

10:05 am

Fisher Body Historical Team

12-21-05

Interviewee - Doreen Hammond

Interviewee Mark Warner

Seniority 8-7-78 - Body Plant March 1981

Married = Yes, 2 children (26) and (24) years old.

Military = None

Education = 5+ Johns High School, LCC, MSU (degree in History)

- First Day = A whole new world. Very diverse coming from a small farming community (Best people resources)

* Come to Fisher Body = want more money and a substantial benefit package. Mark didn't expect much from this and surprised to get a call to work. Mark felt that GM employees have great resources that different people are good at different things. He first hired in to the Parts Warehouse and this was like a small family. They took him under their wing and gave him advice.

* Transition from parts plant to Fisher Body was more physical but about on the same scale. The people at Fisher Body there was more people and closer ties to you co-workers.

* Mark really had no intention of staying 30 years and other people also felt this way. But as he progressed he continued to stay at Fisher Body and get a pension to retire on.

* As Mark grew up he never thought that he would put an application into Fisher Body but knew there was more money

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and benefits. He also looked at tuition assistance program for college classes and this is an ongoing benefit so he decided to stay.

* He hired in on Dayshift at the Parts plant then he was bumped to the second shift. But then being on the Midnight shift he would go to school during the day.

Layoffs = The Parts plant had many layoffs in the early years. Most were about 6 weeks long. But Mark eventually went to Fisher Body. He also enjoyed the "Changeovers" in the summer. Time periods where the plant shuts down for improvements (usually 2 weeks)

* Co-workers = Being in the cushion room where seats are made. Everyone here took care of each other as employees and they helped each other out on a daily basis together.

* Fun = Ford radios, combuchions people - colorful personalities. Most were happy all the time. Games word playing, chess etc. Mark had some co-workers on utility that was a very tight knit group and these friendships still continue today in and outside the plant.

* Plant Differences = Parts plant was run mostly by employees or Team coordinators. At the Body plant there were run by management and a lot of fit & finish problems here. That could not be resolved very easy.

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* Work at Body plant was cleaner but the plant was dirty. Chassis plant had a sewer facility but the jobs were dirtier than this. More potential for injuries at Chassis and seemed more safety measures at Fisher Body.

* Best Memory - Friendships that have happened over the years, Mark could never understand ~~why~~ how easily these happened.

* Mark felt that our voices are not being heard. We run into many dead ends at choices of new vehicles as we know this.

* Plant closing = we ~~had~~ knew this was coming, but came as a shock to him when announced. Mark is proud to have been a part of Fisher Body. But he still cherishes the co-workers and friendships over the years.

* He has bought a car all his life but has never bought one from our plant.

* Mark is happy that this project is taking place. Certain stereotypes of auto workers are not looked at properly. He also felt that newspaper articles have their own ~~agenda~~ agenda when they state on article feeling just to sell newspapers that state their own feelings.