

Willie Campbell - 12649 US 22 Sewitt 48820 1-30-06

Seniority date 12-4-54 Black Man

married - wife retired Fisher 14 yrs. 3 chil.

1st marriage 7 step children - Born Mississippi

3 kids in his family 1 brother 1 sister - mother died freshman H.S. father died senior H.S.

1st black to graduate from his H.S. Merince (adrian)

Problems H.S. skating - wouldn't let them skate & called names. Football (running back)

all county team (1948) no problems only blacks in neighborhood (5) Father worked the railroad

Father passed house was paid for & had car

kids did chores and stayed in school - had a

white man who was their guardian - grandmother

was full Black foot Indian - family was

never ^{no better} ~~than anyone else~~ Parents met & married in Miss -

drafted in Adrian - 1 1/2 in Korea - Colorado

finished hitch in Army. Black male in Army

service was integrated just before he went in,

didn't have any problems. Was combat engineer

in Korea - roads, bridges, set up demolitions

front line was 4 pt. line he was in the 3 pt. line

shot at yes - Koreans would come at you

like crazy people, plus it was very cold.

Encirclement of Pao son peninsula - was there during

it. After he came back from Korea (1954)

went to Fisher Body - took 20 days to get hired.

Hadn't lived in Kans. long enough - said

he was in service. Took Physical

was still in great shape from the service.
No drugs, but guys in service did do marijuana
and drank Korean booze - went crazy on it.

Fisher body Blacks did wet sand, clean
toilets, sweep floor. ^{bolt + drill.} Carried doors - 2 at a
time all day. (200 cars a day) 1yr.

Bolt + drill - put ornaments on the cars -
drill + then bolt - 2yrs.

Body shop - Spot welding - Kept applying &
bitching until got the job. Supervisors kept
looking past you. Really hard for Blacks.

Comm. man Bill Bucannon (Black) -

Altercation called Comm. said couldn't help but
kept trying to get a better job.

Dedicated life to marriage & job. Did swing
shift when started 2 wks. Days - 2 wks night then
changed to 10/5 & 7/5.

Lived on Logan St (MLK) - about 45 yrs. ago.

Purchase Home - homes for Veterans on Apple Rd.
African Am. houses not for sale to you. Have to
bring home \$125 a week - couldn't when making \$2.10 an hr.
Can get along with people - treat them how you
wanted to be treated.

Body shop - watched board for better paying job
1st & only black to apply for body welding didn't
pass test - was sent to booth cleaning. Job in
power house - didn't want him there, union
got him in. Learned how to do boilers

fireman. pressure on boilers, know pressures was doing job, wasn't getting the pay. Trained people to do the job, but wasn't a fireman
 Test for skilled trades only. black need C got D+ - no minorities in skilled trades (no more test) (after they got rid of tests) he was most qualified for skilled trades (got smart in 3 months)

Union meetings attended them. bitching done by lazy people - good workers didn't seem to complain as much. Strikes - walked picket lines wages better working conditions - 6 wks. 30¢ out insurance.

Retired from Millrights - youngest son new plant - oldest son Missouri

Health insurance most important Benefit Cancer survivor -

Wife retired 4 yrs ago - she went to work - he golfed.

Many good friends in skilled trades goes fishing, hunting with them.

whole life haven't been around very many black people.

Bowling leagues 30 yrs. Was in Fisher Body league for about 10 yr.

Supervision - after skilled trades got along pretty good with supervision.

Worked Change over - black women, white trainee

journeyman

and him - Supervisor went to white guy to ask about how black women was doing - called Supt. aside and told him how he felt & went to Superint.

Superv. will ask to talk to white guys - best journeyman here - One man wouldn't even work with him because he was black - (1975)

It changed over the years - just came in to do a good job. A lot of improvement, but never equal.

Environmental Con. - came in - pretty clean didn't have protection from Asbestos - then they began to get more protection. Covered the whole plant. The jingle - spot welding before robots had to carry welders - 3 ft round pull gates (to short - to light) 1 yr. (Hernia)

Hospital - Nurses - Mr. Harrison (Black) was for the workers.

Worked at Fisher 38 1/2 yrs. Was never there when someone was injured or killed. The deaths in paints he was on opposite shift - (overcome by gases & drowned) Knew the Super. & some of the guys who died.

Skilled trades 3 yrs - 7 days wk 8 hrs. a day \$64,000 in 1 yr.

Football games at Sexton didn't watch was on 3rd shift - watched some games. Could go anywhere they wanted in the plant.

Black Mr. was unusual for him, all black

band was something that really surprised him. 1st Black Supv. he saw Al Kelly.

Price, Bishop, Fred Ford, Black Supv. in skilled trades can't remember year.

Latino Supv. Joe skilled trades female Skilled trades Collections for sickness or deaths.

Winners all skilled trades - give money his wife ~~was~~ would cook.

Government job - people who wanted special things done - trailer hitch, fix broken things above & beyond regular job.

Name changes - Always referred to as Fisher Body. Building being torn down, really sad dog eat dog world (excuses ~~was~~ for not doing jobs) now alot of jobs are being outsourced.

Cap Sadist moment - doing jobs on production repetition happiest times - skilled trades & journeymans cards.

Pranks - wires on spark plugs on seats of trucks to give drivers a shock in the butt.

Water fights on Fridays 5 gal. buckets water Apprentice use to call him student when he became journeyman called him professor.

Carry ~~was~~ yourself with respect & will be respected. No difference except skin is darker than yours. Chain story - ~~and~~ smart enough to use words - than violence to embarrass a person.

Looking forward to retirement - good health
could do anything he wanted - just doesn't
want to work anymore. Loves to golf.

Golf with co-workers will golf anytime anywhere
knows people everywhere he goes -

Never been back to Miss. since he was born
so has no reason to go back - except to golf.

The future of G.M. everynight says prayers
that G.M. could get it back together - why
do Big Shots need so much money that they
are selling our country out - they don't
love this country they love their pocket books

G.M. did alot during the war to build tanks
ammunition and so on -

He & wife were in store kid was really
raising hell - people are raising animals.
Parents aren't raising them to respect anything.