

**Gerald (Jerry) Taylor discusses his career as a production worker
and UAW member at the Fisher Body plant in Lansing, MI**

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5 Cheryl McQuaid: This is the Lansing Fisher Body Historical Team. We're at the Frank
6 Dryer House across the street from the UAW Local 602 Hall on
7 Michigan Avenue. It is January 26, 2006, and it's approximately 9:30
8 a.m. We are preparing to interview Gerald Taylor. First, let's state the
9 names of the rest of the people in the room.
10
11 Michael Fleming: Mike Fleming.
12
13 Marilyn Coulter: Marilyn Coulter.
14
15 John Fedewa: John Fedewa.
16
17 Cheryl McQuaid: And this is Cheryl McQuaid. [00:33] Jerry, could, I'm sorry, Gerald
18 Taylor, could you state your name and spell your last name for us please.
19
20 Gerald Taylor: Yes, my name is Gerald Taylor, T-A-Y-L-O-R.
21
22 Cheryl McQuaid: And...
23
24 Gerald Taylor: I li-...
25
26 Cheryl McQuaid: Your address?
27
28 Gerald Taylor: 2775 North Stine in Charlotte, Michigan.
29
30 Cheryl McQuaid: [0:49] Are you married?
31
32 Gerald Taylor: Yes.
33
34 Cheryl McQuaid: [00:52] Do you have children?
35
36 Gerald Taylor: Yes, three.
37
38 Cheryl McQuaid: [00:54] Um, where were you born?
39
40 Gerald Taylor: I was born in Ionia but raised in Charlotte.
41
42 Cheryl McQuaid: [00:59] Could you give us a little bit on your educational background?
43
44 Gerald Taylor: Uh, yeah, 56 years a hard knocks, 12 years a high school, a year and a
45 half a college.
46

1 Cheryl McQuaid: [01:10] And what did you go to college for?
2
3 Gerald Taylor: Well I started out to go for accounting, but halfway through my classes, I
4 went up to the office in Charlotte, or in, uh, Fisher Body. I told'm I was
5 goin' to accounting class and what would be my chances a gettin' into
6 payroll, workin' up there. And I was told [chuckling] by the gentleman in
7 charge that I wasn't black, I wasn't Mexican, I wasn't a female and I didn't
8 have a snowball's chance in hell. Right straight up...
9
10 [laughter]
11
12 Gerald Taylor: ...that's what he told me. So I said fine, and went right back to the line.
13
14 Cheryl McQuaid: [01:42] So what did you end up goin' to college for?
15
16 Gerald Taylor: It was accounting. I had a year and a half...
17
18 Cheryl McQuaid: [Inaudible 01:47].
19
20 Gerald Taylor: ...of accounting...
21
22 [throat clearing]
23
24 Gerald Taylor: ...that's what I took.
25
26 Cheryl McQuaid: [01:50] And what did your parents do?
27
28 Gerald Taylor: Uh, my mother worked at a men's clothing store in Charlotte and my
29 father hauled milk, went around the farms and picked up milk lotta years.
30
31 Cheryl McQuaid: [Inaudible 2:00].
32
33 Gerald Taylor: And then he was a trustee at the county jail.
34
35 Cheryl McQuaid: [02:04] And did you spend any time in the military?
36
37 Gerald Taylor: Yes. I was a reservist from 1967 to '73. I was in the Navy Reserve. I did
38 14 months active duty in Vietnam.
39
40 Cheryl McQuaid: [02:21] And why did you hire into Fisher Body? Did you know about
41 Fisher Body before you put in an application?
42
43 Gerald Taylor: My father-in-law worked at Fisher Body and I had a brother-in-law that
44 worked at Fisher Body. He recommended I come over and put my name
45 in.
46

1 Cheryl McQuaid: [02:35] And that was right there at the plant or was that at Michigan
2 [inaudible 02:37].
3
4 Gerald Taylor: It was right at the plant, right on, that's when you went into the plant and
5 talked to the guys in there, Tommy S—, can't remember his last name. I
6 want to say Burns, I don't know if that's right or not, that's the guy I
7 talked to.
8
9 Cheryl McQuaid: [02:49] Did you have to stand in line to...
10
11 Gerald Taylor: No.
12
13 Cheryl McQuaid: ...put in an application?
14
15 Gerald Taylor: No, there was no standing in line. They wanted bodies.
16
17 Cheryl McQuaid: [02:57] And how long did it take you to get into the plant?
18
19 Gerald Taylor: Well, I come in on a Wednesday and they wanna know if I wanna go to
20 work that night. And I told them that I had another employer that I felt I
21 should give notice to. I was working at a cabinet shop at the time and
22 told'm I thought I should give him two weeks' notice. And they said okay,
23 fine. So they said, they said we're not gonna give you two weeks but we'll
24 give you till the end of next week. So about 10 days after that I hired in
25 here and started in here the 8th of April.
26
27 Cheryl McQuaid: [03:25] Do you remember the first day you walked into Fisher Body and
28 [inaudible 03:28]...
29
30 Gerald Taylor: Oh yeah.
31
32 Cheryl McQuaid: ...where they took you and what job you did?
33
34 Gerald Taylor: They took me right to paint department. Can I tell you a little story about
35 this?
36
37 Cheryl McQuaid: Oh please.
38
39 Gerald Taylor: You wanna hear something good?
40
41 Cheryl McQuaid: Yes.
42
43 Gerald Taylor: Like I said, my father hauled milk and it was over west of Lansing,
44 Ingham County. We hauled milk and we had one guy that we both picked
45 up his milk. His name was John [Griffis 03:48]. And he had a driveway
46 about as wide as this table and trying to back a truck up in a driveway this

1 wide, you're gonna get on somebody's grass. And I got on his lawn. And
2 he'd come out of the house and just chewing me out and I said why don't
3 you bite it and he turned around and went back in the house and I loaded
4 up the milk and left. The next day I hired into Fisher Body. This was on a
5 Sunday, the following Monday I hired into Fisher Body. They took me to
6 painting department. They took me out to see my foreman. My foreman
7 was John [Griffis].
8
9 [laughter]
10
11 Male Interviewer: Uh oh.
12
13 Gerald Taylor: And they said this is Jerry Taylor. And John says, yeah I know him and
14 he knows me and my name's bite it.
15
16 [laughter]
17
18 Male interviewer: Oh.
19
20 [laughter]
21
22 Gerald Taylor: So I didn't think I was gonna last at Fisher Body very long but...
23
24 Male Interviewer: Oh goodness.
25
26 Gerald Taylor: ...John was a good guy [laugh] I mean [inaudible 04:35]. I hired into
27 Fisher Body.
28
29 [laughter]
30
31 Cheryl McQuaid: [04:39] And what job did he – John put you on?
32
33 Gerald Taylor: Uh, when I had first come in, uh, they put me to spraying, um, um,
34 whaddyacallit, underbody, I was spraying underbody out in the paint
35 department.
36
37 Cheryl McQuaid: [04:46] Was that a hard job?
38
39 Gerald Taylor: Yes.
40
41 Cheryl McQuaid: [04:50] What was hard about it?
42
43 Gerald Taylor: Well, you were in a pit and you had to wear a hood and you had this
44 wand and as the cars were comin' down at an angle from above you, from
45 upstairs, you had to spray the underbody with that and that was one dirty,
46 messy job and that's [inaudible 05:10] you went into the paint

1 department, that's where you started at that time, it's pretty much in that
2 job.
3
4 Cheryl McQuaid: [05:16] How long did you do that job?
5
6 Gerald Taylor: Three weeks.
7
8 Cheryl McQuaid: Three weeks?
9
10 Gerald Taylor: Yep. Then I went into spraying lacquer. They had an opening and I went
11 into spray lacquer from there.
12
13 Cheryl McQuaid: [05:25] And that was the job you requested or...
14
15 Gerald Taylor: No. At the time they, they just asked me if I wanted to spray lacquer. I
16 said, sure. You gotta – back when I hired in here and I think it was a little
17 worse even before I hired in, but if you, the physical they give ya, was if
18 you could bend over and touch your toes and come up breathing, you
19 were hired. And the first thing they would ask you is, you gotta buddy
20 lookin' for work?
21
22 I, I hired in with a guy, in fact, a pair of brothers, [Akin 05:52] brothers.
23 They were twin brothers. And the one brother didn't like it here. Didn't
24 like the job they put him on, so he quit. He went over to Oldsmobile. Got
25 hired in. Didn't like the job they put him on and come back over here. He
26 quit over at Olds and come back over here and didn't like the job they put
27 him on, quit, went back over to Olds, the third time back here, he, they
28 finally put him on a job he liked and he stayed here.
29
30 But I mean, that's then, they were, this area was screaming for people.
31 They were screaming for bodies.
32
33 Cheryl McQuaid: Wow.
34
35 Gerald Taylor: You know, I mean, that was, nobody wanted to work in the shop back
36 then. That was, you know, and I, I, when I hired in here, being used to
37 being outdoors, growing up hauling milk and doing that kinda stuff,
38 being cooped up in a shop was hard for me. First five years I worked here
39 I had a rough time stayin' here. I mean, if they come up and says they've
40 got extra help, you wanna go home, they only had to ask me once, I was
41 outta here. I hated it being here. I hated being cooped up.
42
43 Cheryl McQuaid: [06:53] How old were you when you hired into Fisher Body?
44
45 Gerald Taylor: Uh, 18.
46

1 Cheryl McQuaid: 18? What shift?
2
3 Gerald Taylor: Well, like I said, I hired in on day shift, because, uh, once I got into
4 lacquer booths, I didn't know it, but the guy I was doin' underneath. I
5 thought it was my job, but I found out that I was put on utility when I got
6 here. So they took me everywhere. I did nothing but fill sick leaves. I
7 didn't have a regular job. I just filled sick leave spots. I went from, uh,
8 spraying [inaudible 07:20] underneath to spraying lacquer in a booth to
9 spraying undercoat to spraying [inaudible 07:26] upstairs to hanging
10 paper, to working on the sealer line. I think I was in here 6 months before
11 I actually had a job that was mine, that was my own job.
12
13 Cheryl McQuaid: [07:38] Did you like doing the sick-leave replacement job or did you like
14 having your own job?
15
16 Gerald Taylor: I didn't like it. While the one thing I liked about it, I hired in April 8. July
17 8 was when we were going down for changeover. Anybody that didn't
18 have their 90 days in, they'd layoff. And if you got laid off and then
19 brought back after changeover, they'd readjust your seniority date, so
20 you'd actually would lose time because I was covering sick leaves, they
21 couldn't lay me off. So I got my 90 days in the day we went down for
22 changeover. So I got my 90 days, where a lotta guys got messed over by
23 doing these replacements I was able to get my 90 days in and I stayed.
24
25 Marilyn Coulter: Marilyn Coulter. [08:17] Jerry, can you explain what a changeover is?
26
27 Gerald Taylor: It's when we would go down to change a body style. There's – we may be
28 down a week, we may be down two weeks. I've seen it last as much as
29 seven weeks that we'll be down while they were doin' a body change.
30 Changing the dyes, bringing the parts in, getting the body shop set up. So
31 I mean, there was at that point that's what we'd call the changeover, 'cause
32 three was a major changeover done inside the shop. You were pulling all
33 the stock out bringing all the stock back in again, resetting jobs. So it
34 was, it was a major change at that time.
35
36 Michael Fleming: Mike Fleming, Jerry.
37
38 Gerald Taylor: Hi Mike.
39
40 Michael Fleming: [08:53] When you came in, you talked about the different places you
41 worked. You went in the paint department, um, was, was, looking at that
42 amount of people in that big of a structure, was that kinda, what, what did
43 that feel like for you when you walked in there?
44
45 Gerald Taylor: It was something all new to me because I'd walked out, I'd been in a
46 cabinet shop where there was six employees. I mean that was it. And, uh,

1 so walking into here and seeing the amount of people that was here was
2 something all new to me. And it was something that I had a rough time
3 adjusting to but once I adjusted to it, I actually after five years I got to
4 where I enjoyed it in there. I, crazy to say, but I enjoyed coming in here.
5 You get to know the people. You get to get friends in here and it makes it
6 a lot easier to come in. And if that, this place was a very friendly place to
7 work. It was enjoyable.
8
9 Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid. [09:46] How did you, um, learn the job that they gave
10 you, all of these sick-leave jobs Who taught you these jobs...
11
12 Gerald Taylor: They had, uh...
13
14 Cheryl McQuaid: ...can you talk a little about the process?
15
16 Gerald Taylor: They had people that'd break you in. They had utility people who'd break
17 you in or intermittent relief man that would break you in. And they'd
18 normally at that time, you had three days to break in on a job.
19
20 Cheryl McQuaid: [10:06] And was there a good way to learn the job or a bad way to learn
21 the job?
22
23 Gerald Taylor: Normally, what you would do is watch the other individual do it, you'd
24 do it his way and then adjust it to where it was easier for you. You'd learn
25 it his way so that you could do it. And then you'd adjust it to your way to
26 make easier to you because no two people would wanna do the job the
27 same way.
28
29 Cheryl McQuaid: [10:24] Can you tell me a little bit about the people that you hired in
30 around, some of the things that went on during work hours that made it
31 interesting made it...
32
33 Gerald Taylor: The – when I hired in, like I said I hired in the paint department, and
34 there was a lot of women in the paint department at that time. Uh, not like
35 there – I mean, there wasn't in trim at that time. Trim's pretty much all
36 male, body shop was all male. The women were either in what was left of
37 the cushion room, which there wasn't much of it at that time. Or they'd
38 come out of the cushion room and they'd come down in the paint
39 department. They either ran sealer guns or hung paper, because at that
40 point, we ran two tones. And you had to tape the car off, you know if you
41 were doing a two-tone job.
42
43 So you got to know a lot of people there and some of the women in there
44 were ornerier than the day was long, but some of'm were some of the
45 sweetest people you'd ever wanna meet. And I was kind of a guy that
46 never know anybody, never really accused me of being wrapped too tight

1 as it was. And I would have some fun with some of those ladies in there.
2 They were just great.
3
4 Uh, my, while I said my father-in-law got me hired in there, but he
5 actually wasn't my father-in-law at the time we, I was engaged to his
6 daughter, and, uh, I worked with a gal in sealer section. Her name was
7 [Marvette Pointer 11:43] and she was the nosiest lady the good lord ever
8 put on this world. She's a sweetheart, but she was just nosier than the day
9 was long and a busybody like you wouldn't believe and she kept asking
10 me about the wedding and, uh, I told her, I said, I'm sorry I can't tell you
11 about the wedding and that just set her right on tilt, and she said why not?
12 I said, well, I promised my father-in-law that I wouldn't talk to anybody
13 about the wedding. Because my father-in-law was a relief man for the
14 painters in the booth. His name was Charlie [Grimwood 12:11], and uh,
15 so finally she kept bugging me. I said, okay, I'll tell ya, but you gotta
16 promise not to tell anybody else. She said, okay, I won't tell a soul and I
17 thought to myself, yeah, right.
18
19 [laughter]
20
21 Gerald Taylor: So I said, well the reason, I said, Charlie said the only way I could marry
22 his daughter is if we had a nudist wedding.
23
24 [laughter]
25
26 Gerald Taylor: So it wasn't five minutes later, she went on relief and she was gone like a
27 jackrabbit. Out in the sealer line, up one side and down the other telling
28 everybody. About two hours later, my father-in-law comes out and says
29 what the hell are you telling everybody? I said what? He says what's this
30 shit you're telling everybody I'm having a nudist wedding?
31
32 [laughter]
33
34 Gerald Taylor: I just started laughing and she says, yeah I can keep a secret. But there
35 was anybody at paint department that didn't know what was going on.
36
37 [laughter]
38
39 Gerald Taylor: That's the kind of stunts I pulled here and there. Just to have fun.
40
41 Cheryl McQuaid: So...
42
43 Gerald Taylor: Great folks.
44
45 Cheryl McQuaid: [13:02] Do you remember any other pranks or...
46

1Gerald Taylor: Yeah, one or two.
2
3Cheryl McQuaid: ... could you share with us?
4
5Gerald Taylor: Okay, there was a gentleman named John [McNish 13:09], that was a
6 great guy and he had one of the sweetest voices. I mean, for a singer, he
7 should have been a professional singer 'cause his voice was just
8 unbelievable. And he would work in the booth and sing and everything
9 else. Well, if he thought there was somebody new coming in, he had a
10 little trick that he pulled on everybody.
11
12 Well, what John didn't know was I'd hired in on days, and I was on nights
13 at this time. I hired in on days and I spent most of my first nine months
14 there on days or ten months, because right after that, I went in the service.
15 And, uh, when I'd come back from the service, I went back in the nights
16 in paint department.
17
18 Well, John wore coveralls but he wore nothing underneath his coveralls
19 and he's what you call a very well-endowed individual. So he would rip
20 his coveralls open, haul his member out and go chasing after the new guy
21 in the booth, just to see what'd happen. Well, I just wasn't the kinda guy
22 that you chased. So I just stood there with my paint gun and when he
23 come up, I painted him from one end to the other.
24
25 [laughter]
26
27Gerald Taylor: And he stopped right dead in his tracks and looked at me and says you
28 wasn't supposed to do that and I said, well, sorry. He'd come in about an
29 hour and a half later and he says, tears were just running down his eyes
30 and he says, you know what hot [inaudible 14:28] does to a person trying
31 to take paint off your, your not a nice man.
32
33 [laughter]
34
35Gerald Taylor: [Inaudible 14:33] but we got to be good friends and he was, he was just a
36 fantastic guy and just all kinds of stuff going on in there. Just, it was kind
37 of a crazy time. You had to be a little crazy to work in there. It helped at
38 the time, but the people were out of this world. Very seldom you, you had
39 difficulty with anybody in their at the time. It just everybody was kind of
40 one big happy family in there.
41
42Michael Fleming: Mike Fleming.
43
44Gerald Taylor: It was enjoyable to work.
45

1Michael Fleming: Mike Fleming, Jerry. [15:00] While you were on that subject, just a very,
2 very quickly, talk – can you talk about some of the health and safety, um,
3 um, strides that you had seen gains since you came in then and when you
4 left, as far as you know, the paint and the fumes and the personal
5 protective equipment you had to have.
6

7Gerald Taylor: Well, the paint at that time was not that big a problem. It was a lacquer
8 that kinda hung to ya and they, they, you had breathing apparatus you
9 could wear if you wanted to. Most guys didn't wear'm, because they
10 didn't figure it was that bad. There was good airflow in the booths, uh,
11 they had a watershed on the side that would actually help attract the, the
12 paint dust to it. It wasn't that bad. As far as health and safety, it's
13 something I really, when I first hired in there, it's not something I even
14 was concerned with. There didn't seem to be a problem, and I never really
15 heard that much talk about it. Towards the later part, yeah, it was.
16

17Marilyn Coulter: Um, Jerry, mines back to the man who chased you and you painted.
18

19Gerald Taylor: [laugh] Yeah..
20

21Marilyn Coulter: [16:03] Now, you said that there were a lot of women in the paint
22 department...
23

24Gerald Taylor: Right.
25

26Marilyn Coulter: ...were there women in the lacquer booth...
27

28Gerald Taylor: No.
29

30Marilyn Coulter: ...while he was chasing people?
31

32Gerald Taylor: No.
33

34Marilyn Coulter: So it was just men in there...
35

36Gerald Taylor: Right.
37

38Marilyn Coulter: ...[inaudible 16:09] joke...
39

40Gerald Taylor: When you went in the lacquer booths, the doors were closed. There was a
41 door that swung closed and you could see guys in there maybe from the
42 shoulders up and like that, but you really couldn't see what was going on.
43 It was kinda its own little entity in there and that was to keep it restricted
44 for airflow and everything else, so...
45

1 Marilyn Coulter: So in the paint department, they had the different booths the people
2 could, so there wasn't, was it hard to communicate [inaudible 16:31]
3 outside of that?
4

5 Gerald Taylor: No.
6

7 Marilyn Coulter: Did lacquer people basically stay with lacquer people and sealer people
8 basically stay with sealer people, or did everybody get along?
9

10 Gerald Taylor: Pretty much, yeah. Because it was all split up. I mean you had a section
11 that was called the sealer room. Then you had the area out, that had some
12 windows so we could look out in the parking lot and like that and actually
13 it's where the old trim shop, the A trim was...
14

15 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
16

17 Gerald Taylor: ...was, at that point. But, there was place where they hung paper, where
18 they sealed off the, the door post. I mean, they taped that off 'cause you
19 two toned. So if it was a two-toned car, you had to, you had to tape off,
20 there was frames around the windows at the time, so you had to make
21 sure you taped those frames off, you know, 'cause they were one color,
22 then it's being done for the other. So but yeah, I mean there was different
23 places that you were at, it was all paint department but it was spread over
24 quite a large area in there, so yeah you were in different segments of it.
25 You knew people from all over 'cause people moved back and forth, but,
26 yeah, it was, it was pretty much compartmentized as far as who you
27 worked with.
28

29 Marilyn Coulter: [17:29] So do you have any other funny stories?
30

31 Gerald Taylor: Uh, a couple. We had, we were there, uh, on days, spraying lacquer.
32 Gosh, I can't remember it's probably I've been there about four years I
33 think and the power went out and that building was dark as a coal mine.
34 You couldn't see. You'd come out of the lacquer booths, there was doors
35 that come out of the lacquer booths into this main aisleway that'd come
36 down and so you fou-, you had to feel your way to a door and open the
37 door and go into the main aisleway and then you could see a little light
38 where the windows were, at the end, where they masked off. So you'd
39 walk towards the light. And, uh, I heard this one guy running and I heard
40 a guy open the door, and he ran right into that door.
41
42 [laughter]
43

44 Gerald Taylor: And there was about four guys knocked out cold, laying, they were getin"
45 walked on, layin' between the two booths where they had been hit by a
46 door when they come running out of there when the power went out and

1 they, uh, there was one supervisor with a flashlight, there, was trying to
2 go back in and bring these guys around to get'm out of there 'cause they
3 were evacuating the plant 'cause all the power was gone. A couple of gals
4 that were hanging paper, uh, one gal started screaming 'cause somebody
5 had a hold of her...
6
7 [laughter]
8
9Gerald Taylor: ...and it, it was, it was crazy. I mean it was chaos in there. It was
10 comical. You, you kind of, you were a little bewildered about what was
11 going on, but you couldn't help but laugh 'cause you hearing these guys
12 getting knocked out, running down between the booths, you hear this gal
13 screaming out there, saying she's being molested, and everybody else just
14 trying to look for a way out of there. So it, it was about 20 minutes of
15 chaos. But, lookin' back on it now, it was one of the funniest times I'd
16 ever seen there.
17
18Cheryl McQuaid: Do you know, I'm sorry, Cheryl McQuaid, [19:06] do you know why the
19 power was out? Approximately what year that was?
20
21Gerald Taylor: Uh, I'm gonna say '71, '72, somewhere in there. It was, it was a squirrel,
22 went into one of the main transformers out here in the power section and
23 got in the main transformer and blew it out.
24
25Cheryl McQuaid: Oh.
26
27Gerald Taylor: It had knocked out all the power in our end of the plant. And even the
28 safety lights they had hanging up, [dawgonnit 19:34] where they were
29 aimed, but they didn't do anybody good 'cause you couldn't see anything.
30 All you could see was the windows and once you found your way to the
31 windows, then you could walk around the wall and go out through the
32 paint mix room and get outside.
33
34Michael Fleming: Mike Fleming, Jerry. [19:49] Um, you, you spoke about the lights going
35 out and someone being walked over and the foreman with the flashlight.
36 As you were in the paint department, had, did you experience any
37 fatalities or any really serious accidents up there while you were there?
38
39Gerald Taylor: Not in the paint department. No.
40
41Michael Fleming: Are you, are you aware of any in the plant?
42
43Gerald Taylor: There was one skilled trades person, if I remember right, he was in the
44 body shop and I can't say for sure when this was, but I'm sure it's while I
45 was still in paint, that was working on the track and one of the dogs broke
46 loose, the car had come through and hit him and I believe it killed him

1 but it's been so long ago, I can't remember for sure. But I know, and I'm
2 sure it's while I was in paint that there was a tradesman who was killed
3 when a car hit him, coming down, there was an incline and he was
4 working on the track itself and the car broke loose from the dog and come
5 down and hit him in the head and I think he had the head injuries and I
6 think eventually he died from it.
7

8Michael Fleming: [20:56] Can you explain what a dog is?
9

10Gerald Taylor: Uh, it's the, the cars come down the line on a chain. There was, there was,
11 uh, brackets that, that actually caught the car, they were called dogs that
12 moved the car, wouldn't let it go forward or backward. It kept pretty
13 much in place as it was going down the line. So that's what I meant by
14 dog.
15

16Marilyn Coulter: [21:18] Jerry, um, did you spend all of your time in the paint department?
17

18Gerald Taylor: No, after five years, I put a transfer in for trim. Uh, we were working a lot
19 of Saturday nights and I'd ask, um, my supervisor, I was spraying
20 [inaudible 21:32] out in the [inaudible 21:33] booths at that time. Uh, to
21 go home that night because I had a family function, and he says yeah,
22 come on in and help us get started and I'll let you go. So I come in and we
23 started at 4 in the afternoon at that time and I'd come in at 4 and he was
24 supposed to have me out of there by 5:30. Well a quarter after 5, he'd
25 come walking back and I asked him where my replacement was and he
26 says you don't have one. You gotta stay and I told him I wasn't staying. I
27 said at 5:30 I'm outta here and, um, Joe had come back and he says I ain't
28 got anybody and I said well you better learn how to spray [inaudible
29 22:18] then 'cause I told you 5:30 I'm outta here and he says that means
30 you quit. I says no, on my way out I'm gonna knock you on your ass.
31 You're going to fire me before I leave and he said you wouldn't and I said
32 5:30 you're gonna find out.
33

34 [laughter]
35

36Gerald Taylor: At 5:30, I started walking outta the booth and I was heading right for Joe
37 and, uh, just as I got to him and grabbed his shirt, he says there'll be a guy
38 up here in 5 minutes to take your place. I said okay.
39

40 [laughter]
41

42Gerald Taylor: So I went back in the booth for 5 more minutes and he got a guy up there
43 and I went home. But, as I was leaving, he told me I report to trim on
44 Monday. My transfer had been approved.
45

46 [laughter]

1
2Gerald Taylor: So I all of a sudden wound up in trim department.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: [22:53] What kind of jobs were in the trim department?
5
6Gerald Taylor: Uh, the first job I had in trim was building and installing taillights. And,
7 uh, that was a good job. I enjoyed that job. And let's see, gosh, I'm trying
8 to think of all the jobs I've had. There've been a lot of jobs over the years.
9
10Cheryl McQuaid: [23:13] Could you explain maybe what the climate, what the atmosphere
11 was in the paint shop compared to the trim department?
12
13Gerald Taylor: It was the same.
14
15Cheryl McQuaid: Same...
16
17Gerald Taylor: Once you got in and had a group of guys in your area and different guys
18 that you've met, you know that you knew through the plant, uh, once you
19 got to be friends with'm, it was, it was the same. I mean there was
20 camaraderie all through the plant. Uh, always frogging around, always
21 something going on. People just, like I said, you had to be crazy to keep
22 your sanity in there in a way. And I worked with a couple guys who were
23 characters. John [Ernest 23:47] was one and another guy named Ed
24 Webber, we called chopper. And he was definitely a couple sandwiches
25 shy of a full picnic basket.
26
27Cheryl McQuaid: You called him chopper. [23:55] Why chopper?
28
29Gerald Taylor: I don't know why. That's a nickname he always had and he was crazy.
30 But, fun. We sure had a good time there. I mean we just acted crazy to
31 keep our sanity. 'Cause, I mean, day after day, that's back when we were
32 workin' 5 to 6 days a week. When I first hired in here, the first day I hired
33 in, we worked 10.4. The next day I worked there it was 11.3, if women
34 worked on the line, see, there, at that time, there was a state law that a
35 woman couldn't work more than 8 hours. So they would send one line
36 home early and take guys off of one line and put over on the other line
37 covering the women so they could go home.
38
39Cheryl McQuaid: Um, I'm sorry, [24:37] could you explain to me what is 10-3 and 11-4?
40
41Gerald Taylor: 10.3 hours.
42
43Cheryl McQuaid: 10.3 hours?
44
45Gerald Taylor: Right, each tenth was 6 minutes, so you worked 10 hours and 18 minutes
46 or 11.2, I mean, and I, first week I worked here I kinda thought maybe I'd

1 made a bad mistake, 'cause that got to be some long hours. But, yeah, if,
2 if there was time, there's one line would work 11, 11.2. If you worked
3 9.4, that was considered a short day. Back then, we worked some crazy
4 hours. And, uh, for a while, I even worked paint repair when I was on
5 utility and on day shift and we would come in at 5 in the morning and
6 leave here 7:30-8:00 at night. Nightshift would come in at 5 at night and
7 they'd still be working with us for a couple hours in the morning just
8 trying to get cars caught up, around, they had a horseshoe up in paint
9 repair and cars would go around that horseshoe and you may paint the
10 same car 4 times because they'll find spots that needed fixin'.
11
12Michael Fleming: Mike Fleming, Jerry. [25:42] When you talked about the 10.4 and 11.2, I
13 don't think average people understand that when you work on a line like
14 that, that you are bound and never know what time you're going to leave..
15
16Gerald Taylor: Right.
17
18Michael Fleming: ...and that was one of the things that, that is probably the, the biggest
19 awakening is that you never know when you're gonna go home...
20
21Gerald Taylor: Right.
22
23Michael Fleming: ...and you can't leave until they say that you can [inaudible 26:07]...
24
25Gerald Taylor: That's right. I mean, you would get a call normally around 7 hours. After
26 you'd been working 7 hours, they'd call and let you know what line time
27 was gonna be and if they called 8 hours, you'd hear cheering from one
28 end of that plant to the other, 'cause that was a very, very seldom, you
29 worked 8 hours. It was always, and I've said 9.4 was considered a short
30 day. I may work all day spraying lacquer, come out of one booth, they
31 worked the line, like I said, 8 hours, because by then, I mean, the word
32 was women could not work over 8 hours at that time.
33
34 And, when the law was changed, when the equal rights first started, and
35 there was a couple women in the plant at that time, one gal's name was,
36 uh, oh gosh, I can't think of her name, but I can see her plain as day, but I
37 can't think of her name, but, she was a women's libber. You know, and
38 she said that she should have the right to work any job a man does and do
39 anything a man should have to do and we worked across from one
40 another and she was starting to give me her spiel and we kinda got into an
41 argument. I said, listen, I said don't tell me you're the same as I am, you're
42 not. You're not the same as me, you're not equal to me. I'm not equal to
43 you. But, I said, where I agree with you is, I do not think there is a
44 woman that should not have a chance to do what she feels she can do.
45

1 There's things that you can do that I can't do. There's things that I can do
2 that you can't do. So don't say we're equal. But I think you should have an
3 equal obligation or an equal chance to do anything you feel you've got the
4 right to do or wanna try and do. After that, her and I got along good. But I
5 mean, she, she'd give me her point of view, but I'd give her mine. And we
6 got along good after that. But when the law finally went through, so she,
7 well, she worked every bit of overtime she could work. But a lot of the
8 women in that plant were madder than hell, when that law was passed,
9 because they like getting out at 8 hours.

10

11 They liked pointing the fingers at the guy and kinda snicker and walking
12 out of the plant when they knew they were gonna be there another 3
13 hours. Now it makes them happy campers in there, so when that law was
14 changed, the guys were cheering and the women weren't happy about it.
15 There was a lot of'm that weren't. The older ones. The younger ones
16 didn't mind it but the older ones weren't happy about it at all and a lot
17 of'm retired.

18

19Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter.

20

21Marilyn Coulter: Jerry, [28:28] when you got transferred down into trim, were there a lot
22 of women down in trim, was, like there was up in paint?

23

24Gerald Taylor: I'd say no. It wasn't until '70. They had a hiring in '77. That's when you
25 started seeing the women come into the actual trim department. There
26 were some in there but not very many. A majority of'm, like I said, were
27 paper hangers and like that down in paint. You didn't see very many
28 women.

29

30Marilyn Coulter: [28:55] Okay, when you saw them in '77, when the women started
31 coming into the plant, did you notice any changes? How did the men feel
32 about women coming into trim shop?

33

34Gerald Taylor: There were some that were not happy about it all and, I, they made no
35 bones about it. You know, I, you know, my attitude was the same as like
36 I, Liz was the gal's name, Liz, and I think her last name was Ward, but I
37 told Liz when we talked, I, you know, and I had that same attitude. If
38 they brought a gal in and the gal says she can do that job, as far as I'm
39 concerned she should have the right to try and do that job, you know.

40

41 Let her prove she can or can't, but don't say she can't do it without giving
42 her a chance. You know, that was always been my feelings on it and, uh,
43 so there was a lot of guys that they had to change their ways, uh, their
44 playboy ha-, pinups that were on the lockers and everything else all had
45 to come down. Some didn't take'm down, but, moved them inside the
46 door rather than outside, it did change things, uh, but it, it became a

1 different place to work. In a way it was the same but in a way it was a
2 different place to work too.
3

4Marilyn Coulter: [30:06] Were there any other kind of changes that you noticed, like they
5 had pinups, did they have to add more bathrooms? What kind, other kind
6 of things they had to do?
7

8Gerald Taylor: The bathrooms, yeah, I, in fact that was, we had one long changeover.
9 Uh, I can't remember the year but, now, it seems like it was '78. It may
10 have been 7-, yeah, I believe it was '78. We had a long changeover
11 because they did have to add like three women's bathrooms into the plant
12 at that time. They did not have facilities. There was no, uh, in fact, uh
13 locker rooms, you know, places, they put a new paint room in, in '84, and
14 there was a women's locker room put in. Before that, I don't think there
15 was a women's locker room either, 'cause their locker room now is pretty
16 much all male. I mean the showers is one big open shower that you just,
17 you know, walked into, took your shower, got dressed, and went home.
18 So that definitely, the facilities had to change for what they were doing.
19

20Cheryl McQuaid: [31:06] Jerry, how did you get back and forth to work?
21

22Gerald Taylor: Well, I used to drive and then when they'd come up with this thing about
23 carpooling, we, I started riding a carpool and eventually was in a vanpool
24 but I had to get out of it because being a committee man at the time, I was
25 a committee man in '84 and there's no way I'd wanted the guys to wait for
26 me while I was doing paperwork at the end of the shift, so I started
27 driving by myself and then I pretty much drove by myself ever since
28 because I've been on one union job or another and rather than tie
29 somebody up, I just drove.
30

31Cheryl McQuaid: [31:41] Can you tell me a little bit? You lived in Charlotte, right?
32

33Gerald Taylor: Yes.
34

35Cheryl McQuaid: What was it like riding back and forth with people? Did you like it?
36 Or...
37

38Gerald Taylor: Oh, yeah, it was fun. I had a couple guys I rode with. They were good
39 guys. One of'm I went to school with. I've known him for years. Him and
40 his brothers and the other guy was a guy I met in there and worked with,
41 so yeah, we had a good time. It was a lot of fun, uh, the only difference is
42 they liked to stop and get some encouragement on the way home...
43
44 [laughter]
45

1Gerald Taylor: ...and I'd gave that up when I'd come home from the service. I was an
2alcoholic and I walked away from it and didn't touch a drop for almost 35
3years. So that's one reason why I quit riding with'm and went into the
4vanpool was because I wasn't drinking anymore. I flat, uh, quit. I just
5walked away from it and quit and did it for, well it's been for 35 years I
6never touched a drop and now if I drink, I will have no more than 1 beer
7or 1 mixed drink because I can still remember what it was like in the old
8day, so I just won't do it. So, and that's why I went to a vanpool, uh, to get
9away from the drinking those 2 guys were doing.
10

11Cheryl McQuaid: And so the vanpool they didn't stop for encouragement?
12

13Gerald Taylor: No, no. We may stop for pop on the way home, something like that, but
14we didn't drink in the vanpool.
15

16Cheryl McQuaid: [33:02] And when you rode with other people, did you just chip in for
17gas, was there a standard?
18

19Gerald Taylor: We'd take every 3rd day you drive when I was in there and when I was in
20the vanpool, you paid him so much a week and I can't remember for sure
21what it was, I think it was \$20 paid for the week to ride or something like
22that. But, when we, when I rode with a couple of other guys just every
233rd day you drove. That's the way we had it worked out.
24

25Cheryl McQuaid: [33:23] So when you first hired into the plant, um, speaking of how much
26it costs for the gas and everything, what kind of wages were you looking
27at?
28

29Gerald Taylor: Well, when I first hired in, I hired in at \$2 and, or no, I take it back, I
30think it was \$3, I'm gonna say \$3.34 an hour and that was \$1.60 more
31than I was making as the head cabinet builder at a cabinet shop. The first
32week I worked there, I took home three times the money I took home one
33week in the cabinet shop.
34

35Cheryl McQuaid: And that was as the head cabinet maker.
36

37Gerald Taylor: That was as the head cabinet maker, yep. So it was, it was a big change
38and the benefits. That's, that's another reason why I went to General
39Motors to begin with. Is I planned on getting married. I planned on
40having a family and I looked at the benefits and that's something I never
41really thought about until I talked to my father-in-law who did work in
42here, soon to be father-in-law, who did work in here and that's a point he
43brought up that I hadn't thought about but I'm glad he did now because it
44has made a difference over the years knowing that I've had that security
45for my family.
46

1 Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter.
2
3 Marilyn Coulter: [34:39] Jerry, um, we know how you got to work now and some of the
4 things you did at work, um, what did you do for lunch and breaks and
5 things like that? Wh-, what did [inaudible 34:48] the areas...
6
7 Gerald Taylor: Uh, they used to have what they called a wagon that'd come through there
8 and it had, uh, milk, sometimes pop, donuts, hostess wrapped stuff in it,
9 different things and when you, you had your wagons, and I can't
10 remember when we lost those, it seems like it was about '84, maybe it
11 was before that we lost'm, but, uh, you had a wagon in the morning, a
12 wagon in the afternoon, where they stopped the line for I think it was 7
13 minutes, 6 minutes or 7 minutes, and that was your wagon and, uh, most
14 guys brought their lunch.
15
16 A lot of guys would go to Harry's across the street and drink their lunch.
17 There was a bunch that did that. Uh, cafeteria. Some went up there. But, a
18 majority of the guys that I worked with at that time brought their lunches
19 with'm if they ate lunch at all, they brought'm with'm.
20
21
22 Marilyn Coulter: [35:36] And so and now Harry's, I take it was a tavern?
23
24 Gerald Taylor: Yes.
25
26 Marilyn Coulter: Was there food there?
27
28 Gerald Taylor: Uh, food, mostly burgers. You know, you could get your burgers, your
29 hot dogs, fries, and they had beer and whatever, so guys would go over
30 there and like I said, some would go over there and drink their lunch. I
31 had one guy who used to work, ride back and forth to work with for a
32 while, uh, Mike [Davids 35:57] was his name, and he was about as big
33 around as a pencil, we would stop on the way into work and he would eat
34 two whoppers and fries and have a shake before we got to work. He
35 would eat his lunch before first wagon got there. He'd eat at wagon, he'd
36 eat lunch, he'd eat at second wagon, and he'd stop on the way home and
37 eat a burger and then when he got home before he went to bed, he'd open
38 one of those big cans of Dinty Moore beef stew and eat it before he went
39 to bed. And this guy didn't weigh 110 pounds soakin' wet. He was a
40 character.
41
42 Michael Fleming: Mike Fleming, uh Jerry. [36:34] You were talkin' about going over to
43 Harry's. Payday...
44
45 Gerald Taylor: Right.
46

1Michael Fleming: ...was it pretty packed over there?
2

3Gerald Taylor: Oh, yeah. Oh yeah. Harry's was packed. Yep he had a place in the back
4 where you'd go out and cash your check. I never did it over there but I
5 know there's a lot of guys who did. At times I went over there and
6 grabbed a burger for lunch, I'd see guys still going over there. Yeah, that
7 was a regular, that was a regular enterprise there. I don't know if he
8 charged ya for cashing the check, if there was, you know, what kind of a
9 deal he had for that, but I know he had a regular little booth in the back
10 where he set up and cashed checks. In all the years that he did that, I was
11 never, could never understand why nobody tried robbing them. But I
12 don't think if it, it was ever robbed that I can remember but why it wasn't
13 is always been beyond me.
14

15Cheryl McQuaid: Mm-hm. It's amazing.
16

17Gerald Taylor: Yeah.
18

19Marilyn Coulter: [37:25] Um, so speaking of checks and breaks or stuff like that, did you
20 get involved in things, like did they have like check pools? Football
21 pools? And what were those?
22

23Gerald Taylor: Oh, there's, that's been an ongoing thing in there, uh, there was one guy in
24 there that was a regular loan shark.
25

26 [laughter]
27

28Gerald Taylor: And finally a couple guys caught him outside the plant and readjusted his
29 attitude on being a loan shark. That went on in there. That was about '79
30 or '80 when that happened. Oh yeah, there was always check pools going
31 on in there. There was always, uh, especially football game, football time,
32 there was always football pools going on. All through trim. Once in a
33 while basketball, there'd be some kind of a pool or some set up going
34 with it. Um, holiday time there was always something going on. So yeah
35 that was, but that was part of the camaraderie I think, you know, getting
36 the thing going on. Some departments would have it and some wouldn't.
37 You know, you get somebody that liked to do it and he'd take the time to
38 do it and other ones wouldn't.
39

40Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
41

42Gerald Taylor: But it, yeah that was, you'd get that and dinners going on, uh, somebody
43 just out of a whim and say, hey, let's do an area dinner. So somebody
44 would come up and down the line, well this person is bringing this and
45 this person is bringing this, what do you wanna bring?
46

1 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
2

3 Gerald Taylor: And they'd bring it. Um, holiday time it was a given. I mean you knew
4 you were gonna have some dinners somewhere, it may be A trim or it
5 may be area 10, each area was divided by 10, 20, 30, whatever and area
6 10 may be putin' on a dinner, area 20 may not. Area 30 may be putin' one
7 on, so they'd go into area 20 and say well we're havin' one here and we're
8 havin' one here, so you join one or the other, so. There was always
9 dinners going on. Uh, always benefits going on of some type. There was
10 always raffles. Guys would be going through raffle and [inaudible 39:07]
11 for the kids, I mean I don't know how many fathers would come in and
12 were selling stuff for their kids or raffling for their kids programs.
13

14 Uh, if somebody was hurt, there was always collections being taken up
15 and I don't ever remember a time where I ever saw a person, uh, refuse to
16 put in on a collection for somebody, be it, uh, their spouse died, parent
17 died, child died, whatever. There was always a collection taken up. Like I
18 said, this place back up until, in my opinion, until it got taken over by
19 Oldsmobile, back when we were Fisher body, this place was a family and
20 they always looked out for one another. You were always, there was no
21 white, there was no black, there was no, none of this racial stuff in here.
22 You were family in here. And everybody's treated that way. Everybody
23 looked out for one another. It was, you enjoyed working here because it
24 had that atmosphere here, even though the hours may be long and it may
25 be rough. I met a man in here in 1973 and he's my partner today in the
26 construction business and I consider him as much my brother as one of
27 my brothers.
28

29 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
30

31 Gerald Taylor: We've been very close, and he's a hell of a good man. One of the best,
32 one of the things that I'll take out of my years at Fisher Body was having
33 this man as a friend. So anybody can say that about where they work, I
34 think it's saying something good about where they work. But I still feel
35 that once Oldsmobile took this place over, it, it quit becoming Fisher
36 Body, and it lost the identity we had as being a close unit. Because, uh,
37 when Olds come over here, it just completely, I think their main aim was
38 to go in and destroy the culture, the, just the way the people felt about
39 one another in here. They figured it was better for the business. Well, in
40 my opinion, it's one of the worst things they could've done.
41

42 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
43

44 Gerald Taylor: Because this place has never been the same. You never saw the
45 camaraderie, the backstabbing, the fighting started the pol - the politics
46 come in, which is something you never had here before and it just

1 changed with them coming in. And I never saw it get any better up until
2 the time I retired. Because of that reason.
3
4 Cheryl McQuaid: Were you ever, Cheryl McQuaid, [41:34] were you ever...
5
6 Gerald Taylor: No, I was never Cheryl McQuaid.
7
8 [laughter]
9
10 Cheryl McQuaid: Were you ever a part of the union?
11
12 Gerald Taylor: Yes, uh, in 1983 I started out as being an alternate alternate. When the
13 district or the alternate wasn't there, I would fill in. I did that to see if it
14 was something I wanted to do because I have always liked people. I have
15 always liked being around people and I've always liked helping people.
16 So this was my way of seeing if it's something I really wanted to get
17 involved in and it did. Um, I started out I was an alternate alternate and I
18 went to alternate, uh, from there, I went to committee, uh, from
19 committee, I didn't last very long as committeeman because it don't pay
20 to be honest to be a committeeman, it comes back and bites ya in the butt,
21 so I just wasn't gonna change my ways and I wasn't gonna lie to people,
22 so it's best I got beat. I think it's one of the best things that ever happened
23 to me was to get beat.
24
25 Uh, at that point I kinda dropped off for a little while. Then, they started
26 having union awareness classes and I started and they, a couple people
27 come up and asked me if I'd consider teaching them. So I told'm, yeah I'd
28 give it a try. So I went in with, uh, gosh, I'm trying to remember who all
29 was, Hazel Hodge was in it, myself was in, Deb McNichols, um Winston
30 Travis, and there was one other individual and I can't remember his name
31 but we all started training on it and we started and they had us training
32 with some supervisors which didn't go good with me because I'd flat
33 call'm liars right to their face and we'd have it in the meetings and I didn't
34 think I was gonna last very long.
35
36 Well then they each give us a presentation we were supposed to put on in
37 front of the shop committee and some of the higher-ups in management,
38 so we put the presentation on and, uh, management gave us scripted
39 presentations to put on and everybody put theirs on and I ripped mine up
40 and I put on my own presentation, telling'm what I thought about the
41 program, what I thought about the way it was being orchestrated and I
42 figured that pretty well shot me down as an instructor.
43
44 [laughter]
45

1Gerald Taylor: But when it got all done, the union says either he instructs or we don't
2 have any program. So I wound up being one of the instructors and, uh, it's
3 one of the best things that ever happened to me 'cause it was one of the
4 things I enjoyed doing more than anything I ever did in this place was
5 teaching about union awareness, about the history of union, trying to tell
6 people what their rights were, trying to tell'm don't back down, don't be
7 afraid to stand up if you think you're right and, uh, I enjoyed doing it and
8 it lasted, gosh I think a couple years and at that point I decided to run for
9 education chairman and I, I won that election and I was on education
10 chair and taught for like 2 years after that different classes the union itself
11 put on. This wasn't management funded at that time. It was regular union
12 classes.
13
14 And, uh, I taught those and like I said, that was the most enjoyable time I
15 ever had in the union and at Fisher Body was teaching those classes.
16 They were fun. The people were fun. They were fun to deal with and we
17 had a good time. After that, um, I went back on the line. They
18 discontinued the programs so I went back on the line and was working.
19 I've been, in that time I was in repair and trim, working repair, enjoying
20 that and then uh I heard Bill White was gonna retire, as the workers comp
21 rep and I had a couple guys come up and talk to me and asked me to
22 consider running for it because the classes I taught and everything else
23 and they said well you're a people person, you like dealing with people,
24 and we need somebody over there who's not afraid to take management
25 on or the union on to tell people what they can do, so I ran for it and got it
26 and the last 7 1/2 years I spent there, I spent as the workers comp rep
27 [inaudible 45:44] my union.
28
29Marilyn Coulter: Jerry, [45:48] can you please explain to us what a workers comp rep
30 does? What were some of the things you did?
31
32Gerald Taylor: Basically, what I did as a workers comp rep is somebody would get, well
33 I was workers compensation and unemployment chairman, so if they
34 were, if we had a layoff coming up, if we had somebody who was laid
35 off, or um whatever, or unemployment was involved, I got, I got them set
36 up with the unemployment. I'd go meet with the people on unemployment
37 and get all our paperwork around, trying get everything, and this is
38 something I implemented, uh, and I think [inaudible 46:16] is still
39 continuing it today.
40
41 I would go meet with MESC and find out what we were gonna do, make
42 sure the paperwork was there, try and get the paperwork to people in the
43 plant, uh, I went through and met with the different groups in the plant,
44 lettin'm know what was going on. What they had to do. Who they had to
45 talk to. Make sure they knew to come over and see me and we'd get
46 things going and uh so that was down on the unemployment.

1
2 On the workers comp, it took me a year and a half to actually, because
3 the guy who was there before me, uh, got pissed at the financial secretary
4 of the union and walked out and just left me hanging. So I had to learn
5 that job from the ground up. I had no training. No whatsoever and this is
6 where I will uh always be indebted to Larry [inaudible 47:04] and [Neil]
7 [inaudible 47:05] because they took the time. Those guys were the ones
8 that actually trained me on the comp job and they took the time that, if I
9 had any question no matter where they were at and no matter what they
10 were doin', if I called'm, they called me.
11
12 Marilyn Coulter: Now, [47:19] were they union people also?
13
14 Gerald Taylor: They were attorneys that the union had dealt with prior to me being there
15 and, uh, like I can say, I can do nothing but, but, uh, praise them because
16 I couldn't have done half the job I did as a comp rep without the training
17 those guys gave me going into it.
18
19 Marilyn Coulter: [47:34] So, now as a workers comp rep, did you only service your
20 members? Did you have to service the families too?
21
22 Gerald Taylor: The attitude that the guy before me had, was that you served the members
23 and any UAW was his, my philosophy was I was there to serve the
24 membership. Now to me, that meant the members and their families and I
25 never turned down, to my knowledge, I've never turned down talking to
26 any UAW person that ever came through that door to talk to me and I get
27 calls from local presidents from Howell to Hastings asking me questions
28 about what they should do on this or that or unemployment or if they'd
29 have a question, they called and I always, I always made sure I got them
30 the information, uh, learning the comp job.
31
32 The one thing I found on the comp job and the one thing I prided myself
33 in, in the 7 1/2 years I was there, was the fact that whenever somebody
34 called me, I always returned their phone call. To my knowledge, I never
35 missed calling somebody back who called or left a message for me and
36 there was times when I've come back to my office and had 38 messages
37 on my desk maybe an hour before it was time to close up the union hall
38 and I would still stay at the union hall until I made every one of those
39 phone calls because that was something that was very important to me
40 was to let, because the one thing I heard as a union rep and different
41 union jobs is the union never gets back with me, I never hear back
42 from'm. I don't know what's going on.
43
44 So the one thing I tried to do was to make the people know that they had
45 a place where they could go and they could tell me something and know
46 they weren't just talkin' to a wall and I tried to be as honest with'm as

1 possible and I, I've had times where people would come into that office
2 just screaming mad at me for what I told'm but my philosophy and what I
3 would tell'm after they got done rantin' and ravin', I'd say you done? And
4 they kinda calmed down and I'd say listen, you want me to tell you the
5 truth or you want me to tell ya a lie and makes you feel good and then
6 down the road find out that I'd lied to you, how much more pissed are you
7 gonna be when you come back and see me? If you know what the truth is,
8 you know what you gotta do to try and rectify a situation or where you
9 stand rather than, than give you a bunch of BS to make you feel good
10 that's not doin' you any good.

11
12 That was the philosophy I had in that office and I think it's did me well
13 because I've never heard anybody in my years there and I'm not saying
14 this to brag, but I'm saying it because I think I proved a point that if
15 you're honest with the people, if you could back with the people even if
16 they don't wanna hear what you're gonna tell'm, they at least respect you
17 because you did get back with'm and you did tell'm so they knew what
18 they had to do from that point. So well I mean that was, that was my
19 philosophy as a union rep anyway.
20

21 Michael Fleming: Uh, Mike Fleming, Jerry. [50:28] Unemployment and comp and, um, rep
22 when you were there, how was your relationship with the benefits
23 people? How well did you all work together and talk about the benefits
24 [representatives 50:42].
25

26 Gerald Taylor: The benefits people I had, uh, Gary McDaniels, uh, Dan [Bailey 50:49]
27 when I'd first come on with benefits rep, Sam Hall, I got along good with
28 Gary McDaniels, I got along good with Dan [Bailey 50:55], I didn't get
29 along with Sam Hall because I found she had her nose in my business
30 givin' people wrong information. I didn't buy that and there was times
31 when I would do the benefits job's work, I didn't want to but I didn't have
32 a choice because they were holding on something, they were dragging on
33 something and these people needed pay while I was able to get through
34 and if I could fax something down to'm, I could get people their pay
35 'cause that was the main thing.
36

37 It's what fascinated me, I'm gonna sidestep a minute, but what has always
38 fascinated me about our plan is the kind of wages the people earned. The
39 benefits the people have and there are so many people in that plant that
40 live check-to-check after 20 years and they'd come in and you know
41 they're gonna shut my water off next week. You've only been on off work
42 a week, how the hell they gonna shut your water off next week? You ain't
43 missed a check up until just now. They're gonna shut it off. You know
44 this routine and you knew a bunch of'm were pulling your leg. You know
45 they weren't telling you the truth but all you had to do was call down

1 [inaudible 51:59] we never got any paperwork. I'd say where's your
2 paperwork? Nobody told me I had to call in for any.
3
4 So sometimes the benefits reps wouldn't tell'm that you gotta call in for
5 your paperwork. They thought it was automatically sent to'm. Either they
6 didn't contact the rep or whatever the case, I don't know, but and Sam
7 would get mad at me because I would, I had some spare copies of the
8 benefits and I'd say fill this out. They'd fill the thing out and get it to your
9 doctor and get it back to me and I'll get it faxed in for ya. [Go to Marilyn]
10 [52:34] upstairs, she'd fax the paperwork in, chances are I could the get
11 guy some money within a week. It's just, you know, I would do that. I
12 had that latitude but that's one thing that always pissed Sam off because I
13 would do that and she would accuse me of being stepping on her toes and
14 I had people who, um, more than once, I'd tell her you know, I need this,
15 I need this extension sent in, I need this paperwork sent in and she'd come
16 over and say well, I really don't think they deserve it and I'd say well
17 that's not your call to make and more than once I thre-, threatened to
18 throw her out of my office with the door open or closed, I was gonna
19 throw her out.
20
21 [laughter]
22
23 Gerald Taylor: She pissed me off that bad but she went right up to Gary Bernath a couple
24 times wantin' me taken off, wantin' me fired, wantin' me this, that, and the
25 other thing and Gary told her, he says, well there's a lot of people I
26 wouldn't mind taking on but Jerry isn't one of'm. So, she, we just had –
27 and when I signed up to retire, I figured she'd personally walk my
28 paperwork through to get rid of me as much as she disliked me, she stuck
29 my paperwork in a drawer and wouldn't send it in and kept it there. So I
30 wound up working a month and a half longer than I planned on because
31 she stuffed my paperwork and it never went through.
32
33 Michael Fleming: Jerry, Mike Fleming again, [53:52] I just very briefly explain what a
34 benefits rep does versus what you do because you did give...
35
36 Gerald Taylor: Right.
37
38 Michael Fleming: ...a very good...
39
40 Gerald Taylor: Yeah.
41
42 Michael Fleming: ...report back of what happened there but we don't know [inaudible
43 54:00]
44
45 Gerald Taylor: What the benefits rep, they're, contractually we have benefits and these
46 reps are there to see that the people are represented right as far as getting

1 what they're entitled to under the benefits, under our agreement. As a
2 workers comp rep, I'm elected by the membership. The benefits reps are
3 appointed by the international or whoever. I was elected by the
4 membership to do my job and my job entitled two state laws, workers
5 compensation and unemployment and one thing a lot of people didn't
6 understand and one thing I tried to enlighten them to when they'd come
7 in, was everybody thought that workers comp was workers comp the
8 same wherever you went.
9
10 Every state in the United States has their own workers comp law and so
11 the main reason why a lot of people come to Michigan and they would
12 file workers comp is workers comp was one of the highest paying in
13 Michigan as in the country. Only Ohio, New York, and I think California
14 paid a higher comp rate than Michigan did. So a lot of people come to
15 Michigan to file for comp and that's another problem we had with the
16 comp in the state. So I hope that answered Mike in what the difference is
17 in the two. .
18
19 Michael Fleming: Thank you.
20
21 Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid. [55:11] Jerry, could you tell us a little bit about your
22 workers comp position and some of the things that you saw go on in the
23 plant.
24
25 Gerald Taylor: Well there was I guess what you'd call a stigma about factory workers
26 and about especially for some reason GMs had a good way of putting it
27 out about their factory workers being nothing but lazy bums who'd come
28 in there just so they could get out and draw comp and sit on their butt,
29 um, it's a bad wrap that our people have got. What we've got going on
30 now and you hear about it in the news, especially I heard about it just a
31 couple weeks ago in the news, the biggest problem we have is repetitive
32 motion injuries.
33
34 Michael Fleming: [Musculoskeletal] [inaudible 55:52].
35
36 Gerald Taylor: And it's just right now, they're finally realizing what we've been realizing,
37 everybody that deals with comp on my side of it, has been realizing that
38 it's there, it's a continuous problem, it's one that General Motors would
39 never...
40
41 Michael Fleming: Recognize.
42
43 Gerald Taylor: ...recognize, would never say what happened in their plants. Their idea
44 of taking care of the problem was to move somebody over to a different
45 job. Well, if they've got the injury, moving them to a different job doesn't
46 cure the injury. Uh, when I dealt with Gary [Allen 56:22] and the

1 different people, when they, they used to have comp reps here for
2 General Motors right in Lansing that I could deal with before they
3 outsourced it out to whatever the name of the company is now doing it.
4

5Cheryl McQuaid: [Inaudible 56:33]
6

7Gerald Taylor: Yeah, and, uh, when I dealt with Gary [Allen 56:37] there's many times
8 I'd go over it to him with a case and he would look at me and say you
9 know this guys playing us. You know there's nothing wrong with him.
10 You know that he's playing games. How can you come in, keep a straight
11 face and want us to do everything with him. At that point I'd put 10 more
12 files down in front of him and I said because of these other 10 right here
13 that you know damn well were hurt in there, that you know will never be
14 back again, but you do nothing but screw them over, make'm feel like
15 dirt, do everything you can to demean'm when you know they're injured
16 in there. So how can you sit there with a straight face and talk to me
17 about one when there's ten of'm over here you're playing with.
18

19 You take the good, you take the bad. Same as I do and so we kinda had
20 an understanding but I was able to get a lot of stuff done when they had
21 somebody inhouse that I could deal with. A lot of cases we didn't have to
22 go to litigation on. A lot of'm, we, uh, you know if a person was off for a
23 short period of time, I could get the thing done where I could get'm some
24 money, they wouldn't get all their money but it save'm attorney fees and
25 everything else and I could still give'm a chunk of their money and get
26 stuff taken care of.
27

28Marilyn Coulter: So not to interrupt you, [57:40] so litigation you saying that you had to go
29 court with these people?
30

31Gerald Taylor: Oh yes. That was quite common. Uh, and it was actually, it was a
32 workers comp bureau under the state law, there's a bureau set up that you
33 had to go in front of and there was magistrates there who would
34 determine if you had a valid case or if you didn't. These magistrates are
35 appointed by the governor and, uh, lately under the John Engler era, we
36 had some of the worst magistrates, some of the far-right magistrates, not
37 middle of the road which we were dealing with most of the time and it
38 made it rough to win a case even though we knew we had a good case
39 and these magistrates, I've heard one more than once when the doors
40 were closed and the case was done, say I feel bad about it but they knew
41 that they ruled the wrong way, but what are you gonna do, you can't
42 prove it. So, the problem in the plant is repetitive motion. It's happened
43 more times than I can count. Management's aware of it and they tried to
44 bring people in to address the problem but they've never really addressed
45 it.
46

1 Anything management has ever brought into that plant, uh, QWL, I mean
2 you go through the different things that we've been through over the
3 years, uh, maybe you folks can think of someone I'm not thinkin' of but
4 every time they have these organizations, they take the principle, they
5 take the part of it that suits them and don't do the whole thing.
6
7 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [59:03] what was QWL, Jerry?
8
9 Gerald Taylor: Quality of work life. It's supposed to be where they come in, we work
10 together, make things happen better. Well they took the part of QWL
11 where you worked with management but when it'd come to
12 management's part of QWL working with you, that, we didn't have time
13 for that. We just want you to do what we think is best out of this. And
14 there've been other things in there besides QWL. Um, I've been outta of
15 there a while so I can't remember, maybe you can think of something.
16
17 Marilyn Coulter: First time [build 59:30].
18
19 Gerald Taylor: First time [build 59:31] another good one. You know. It's, it's, we'll take
20 the part of the process that benefits us but we won't take the whole
21 process because we really don't think this is necessary. When you have a
22 concept, you should use the whole concept or not at all. Their idea has
23 always been we'll use the part of the concept we like that benefits us but
24 if this doesn't benefit us, we really don't need it and we don't need to
25 pursue it.
26
27 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
28
29 Gerald Taylor: And a lot of the problem we've had is the union leaders we've had for the
30 last 15 years have rolled right along with management.
31
32 Michael Fleming: Jerry, uh, Mike Fleming, [59:59] um, so I guess would it be safe to say
33 that what you have seen in your time is that um the policies and whatnot
34 that come through General Motors mostly benefit the company and very
35 few um such as ergonomics or any type of standards that, that, that
36 regulate how an employee, um, gets, gets um resolves an issue of, of, of
37 physical harm in there and would you say that's more company oriented
38 or more um employee oriented.
39
40 Gerald Taylor: The ergonomics policy that they first started while I was in there was a
41 great concept. It was a great policy. But the company only used the part
42 of ergonomics that says that if we do this with a person that should be
43 good enough. Not that if we do this and it doesn't work then we have to
44 go to a different remedy. They'd forget about the different remedy part.
45 They use the part as well we can do this as they interpret it. So it's always
46 been, you know, we're bringing a policy in and we'll show the media and

1 we'll show the world that we're, we're really lookin' to help our workers.
2 Now we're [inaudible 1:01:07] help our profit margin. Workers is a
3 secondary thing. If we can get'm out the door buy'm out and be rid of'm,
4 put'm on something else.
5
6 I'll give you a prime example, uh, I wasn't ever [international 1:01:21]
7 negotiations but I've sat through a bunch of meetings where they did have
8 negotiations that talked about negotiating, such as con con and different
9 things like that and uh one things with this jobs bank is a prime example.
10 The jobs bank was brought in. The purpose of the jobs bank when it was
11 negotiated was to force General Motors to bring work inhouse for people
12 rather than ship jobs overseas, ship jobs to Mexico, ship jobs out to bring
13 work inhouse, to keep these people working but General Motors used it
14 in a different way, rather than do it to try and bring work in, they did it to
15 do nothing but besmirch the union as to, uh look at these people, we've
16 got'm sitin' on their asses in the cafeteria, drawing 8 hours of pay and not
17 doing anything.
18
19 In other words, sha-, not shame on us because we can't find work for'm
20 but we won't bring work inhouse for'm, but shame on the union. Look
21 what they negotiated. Look at the money it's costing us. I mean this is,
22 this is the way the thing has spun over the years.
23
24 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
25
26 Gerald Taylor: So you get one person saying one thing and one person saying another.
27
28 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
29
30 Gerald Taylor: And you know, I, I hate to sound like I'm a devout union man but after
31 what I've seen in there, after 30 years of watching General Motors be
32 mismanaged and shot down the toilet the way they have been, it's kinda
33 hard for me to be gung-ho and support GM when I've seen what they've
34 done to the workers and to the corporation. I mean from Roger B. Smith
35 on down. What we've seen here and there's some workin' at that plant that
36 I believe won't agree with me that was in there the last 30 years. We've
37 seen the mismanagement and the complete stupidity of management over
38 30 years and you kinda wonder why GM, you know the saying has
39 always been in the plant that General Motors will never go under, it's too
40 big a corporation, but I think they've proven us wrong. Their stupidity has
41 finally comin' to the front and their gonna prove us wrong I'm sorry to
42 say.
43
44 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
45

1Michael Fleming: [Inaudible 1:03:17] Jerry, we are going through some difficult times as a
2 corporation. Um, we're surely gonna be a smaller company as we go
3 forward, um when you were working in the plant, we had a lot of name
4 changes that'd taken place, we went from LCA, BOC, to um well maybe
5 another one or two, what do you refer to this plant as? Which, which
6 name stuck with you the most?
7

8Gerald Taylor: This plant will always be Fisher Body to me. It was Fisher Body when I'd
9 come here and it'll be Fisher Body till the day I die whether standing or
10 not, I'll always remember it as Fisher Body and this used to be a great
11 place to work until Oldsmobile took it over. When it became, uh, BOC at
12 that time I think.
13

14Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

15

16Gerald Taylor: Uh, it quit being Fisher Body in name but anybody that hired in there
17 when it was Fisher Body knew what it was like when it was Fisher Body.
18 It'll always be Fisher Body. It'll never change.
19

20Marilyn Coulter: Jerry, during the time, Marilyn Coulter, [1:04:15] during the time that
21 you worked there Lansing was referred to as the capital of quality, there
22 were people who bought vehicles because they knew it was made in
23 Lansing.
24

25Gerald Taylor: That's a fact.

26

27Marilyn Coulter: What do you think it was, what do you think attributed, what made us
28 special? What made Lansing special?
29

30Gerald Taylor: The quality that we built. The quality that we – back when this was
31 Fisher Body, back in the early 80s even, when we were building the
32 Cutlass in here, that was a car that was demanded all over the country and
33 there are people, I've talked to different people when I was in California,
34 when I was in the service, I talked to people and one guy says I'm waiting
35 for my new car. I said well where's it coming from? He says, well, its, he
36 say I ordered an Oldsmobile and he says and it better be from Lansing.
37 He said I'm looking under the hood as soon as I get it and it better have
38 that Lansing mark on the VIN number to let me know it's Lansing he says
39 or I'm sending it back.
40

41 He said the last one I had was the greatest car I ever owned and I've
42 talked to a lot of people and they bought Lansing and same with the 88s
43 and 98s when they were built up here. They were demanded throughout
44 the country because of the quality that was built in. The people took pride
45 in what we built but when General Motors combined it with Oldsmobile
46 and it became BOC or whatever, you realized that General Motors was

1 doing nothing but lookin' at the bucks. They weren't ca-, they could talk
2 about quality all they wanted but we saw their concern for quality go
3 right out the door. Their concern was profit margin, not quality and until,
4 and until General Motors starts showing the workers that their concern is
5 quality not profit margin, I don't think the workers will ever have the
6 attitude that we had when I first hired in here about turning out the
7 quality that was here.
8

9Marilyn Coulter: Je-, Jerry, [1:05:56] when we talked about workers you know there were
10 some people who have some misconceptions or some [inaudible 1:05:57]
11 even call them stereotypes about workers, what were some of those
12 things that once you became in there and you got involved with the
13 people that you found that really weren't true?
14

15Gerald Taylor: Uh, a lot of it was to me I'd never been around African Americans that
16 much. Now this is a prime example. I've never been around that many,
17 living in Charlotte, it was not, you know, an area where very many were
18 there. Uh, there was two that lived by me when, as I was a young kid
19 growing up. Two of the sweetest people I've ever met in my life. I
20 loved'm to death but I got to know the different cultures. The different
21 people. Uh, actually, the, even from the south, you wanna call'm
22 hillbillies or whatever, but I mean I got to talk to different people from
23 different walks of life and I, and that's one thing that I've always enjoyed
24 about the plant, about, my union involvement, it's the different people I
25 got to talk to. I got to know'm.
26

27Marilyn Coulter: [1:06:57] So it helped you in your own personal growth?
28

29Gerald Taylor: Very much so.
30

31Marilyn Coulter: [1:07:02] And did you find whether you were the education chair, what
32 about the education level on the floor? Were there people that were
33 educated?
34

35Gerald Taylor: Oh, compared to when I first come in there, you didn't need an education
36 of any type to get in there. If you could read, sign your name, you'd come
37 in. But I know if, I mean I was with, I worked with people in there who
38 had teaching degrees.
39

40Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
41

42Gerald Taylor: That actually felt it was better to work in there than it was to be a teacher.
43 So, yes, the, the level of education in that plant right now compared to it
44 was when I'd come in there in '68 is unbelievable. There's a lot more
45 education there and it's a shame General Motors doesn't use it. They have
46 a ton potential in there if they would just take the time to use it.

1
2 Marilyn Coulter: Now, now you worked in there, you hired in 1968 and you retired 8 years
3 ago, uh, and now the place, Fisher Body that you worked at, grew in,
4 worked, helped workers it's closed and they're getting ready to tear the
5 building down. [1:08:00] How do you feel about that?
6
7 Gerald Taylor: Sad. I hate to see it go. It's progress I guess, it's gonna happen but as long
8 as I got the memories, even the though the buildings gone, as long as I'm
9 alive and got the memories it'll still be there.
10
11 Marilyn Coulter: Okay, and um...
12
13 Gerald Taylor: And the friendships and the people I've met over the years. That's
14 important to me.
15
16 Marilyn Coulter: ...you were the education chair and workers comp chair for the young
17 people who might be coming into the labor force, into manufacturing, or
18 into the union, if you were teaching the class right now, [1:08:35] what
19 would you tell'm? What'd they need to do to make it happen?
20
21 Gerald Taylor: I think the one thing I'd tell'm more than anything else, is look back in
22 history. History has a way of repeating itself. We've seen it happen time
23 and time again and I think history's gonna repeat itself s'more. But, the
24 people today, there's always gotta be a union movement. You know even
25 though the majority of the country right now seems to think it's not
26 important, it's very important because if people don't look out for people,
27 nobody else is gonna.
28
29 The government is so vast and so spread out that it can't be individual, it
30 can't work for individuals. The individual has to work for themselves and
31 the individual can work for themselves a whole lot better if they work
32 within a group who cares about everyone and I think with the union
33 you've got that. If they keep the politics out of the union and keep the
34 union where it does concern about the people, that is the biggest problem
35 with our union, it's the politics. If the, the powers to be ever get it through
36 their heads to get rid of the politics and concern about the people and the
37 other unions, not just the UAW but other unions too...
38
39 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
40
41 Gerald Taylor: ...if they forget about the politics, forget about the power struggle and
42 concentrate on caring for the members, I think you'll see a lot more
43 people willing to joint something they see as something who really
44 concerned about the people and not concerned about the politics to get
45 where they're at.
46

1 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. And one other thing before I turn it back over to Cheryl is when
2 you, a little bit ago, you told us con con. [1:09:57] What is con con?
3

4 Gerald Taylor: Constitutional convention. Before they go to contract, they have a
5 constitutional convention and there's members that are voted on in the
6 plant, uh, you put your name in as running for it and then the members
7 vote to send a number of delegates by, that's determined by the number of
8 people in the plant and a couple guys talked me into running for it once
9 so I, okay, I put my name in and I got it and it was a great experience. I
10 really enjoyed going out, I learned a lot.
11

12 Marilyn Coulter: So, [1:10:25] this is UAW?
13

14 Gerald Taylor: UAW, constitutional and the first one was held in San Diego, California
15 and I went but the biggest problem is I hate flying, I went anyway, and uh
16 then 3 years later, a guy dared me to put my name in, I told him I put my
17 name in but I wasn't gonna run for it, I wasn't gonna campaign, so I
18 through my name in and I wound up going anyway.
19

20 So, I went to two of'm and I was fortunate, uh, and that's where, where I
21 really learned about the politics of the union and I always have been
22 bitter since going there for the simple fact that um the politics that are
23 involved there. You don't have a clear voice. The, the constitution part of
24 our government is, of our union, is ran from the top down not by the
25 bottom up. You're not recognized until, until the union gets to where it's
26 one person, one vote within the union to lead the membership versus the
27 guys at con con electing who's already been designated to go, it's never
28 gonna change and that's where a lot of this centers.
29

30 When I was at the last con con which was back in '80, no '90, '90 I guess
31 it was or '89 or '90, whenever it was anyway, uh, Jim [Rainey 1:11:46]
32 had come up. He was the assistant regional director. He'd come up and
33 we were sitting at our table and, uh, other Lansing unions I noticed you
34 know whenever things run, they were playing golf or going here or going
35 there, that's one thing I will say for our union I'm proud of, is when we
36 had constitutional convention, our people were always at the table,
37 always in attendance, and always there to vote.
38

39 Marilyn Coulter: 602.
40

41 Gerald Taylor: 602 and that's one thing I'm very proud of our group for doing but Jim
42 [Rainey 1:12:10] come up and handed me a, a towel and uh he handed
43 me a piece of paper and he says, uh, when [Beiber 1:12:18] comes up, we
44 want you to, to wave the towel and you'll be recognized and we want you
45 to, to talk on this subject. I looked at it and I says I'm not gonna do that,
46 and why not? I said because I don't believe in it. I'm not voting for it and

1 uh he said, oh, yes you are, and I said, oh, no I'm not. I said I'll wave the
2 towel but if I stand up I'm gonna tell you what I think about this and uh
3 he said do you know who you're talkin' to? And I said, yeah, I know who
4 I'm talkin' to.
5
6 [laughter]
7
8Gerald Taylor: But I said there's something you need t understand about me and I said
9 it's one thing I've always felt, I said you're not my boss and at the time,
10 uh, [Rubin Burkes 1:12:56] was our regional director, and I said he's not
11 my boss. I pointed to [Ted Hartman 1:13:01] and, and to [Dick Bennett
12 1:13:02] and I said those guys aren't my boss, I said that tall drink of
13 water talkin' at the podium right now ain't my boss. I said my boss of
14 5000 people in that plant and I'm gonna do what I think is right for them.
15 If you gotta problem with that, I don't know what the hell to tell ya.
16
17 He turned around and walked away and he never talked to me after that.
18 but that was the attitude I had and I wished more union people would get
19 that attitude. The ones in the union position. Quit letin' the union be run
20 from the top down and get the union run from the bottom up like it's
21 supposed to be and I think the union could turn itself around.
22
23Michael Fleming: Very good, Jerry. Uh, Cheryl?
24
25Cheryl McQuaid: Jerry, is there um, this is Cheryl McQuaid, [1:13:40] is there anything
26 that you would like to share with us that we've not touched on?
27
28Gerald Taylor: Not really. It's good to see you. It's good to talk to you again. I miss the
29 people. I don't miss management and I don't really miss the factory in a
30 way other than I'm, I hate to see it be tore down but I miss the people. I
31 sure had a lot of fun with a lot of people over the years.
32
33Cheryl McQuaid: Well thank you so much.
34
35Marilyn Coulter: Thank you for the interview.
36
37Gerald Taylor: Mm-hm.
38
39Marilyn Coulter: Thank you for your help, thank you for your service.
40
41Michael Fleming: Yes, Jerry, Thank you for your time.
42
43Gerald Taylor: No problem. Glad to do it. I had fun.
44
45/ds
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