

**Victor Voisinnet discusses his career as a production and material
handling worker and UAW member at the Fisher Body plant in Lansing, MI**

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3
4
5 Cheryl McQuaid: [recorder clicking] [clicking] This is Cheryl McQuaid [clicking] with Lansing
6 Fisher Body Historical Team. [clicking] It is December 12th, 2005, [clicking]
7 at approximately 10:15. [thumping] We are preparing to interview Vic
8 Voisinnet. We're at the [clicking] 602 UAW Union Hall in the Conference
9 Room. [clicking] First we're gonna go around and acknowledge everybody
10 else in the room.
11
12 Mike Fleming: [tsk] Mike Fleming.
13
14 [clicking]
15
16 Marilyn Coulter: Marilyn Coulter.
17
18 Jerri Smith: Jerri Smith.
19
20 John Fedewa: John Fedewa.
21
22 [clicking]
23
24 Cheryl McQuaid: [0:32] And Vic Voisinnet, could you state your name and spell your last name
25 for us, please?
26
27 Vic Voisinnet: Uh, my name is Vic Voisinnet, [clicking] and I spell my last name V-O-I-S-I-
28 N-E-T.
29
30 Cheryl McQuaid: [0:47] And what is your address, Vic?
31
32 [clicking]
33
34 Vic Voisinnet: I live on 9265 Tallman Road, [papers rustling] [clicking] Eagle, [coughing]
35 Michigan.
36
37 [papers rustling]
38
39 Cheryl McQuaid: [0:54] And are you married? Do you have children?
40
41 [clicking]
42
43 Vic Voisinnet: Yes. I've been married [scraping] for 37 years. [clicking] We have 5 children.
44
45 [background noises]
46
47 Cheryl McQuaid: [1:02] And do you have any [papers rustling] military service time?

1
2 [clicking]
3
4 Vic Voisinnet: I was in National Guard for [scraping] 6 years from January of '63 till January
5 of '69.
6
7 [clicking]
8
9 Cheryl McQuaid: [1:14] And what is your educational background?
10
11 [clicking]
12
13 Vic Voisinnet: [I went to 1:17] school to 12 years, graduated from Resurrection High School
14 [clicking] in Lansing.
15
16 [clicking]
17
18 Cheryl McQuaid: [1:23] And could you tell me, do you remember your hire-in date and the first
19 day that you walked in to Fisher Body?
20
21 [clicking]
22
23 Vic Voisinnet: Well I think [knocking] that's somethin' everybody kinda remembers.
24 [thumping] It was March 11th, uh, 1964, [clicking] and I think everybody
25 kinda had the same experience here. [clicking] Amazed by the size of it
26 [background movement] from the time you walked to the office, [clicking]
27 where they expect you to work, and you're kind of amazed by the noise and,
28 uh, [background conversation] you feel like kind of an animal in a zoo or
29 something [laughter]. It's a little scary.
30
31 [clicking]
32
33 Cheryl McQuaid: [1:57] How old were you when [clicking] you hired in?
34
35 Vic Voisinnet: I was 20 years [clanking] old.
36
37 Cheryl McQuaid: [2:02] And why did you seek employment at Fisher Body?
38
39 [clicking]
40
41 Vic Voisinnet: Well I think for the reason everybody does, [clicking] you know. It paid a lot
42 more money than any [clicking] place else, and [background conversation]
43 [clicking] my first aim in life and only aim at that time was to buy a new car.
44
45 [background movement]
46

1Cheryl McQuaid: [2:19] And did you [clicking] buy a new car?
2
3Vic Voisinnet: Oh, yeah. About 2 months after I hired in, [clicking] I bought a 1964 Chevy
4 Super Sport.
5
6 [background conversation] [clicking]
7
8Cheryl McQuaid: Michael Fleming.
9
10 [clicking]
11
12Mike Fleming: Um, Vic, [clicking] you said a '64 Super Sport. [2:33] Uh, through, through
13 the times that you worked at GM [knocking] up until the time you retired,
14 have you always had GM vehicles?
15
16 [background conversation] [clicking]
17
18Vic Voisinnet: The only exception, in 1967 I bought a Jeep.
19
20 [clicking]
21
22Mike Fleming: Did you?
23
24Vic Voisinnet: Yeah.
25
26 [clicking]
27
28Mike Fleming: So what are some of the types of vehicles that you've had [background
29 conversation] from General Motors?
30
31 [throat clearing]
32
33Vic Voisinnet: Well I think I can go right down the list. I bought the '64 Super Sport,
34 [clicking] then I bought a '66 Impala, [clicking] then I bought a '69 Chevelle.
35
36 [background movement]
37
38Mike Fleming: Oh, that was a [clicking] good one.
39
40Vic Voisinnet: That was a good one. [background conversation] Then a '73 Cutlass,
41 [background conversation] and then I bought a – while I had the Cutlass, I
42 also bought [clicking] a '74 Chevy pickup. [background movement]
43 [background conversation] Then I bought a '78 pickup, [background
44 conversation] and my next car I think [wasn't 3:21] – [clicking] the '73 Cutl-,
45 Cutlass was an extremely good [background movement] car. I kept it till 1983
46 [clicking] when I bought a Delta 88. [background conversation] [clicking]

1 And then our family was gettin' rather large, so we bought a [clicking] '87, uh,
2 Astro minivan, [scraping] [clicking] and there was a '78 pickup [too threw
3 3:39] in there [clicking] someplace. [scraping] And after the Astro van,
4 [clicking] we bought a full-size Chevy van in ninety o-, '91, [background
5 noises] and then let me think the next one. [scraping] After the Chevy van
6 [clicking] was a [scratching] Buick LeSabre, [clicking] and then we bought
7 the c-, vehicle we have now, a 2003 Envoy.
8
9 [clicking]
10
11Mike Fleming: And that's a, that's a, a very good [clicking] testament to, [clicking] uh...
12
13Vic Voisinnet: Oh, plus I almost forget, we, we bought a '99 Cadillac DeVille, which we still
14 have too.
15
16 [clicking]
17
18Mike Fleming: That's a very good testament to GM loyalty.
19
20 [clicking]
21
22Female: Hm.
23
24Mike Fleming: [4:28] Um, when you hired in, [clicking] which department, uh, did
25 [background noises] you come in to? Wh-, where did you begin to work here?
26
27 [clicking]
28
29Vic Voisinnet: I hired in, uh, on the day shift, worked in the Trim Department in what was
30 the 3X Building for a gentleman named, uh, [Russell Burt 4:33]. [clicking]
31 They used to call him the little general. [background movement] And
32 [laughter] I worked on the back end of Vista Cruisers, put moldings on the
33 inside [clicking] around the windows. There were [clicking] 3, 4 windows and
34 the roof.
35
36 [clicking]
37
38Mike Fleming: Mm-hm.
39
40Vic Voisinnet: And the main problem on that job, back then you used electrical drills and
41 electrical driver motors. [clicking] [background movement] If you pushed too
42 hard, you could [coughing] [inaudible 4:56] drill a hole right through the roof
43 of the car...
44
45 [clicking]
46

1Mike Fleming: Hm.
2
3Vic Voisinnet: ...which they really frowned on.
4
5 [laughter] [knocking]
6
7Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid. [clicking] [5:04] Vic, what shift did you hire in on?
8
9 [knocking]
10
11Vic Voisinnet: I hired first shift, and I worked first shift for almost 2 years. [clicking] Then I
12 got bumped to nights for about a month, [clicking] then I came right back to
13 days. [clicking] That's all the nights I ever worked.
14
15 [thumping]
16
17Cheryl McQuaid: [5:19] And [clicking] what other jobs did you do? Can you walk us right
18 through those like you can your cars?
19
20 [clicking]
21
22Vic Voisinnet: Well it's been a long time. [laughter] I went on Utility after that, [laughter] but
23 basically [doin' every 5:33] job in [thumping] the Trim Shop and what they
24 called Hardware at that time...
25
26Female: Mm-hm.
27
28Vic Voisinnet: ...yep. [clicking] You know, [clicking] I installed carpets, put in windshields,
29 [throat clearing] body side moldings, rocker moldings, bedliners.
30
31 [clicking]
32
33Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter.
34
35 [throat clearing]
36
37Marilyn Coulter: [5:50] Vic, could you please tell us what is Utility, please?
38
39 [clicking]
40
41Vic Voisinnet: Well good question. [clicking] Utility replaces [thumping] people that are on
42 vacation or [clicking] sick leave or just absent, uh, for the day [clicking] for
43 whatever reason, you know. [clicking] You expect to be able to cover their
44 job, you know, after like 3 minutes [background movement] of [break-in 6:09]
45 [creaking] time, ya know.
46

1 [clicking]
2
3 Marilyn Coulter: S-, mm-hm.
4
5 Mike Fleming: Jerri Smith.
6
7 [thumping] [clicking]
8
9 Jerri Smith: [6:14] Also what did, what did they – what do you mean by Hardware Line?
10
11 [clicking]
12
13 Vic Voisinet: Well the Trim Shop used to be di-, be divided. It [clicking] was call-,
14 [clicking] it was called soft trim and [throat clearing] hard trim. [clanking]
15 [thumping] It was actually the same line where they came out of Paint and
16 went through Hardware first, [clicking] what they referred to as Hardware,
17 [scraping] where you did what they consider the [clicking] hard trim, you
18 know, body side moldings, rocker [clicking] moldings, interior wiring,
19 windshields. [clicking] And then it went out to, ta – kept right on going on the
20 same line, but they did the soft trim then, [clicking] you know, [clicking]
21 headliners, uh, seats, carpets, and stuff of that nature.
22
23 [clicking]
24
25 Mike Fleming: Mike Fleming. [6:56] Vic, [clicking] um, you spoke of you went to
26 [thumping] nights for how long?
27
28 [clicking]
29
30 Vic Voisinet: Just a couple months was all.
31
32 [clanking]
33
34 Mike Fleming: [7:04] And then [clanking] you came back to days [clicking] for the, the [rest
35 of 7:05] your time here.
36
37 Vic Voisinet: Yeah.
38
39 [clicking]
40
41 Mike Fleming: Um, that's kind of unusual. [7:10] Um, could you talk about that a little bit?
42
43 [clicking]
44
45 Vic Voisinet: Well I think the whole reason was in '62 or '63, they added the 3X Building
46 on, which doubled the size of Fisher Body. [clicking] So when I hired in in

1 '64, [background conversation] your seniority was good right away, you
2 know, on account [background noises] of the fact they had doubled the size of
3 the plant [clicking] [scraping], you know.
4
5 [clicking]
6
7Mike Fleming: Uh, well yeah because we, you know, most of us realize there was a time,
8 once you get put on nights, you'd be [scraping] there for some time...
9
10Vic Voisinnet: Oh, yeah [inaudible 7:39]...
11
12 [knocking]
13
14Mike Fleming: ...until you return.
15
16Vic Voisinnet: ...yeah.
17
18Mike Fleming: That's, that was very good. [clanking] Another [clicking] question I want to
19 ask you before we move on [clicking] was your last name is Voisinnet.
20 [clicking] [7:47] What, um, is that [clicking] a particular – is it, it sounds
21 French. Is that French or...
22
23 [clicking]
24
25Vic Voisinnet: Well the name itself is French, but I'm about 95% Irish.
26
27 [clicking]
28
29Mike Fleming: Okay.
30
31Vic Voisinnet: It goes back to a great-great-grandfather [clicking] that was French.
32
33Mike Fleming: Sure.
34
35Vic Voisinnet: Everybody after that's [clicking] been Irish, though.
36
37Female: Mm-hm.
38
39 [sighing]
40
41Mike Fleming: But here's the question. [8:06] Do you have [clicking] any relatives, uh, that
42 work for Fisher Body or any GM, [clicking] General Motors, um, operation
43 besides [clicking] yourself?
44
45 [clicking]
46

1 Vic Voisinet: Well I had several cousins, and I had one brother that, that [clicking] retired
2 and a brother-in-law that both [clicking] wor-, worked here in Lansing.
3
4 [clicking]
5
6 Marilyn Coulter: Marilyn Coulter. Vic, I just want to digress a little bit. [8:28] Now, you said
7 that you were a resident of Lansing?
8
9 Vic Voisinet: [tsk] I was born in Lansing.
10
11 Marilyn Coulter: In [clicking] Lansing.
12
13 Vic Voisinet: And I went to school in Lansing. [clicking] I lived in DeWitt till I was 20...
14
15 Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
16
17 Vic Voisinet: ...but we went to a Catholic school which [clicking] was in Lansing, [clicking]
18 yep.
19
20 Marilyn Coulter: In Lansing. [clanking] [8:42] So did you know, in, uh, growing up did you
21 know anything about [clicking] Fisher Body before you came in here?
22
23 [clicking]
24
25 Vic Voisinet: Absolutely nothing, you know. [laughter] 'Cause I went to school on north
26 side and east side. [clanking] I never knew the building [clicking] was here till
27 a month before I hired in, probably.
28
29 [thumping]
30
31 Marilyn Coulter: Okay. [thumping] [9:00] When you did hire [clicking] in, were there any types
32 of – even though you came into a new building, was there any types of new
33 hire initiations, any kind of pranks that were pulled on you when you came,
34 when you first hired in?
35
36 Vic Voisinet: [tsk] Actually they [clicking] didn't do too many of'm then 'cause there were
37 so many new hires. [clicking] I don't think there was time, you know, you
38 know, [clicking] 'cause the day I came in, there [clicking] were like 12, 15 of
39 us came, [clicking] you know. And I was the only one that actually stayed
40 beyond a [clicking] couple weeks. [clicking] But every morning they would
41 bring 10, 12 new c-, [clicking] people up, yep.
42
43 Marilyn Coulter: Um, Marilyn Coulter. You said something. [clicking] You said you were one
44 of the few that stayed [scraping] beyond a couple a weeks. [thumping] [9:38]
45 Can you tell us what, uh, it was like to come in here and what type of work it

1 was, and why [knocking] was it that people were so able to leave a job
2 [knocking] so easily back [clicking] then?
3
4 Vic Voisinnet: Well [creaking] things were [knocking] different. Like myself, I had put
5 applications in [clicking] at, you know, Fisher Body and Olds and [REO
6 10:00] and Motor Wheel. [clicking] And they all called me in a matter of 2 or
7 3 days for interviews, [clicking] but Fisher happened to call first, so [clicking]
8 I came here first, you know.
9
10 Marilyn Coulter: [10:11] So it was true back then if you didn't like work at one plant, you just
11 went to another...
12
13 Vic Voisinnet: Yeah, you just...
14
15 Marilyn Coulter: ...back then?
16
17 Vic Voisinnet: ...went to another, you know.
18
19 Marilyn Coulter: Jobs were...
20
21 Vic Voisinnet: And...
22
23 Marilyn Coulter: ...[plenty 10:16]...
24
25 Vic Voisinnet: ...and several guys came in and worked here a week or 2 weeks and [clicking]
26 [knocking] didn't like it, and they'd leave and they'd go someplace else,
27 [knocking] and 6 months later they'd come [scraping] back, you know,
28 [thumping] you know. It was an option we had that, you know, [scraping]
29 definitely [clicking] don't exist anymore...
30
31 [thumping]
32
33 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
34
35 Vic Voisinnet: ...you know.
36
37 [clicking]
38
39 Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid. Vic, you said you did a lot a jobs. [10:36] Can you tell us
40 what's the worst job you did in that plant?
41
42 Marilyn Coulter: Hm.
43
44 [clicking]
45

1 Vic Voisinnet: The worst job [laughter] without a doubt was when I first hired in, and for
2 several years [I did it, 10:48] to put the rear speakers in cars [laughter]. You
3 had to lay on your back in the trunk. There was, there was nothing in there to
4 lay on other than the sheet metal [clanking], you know. You had to lay in
5 there, and you had ta use a hand ratchet thing ta put 2 nuts on each speaker to
6 hold'm in place, [clicking] you know. It hurt the back a your head, it hurt the
7 back a your legs and [clicking] hurt your back, and you were layin' flat on
8 your back, and you had ta stand up from [clicking] that position, you know.
9 Somethin' I definitely [thumping] couldn't do anymore at my age.
10
11 [laughter] [clicking]
12
13 Cheryl McQuaid: [11:26] So [clicking] since working there, when you first hired in to present
14 day, or before the plant closed, [clicking] um, what were some of the major,
15 [clicking] um, differences in the way the plant operated?
16
17 [clicking]
18
19 Vic Voisinnet: Well [clicking] the, everything is totally different from the way a department
20 is managed. Back then the supervisor was, it [clicking] was his [knocking]
21 business [clicking] from where the first car came into his department,
22 [clicking] you know, till it left. He totally controlled absolutely everything,
23 you know. There was no such thing as time study [clicking] or somebody else
24 telling how to delegate work or [clicking] anything. [thumping] And if he
25 didn't like you, he just got rid of you, you know, shipped you to another
26 department [clanking] or whatever, and there was absolutely nothing, you
27 know, anybody could do or say about it [clicking] 'cause the boss in that
28 department, he was the boss in that department, period, you know, you know.
29 Which had good points and bad points 'cause you definitely knew where you
30 stood, [knocking] [laughter] you know.
31
32 [clicking]
33
34 Mike Fleming: Mike Fleming. [12:30] Vic, were you ever involved in any layoffs or strikes
35 during your time with Fisher Body?
36
37 Vic Voisinnet: [clicking] The only layoffs I ever was involved in kinda when I hired in. It
38 was [clicking] just when the whole plant was off for [clicking] major
39 changeovers, or I think '73 and '74 we had slowdowns [clicking] [on account
40 of 12:49] car sales. [knocking] But it was always [knocking] the whole plant.
41 [clicking] I was never individually laid off.
42
43 [thumping] [clicking]
44
45 Mike Fleming: [12:54] How 'bout a strike that you can remember?
46

1 [scraping]
2
3 Vic Voisinnet: I was [thumping] involved in 2 strikes. [background movement] One was in
4 1964, the first year I was here, and we were out about 6 weeks that time.
5 [clicking] I think that's when we got full [clicking] coverage on our health
6 care, I believe, if memory serves [me right 13:12]...
7
8 Mike Fleming: Or 30-and-out. Maybe it was a 30-and-out, [clanking] [no? 13:14]
9
10 Vic Voisinnet: No, 30-and-out I don't believe came till 1970 when we were on [clicking]
11 strike again...
12
13 Mike Fleming: Mm-hm.
14
15 [clicking] [throat clearing]
16
17 Vic Voisinnet: ...for about the same length a time, about 6, 7 weeks. [clicking] Yeah, and
18 that's when I'm sure, I'm sure that was 30-and-out.
19
20 [clicking]
21
22 Mike Fleming: [13:26] Did you, how did it affect you back then to be on lay-, on strike? Did
23 it, [clicking] um, when, did you receive strike pay or anything?
24
25 [clicking]
26
27 Vic Voisinnet: Yeah. If my memory serves me right, we, we received like \$30 a week if you
28 were single. [clicking] Then by 1970 I was married, so we got \$35 a week,
29 [clicking] you know. [laughter] But thir-, \$30 to \$35 [background movement]
30 was worth a whole lot more now than it was.
31
32 Mike Fleming: Six weeks is quite a [clicking] bit a time to be off. [13:54] Did you do
33 anything to supplement that back then or you just [throat clearing] had to ride
34 it out?
35
36 [clicking]
37
38 Vic Voisinnet: Well actually in '64, that was, [scraping] I know I worked here like 6 months
39 [clicking], and I was thinkin' seriously of going to work full time for the
40 National Guard. [clicking] So during that downtime or the strike time, I spent
41 quite a bit of time workin' there. [clicking] But by 1970 I was married, and we
42 built a new house, [clicking] and we moved in [clicking] like 1st September,
43 and the strike was 14th September. [clicking] So it gave me – my wife was
44 workin' full time. We didn't have any kids, so it gave me a lot of time to plant
45 the grass and paint the house and clean the house, and [laughter] so it was
46 time well [clicking] spent, I, I guess [coughing] [inaudible 14:34].

1
2 [clicking] [throat clearing] [scraping]
3
4Mike Fleming: Uh, Vic, [clicking] now y-, you talked [knocking] about the different
5 departments you went into [scraping] and your Utility. [14:49] Where did you
6 end up and, [knocking] uh, [clicking] and, as you are now from th-, from that
7 time? Talk about that if you could.
8
9 [clicking]
10
11Vic Voisinnet: Well for about the last 20 years I've been in Material, [background
12 conversation] and for the last 16 years I've held the same job in Material, a
13 material controller in Trim Shop. [background conversation] [clicking] And
14 the Material Department [clicking] I always liked [clicking] a lot better 'cause
15 [inaudible 15:13] wait in line. [background conversation] I think you may
16 have [clicking] worked [just as 15:17] many hours a day, but you had a little
17 more freedom to make a phone call or go to the bathroom or whatever,
18 [knocking] you know. And for some reason, I [don't 15:25] know if it's 'cause
19 I had more seniority at the time I got to Material, [clicking] the supervisors
20 always treated me a lot better. They acted like I might know something,
21 [throat clearing] [laughter] which is a feeling you didn't get a whole lot
22 [clicking] working on the line. They assumed you didn't know anything. So I
23 think Material to that, [clicking] you know, extent was a lot better. They, you
24 know, we had to do more thinking of things, you know, plus the fact that your,
25 you know, superiors, you know, gave you credit for whatever reason for
26 having some [clicking] knowledge, you know. [clicking] It definitely made
27 the days go way, way faster, yep.
28
29Mike Fleming: [tsk] I, I, I can attest to that. I know [clicking] it's more responsibility. [It's a
30 very responsible 16:05]...
31
32 [clicking]
33
34Vic Voisinnet: Yeah, yep.
35
36Mike Fleming: ...position to make sure stock gets to where it needs to be in time. [16:12] Um,
37 you, well you wanna talk about the times [clicking] that you, when you first
38 came in and how bulk stock was taken care of, and then it went to just-in-time
39 delivery, n-, the different concepts?
40
41 [clicking]
42
43Vic Voisinnet: Yeah, that, that, that was a [clicking] huge benefit to everybody. [knocking] It
44 was a huge money saver for GM, [thumping] [plus the fact that 16:32] we
45 didn't run out of stock near as often, 'cause we used to have sometimes I think
46 up to a year's worth of stock, [clicking] but we had just these huge, huge piles.

1 [clicking] Regulators I remember especially. We had'm – [used ta 16:45]
2 come in a 5131 basket. [clicking] They were, those baskets were
3 approximately 4 feet square, and we might have'm stacked 10 high, [clicking]
4 but there was no actually designated spot. [clicking] You might have a stack
5 of 100, 200, you know, 5131 baskets, and nobody really knew what was in it.
6 [clicking] They were just placed in randomly, and some of'm might be there
7 for a year before they were used. [background conversation] You never really
8 knew how many you had until [clicking] [background conversation] you
9 would look for one and couldn't find it, [laughter] [clicking] yep.
10
11Mike Fleming: [17:17] So [clicking] it wasn't uncommon to lose stock.
12
13 [background conversation]
14
15Vic Voisinet: Yes. [clicking] But once we got to where we're at now, just-in-time,
16 [background movement] everything had a designated lane, l-, lane, and you
17 could [knocking] glance and see exactly what you [clicking] had, you know.
18 And our books were considerably more on [background conversation]
19 [clicking] than they were, you know, 15 years ago, so...
20
21 [background conversation]
22
23Mike Fleming: [tsk] You say regulators. [17:37] Are those door [knocking] regulators you're
24 [clanking] talkin' about, which, um, [clicking] allow the doors t-, to open and
25 close with a [clicking] lock, or what type of regulators?
26
27Vic Voisinet: Well th-, th-, the regulators I was referring to was like the, the, run the
28 windows up and [clicking] down in the, [background noises] in the doors
29 [clanking] of the cars, yes. [clicking] [background conversation] But Material
30 I think we have probably, y-, you know, 10% of the inventory we had 20 years
31 ago. [clicking] But any item, if you wanted it brought on the floor [and
32 counted 18:03] [clicking] we're way, way closer to what [background
33 conversation] our book says we had than we were, [background conversation]
34 you know, 15, 20 years [clicking] ago.
35
36 [clicking] [background conversation]
37
38Mike Fleming: Sixteen years as a [dock 18:14] controller. [18:14] How many [scrapping]
39 controllers have you trained?
40
41 [background conversation] [clicking]
42
43Vic Voisinet: [tsk] I don't know. It'd be [clicking] hard to say. I, I would say probably 5,
44 [throat clearing] 6.
45
46 [background conversation] [clicking]

1
2Mike Fleming: [18:25] How about [background conversation] [hot stock 18:27] people? And
3 talk about the people that [clicking] were [hot stock 18:30] people [thumping]
4 and [clicking] that kind a stuff.
5
6 [scraping] [clicking]
7
8Vic Voisinet: Well the [hot, the hot stock 18:35] job basically got eliminated over the years.
9 [creaking] Fifteen, twenty years ago we were chasing [hot stocks 18:41]
10 [clanking] continuously [clicking] because our system wasn't good enough,
11 and we didn't know what we had or where it was, [clicking] so you could go
12 out and search for a half hour for a box a screws, [clicking] you know, and
13 find'm at the other end of the building, you know. 'Cause they [thumping]
14 came in on pallets with 10 other parts, whereas the last number a years, screws
15 came in just [clanking] on a pallet, and, uh, each pallet had just one part
16 number [clicking] on it, [scraping] and it had a designated storage spot, so you
17 always knew what it, [thumping] where it was. So [knocking] [hot stock
18 19:15] became [knocking] way, way less of an issue over the last, you know,
19 5, 6 years, you know. [clicking] You know, one guy might, uh, spend an hour
20 a week chasin' [hot stock 19:24], [clicking] where 15, 20 years ago we had 5,
21 6 guys doing it all day, [clanking] you know, basically just lookin' for stuff
22 that was [scraping] supposed to be there, [clicking] and nobody, other than [to
23 know it was 19:34] in the building, nobody really knew for sure where it was,
24 you know.
25
26 [background conversation]
27
28Mike Fleming: W-, as I can recall, there was a guy out on [thumping] 15 dock. [coughing]
29 Um, he had a nickname, something Bob. And you'd have trailers that
30 [scraping] would be dropped, and then you would have a guy that would go
31 and get trailers. [19:53] Do you remember [clicking] anything about that type
32 of situation?
33
34 [clicking]
35
36Vic Voisinet: Uh, yeah, let me think. Yeah, Bob the switcher, they'd [background noises]
37 call him, right?
38
39Mike Fleming: Switcher Bob. That was...
40
41 [clanking]
42
43Vic Voisinet: Yep.
44
45Mike Fleming: ...his name, yes.
46

1 [clanking]
2
3 Vic Voisinet: There was 2 different guys. I can't – both of'm, first name was Bob.
4
5 [clicking]
6
7 Mike Fleming: Yeah.
8
9 Vic Voisinet: I don't recall their last names. [scraping] They didn't work for GM. They
10 worked [scraping] for, uh...
11
12 Mike Fleming: [20:13] Talk about the switcher...
13
14 Vic Voisinet: ...[inaudible 20:12]...
15
16 Mike Fleming: ...and drop trailers and what, what, what that meant to your job.
17
18 [creaking] [clicking]
19
20 Vic Voisinet: Well when we had drop trailers, it made the job way more complicated 'cause
21 I looked on my computer every mornin' and had to pick out which trailer I
22 [want unloaded 20:26] when, [clicking] 'cause there might be 25 trailers
23 sitting out in the yard. [clicking] And then you'd give a list to switcher Bob,
24 [background conversation] and he'd bring the trailers in [in order of the,
25 20:38] you thought you needed'm. [clicking] But you looked at the trailer and
26 see what was all was on it. There might be 40 different [clicking] parts, and
27 you kinda had ta pick the one that had the most parts that you [clicking]
28 needed th-, first and hoped you guessed good, [clicking] you know.
29 [thumping]
30
31 Whereas time progressed to the just-in-time stock, [clicking] the office people
32 actually set the trailers up on what they called a [milk run 21:01], [clicking]
33 which worked, you know, basically kinda like UPS. [thumping] These trailers
34 went around to different vendors, picked up parts, took'm to a central locating
35 area, [clicking] and then they were loaded there in the order we needed'm,
36 [clicking] and then they called [inaudible 21:17] the trailer. It just came right
37 s-, [clicking] straight into Fisher to the dock and were unloaded, so you
38 always got your stock in time 99.9% of the time. [thumping] There was no
39 more of [clicking] looking at your computer screen for an hour in the mornin'
40 and try ta pick out trailers and [clicking] hope like hell you go-, had'm in the
41 right order, [clicking] you know.
42
43 [laughter] [clicking]
44

1Mike Fleming: [21:37] So the stress of [throat clearing] stoppin' the line was [scraping]
2 [throat clearing] kinda taken away from, [scraping] uh, or that burden,
3 [clicking] uh, was taken away from you [clicking] a little bit, eased up a little?
4
5 [scraping] [clicking]
6
7Vic Voisinnet: Yeah, it, it, it eased it up considerably unless you got [clicking] into a bad
8 stock situation or, or once in a while parts were not in the trailer they
9 [clicking] were supposed to be in. [clicking] Then that kinda raised other
10 problems, but it got con-, considerably smoother as the years went by, yep.
11
12Mike Fleming: [tsk] Just one more question [clicking] before I let, turn it over to someone
13 else. [thumping] [22:06] Talk about [clicking] the, um, [clicking] your, your,
14 um, [clicking] bosses, um, [clicking] your manufacturing [clicking]
15 coordinators, your supervisors, some of the [clicking] ones that you really,
16 really got [thumping] along well and, and enjoyed work with, and maybe there
17 was [clicking] a couple that you [clanking] didn't get along with.
18
19 [background conversation] [clicking]
20
21Vic Voisinnet: Well I think one of the better supervisors we ever had [clicking] was a guy
22 named [Max Folsen 22:28] [clicking]. And Max was good 'cause he, he, he
23 liked people to start with. [clanking] He was extremely good at the Material
24 end of it. [throat clearing]. He never took his job so serious s-, where he
25 would, you know, just holler at people for the sake of thinkin' that was gonna
26 get something done. [clicking] And Mark had a lotta one-liners – or Mark –
27 [Max], that he would say. One was [clicking] when people'd come up with new
28 ideas, [clicking] if [Max] thought it was an idea that probably wouldn't work
29 out, his, you know, [patented 23:06] answer was, "Yeah, that should work
30 probably about as good as tryin' ta nail Jell-O on a wall."
31
32 [laughter]
33
34Male: Yep.
35
36 [laughter] [thumping]
37
38Vic Voisinnet: And he could kinda diffuse a [clanking] real serious meeting with these little
39 remarks, [throat clearing] you know. [clicking] And he had a habit when
40 people talked [background noises] in meetings, he always carried a little
41 notebook [background movement], and he'd write down, [clicking] summarize
42 what they would, uh, talk about. And I can remember this one guy, he was
43 talking one time on and on and for like 20 minutes, [not saying 23:40] a whole
44 lot, and [Max] [clicking] happened [scraping] to be sitting next to me. When the
45 gentleman [scraping] got done, [Max] says, [clicking] "Can I borrow your, your
46 pen 'cause [scraping] that guy talked 20 minutes." He says, "My pen won't

1 write a thing," you know. [laughter] But he was a good supervisor. [clicking]
2 He was a good people person. [scraping] He always kept a [rolodex 23:58],
3 [clicking] you know. If it was somebody's birthday, he'd write that in the
4 [rolodex 24:02], [clicking] [background movement] or if it was their
5 anniversary or if they had a kid that was graduating from high school on such
6 a date, he'd write that in the [rolodex 24:09]. And every mornin' he'd get his
7 [rolodex 24:12] out and look, [thumping] and if it was somebody's birthday,
8 he'd make a point to wish'm [thumping] a happy birthday, or if their son or
9 daughter was graduating or getting married, he'd [clicking] congratulate'm and
10 so forth, you know. And he was extremely knowledgeable about the Material
11 end of it, yep.
12
13 [clicking]
14
15 Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter.
16
17 Marilyn Coulter: Um, that was something that [clicking] the supervisors did when there was
18 somebody's birthday or things like that. [24:38] Were there things that
19 [clicking] you people did in the Material world itself [scraping] for your co-
20 workers when there was a [clicking] birthday or a retirement [clicking] or
21 anything special?
22
23 [thumping]
24
25 Vic Voisinnet: Actually, in the Material world we didn't get into it that [clicking] much 'cause
26 by the time I got into Material, you know, I, [thumping] we were an older
27 group of men, and the anniversaries and [laughter] birthdays [by now 25:01]
28 were not [laughter] a big, big event for us I guess, [laughter] you know.
29
30 [laughter]
31
32 Marilyn Coulter: [25:05] What about holidays?
33
34 [scraping] [clicking]
35
36 Vic Voisinnet: We did have, you know, like potluck dinners for holidays and things like that
37 or retirements, but [knocking], you know, like say, we weren't like, uh,
38 celebrating, you know, occasions, you know.
39
40 [thumping] [clicking]
41
42 Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid. [25:22] Vic, did you, um, [clicking] ever sell anything in the
43 plant, or did you ever purchase [thumping] anything from [clicking] fellow
44 employees in the plant?
45
46 [background conversation] [clicking]

1
2 Vic Voisinnet: I used to purchase little stuff from here and there, but I never sold anything.
3 So I had like 5 kids, and they were always selling something [clicking] from
4 school, and I just [clicking] flat out made a decision that I wasn't [thumping]
5 gonna bring it into the [thumping] shop 'cause [clicking] I'd be selling
6 something every day pretty much, [laughter] you know, for band or softball or
7 football or basketball or...
8
9 Mike Fleming: Mm-hm.
10
11 Vic Voisinnet: ...you know.
12
13 Mike Fleming: Mm-hm.
14
15 [clicking]
16
17 Cheryl McQuaid: [25:51] So what were some of the types of things that you did purchase?
18
19 Vic Voisinnet: Well somebody was always selling some kind a candy, which was real hard ta
20 pass up, you know. [clicking] Like that was pretty much all I ever bought was
21 candy of different types, so.
22
23 Mike Fleming: M-, m-, Mike Fleming. [clicking] [26:08] Vic, I want you to talk about, um,
24 [clicking] how the safety within the Material [clicking] Department evolved.
25 Even though you weren't [scraping] driving a truck, I'm sure you were aware
26 of it. We had [clicking] at one point, um, [clanking] [Jim 26:19] uh, created
27 [scraping] [clicking] what was called bring your child to work day. [clicking]
28 What was that day like [thumping] than any other day [clicking] because we
29 had so many people [clicking] in the plant as far as safety and a Material
30 person driving a truck. Can you talk about that?
31
32 [coughing] [clicking]
33
34 Vic Voisinnet: Well bring in your child to work day we always thought was kind of a nice
35 thing, [clicking] but we always didn't really look forward to it [thumping]
36 'cause you had to really be aware of what was going on. [clicking] They
37 usually tried to get a couple extra drivers on the floor, you know, 'cause the
38 younger kids or adults were guilty of it too. [They were 26:56] used to the,
39 you know, factory, [thumping] you know, lifestyle of just walking here and
40 there, you know, and thinkin' that the fork truck drivers [thumping] were, you
41 know, had all day to get where they're going, not realizin' that [scraping] they
42 had to del-, deliver X amount of stock, you know, in a certain amount of time,
43 [clicking] you know. [clicking] But it was probably good 'cause it kinda,
44 [thumping] [clicking] you know, we'd go over a lotta safety rules [knocking]
45 leading up to it, [which 27:21] [clicking] never hurt anybody ta, you know,
46 revisit those from time to time, [creaking] you know. [thumping] So it,

1 [clicking] it was probably a [thumping] good thing overall, [scraping] you
2 know. [clicking] It was always fun [clanking] to see the people in there
3 gawking and, you know, being amazed at what we were doing, [laughter]
4 [clicking] the things that we took for granted, [clicking] you know.
5
6 Mike Fleming: Mm-hm.
7
8 [throat clearing]
9
10 Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid. [27:40] Vic, do you remember any of the weather
11 constraints [clicking] that were put upon Material?
12
13 [clicking] [background conversation]
14
15 Vic Voisinnet: Well in [clicking] the, in the last few years, it got to be more of a [clicking]
16 problem 'cause when trucks came in to the dock, they basically had to be
17 unloaded, [clicking] well especially like the, [clicking] the [IP pads 27:59] and
18 stuff had to be unloaded, you know, in a very timely manner. You had about
19 20-minute [clicking] window. [background movement] And when the
20 [clicking] weather was bad, the trucks would get here late, and there
21 sometimes was a problem with'm backin' up to the dock [on account of 28:12]
22 the ice, you know. We'd come several times within a matter of 2 or 3 minutes
23 of shutting [clicking] the line down, you know. There'd be guys out there
24 shoveling and throwing salt under trucks, and [clicking] couple times we had
25 a [wrecker 28:25] push trucks up to the dock 'cause they couldn't get traction.
26 And [clicking] it, it, it made it a more interesting day [clicking] when you'd
27 get a good ice storm or [clicking] [scraping] good, heavy snow storm,
28 [laughter] you know. [clicking] You kinda regretted [half, 28:37] but it broke
29 up the [clicking] brunt of the daily [laughter] [knocking] everything clicking
30 accordin' to plan.
31
32 [clicking]
33
34 Cheryl McQuaid: [tsk] [28:45] So what about, um, trucks that were maybe coming from
35 [clicking] further away [clicking] than just the [IP 28:50] plant from Ohio, or
36 [clicking] was there any problems with that or...
37
38 [clicking]
39
40 Vic Voisinnet: That usually didn't happen that often, [clicking] I mean, 'cause [clicking]
41 they're all, all obviously travel the interstate, [clicking] you know. I don't think
42 – there was 2 or 3 times in all the years that I was [clicking] in Material that
43 we had a problem with, [thumping] you know, storms, you know, say
44 [clicking] in Ohio or Pennsylvania or New York, you know. But couple times
45 it got us in a little bit of a bind, but I don't believe we ever shut the plant
46 down, [clicking] [knocking] you know, due to those problems, you know.

1
2 [clicking] [background conversation]
3
4 Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter.
5
6 [clicking]
7
8 Marilyn Coulter: [29:26] Um, Vic, can you, I know you – can you tell us what types [scraping]
9 of things you did like [clicking] during your lunch hour? Um, [clicking] did
10 any of your, did you [scraping] develop any [clicking] friendships that went
11 outside the plant? Can you tell us anything about those?
12
13 [thumping] [clicking]
14
15 Vic Voisinet: Well as far as my lunch hour, the last 5, 6 years I [background movement]
16 basically took a nap. [knocking] [laughter] The previous years, you know, we
17 did all sort a thing, [scraping] you know, played, [clicking] I played cards for
18 several years. [clicking] A lotta euchre was played, [coughing] you know,
19 some poker, you know. [coughing] [tsk] As far as developing friendships
20 outside the plant, I, I don't think I did a whole lotta – well I didn't do a whole
21 lotta that, [clicking] I think mainly 'cause I'm from a rather large family and so
22 is my [knocking] wife. And we live in a small town, Westphalia, Michigan,
23 which we do a lot of, you know, [clicking] social activities with neighbors and
24 the church and so forth. [clicking] So I guess, basic-, and having 5 kids too
25 [knocking] occupies your time quite a bit, so it, it was more of a time restraint.
26 Not, not that I didn't, [background movement] you know, [background
27 conversation] [clicking] like the people I worked with. I worked with a lot of
28 super nice people over the years, yeah.
29
30 [clicking]
31
32 Marilyn Coulter: They had, um, [throat clearing] [background conversation] I know like –
33 [clicking] you mentioned church. I know that they had Bible study groups and
34 things like that in the plant. [30:44] Did you participate in any of those
35 groups?
36
37 Vic Voisinet: [tsk] No, I never actually got involved in any of those, no.
38
39 [clicking] [background conversation]
40
41 Marilyn Coulter: Okay, [scratching] um...
42
43 [coughing]
44

1 Cheryl McQuaid: [tsk] Cheryl McQuaid. [clicking] You, um, [clicking] [scraping] it was known
2 that GM Fisher Body was [clicking] number 1 in capital quality. [thumping]
3 [31:07] What do you think is the reason for that?
4
5 [clicking]
6
7 Vic Voisinet: Well I think it's due to our workforce, you know. [thumping] So I think
8 anybody that ever worked there will tell you 99% of the people [clicking] that
9 worked there [clicking] were very, you know, aware of quality and wanted to
10 do a good job, [clicking] you know. [thumping] So I think it's, it comes right
11 down to the [thumping] people were, you know, very, very good people, you
12 know, [clicking] 99.9% of'm, you know.
13
14 [background movement] [clicking]
15
16 Marilyn Coulter: Um, Vic...
17
18 Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter.
19
20 Marilyn Coulter: Marilyn Coulter. [laughter] [clicking] Um, you've worked [knocking] here for
21 a lot of years, and, um, [thumping] [clicking] the plant has gone through a lot
22 of different changes. We had name changes and we also had policy changes.
23 [clicking] [31:51] Can you tell us how you felt about those things that
24 happened?
25
26 Vic Voisinet: Well the name [thumping] changes, [clicking] I always had a theory that it
27 was kind of a s-, smoke and, uh, mirror deal 'cause where GM was getting in
28 trouble, [thumping] you know, financially somewhat. [coughing] [thumping]
29 They were doing all these [clicking] changes [clicking] that they thought was
30 accomplishing something, which I, [clicking] you know, it's probably, you
31 know, a narrow [clicking] point of view, but I thought it was just kind of a
32 waste of time and money, you know. [clicking] You know, 'cause we were
33 always the same building, we were basically building the same product over
34 the years, and our whole purpose was to build a car at a profit, [clicking] and I
35 don't think it mattered if we were called Fisher Body or BOC or Lansing Car
36 Assembly.
37
38 I thought it was kinda, on management's part, a waste of money [thumping]
39 changing our letterheads all the time and changing the [clicking] name on the
40 building [scraping] when we were [knocking] the same, [scraping] [clicking]
41 you know, building, like say building cars, tryin' ta [clicking] build cars for a
42 profit, you know. [clicking] I think they should've concentrated more on, you
43 know, getting us a better product and [thumping] selling the product and
44 getting market share than, you know, [a sign, well 32:59] we're BOC, and now
45 we're part of Lansing [clicking] Car Assembly. [clicking] And I'm not sure

1 who we [clicking] actually are at the time we close, you know. [laughter] It
2 changed so often, you know.
3
4 [clicking]
5
6Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid. Vic, you mentioned that you thought it was maybe
7 management's way of wasting money, and [clicking] that made me think
8 about you bein' in the Material [clicking] world. [33:20] Did you ever see
9 management, or did you ever see a, [clicking] a big waste of money that you
10 just thought whoa?
11
12 [clicking] [scraping]
13
14Vic Voisinnet: Well th-, there's – [clicking] about 5 years ago, we built [clicking] a bunch of
15 docks on the building, 4 years ago, whenever [scraping] it was, [clicking] that,
16 that we were told were well in excess of a few million dollars. [clicking] And
17 I think if they'd done a little [clicking] better planning, [clicking] if they knew
18 the building was gonna close, [background conversation] you know, [in the
19 amount a time, 33:51] seems like that was total waste of money. [background
20 conversation] [Say it was 33:55] like building the instrument panels. [We
21 moved'm in plant 33:58] [clicking] about 10 years ago at a huge [background
22 conversation] expense, [clicking] built lines to build'm on. [background
23 conversation] We did'm for 2 or 3 years, and then they decided it was cheaper
24 to [clicking] build'm off site, [clicking] and they built a, or [Delphi 34:11]
25 built a building off site to build'm. [clicking] Then we trucked'm in for 3 or 4
26 years. Then all the sudden, you know, then we built these millions of dollars
27 [clicking] of docks, [scraping] then all the sudden we're out of business. It's,
28 you know, it's like gee, guys, maybe we need like a 5-year plan and a 10-year
29 [clicking] plan and a 15-year plan rather than a [clicking] 6-months plan, you
30 know.
31
32Mike Fleming: Mm-hm.
33
34 [clicking]
35
36Vic Voisinnet: I think people meant well, but it's like [clicking] group A is not talkin' to
37 group B, and group B is not talkin' to group C. [clicking] We need to get
38 together and, you know, [clicking] look down the road, [clicking] you know, 5
39 years, 10 years, [scraping] where we wanna be, you know.
40
41 [clicking]
42
43Mike Fleming: M-, Mike Fleming. [throat clearing] Certainly it's, um, [scraping] they were all
44 short-term fixes. They had no milestone [clicking] plans in place. Um, [throat
45 clearing] let's, let's talk [thumping] about changeover, um, and, [clicking] you
46 know, you worked here, and I, I know that in Material and some of the, um,

1 [thumping] uh, groups in, in, like [clicking] Environmental Services and
2 Trades, [clicking] there's an awful lot of [clicking] money to be made.
3 [background conversation] [35:14] Um, what is, [clicking] in, in your opinion,
4 the most amount of money you made in one year? [thumping] Was it
5 attributable to changeover, overtime, or whatever? [thumping] Talk about the
6 overtime and changeover [background conversation] and, and amount of
7 money you made per year.
8
9 [clicking] [background conversation] [thumping]
10
11 Vic Voisinet: Guess I don't follow. [clicking] [background conversation] How much money
12 I made personally?
13
14 Mike Fleming: [35:31] What's the most you, that you think you made in [thumping] one year
15 here, [scraping] um, over and above [clicking] what your regular salary would
16 have been, and was it attributable [thumping] to changeover, um, was it
17 attributable to the s-, the overtime [thumping] throughout the year?
18
19 [clicking]
20
21 Vic Voisinet: Well in the Material world, we got [clicking] a lot of overtime beyond the
22 line, [thumping] you know. And actually it was a smart business move to do it
23 'cause it was cheaper ta pay, say, 10 of us people to come in and count stock,
24 inventory stock, and make sure we were on, you know, book and everything,
25 as opposed to havin' the line come in Monday morning [scraping] and send
26 [knocking] 3,000 people home at 10:00 in the morning [thumping] 'cause
27 you're out of parts, you know. [thumping] And when we had major
28 [changeover, yes, we 36:12] made, you know, [clicking] a lotta money 'cause
29 we'd work 10, 11 hours a day through, [thumping] you know. In '91 or
30 somewhere there we had a large changeover that I – it was when they brought
31 the [IP line 36:23], and I worked straight through, you know. And we'd work a
32 lot [clicking] of, you know, 10, 11-hour days, you know. You'd make big
33 money. I mean, it was [clicking] good money, but it wa-, you know, you, you
34 definitely worked for it, you know. [background noises] But it was interesting
35 work, so you, you know, you didn't mind doing it, you know. [clicking]
36 'Cause the biggest problem I see in a car assembly plant is tryin' ta eliminate
37 the boredom of the poor people workin' on the line, [thumping] you know.
38 [clicking] 'Cause once you can get off line, it's really a good place to work,
39 you know.
40
41 [clicking]
42
43 Mike Fleming: [36:53] What was – did you have a, [scraping] a dollar amount that you think
44 that you made more in one year than you did any [clicking] other year?
45
46 [background conversation]

1
2 Vic Voisinnet: I couldn't really [clicking] tell you the year, but I made like [scraping] \$70,000
3 a couple years, [thumping] you know.
4
5 Mike Fleming: Mm-hm.
6
7 Vic Voisinnet: I'm not sure what years. Maybe – [clicking] it'd be just a wild guess, so I'm,
8 [clicking] I'm not ev-, even gonna guess, [clicking] you know.
9
10 [thumping] [clicking]
11
12 Cheryl McQuaid: Um, Cheryl McQuaid. [37:16] But that \$70,000 [clicking] came at a cost.
13
14 Vic Voisinnet: Oh, yeah. It came at a cost. A lot of overtime hours, [thumping] a lot of
15 Saturdays, you know, [thumping] a few Sundays here and there, you know.
16
17 [throat clearing] [clicking]
18
19 Cheryl McQuaid: [37:28] I-, if I was to ask your wife or your children, [tsk] [scraping] um, what
20 would you think that their answer might be to that?
21
22 [clicking]
23
24 Vic Voisinnet: Well having been married 37 years, I wouldn't even guess what my wife's
25 answer would be. [laughter] [clicking] It'd be just a guess, and I know
26 [coughing] I'd be wrong.
27
28 [laughter] [thumping]
29
30 Cheryl McQuaid: [37:52] Did you miss out on a lot of school activities for the kids? Um...
31
32 [thumping]
33
34 Vic Voisinnet: Well you, you definitely miss out on some, but [clicking] my wife didn't work
35 when our [thumping] kids were all, you know, young and, and at home, so
36 [clicking] you know. [clicking] You felt like, you know, marriage is, you
37 know, [clicking] wife and I are one person, so you know, between the two of
38 us, we got pretty much to everything, you [clicking] know, you know.
39
40 [scraping] [clicking]
41
42 Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter.
43
44 Marilyn Coulter: [38:17] Um, Vic, did you ever participate in any [clicking] of the, your union
45 meetings or your union [scraping] functions?
46

1 [sniffing] [clicking]
2
3Vic Voisinnet: Not a whole lot. I went to [clicking] maybe 20 union meetings in, uh,
4 [thumping] 30 plus years, you know. [clicking] I, I went to [clicking] quite a
5 few of their picnics since they've been, uh, held in Eagle the last 10 years or
6 whatever, but you know. [beeping] They're always very, you know, enjoyable,
7 you know.
8
9Marilyn Coulter: [38:42] Bu-, did you participa-, did you vote in the union elections?
10
11Vic Voisinnet: Oh, yes, and I don't think I ever missed voting in any, uh, [clicking] election
12 to my knowledge, [clicking] no.
13
14Marilyn Coulter: Hm. [clicking] [38:51] What would you say would be your most [thumping]
15 appreciated [clicking] bargained benefit [thumping] that the union got for
16 you?
17
18 [thumping]
19
20Vic Voisinnet: See that's kind of a big question [laughter] [clicking] 'cause when I had
21 [clicking] first hired in, we paid like half for our Blue Cross. [clicking] We
22 didn't have SUB pay. [clicking] We didn't have, uh, [thumping] [scraping] you
23 know, 30-and-out. [thumping] We didn't have tuition assistance for, [clicking]
24 you know, yours-, children or yourself, you know. So it'd be hard to nail
25 [clicking] down one. Right now as I'm facing retirement, I'd say the pension's
26 the best part, [clicking] you know, but you couldn't retire without the health
27 care, [clicking] you know, coverage, you know.
28
29 [clicking]
30
31Marilyn Coulter: [39:33] So the union's given you a lot of [clicking] things?
32
33Vic Voisinnet: Oh, yes, an enormous [clicking] amount. And I've got 5 kids that all went
34 through college, and the union, [clicking] you know, paid I think \$750 on the
35 older ones and \$1,500 on my son that's a senior in college now. So [clicking] I
36 collect a lot of money from, you know, GM there that would not have
37 happened without the union. [scraping] You know, s-, [for the, still, 39:54] for
38 the union's sake, I hired in at like \$2.68 an hour. We'd probably be up to \$2.69
39 an hour now I think.
40
41 [clicking]
42
43Male: Hm, yeah.
44
45 [laughter] [clicking]
46

1 Marilyn Coulter: So in [thumping] 1964 it was \$2.68.
2
3 [clicking]
4
5 Vic Voisinet: \$2.68, [yeah. 40:12]
6
7 Marilyn Coulter: [40:13] And then in [clicking] 2005, [background movement] [clicking] what
8 is it now?
9
10 [clicking]
11
12 Vic Voisinet: Yeah, I'm not real sure. I think it's like \$28 an hour I think, [clicking] \$28 and
13 [scraping] few odd cents.
14
15 Marilyn Coulter: [40:24] So it's...
16
17 Vic Voisinet: Yeah...
18
19 Marilyn Coulter: ...been very good?
20
21 [clicking]
22
23 Vic Voisinet: Yes, very good, yes.
24
25 Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 40:26] take it. [40:28] Um, is there anything, Vic, that we haven't
26 asked [background movement] that you'd like to tell us about?
27
28 [clicking]
29
30 Vic Voisinet: Not that I'd want recorded, no.
31
32 [clicking] [laughter]
33
34 Mike Fleming: Well, you, I want to ask you – Mike, [scraping] Mike Fleming. I want to ask
35 you one thing. [thumping] You did mention your wife and yourself,
36 [thumping] you're involved in church [thumping] and in community activities.
37 [clicking] [40:49] What type of activities are [knocking] you involved in in
38 [thumping] your community?
39
40 [clicking]
41
42 Vic Voisinet: Well if you live in Westphalia, you get involved in [clicking] everything, you
43 know. [clicking] [thumping] You know, [clicking] we have, they have dinners
44 at church we get involved in. [clicking] We were on the education committee
45 for [clicking] many years at church and, you know. But when you live in
46 Westphalia, [clicking] it's a small town. There's only about 1,000 people there.

1 [scraping] It's almost like that's, that's [clanking] your life, [clicking] you
2 know.
3
4Mike Fleming: Sure.
5
6Vic Voisinet: It's some place you almost have to live to [clicking] understand it, [clicking]
7 you know.
8
9 [clicking]
10
11Marilyn Coulter: Um...
12
13Vic Voisinet: And I, I thoroughly enjoy it. We've lived there for 35 years now.
14
15 [coughing]
16
17Marilyn Coulter: Marilyn Coulter. My [coughing] [inaudible 41:26] [clicking] [inaudible 41:29]
18 but anyways, Marilyn Coulter. [clicking] [41:32] How [clicking] far is
19 Westphalia from the plant?
20
21 [clicking]
22
23Vic Voisinet: Well from where I live, it's 19 ½ miles, to be [scraping] exact, you know.
24 [thumping] And Westphalia's another 5 miles north of [inaudible 41:43].
25
26 [thumping]
27
28Marilyn Coulter: Okay. [background movement] [clicking] Okay.
29
30 [clicking]
31
32Cheryl McQuaid: Vic, [thumping] we really appreciate you takin' time outta your day to come
33 talk to us. Thank you so much.
34
35 [clicking]
36
37Mike Fleming: Yes, Vic...
38
39Male: [Inaudible 41:55]...
40
41Mike Fleming: ...thank you.
42
43 [clicking]
44
45Marilyn Coulter: Thank you.
46

1 [throat clearing]
2
3 Vic Voisinnet: Thank you. It's been very interesting.
4
5 [clicking]
6
7 Female: [Okay 41:59]. [recorder clicking]
8
9
10/lk