

9:00 am

Fisher Body Historical Team

12-21-05

Interviewer = Marilyn Coulter

Interviewee Shelton Tyson

Seniority = 11-19-84

Married = Yes - (3) daughters

Education = Corrections Officer certification still studying.

Military = none

Came to Lansing in 1974 for schooling basically

Reason for Hire = Benefit package for family.

Hired in at (24) waited in line for 6 hours.

First Day = Body Shop Metal finish dayshift.

Grew up around factories in Detroit, but Lansing he was amazed at the safety features in Lansing.

Shelton eventually became a relief man in the body shop but with little or ~~no~~ no seniority there was animosity between his higher seniority co-workers.

= First Supervisor was "old school" = This means that an individual who thought you as an employee should come to work on time and be ready to do your job.

- First Day = anxiety and such a large factory, Blessed to be hired at Fisher Body also he knew some people who ~~at~~ already were working at Fisher.

Pranks = Putting glue or water in gloves. Put water into your protective suit and get your co-workers wet.

- * Shelton moved around through paint and trim but would prefer the body shop.
 - * Culture = Body shop people were more rugged, Paint and trim was more laid back and relaxed than in the body shop.
 - * Leisuretime = Sometimes go to Hamps Bar, Gus Bar, also had his family come to visit and bring him lunch.
 - * Met his wife at Fisher Body in the Trim shop and eventually his wife took on early buyout and left Fisher Body.
 - * A relationship was sometimes hard because being away from their children during night shifts. She stayed all of 5-7 years and stayed home after this to take care of ~~the~~ her children at home.
- These challenges came about on a daily basis when both were working. They still took care of their kids and let them know they love them but still had to work.
- * Fisher & Wolvers Shelton felt that they helped out each other whenever possible.
 - = Community service = Both donated to United Way. They also donated to the coat drives and also gave collections when needed.
 - * Lunch = played basketball, cards, chess and went to enjoy your time away from home

(3)

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Usually on the job shelter would converse with co-workers about, family, marriage, finances, and outside interests in the plant.

= Most interesting conversation = Females could function at work and still have time to raise kids at home and do housework also.

Co-worker friendships outside the plant = Mayhew Louter, Craig Johnson Craig Gonder, Kirk Young

* A special person = Kirk Young knew shelter outside the plant and taught him many things before he even hired in to Fisher Body.

* Significant changes = Females ~~to~~ became more active and stronger in the workplace. The prospect of having a good paying job with benefits.

* Gent Tools = yes. some skilled tradesmen have made him personal lockers for his radio.

* Culture within the plant were pop, snacks and a big one was radios on your job.

* Union activity = not as much as he should be, wishes he was more involved than now.

Best Benefit = Health care packages, TAP which tuition assistance program. EOP program.

* "Education opportunity program" for employees was good to advance you to higher levels.

* Union involvement = something needs to be done to convince people that they need to get involved. Each time there is a union

function. Employees should rotate these job duties for each person to have a chance for these jobs.

★ Plant Closing = 99-990 was good at the plant, met his wife at the plant, his daughter walked on the picket line with her dad as one of the strikers. He filmed a movie all around the actual Fisher Body plant. Shelton is devastated and sad that this plant ~~is~~ is totally going to close. He wants GM to do something positive with the property that Fisher Body sets on right now.

F He buys GM cars. he has cadillacs from 1976-1979 and he has 2 from each year