sudduth: ...and everybody thought I was readin', but I never [inaudible 94:33]
32 [laughter]. They questioned me about 'cause I wouldn't, wouldn't go up and
33 sign it, and so I told'm, "I ain't – if you leave it down here I'll sign it, but I
34 ain't goin' up them stairs just to sign that." [laughter] And they said, "Why?" I
35 said, "It's too, too many stairs. I ain't walkin' up there. I done already come
36 up and down the stair."
37
38Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
39
40Lue Sudduth: I said, "I ain't goin' up there to sign that." I said – and the one name was [Pat
41 94:54] and [Jimmy 94:55], either one would go up there, they could read it,
42 one of'm read it every mornin' and they come back and tell me what paint's
43 bad and I'll go and fix it. And then there's a, there's a time when they wanted
44 a special paint job, I would mix three colors a paint, then I'd put, uh, what
45 they call stones, grind up stones...
46

1Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
2
3Lue Sudduth: ...stones in it. You see these car look like get little, just sun shine against it it
4 gets sparklin', right?
5
6Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
7
8Lue Sudduth: That's a special color.
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
11
12Lue Sudduth: And if you get that, it costs you \$200 extra just for the paint job.
13
14Marilyn Coulter: Mm.
15
16Lue Sudduth: I would do that, and, uh, the, uh, well, it was, it was good...
17
18Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
19
20Lue Sudduth: ...because I'd take my time and mix it up. I didn't have to mix about 5-
21 gallon...
22
23Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
24
25Lue Sudduth: ...and mix it up and they do it and paint, uh, 42 color was red, either 22 was
26 blue.
27
28Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
29
30Lue Sudduth: They wanted most like with the blue car or the red, and the some a the green.
31
32Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
33
34Lue Sudduth: They want that in it, and the car do look real good, like the sun hit it just in the
35 sparkle light comin'.
36
37Marilyn Coulter: Hm.
38
39Lue Sudduth: So I did that. And, uh, [tapping] what else did I do? Oh yeah, and, uh, I was
40 supposed to go through every mornin' and check the viscosity of all the paint.
41
42Marilyn Coulter: Mm.
43
44Lue Sudduth: I give that job to Jimmy; Little Jimmy, they call him. Jimmy would go
45 through every mornin' check that and he'd come back and tell me [tapping]

1 what's, if they need thinner or paint to it, he'd tell me what's wrong with it,
2 write on it, the log upstairs, what paint's bad.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
5
6Lue Sudduth: And the night shift never fixed it, and they always depended on me to do it.
7
8Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [laughter]
9
10Lue Sudduth: And, uh, so I would do it, and I didn't mind.
11
12Marilyn Coulter: Mm. Well we really appreciate you bein' a great worker and a good
13 inspiration to the people around you.
14
15Lue Sudduth: Mm-hm.
16
17Marilyn Coulter: And I wanna say thank you for givin' your time.
18
19Lue Sudduth: Well, you're more than welcome.
20
21Doreen Howard: Thank you.
22
23Lue Sudduth: Yeah, you sure are welcome.
24
25Marilyn Coulter: All right.
26
27Lue Sudduth: It's nice to meet you.
28
29Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 96:49]. [recorder clicking]