

Atanacio (Nacho) Trigo Jr., and Preciliano (Chano) Anguiano, both Hispanic Americans, discuss their careers at the Fisher Body plant in Lansing, MI

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4
5 Marilyn Coulter: Fisher Body historical team interview. Today is Tuesday, January 31,
6 2006. It's approximately about 12:15. We are in the UAW Local 602
7 Frank Dryer GreenHouse. First, we'll introduce the team.
8
9 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Uh, Earl Nicholson.
10
11 Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid.
12
13 John Fedewa: John Fedewa.
14
15 Gary Judy: Gary Judy.
16
17 Marilyn Coulter: And Marilyn Coulter. Today we're here with Preciliano and Atanacio?
18
19 Atanacio Trigo: Atanacio.
20
21 Marilyn Coulter: Atanacio. Um, we're gonna start out – first, if you could both please say
22 your name and give us the correct pronunciation and spelling. [0:38]
23 You wanna start please?
24
25 Atanacio Trigo: Okay, my real name is Atanacio Trigo. And I gonna spell it. A-T-A-N-
26 A-C-I-O. Trigo. T-R-I-G-O. And I'm a Junior but they call me – they
27 always me Nacho.
28
29 Marilyn Coulter: Nacho.
30
31 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
32
33 Marilyn Coulter: And...
34
35 Atanacio Trigo: N-A-C-H-O.
36
37 Marilyn Coulter: [0:59] Can you give us your address please?
38
39 Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 1:02] that's 407 North Union Street in Saint Louis, Michigan.
40
41 Marilyn Coulter: [1:06] And, are you married?
42
43 Atanacio Trigo: No.
44
45 Marilyn Coulter: [1:09] Do you have any children?
46
47 Atanacio Trigo: I've got two girls.

1
2 Marilyn Coulter: [1:14] And were you born in Saint Louis?
3
4 Atanacio Trigo: No.
5
6 Marilyn Coulter: [1:16] Where were you born?
7
8 Atanacio Trigo: I was born in Sinton, Texas.
9
10 Marilyn Coulter: Sinton, Texas?
11
12 Atanacio Trigo: Mm-hm.
13
14 Marilyn Coulter: [1:20] Alright and, uh, your education level?
15
16 Atanacio Trigo: I finished high school.
17
18 Marilyn Coulter: Alright. [1:25] Were you in the military?
19
20 Atanacio Trigo: No.
21
22 Marilyn Coulter: Alright. [1:28] And what did your parent do?
23
24 Atanacio Trigo: They, they usually were, were farm workers.
25
26 Marilyn Coulter: Farm workers?
27
28 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, yeah. They used to work on the farm.
29
30 Marilyn Coulter: Oh. And what...
31
32 Atanacio Trigo: Field work.
33
34 Marilyn Coulter: Okay. [1:40] And Preciliano, would you please give us your name and
35 address please?
36
37 Preciliano Anguiano: My name is Preciliano Celestino Anguiano. Uh, my name is – first
38 name is Preciliano. P-R-E-C-I-L-I-A-N-O. Celestino. C-E-L-E-S-T-I-
39 N-O. Anguiano. A-N-G-U-I-A-N-O. And my nickname is Chano. C-
40 H-A-N-O.
41
42 Marilyn Coulter: [2:08] And your address please.
43
44 Preciliano Anguiano: My what?
45
46 Marilyn Coulter: Your address.

1
2Preciliano Anguiano: Oh, 319 North Delaware, Saint Louis, Michigan.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: [2:15] And are you married?
5
6Preciliano Anguiano: Divorced.
7
8Marilyn Coulter: [2:17] Do you have any children?
9
10Preciliano Anguiano: Three.
11
12Marilyn Coulter: [2:20] Boys? Girls?
13
14Preciliano Anguiano: Two boys and one girl. Jason [McCormick 2:23], [Ray Anguiano 2:25],
15 and [Esmeralda Maria Anguiano 2:27].
16
17Marilyn Coulter: [2:29] And where were you born?
18
19Preciliano Anguiano: Alice, Texas.
20
21Marilyn Coulter: In Texas also. [2:34] And, um, your education level?
22
23Preciliano Anguiano: Twelfth grade.
24
25Marilyn Coulter: Twelfth grade.
26
27Preciliano Anguiano: Finished – graduated in '67.
28
29Marilyn Coulter: [2:41] And were you in the military?
30
31Preciliano Anguiano: Yes, I was in the Army.
32
33Marilyn Coulter: Oh. [2:45] How long were in the military?
34
35Preciliano Anguiano: Four years.
36
37Marilyn Coulter: Four years. Hm. [2:48] And what did your parents do?
38
39Preciliano Anguiano: My dad was a truck driver and my mom was a housewife.
40
41Marilyn Coulter: Okay. Well, first, um, this question goes to both of you. We can start
42 with, um, Atanacio? Atanacio. [3:03] Can you please tell us – or would
43 you prefer we call you Nacho?
44
45Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 3:05].
46

1 Marilyn Coulter: Atanacio? [3:07] Atanacio, can you please tell us, um, what brought you
2 to Michigan?
3

4 Atanacio Trigo: Well a-, actually we were down in Minnesota. Th-, we work on the, on
5 the beet fields over there. Okay, we used to go every summer over
6 there, you know, after school was over.
7

8 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
9

10 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, I gotta – we had to go school, you know, ‘cause my dad wants to,
11 to – us all to learn English. Yeah, you know, yeah, because my parents
12 didn’t speak English.
13

14 Marilyn Coulter: Uh-huh.
15

16 Atanacio Trigo: So, we w-, [inaudible 3:39] to Minnesota about four times and my
17 grandfather, he, he used to live in Mason.
18

19 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
20

21 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know, they – that’s on my mother’s side.
22

23 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
24

25 Atanacio Trigo: And so, we came to see him about three times, you know, and the same
26 time we had to pick pickles down in Leslie.
27

28 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
29

30 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know, and when I finished high school, we did same thing.
31 First, they went to Minnesota working in the beet fields and then we
32 came over here. I told my dad that I wanna stay here. Yeah, you know,
33 ‘cause I didn’t wanna go back to work in the fields, you know, all that
34 stuff and so – yeah, you know, so I stayed with my grandfather.
35

36 Marilyn Coulter: Oh. [4:16] So, you came picking beets and stuff cause you – were you
37 like migrant workers?
38

39 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
40

41 Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
42

43 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
44

45 Marilyn Coulter: [4:21] And Preciliano, uh, what did you do before you came here and
46 what brought you to Michigan from Texas?

1
2Preciliano Anguiano: Fifty bucks.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: [4:28] Fifty bucks brought you to...? [laughter] Fifty bucks?
5
6Preciliano Anguiano: [laughter] No, see when I got outta the service, I wanted to buy a car and
7 I needed \$50 to buy this – I think it was a Dodge. Anyway, I went
8 around askin' my family. Nobody had fifty bucks, you know? I
9 would'a got – I probably would'a got a cheaper car but I wanted this car,
10 right?
11
12Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
13
14Preciliano Anguiano: So, I think one'a my friends says hey man, let's go to Michigan. We can
15 find us jobs real quick there. So, I'm okay, let's go man, you know, and
16 so we came over here. We came here in January, the dead of winter, in
17 1970. There was snow up the ying yang over there in Saint Louis. I just
18 left some snow over there in Germany and came back over here and, and
19 it was about seven feet high or somethin' like that. I said, god damn.
20 So, I worked – I ran outta money, so I started workin' with [inaudible
21 5:28].
22
23Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
24
25Preciliano Anguiano: I was a bus driver for – transport Indians to their powwows or whatever.
26 They needed a bus – you know, they want to go somewhere and they
27 call the [inaudible 5:39] and [inaudible 5:40] provided with a bus and...
28
29Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 5:43].
30
31Preciliano Anguiano: ...took'm to wherever they wanted to go.
32
33Marilyn Coulter: [Oh 5:46].
34
35Preciliano Anguiano: Then one day, uh, this friend of mine [inaudible 5:51] had gotten hurt
36 and he worked here in Lansing...
37
38Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
39
40Preciliano Anguiano: ...at Fisher Body, so he asked me if I could bring him over here and he
41 had to come to the hospital.
42
43Marilyn Coulter: Uh-huh.
44
45Preciliano Anguiano: Oh, yeah. So, I came over here and, uh, he went into hospital and I was
46 sittin' at the table and there was a whole bunch of, uh, applications and I

1 started writin' and then some guy came over and asked me was I
2 finished. I said yeah, [finished with that one 6:16]. So, he took it, you
3 know, and said, well, when can you start?
4

5Marilyn Coulter: [6:21] And that's how you hired in?
6

7Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, he said when can you start? I said tomorrow.
8

9Marilyn Coulter: That's it.
10

11Preciliano Anguiano: So, I – that's how I started here at Fisher Body.
12

13Marilyn Coulter: That's how you started here.
14

15Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
16

17Marilyn Coulter: [6:31] And, and how did you get hired in Atanacio?
18

19Atanacio Trigo: Well, see, you know, [inaudible 6:33] first I went to work down at the –
20 at the United [Glass 6:42] on [Aurelius 6:44]. Yeah, they make bricks
21 and, you know, they put color in and everything and I was there for
22 about, hm, for about three months and I came to Fisher Body to apply
23 and then I went to Oldsmobile and then [they call me from 6:58]
24 Oldsmobile but, but I wanted to hire in Fisher Body, so I, I came every
25 week about twice a week and talked to [inaudible] [Bruce 7:07] every
26 time and finally he told me whoa, why you comin' in so – i-, every time?
27 I, I thought I wanna work. If I let – [inaudible 7:18] and I want to work,
28 [inaudible 7:20]. Yeah, no, so he told me [I could 7:21] report tomorrow
29 night.
30

31Marilyn Coulter: Tomorrow night.
32

33Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
34

35Marilyn Coulter: [7:27] So, you wanted to work at Fisher Body but why were you so
36 adamant about working at Fisher Body?
37

38Atanacio Trigo: 'Cause m-, 'cause I knew people who used to work here and they always
39 talk how good of a place it was and everything. I s-, I see a difference. I
40 see a difference by type of work that I was doin' in compared to that
41 kinda work.
42

43Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
44

45Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, it was – my type'a work was hard work.
46

1 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
2

3 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know, and everybody tell that it was a better job here and
4 better pay.
5

6 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
7

8 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. There were times I wanted to go back, you know, but man, I
9 always thought about the benefits.
10

11 Marilyn Coulter: So, when – you thought about the benefits, so do you – I’ll start with
12 you, Preciliano, this time. [8:07] Do you remember, um, what was the
13 first job you did when you hired in? Do you remember your first day in
14 the plant? What’d you think about it?
15

16 Preciliano Anguiano: It was scary ‘cause I started in the jungle on, uh, body shop.
17

18 Marilyn Coulter: And what’s the jungle?
19

20 Preciliano Anguiano: The jungle is where they, uh, spot weld cars and frames and all that
21 stuff.
22

23 Marilyn Coulter: [8:25] So, what did it look like?
24

25 Preciliano Anguiano: They do – that’s where they start the body from.
26

27 Marilyn Coulter: [8:28] What did it look like? Why do they call it the jungle?
28

29 Preciliano Anguiano: Because there were hoses all over the place. I mean, it looked like a
30 jungle.
31

32 Marilyn Coulter: Really.
33

34 Preciliano Anguiano: They have big hoses and sparks flyin’ all over the place. It was scary
35 and plus, you didn’t know your way around and finally, like, they had to
36 lead you where your job was...
37

38 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
39

40 Preciliano Anguiano: ...and then – I never had no experience with workin’ in a factory.
41

42 Marilyn Coulter: Yeah.
43

44 Preciliano Anguiano: I had never worked in a factory in my life. I worked in oil fields, I
45 worked in construction, I worked in the fields but workin’ in a factory
46 was a new experience for me.

1
2 Marilyn Coulter: [9:01] And what was that experience like for you?
3
4 Preciliano Anguiano: At first it was, like, scary, you know, 'cause man, [inaudible 9:09] gonna
5 get hurt with one'a these things or get caught or somethin' but then you
6 get adjusted and then, uh, you do your job.
7
8 Marilyn Coulter: [9:19] And how long did you work in the body shop?
9
10 Preciliano Anguiano: Eighty-nine days.
11
12 Marilyn Coulter: Really? Eighty-nine days.
13
14 Preciliano Anguiano: Eighty-eight.
15
16 Marilyn Coulter: [9:28] How long did it take you to learn your, your spot-welding job?
17
18 Preciliano Anguiano: I say, like, uh, three da-, three or four days.
19
20 Marilyn Coulter: [9:37] Do you remember what part that you were [inaudible 9:39].
21
22 Preciliano Anguiano: I was welding the rocker [inaudible 9:43], the dogleg, the center dogleg,
23 and I think it was the quarter – the rear quarter.
24
25 Marilyn Coulter: So, these are all different parts [inaudible 9:54].
26
27 Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
28
29 Marilyn Coulter: [9:55] The base of the car?
30
31 Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
32
33 Marilyn Coulter: [9:56] The [inaudible 9:56] of the car?
34
35 Preciliano Anguiano: No, no, no. The bottom rocker.
36
37 Marilyn Coulter: The bottom rocker?
38
39 Preciliano Anguiano: The one that holds the bottom; the dogleg, the quarter, and the center
40 [post 10:07] for the four-doors.
41
42 Marilyn Coulter: [10:09] What's a dogleg though?
43
44 Preciliano Anguiano: It's an L-shape metal that, that's for the door that hook the door on the
45 fender and the top part was for the roof and the center part was for the
46 front door and rear door...

1
2 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
3
4 Preciliano Anguiano: ...and the quarter is the, the rear fender..
5
6 Marilyn Coulter: Oh, okay.
7
8 Preciliano Anguiano: ...the rear quarter.
9
10 Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid. [10:35] Chano, what year did you hire in and how old
11 were you when you hired in at Fisher Body?
12
13 Preciliano Anguiano: I hired in in 1970 and I was 23.
14
15 Cheryl McQuaid: [10:44] And what about you Nacho? What year did you hire in to Fisher
16 Body and how old were you?
17
18 Atanacio Trigo: Hired in 1965, October 12. I, I w-, I was about 19.
19
20 Cheryl McQuaid: [10:58] And were there a lot of Hispanics working in the plant when you
21 hired in?
22
23 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, there were some. Yeah.
24
25 Cheryl McQuaid: Hm.
26
27 Marilyn Coulter: Um...
28
29 Preciliano Anguiano: Chano.
30
31 Marilyn Coulter: [11:12] Atanacio, do you remember what your first day was like? You
32 remember the first day? What department you [came 11:19]?
33
34 Atanacio Trigo: Well, it was different and I had to learn my job. Yeah, you know, the
35 people were, were different. Strange. You know.
36
37 Marilyn Coulter: [11:29] Strange how?
38
39 Atanacio Trigo: Well, you know, the [surroundings 11:33] – well, you know, the
40 surroundings and their characters.
41
42 Marilyn Coulter: The surroundings and their characters.
43
44 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, yeah, you know, ‘cause out in the field, you know, I was not
45 used to that.
46

1 Marilyn Coulter: [11:43] What department?
2
3 Atanacio Trigo: I was used more to the open. Yeah, you know, to the fields.
4
5 Marilyn Coulter: Ah, you were used to bein' outside.
6
7 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, you know.
8
9 Marilyn Coulter: [11:50] And what – do you – did you hire into body shop also?
10
11 Atanacio Trigo: No, no.
12
13 Marilyn Coulter: [11:55] What department did you hire into?
14
15 Atanacio Trigo: On M trim.
16
17 Marilyn Coulter: In, in M trim.
18
19 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Uh-huh.
20
21 Marilyn Coulter: [11:59] So, do you remember what job you did down there?
22
23 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, [inaudible 12:02] my first job.
24
25 Marilyn Coulter: That's your first job?
26
27 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know, and I was putting in defrosters inside [inaudible
28 12:06].
29
30 Marilyn Coulter: You put in defrosters and...
31
32 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
33
34 Marilyn Coulter: ...and you brought a picture. That's great!
35
36 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
37
38 Marilyn Coulter: Thank you. [12:11] But now, when you say it was different and the
39 culture, was – culture because they were different types of people there?
40
41 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I was not used to that. I was used to work with my
42 race.
43
44 Marilyn Coulter: In your...
45

1Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know. And beside, my English wasn't that good either.
2 Yeah, you know, so actually by coming here, I, I [inaudible 12:29] my
3 English more better.
4

5Marilyn Coulter: [12:30] Now, how was that for you comin' into a place of different
6 cultures where you're used to bein' around primarily Mexican people
7 and then all a sudden, wow, you're with all these people and you have a
8 difficulty communicating. What was that like for you?
9

10Atanacio Trigo: At, at first, I wanted to go back home.
11

12Marilyn Coulter: You wanted to go home.
13

14Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, you know, but man, I thought about workin' in the fields
15 and workin' in cotton gin, to work on the silos, work on the grain
16 elevator, man. Sweat, you know, hard work, you know, and here I, I see
17 somethin' different than, than somethin' that it work better for me.
18

19Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
20

21Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know, a future. Yeah, you know.
22

23Marilyn Coulter: Uh, you're, you're, you're dialect, bein' able to translate with –
24 communicate with people was better once you came here. [13:14] Was
25 there somebody that you worked with who taught you, who translated
26 for you? How did that work for you?
27

28Atanacio Trigo: No, no, no, see, you know, I had to, to – I knew English.
29

30Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
31

32Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know, but not that well enough. No speak it like I do now.
33

34Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
35

36Atanacio Trigo: By talkin' to other people!
37

38Marilyn Coulter: Just by talkin'.
39

40Atanacio Trigo: Y-, y-, you know, by havin' communication with other people, y-, y-,
41 you know, on-the-job training and everything.
42

43Marilyn Coulter: So, with on-the-job...
44

45Atanacio Trigo: My ability to learn. I, I, I wanted to work.
46

1 Marilyn Coulter: You wanted to work.
2
3 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, I liked it.
4
5 Marilyn Coulter: [13:45] Was there anybody who sorta helped your ability to work and
6 things [inaudible 13:49]? Was there anybody specific who kinda took
7 you under their wing and helped you out?
8
9 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah! Yeah.
10
11 Marilyn Coulter: [13:54] You remember who that was?
12
13 Atanacio Trigo: No, no, no [inaudible 13:58]. The thing is, you know, there was a lotta
14 people there.
15
16 Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
17
18 Atanacio Trigo: A lotta people that want to help me.
19
20 Marilyn Coulter: A lotta people wanted to help you.
21
22 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah.
23
24 Marilyn Coulter: [14:06] So, were you ever treated, um, tsk, differently because you
25 didn't speak the language that fluently? Or pretty much, people wanted
26 to help you?
27
28 Atanacio Trigo: Back when I first started?
29
30 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
31
32 Atanacio Trigo: No, no. [Inaudible 14:21] no.
33
34 Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
35
36 Atanacio Trigo: No, everybody.
37
38 Marilyn Coulter: No, everybody tried to help you.
39
40 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah.
41
42 Marilyn Coulter: Everybody was [inaudible 14:27].
43
44 Atanacio Trigo: Mm-hm.
45

1 Marilyn Coulter: [14:28] Did you find that to be the same for you? Or you didn't have
2 that same problem?
3

4 Preciliano Anguiano: I didn't have that problem.
5

6 Marilyn Coulter: [14:33] Um, when, when you hired into the plant and, you know, there
7 were some, uh, Hispanic people in your department too I take it. Um...
8 [recording stops]
9

10 Okay, gentleman, um, we know that – I know that you, Preciliano, are
11 called Chano and you, Atanacio, are called Nacho. [14:56] Now, were
12 these – well, I'll start with you first. Um, Nacho, d-, was that somethin'
13 that you came in the plant with? How did you get the nickname of
14 Nacho? And why?
15

16 Atanacio Trigo: 'Cause, uh, you know, 'cause some people couldn't – you know, like
17 some people couldn't pronounce my real name except – the, you know,
18 the Caucasian people, White people, yeah, you know, they didn't say my
19 real name, so, you know, they call me Nacho. Yeah.
20

21 Marilyn Coulter: [15:22] And did you come in the plant with that or did you – was that a
22 childhood name that you came in or did you f-, get that nickname from
23 with inside the plant?
24

25 Atanacio Trigo: Well, you know, from the outside too.
26

27 Marilyn Coulter: Alright.
28

29 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
30

31 Marilyn Coulter: [15:33] So, you came in the plant with that?
32

33 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah.
34

35 Marilyn Coulter: [15:35] And Chano, what about you? How did you get your nickname?
36

37 Preciliano Anguiano: Same way but they, uh, couldn't pronounce my name 'cause t-, it was
38 too long and was call Preciliano...
39

40 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
41

42 Preciliano Anguiano: ...so they shortened it to Chano...
43

44 Marilyn Coulter: Chano.
45

46 Preciliano Anguiano: ...and my sisters, they used to call me [Chano Chano 15:51] always.

1
2 Marilyn Coulter: So, your sisters called you Chano.
3
4 Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, so it got stuck, you know?
5
6 Marilyn Coulter: Okay. So, for the rest of the interview [inaudible 15:58].
7
8 Preciliano Anguiano: For the rest of my life I'm being called Chano.
9
10 Marilyn Coulter: So, today we'll call you Nacho and Chano. [16:02] Is that okay?
11
12 Preciliano Anguiano: [laughter] Or Cheech and Chong. [laughter]
13
14 Marilyn Coulter: Cheech and Chong. [laughter] Okay, well, now I know that – now, you
15 both are from the Saint Louis area.
16
17 Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
18
19 Marilyn Coulter: [16:13] Is that true? So, you're living in Saint Louis and you've lived in
20 Saint Louis your whole time that you've worked in that plant? How did
21 you get...?
22
23 Preciliano Anguiano: Nacho worked – I lived in Lansing for almost two years and then I
24 moved back to Saint Louis.
25
26 Marilyn Coulter: [16:26] But initially how did you get to and from work?
27
28 Preciliano Anguiano: Carpool and, like, ride together and sometimes by myself.
29
30 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
31
32 Preciliano Anguiano: Mm-hm.
33
34 Marilyn Coulter: [16:36] H-, how long d-, how large – how many people rode in your
35 carpool?
36
37 Preciliano Anguiano: At first, it was four, five, six, then back in the '80s I think it was like 23.
38
39 Marilyn Coulter: Twenty-three!
40
41 Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
42
43 Marilyn Coulter: [16:53] So, you got a van, a bus, or...?
44
45 Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, we got a...
46

1Atanacio Trigo: A bus.
2
3Preciliano Anguiano: ...a bus. Well, a van and then it was a bus.
4
5Marilyn Coulter: Hm.
6
7Preciliano Anguiano: So, we w-, [inaudible 17:01] used to bring us over here.
8
9Marilyn Coulter: Oh.
10
11Preciliano Anguiano: Paid him. At first it was like \$15. As gas went up, we would start
12 payin' him more but, but the more we paid was, like, \$20...
13
14Marilyn Coulter: Twenty dollars?
15
16Preciliano Anguiano: ...a week.
17
18Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, 'cause he used to work here too.
19
20Marilyn Coulter: Oh, okay. Earl?
21
22Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Yeah, Earl Nicholson. Uh, Chano had told us about, um, his first
23 vehicle and why he came here to get that. [17:26] Did you actually get
24 that vehicle?
25
26Preciliano Anguiano: I got – yes, I did. I got my first vehicle and I, I think I work here three
27 months and I bought me a Dodge Charger, purple with white vinyl top.
28
29Earl Nicholson, Sr.: What kinda engine [laughter] did it have?
30
31Preciliano Anguiano: It had a 383 and man, this car was nice but the first day I brought it to
32 the shop, somebody took a key and [inaudible 17:52] from one end to
33 the other. From the fender to the bumper they scratched it.
34
35Marilyn Coulter: Hm.
36
37Preciliano Anguiano: Brand new purple charger. [laughter]
38
39Marilyn Coulter: Hm.
40
41Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Did ya ever find out who did that?
42
43Preciliano Anguiano: No, I didn't.
44
45Earl Nicholson, Sr.: How about you Nacho? [18:06] What about your first vehicle?
46

1Atanacio Trigo: My first vehicle was a 1966 GTO. It was, uh, was kinda navy blue with
2 white convertible top, four-speed with, uh, three deuces and it had 389
3 engine and a four-speed 'cause I like them fast cars.
4

5Marilyn Coulter: Okay. Both of you were quite young when you came in. [18:34] When
6 you hired in, was there any pranks or any initiation – new-hire initiations
7 that were played on you when you came in to work here?
8

9Preciliano Anguiano: No, not for me 'cause man, when you work in there, you were beat.
10 [Inaudible 18:48] probably two people that were – you know, as, as time
11 went on...
12

13Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
14

15Preciliano Anguiano: ...oh yeah, they did. They told me I'd get a free turkey.
16

17Marilyn Coulter: [laughter] The turkey.
18

19Preciliano Anguiano: [laughter] On Thanksgiving, I'd get a free turkey at the, at the union
20 shop but I was already wise to that 'cause that shit happened to this o-,
21 this other guy beside me and he was braggin' he's gonna get a free
22 turkey, a free turkey, you know.
23

24Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
25

26Preciliano Anguiano: But I think [Gilbert Trevenio 19:14] told him, hey man, they're, they're
27 just pullin' your leg, man, you know? So, that was the first one but then
28 I – I was already wise to it, so.
29

30Marilyn Coulter: Uh-huh. [19:24] What about you Nacho?
31

32Atanacio Trigo: No, no, they didn't...
33

34Marilyn Coulter: No pranks?
35

36Atanacio Trigo: No.
37

38Marilyn Coulter: [19:27] Did you ever notice any pranks that were played on people?
39

40Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, I, I s-, see that.
41

42Marilyn Coulter: [19:32] What was the funniest prank you ever saw played on somebody
43 in the plant?
44

45Atanacio Trigo: Like, sometimes they disconnect the motor, something, you know, or put
46 different screws in the box or somethin'. Just crazy stuff.

1
2 Marilyn Coulter: [19:46] What about you Chano?
3
4 Preciliano Anguiano: Oh, man, the spot [welding 19:48] – you turn the gun just – the motor of
5 the gun just a little bit to the right or left...
6
7 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
8
9 Preciliano Anguiano: ...and it would shoot sparks to wherever you tilt it...
10
11 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
12
13 Preciliano Anguiano: ...and would shoot sparks to your face or – ‘cause we were real close,
14 you know, when we used to do this job. The car – I mean the frame
15 would come and stop right – and you had, like, three or, you know, like
16 five seconds to do [inaudible 20:13] – do all the spot weldin’ and the
17 guy beside you would just tilt it and all the spark would hit you in the
18 face and all over your body, man, you know?
19
20 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
21
22 Preciliano Anguiano: And this other guy would do the same thing, you know? Tilt it the other
23 way but both of them were funny. They both – they hit you at the same
24 time, go chhh. They had spark flyin’ all over the place. [laughter]
25
26 Marilyn Coulter: So, there’s sparks and everything going. [20:34] Was th-, was there any
27 kind of protective equipment that you had to wear when you were
28 working?
29
30 Preciliano Anguiano: At first, we didn’t. Then, they gave us a little beanie hat with cloth type
31 – the blue one?
32
33 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
34
35 Preciliano Anguiano: And a shop coat.
36
37 Marilyn Coulter: And a shop coat. [20:49] Did you have to wear any eye protection?
38 Hand protection?
39
40 Preciliano Anguiano: Just some eye protection. That’s it.
41
42 Marilyn Coulter: Eye protection.
43
44 Preciliano Anguiano: I mean, you – I think they gave us gloves but nobody could work with
45 the gloves on...
46

1 Marilyn Coulter: Oh.
2

3 Preciliano Anguiano: I never wore'm.
4

5 Marilyn Coulter: [20:59] What about p-, um, Nacho. In this picture that you have that I'm
6 looking – you don't have glasses on.
7

8 Atanacio Trigo: We, we w-, uh, at that time, we did have to – [inaudible 21:10] depends
9 what kinda job you were doin'.
10

11 Marilyn Coulter: It depended on what kinda...
12

13 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah.
14

15 Marilyn Coulter: [21:16] And this is back in – this picture says it was dated in February of
16 1966...
17

18 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
19

20 Marilyn Coulter: ...and...
21

22 Atanacio Trigo: I had gloves though.
23

24 Marilyn Coulter: And you had a picture taken of you...
25

26 Atanacio Trigo: Mm-hm.
27

28 Marilyn Coulter: ...in the plant. [laughter]
29

30 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
31

32 Marilyn Coulter: [21:28] That was something that was kind of rare to have happen, wasn't
33 that not?
34

35 Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 21:32] maybe if I see my friend who, who thinkin' who
36 would take this picture, they – he might have some more pictures.
37

38 Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
39

40 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
41

42 Marilyn Coulter: [21:42] So, um, now did you always work in trim – in trim shop?
43

44 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah.
45

46 Marilyn Coulter: [21:48] And did you always work in the body shop Chano?

1
2Preciliano Anguiano: No.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: [21:50] How long did you work in the body shop?
5
6Preciliano Anguiano: Just 90 – before my 90 days and then I, I got laid off.
7
8Marilyn Coulter: You got laid off?
9
10Preciliano Anguiano: And then I came back in '70 – well, I came back, what is it, June? It
11 was af-, it was before the strike.
12
13Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
14
15Preciliano Anguiano: I came back before – well, I think I there like two – a week or two weeks
16 and came back and then we had the strike...
17
18Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
19
20Preciliano Anguiano: ...and, uh, that's how I got my 90 days...
21
22Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
23
24Preciliano Anguiano: ...when we had the strike.
25
26Marilyn Coulter: [22:23] So, what department did you come back in to when you came
27 back?
28
29Preciliano Anguiano: Trim.
30
31Marilyn Coulter: Into trim.
32
33Preciliano Anguiano: Yes.
34
35Marilyn Coulter: [22:27] So, you both finished out your time in trim?
36
37Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah. Of course, I was in the power house there for a while.
38
39Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
40
41Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
42
43Marilyn Coulter: Now, I'm gonna go with you first. [22:36] Chano, when you hired in the
44 body shop and then you went into the trim shop, what differences did
45 you notice on working in the jungle in the body shop to going to trim?
46

1Preciliano Anguiano: It was a lot cleaner and it was – I mean, the people wasn't that close.
2 There were no hoses like in the jungle where they drop down from the,
3 from the ceiling, you know. There's just cars. I started the frame then I,
4 I seen the after effect of when it came, it came out.
5

6Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
7

8Preciliano Anguiano: I seen, uh, the colors and the cars and – that we were building instead of
9 the body parts.
10

11Marilyn Coulter: [23:12] So, how were the people in trim versus the people in body shop?
12

13Preciliano Anguiano: They're about the same, you know, but there were more women.
14

15Marilyn Coulter: More women.
16

17Preciliano Anguiano: [laughter] There were more women in trim.
18

19Marilyn Coulter: [23:23] So, now what was that like for you going t-, from the body shop
20 where there weren't many women...
21

22Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
23

24Marilyn Coulter: ...and then all of a sudden, all these women are in trim shop. What was
25 that like?
26

27Preciliano Anguiano: It was fine. It was fine, you know. They, uh, get along together and I
28 knew mostly all of'm. I mean, I ain't talkin' about women. I knew – I
29 get along with other people that I work with...
30

31Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
32

33Preciliano Anguiano: ...some but – not all but some.
34

35Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [23:49] And now, um, Nacho, you said that you worked in the
36 power house?
37

38Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
39

40Marilyn Coulter: [23:52] What's the power house and what did you do there?
41

42Atanacio Trigo: Um, that's the wastewater treatment.
43

44Marilyn Coulter: Wastewater treatment?
45

1Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah. I, I was there for about, you know, for about, you know,
2 for about two years and I had 20 years' seniority and I was a low man,
3 so I, I had to go back to my – trim.
4

5Marilyn Coulter: And you went back to trim.
6

7Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah.
8

9Marilyn Coulter: Oh, okay. So, you worked there a little bit. So...
10

11Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 24:15] I wanted to go back to trim, you know, 'cause we
12 handle more overtime in the power house.
13

14Marilyn Coulter: Ah.
15

16Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know.
17

18Marilyn Coulter: [24:21] So, what type of overtime were you gettin' in power house?
19

20Atanacio Trigo: You know, you know, you got like Saturday and Sundays. Yeah, you
21 know, 'cause when I first went over there, there, you know, we had a
22 lotta overtime.
23

24Marilyn Coulter: [24:31] You were workin' Saturdays and Sundays?
25

26Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, uh-huh. On wastewater treatment.
27

28Marilyn Coulter: [24:33] How many hours?
29

30Atanacio Trigo: Eight hours.
31

32Marilyn Coulter: Eight hours.
33

34Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
35

36Marilyn Coulter: Seven days a week.
37

38Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
39

40Marilyn Coulter: Oh!
41

42Atanacio Trigo: In the end, they come up with a – they, they, you know, they did call it
43 equalized hours.
44

45Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
46

1Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know, and my [inaudible] [just went down 24:46]. You
2 know.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
5
6Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, 'cause [inaudible 24:52] overtime, it was all volunteer.
7
8Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
9
10Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
11
12Marilyn Coulter: Overtime to volunteer.
13
14Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
15
16Marilyn Coulter: Alrighty. [24:58] And so, now Chano, um, do you remember what the
17 first job was in trim that you did?
18
19Preciliano Anguiano: It was door wires.
20
21Marilyn Coulter: Door wires. Oh. [25:09] And what, what did you have to do with the
22 door wires?
23
24Preciliano Anguiano: String, string a wire through the door and, uh, string some wire through
25 the body. I did the front door.
26
27Marilyn Coulter: [25:22] Now, did you work in teams? By yourself?
28
29Preciliano Anguiano: Uh, we work in teams. Three guys to, to do a job.
30
31Marilyn Coulter: [25:30] And that required, what, every third job or something?
32
33Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, every third job.
34
35Marilyn Coulter: [25:33] So what was doin' every third job versus workin' in the jungle?
36
37Preciliano Anguiano: It was a lot easier. I mean, you could, you could get to ride the car until
38 you finish your job. By the time you finish your job, you get a little
39 extra time to get your stock and then put it in the other car and then just
40 ride it down the line.
41
42Marilyn Coulter: Oh. [25:49] So, tell me, what types of things did you do for breaks?
43 You wanna start? You can begin.
44
45Preciliano Anguiano: [Inaudible 25:57]? [laughter] Well, we used to play cards and, uh, take a
46 break.

1
2 Marilyn Coulter: You take breaks. You played cards. What kind of...?
3
4 Preciliano Anguiano: Well, you get a reliefs and then it was – was it three, five minutes? Five
5 minutes? Yeah, like five-minute relief. No, it was three minutes.
6
7 Marilyn Coulter: [26:15] Are you talkin’ about the six, the six-minute [lagging 26:17] you
8 talkin’ about?
9
10 Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, we had [wagon 26:18] too but I’m talkin’ about the relief – they
11 give you relief.
12
13 Marilyn Coulter: Oh.
14
15 Preciliano Anguiano: So, they – some guy came over and relieved you.
16
17 Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
18
19 Preciliano Anguiano: Where you take a break.
20
21 Marilyn Coulter: Oh, it’s like 12, 14 minutes? Something like that you get relief?
22
23 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Twelve.
24
25 Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, I forgot how many it was.
26
27 Marilyn Coulter: Uh-huh.
28
29 Atanacio Trigo: It was 13 or 14.
30
31 Preciliano Anguiano: [Inaudible 26:33]. Too many – too many Budweisers.
32
33 Marilyn Coulter: [26:36] So, what [laughter] – what type of cards did you play during
34 breaks?
35
36 Preciliano Anguiano: Uh, we played Tonk and, uh, poker and – uh, mostly, mostly poker.
37
38 Marilyn Coulter: Really? And poker – and what...
39
40 Preciliano Anguiano: And Euchre. Euchre sometimes.
41
42 Marilyn Coulter: And Euchre.
43
44 Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
45
46 Marilyn Coulter: Euchre’s a game a lotta people play at the plant [inaudible 26:57].

1
2Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
3
4Atanacio Trigo: Mm-hm.
5
6Marilyn Coulter: What about you Chano? How did you – what’d you do for breaks?
7
8Preciliano Anguiano: Nacho.
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Excuse me. [27:01] Nacho, what did you do for breaks?
11
12Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 27:03] my 12-minute break or...
13
14Marilyn Coulter: Whatever you did for breaks.
15
16Atanacio Trigo: ...an-, any time?
17
18Marilyn Coulter: [27:07] What you did for breaks, what ya did for lunch. Well, we’ll get
19 to lunch in a minute. What type of things you’d do for breaks?
20
21Atanacio Trigo: ‘Cause my thing when I was workin’, I try to stay off, off the line there,
22 you know. [Inaudible 27:17], you know, with my job, so I could come
23 back and have time to read the paper or go, go talk to somebody right
24 quick, or, or go get a drink’a water. Yeah. But, if when I had my break,
25 my real relief break...
26
27Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
28
29Atanacio Trigo: ...I would go t-, to talk to some girl or some guy.
30
31Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
32
33Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know.
34
35Marilyn Coulter: Oh.
36
37Atanacio Trigo: Go to a different department. Just do somethin’.
38
39Marilyn Coulter: So, now you said that you worked up the line. [27:46] Can you explain
40 what up the line is and is that somethin’ difficult to do to work up the
41 line?
42
43Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 27:51] that’s when you [inaudible 27:55] how you, you stay
44 ahead’a your job all the time.
45
46Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

1
2Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know. You work up, up to the job. Yeah, by the time you get
3 to, to the other job, you got, you got about three or four minutes, Yeah,
4 you know, or maybe I go do my own stock too, you know, all, all the
5 stuff.
6
7Marilyn Coulter: So, three minutes is a lot.
8
9Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 28:15] I, I always try to make time for myself.
10
11Marilyn Coulter: You make time for yourself.
12
13Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah.
14
15Marilyn Coulter: Three minutes is a lotta time...
16
17Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
18
19Marilyn Coulter: ...on the line.
20
21Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
22
23Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
24
25Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know. [Inaudible 28:24] now though. Now it could be
26 different now.
27
28Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [28:29] So, um, what did you guys do for lunches? You wanna
29 start with that? What'd ya do for lunch? Where did you go? Where'd
30 ya eat? [Inaudible 28:36].
31
32Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 28:36]. I used to bring my own lunch. Yeah, you know, and
33 then we'd sit down and we – with all the people, yeah, and lots'a
34 friends'a mine. Yeah, you know, or, or else we'd go out. Well, at the
35 end, it got to a point they all used to go out and drink some beer. Y-,
36 yeah, you know.
37
38Marilyn Coulter: Just go out and have a beer...
39
40Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah.
41
42Marilyn Coulter: ...and come on back to work.
43
44Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah, you know.
45
46Marilyn Coulter: Uh-huh. [29:00] Where'd ya have a beer at?

1
2Atanacio Trigo: They used to go to the store and get it.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: Oh, you'd go to the store and just [inaudible 29:04].
5
6Atanacio Trigo: Used to drink in the parking lot.
7
8Male: [Inaudible 29:05].
9
10Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Dave's [inaudible 29:07].
11
12Marilyn Coulter: [29:07] You'd got to Dave's Party Store?
13
14Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, go buy a [Jones 29:10] – a couple'a [Jones 29:10] and drink
15 it in the parking lot.
16
17Marilyn Coulter: In the parking lot.
18
19Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
20
21Marilyn Coulter: Oh. [29:15] Was that – and Chano, what about you? What did you do
22 for lunch?
23
24Preciliano Anguiano: Sometimes to go to the bacteria – you know, cafeteria.
25
26Marilyn Coulter: [laughter] The, the bacteria? [laughter]
27
28Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, we used to go to...
29
30Marilyn Coulter: [laughter] Cafeteria?
31
32Preciliano Anguiano: The cafeteria. Most of the time we went to Dave's and get a quart and a
33 bag of, uh, pork rinds and drink in the parking lot.
34
35Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
36
37Preciliano Anguiano: Sometimes we went to Harry's.
38
39Marilyn Coulter: And what...?
40
41Preciliano Anguiano: Fridays, Fridays we went to Harry's 'cause it was payday, so we went to
42 Harry's.
43
44Marilyn Coulter: [29:42] What was, what was Harry's and what made payday special
45 about going to Harry's?
46

1Preciliano Anguiano: Oh, they c-, Harry's is – what is it? Hamburger – the corner beer joint.
2 What do you call it? Neighborhood – uh, they got food, to cash your
3 check, to drink some beers.
4

5Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 29:59] And they cashed your checks!
6

7Preciliano Anguiano: They cashed your checks, yeah.
8

9Marilyn Coulter: Really? [30:02] They cash checks there every week for people?
10

11Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
12

13Marilyn Coulter: Wow, and now, how close is that to the plant?
14

15Preciliano Anguiano: Uh, across the street.
16

17Marilyn Coulter: Across the street and what was – that was Verlinden right?
18

19Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, Verlinden Street.
20

21Marilyn Coulter: [30:13] So, um, d-, uh, did a lot of employees cash their checks at
22 Harry's?
23

24Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, they did.
25

26Marilyn Coulter: Really? Oh! So...
27

28Preciliano Anguiano: It was packed on Friday.
29

30Marilyn Coulter: It was packed.
31

32Preciliano Anguiano: F-, Friday nights and days. Days and nights, you know, you'd go cash
33 your check. [It was a pretty good place 30:29].
34

35Marilyn Coulter: [30:30] And you could also buy your lunch there?
36

37Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, buy your lunch...
38

39Marilyn Coulter: Or drink your lunch.
40

41Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah. Go outside in the parking lot and drink a six pack or something.
42

43Marilyn Coulter: Oh, a six pack [at 30:39] lunch? [laughter] Okay. Alrighty. [30:44] Um,
44 so how did that work? Did General Motors not mind you goin' over to
45 Harry's or your supervisors ever get ya in trouble for goin' to Harry's
46 [inaudible 30:53]?

1
2Preciliano Anguiano: They, they, they – you know, they – at first, they did but then there’s too
3many, so they couldn’t...
4
5Marilyn Coulter: Some people...
6
7Preciliano Anguiano: ...then they couldn’t do nothin’ about it. I mean, depend on supervisor.
8
9Marilyn Coulter: The supervisor.
10
11Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
12
13Marilyn Coulter: [31:08] About the same for you too Nacho?
14
15Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
16
17Marilyn Coulter: Okay. Well, you mentioned supervisors. That takes us to another place.
18Um, supervisors. There were good supervisors and there were bad
19supervisors. [31:19] What made a good supervisor to you guys? [throat
20clearing]
21
22Preciliano Anguiano: Somebody you could relate to. You know, like [inaudible] [Mel Talbert
2331:27]. [Mel Talbert 31:31] was – I mean, he would fight for you.
24
25Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
26
27Preciliano Anguiano: You know, [Dean Marshal]. [Dean 31:37] I think it was.
28Superintendent.
29
30Marilyn Coulter: [Jim Marshal 31:39]?
31
32Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah. He [inaudible 341:41] people but [Talbert 31:44], he [inaudible
3331:45] look, he’s a good worker, comes here every day, he does his job,
34sometimes he fucks up but I’m the one that gonna tell’m, not you. You
35know, you tell me, I tell him.
36
37Marilyn Coulter: Oh, I see.
38
39Preciliano Anguiano: So, give ya a lotta slack.
40
41Marilyn Coulter: So, that made a good supervisor.
42
43Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, he was a good supervisor.
44
45Marilyn Coulter: That was a good supervisor.
46

1Preciliano Anguiano: I mean I had – I mean, most all my supervisors were good.
2

3Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
4

5Preciliano Anguiano: Except for one.
6

7Marilyn Coulter: [32:15] And which one was that?
8

9Preciliano Anguiano: I can't remember his name. Uh, used to work in glass.
10

11Marilyn Coulter: [32:21] What made him, what made him a bad supervisor?
12

13Preciliano Anguiano: Um, he was always in your [inaudible 32:25]. He's always cussin'.
14

15Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 32:28]?
16

17Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah – no, [inaudible 32:30].
18

19Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Earl Nicholson. [32:32] Uh, what was the time period for when you
20 were in glass?
21

22Preciliano Anguiano: Oh, it varies, man, 'cause I used to do sunroofs and T-tops.
23

24Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Oh, I do recall a supervisor named, uh, [Ken Derosa 32:43].
25

26Preciliano Anguiano: No, it wasn't him.
27

28Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Okay.
29

30Preciliano Anguiano: It was this [inaudible 32:46], some colored guy that worked in glass.
31

32Cheryl McQuaid: [Mel Hanley 32:49].
33

34Preciliano Anguiano: No, no, no.
35

36Female: [Don Lee 32:51].
37

38Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, [Don Lee 32:53].
39

40Male 1: [Inaudible 32:54]?
41

42Preciliano Anguiano: No, [Don Lee 32:55].
43

44Marilyn Coulter: [Don Lee 32:56].
45

46Male 1: [Inaudible 32:56]. Oh, [Don Lee 32:57].

1
2Male 2: Oh, I remember him.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: [32:59] And what made [Don Lee 32:59] a bad supervisor?
5
6Preciliano Anguiano: Well, he, you know, to me, he didn't know what he was doin'. You
7 know, I – he, uh, he had another problem too. He was in the military
8 and he would get in your face, you know?
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Hm.
11
12Preciliano Anguiano: And he'd be yellin' at you and spit would come – comin' out his mouth.
13 Oh man, [inaudible 33:19]. [laughter] You gonna get the hell away from
14 me man. What the hell wrong with you, you know? I mean, he would
15 get real loud mouth.
16
17Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. So, he was disrespectful...
18
19Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
20
21Marilyn Coulter: ...to you in your opinion it sounds like.
22
23Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, to me and to everybody.
24
25Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [33:35] What about you Nacho? What made a good supervisor
26 for you?
27
28Atanacio Trigo: They're somebody you can talk to. They – somebody – they [inaudible
29 33:43] supervisor that would – they – you would do you job right like
30 it's supposed to be done, right? And then it had to be their way.
31
32Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
33
34Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know. 'Cause they could be the book way, I don't know,
35 man. Yeah, you know, and 'cause I had a couple or two that were pretty
36 bad though.
37
38Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
39
40Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 34:02]. One was [inaudible 34:04]. Boy, boy when I c- first
41 came over there, boy, [inaudible 34:10], you know, they [inaudible
42 34:15]. [laughter] You know, they – yeah, you know, to be honest, they
43 try to discriminate.
44
45Marilyn Coulter: They discriminate.
46

1Atanacio Trigo: Y-, yeah, yeah, you know. Yeah, you know, by not giving the job that I
2 was required to do...
3

4Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
5

6Atanacio Trigo: ...[inaudible 34:28] my seniority, they always give it to, you know,
7 somebody White but, you know, be honest about it.
8

9Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
10

11Atanacio Trigo: Y-, y-, yeah, you know. Yeah, you know but still, you know, I fought
12 him, I fought him, and I got my, m-, my job, you know.
13

14Marilyn Coulter: Now, is that something that either one of you – I – obviously you ran
15 into – you did.
16

17Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
18

19Marilyn Coulter: [34:45] Did you run into discrimination on the job because of being m-,
20 Mexicans?
21

22Preciliano Anguiano: Uh, I didn't 'cause my job was just – like, just name calling. I mean,
23 call you names but you call'm right back.
24

25Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
26

27Preciliano Anguiano: You know, sometimes you get into a fight but, uh, other than that, it just
28 name calling.
29

30Marilyn Coulter: Earl?
31

32Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Earl Nicholson. [35:13] When you say get into a fight, what do you
33 mean by that?
34

35Preciliano Anguiano: Well, like, punch somebody out, you know, [inaudible 35:20].
36

37Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [35:20] So, it was, it was physical. A physical altercation.
38

39Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, either that or in the parking – mostly in the line and, you know,
40 just like you say an attitude adjustment, you know? Couple, three, four
41 swings and then you broke up and your foreman didn't see it, you were
42 alright, you know, but other than that, it was fine.
43

44Earl Nicholson, Sr.: So, uh, so we've got, we've got into the issue of altercations and, uh,
45 supervisors burning people. [35:49] Um, w-, how was, how was your,
46 how was your union – how was your initial union experience in the

1 factory? I mean, uh, uh, were you – did you get along good with your –
2 and I'm talkin' to the both'a you. Did you get along good with your,
3 your committee people? Did you know who your committee people
4 were? Uh, did you ever go to union meetings?
5
6Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
7
8Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, well, I think the best committee man we had was – uh, what was
9 his name? Uh.
10
11Male: It was [Al] [inaudible 36:19].
12
13Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah. [Inaudible 36:21]. Now, he would fight for you.
14
15Male: Al [inaudible 36:24]. He's gone already.
16
17Preciliano Anguiano: He's gone. That was in the '70s and '80s.
18
19Male: Yeah.
20
21Preciliano Anguiano: Early '70s – I mean late '70s and early '80s.
22
23Male: And he was the type'a guy that if you put a call out to, he'd come. No
24 matter who you were, he would come out.
25
26Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
27
28Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah. He would – I mean, he would verbally...
29
30Atanacio Trigo: He's a honest man.
31
32Preciliano Anguiano: ...abuse the foreman and the general foreman, you know, and the – and
33 get, get whatever had to be done taken care of.
34
35Earl Nicholson, Sr.: So, he helped ya.
36
37Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
38
39Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know. Yeah, you know, then in my case, you know,
40 supervisor used to come [inaudible 36:54] well, you don't like it, quit!
41 Go! Yeah, you know.
42
43Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Okay.
44
45Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, 'cause I was fightin' for the job they – I was supposed to be doin',
46 that I applied for but they always gave it to somebody else.

1
2 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
3
4 Atanacio Trigo: I would call [Al 37:10], man, and he, you know, he would straighten out.
5
6 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
7
8 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Alright.
9
10 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know, like [Vern 37:16] told me once, you know, [inaudible
11 37:17] screamin' at you? Yeah! Yeah, you know, because I applied for
12 that job, you know, for that repair job and you give it somebody with
13 less seniority.
14
15 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
16
17 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know. Yeah, you know, but [Al] [thing 37:31] work out.
18
19 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
20
21 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [37:35] So, did you, did you ever attend union meetings?
22
23 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah, [inaudible 37:40]. Yeah.
24
25 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Excellent.
26
27 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah.
28
29 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [37:43] Did you, d-, d-...
30
31 Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 37:43].
32
33 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: ...d-, did – uh, when you were attending the union, did you know who
34 Walter Reuther was?
35
36 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah!
37
38 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Okay.
39
40 Atanacio Trigo: I, I – yeah, I went to Black Lake.
41
42 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Oh, you went to Black Lake!
43
44 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
45
46 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [37:53] Okay, describe Black Lake.

1
2Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 37:55].
3
4Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [37:57] What d-, what, what is Black Lake?
5
6Atanacio Trigo: It's like a learning center.
7
8Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Okay.
9
10Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah, 'cause me and my girlfriend, you know, yeah, we went
11 camping out there.
12
13Marilyn Coulter: We're gonna come back to there for a second. I wanna go back into the
14 plant for one second. Um, Nacho and Chano, um, we talked about the
15 times you felt discriminated with. We already talked a little bit about
16 language differences that you had. [38:23] Did you find in time because
17 you're bilingual you were able to help, um, maybe some other Mexicans
18 who didn't speak Spanish – I mean didn't speak English, so you had to
19 translate? Were you ever called upon to help your fellow workers that
20 way?
21
22Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, myself, I did a lotta times.
23
24Marilyn Coulter: You did?
25
26Atanacio Trigo: Y, yeah, you know, and I even work, I even work [in my department]
27 [inaudible 38:46], you know, 'cause most'a my time in there, I was a
28 relief man and I would – I work with people there who didn't sp-, speak
29 English.
30
31Marilyn Coulter: [38:57] And so you would translate for them?
32
33Atanacio Trigo: Yeah! Yeah, you know, and sometimes they would call me to the office,
34 you know, for me to translate. Yeah.
35
36Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 39:04].
37
38Atanacio Trigo: Always doin' that. Yeah.
39
40Marilyn Coulter: Yeah. [39:06] And did you do that also Chano?
41
42Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, when I first hired in here, I – they hired – it was three Mexicans,
43 uh, [inaudible 39:16] name, Hector, Hector [inaudible 39:21]? No.
44 [Inaudible 39:22] I think it was...
45
46Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

1
2Preciliano Anguiano: ...and Jose Hernandez I think it was...
3
4Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
5
6Preciliano Anguiano: ...and they didn't speak English, so I had to translate for'm.
7
8Marilyn Coulter: And you translated.
9
10Preciliano Anguiano: And for Poncho, uh, what's his name?
11
12Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 39:37].
13
14Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, [inaudible 39:39].
15
16Atanacio Trigo: Mm-hm.
17
18Preciliano Anguiano: [Inaudible 39:40] I think it was.
19
20Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
21
22Marilyn Coulter: [39:42] And he worked in glass here, didn't he?
23
24Preciliano Anguiano: He worked, he worked in the glass area.
25
26Marilyn Coulter: [39:47] Now, now he's somebody that I didn't know [inaudible 39:49]
27 and, uh, he didn't speak hardly any English at all, did he? Even when he
28 retired.
29
30Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, you know what? He did. He did.
31
32Marilyn Coulter: He chose not to.
33
34Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
35
36Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, he, he knows.
37
38Marilyn Coulter: Uh-huh.
39
40Atanacio Trigo: He was no dummy. [laughter]
41
42Marilyn Coulter: Uh-huh, but he chose not to.
43
44Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, he didn't want...
45
46Marilyn Coulter: So, that was one way you were able to help, uh, your coworkers. Um.

1
2 Preciliano Anguiano: And you know what, I helped, uh, some – uh, there’s definitely [Bob
3 Lawson 40:14]. Back then, uh, things like – I think it was like in the late
4 ‘80s or early ‘90s.
5
6 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
7
8 Preciliano Anguiano: They had put a new phone for him...
9
10 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
11
12 Preciliano Anguiano: ...in the supervisor’s office...
13
14 Marilyn Coulter: Oh.
15
16 Preciliano Anguiano: ...so his wife could call him.
17
18 Marilyn Coulter: Hm.
19
20 Preciliano Anguiano: They would, they would type his name, you know, and say my name is
21 [Bob Lawson 40:38]...
22
23 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
24
25 Preciliano Anguiano: ...to his wife...
26
27 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
28
29 Preciliano Anguiano: ...and the supervisor was [inaudible] [Herrera 40:42].
30
31 Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 40:44]. [laughter]
32
33 Preciliano Anguiano: And at lunchtime, [laughter] he wanna go – ‘cause his wife always call
34 at lunchtime and he wanna go tell Bob his wife called...
35
36 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
37
38 Preciliano Anguiano: ...and he would get pissed off ‘cause when he get home, his wife said
39 well, how come you didn’t answer the phone? He said, well, I didn’t
40 know nobody called. So, one day he told me to help him out and my –
41 on my break, you know, when his wife called to go answer the phone...
42
43 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
44
45 Preciliano Anguiano: ...and to type that Bob will be there in a few minutes...
46

1 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
2

3 Preciliano Anguiano: ...so I did and every time, you know, at lunchtime...
4

5 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
6

7 Preciliano Anguiano: ...that's when I was workin' on glass but every lunchtime I would go
8 and, you know, I hear the phone ring...
9

10 Marilyn Coulter: Uh-huh.
11

12 Preciliano Anguiano: ...and I go in there and [Herrera 41:28] would tell me hey, [inaudible
13 41:31] to me there's a phone call...
14

15 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
16

17 Preciliano Anguiano: ...so I go down there and I trans-, you know, I get the phone and picked
18 it up and type hi, my name Chano...
19

20 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
21

22 Preciliano Anguiano: ...you know, and I said Bob will be with you in a few minutes. Then I
23 go call Bob and he will go [inaudible 41:45] he will do his thing.
24

25 Marilyn Coulter: That's [inaudible 41:47]. Earl Nicholson.
26

27 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Um, Earl Nicholson. You mentioned a manual for [inaudible 41:53], uh,
28 Latino supervisors?
29

30 Preciliano Anguiano: Yes, it was.
31

32 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [41:57] Uh, when you hired in, were there any Latino supervisors on the
33 line – or that you knew of?
34

35 Preciliano Anguiano: Yes, there was one I think in the body shop where Dave – it was Dave –
36 is it Lopez? It was Dave. I don't know – I forgot his – I think it was
37 Dave Lopez.
38

39 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: And this is back in the '60s.
40

41 Preciliano Anguiano: And '70s.
42

43 Earl Nicholson, Sr.: In the '70s...
44

45 Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
46

1Earl Nicholson, Sr.: ...so when you first hired in, there were no, no, uh, no...
2

3Preciliano Anguiano: There were – yeah, there was two’a them but I can’t – I can only
4remember one but I don’t – I can’t, I can’t remember the other one.
5

6Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [42:32] Uh, when was the – and when was the first time you ever
7noticed an African American supervisor?
8

9Preciliano Anguiano: Oh, there used to be a lot, uh, back in the ‘70’s.
10

11Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [42:46] And, uh, women? Female supervisors?
12

13Preciliano Anguiano: Uh, in the ‘70s – like late – the late ‘70s I think it was there [was 42:49]
14women supervisors that I, that I can recall but Dorothy was one of’m? I
15think it was. I don’t know her last name.
16

17Marilyn Coulter: Okay, um, gentleman. Questions for you. So, um, you both hired in in
18the late ‘60s, early ‘70s. [43:20] What are some of the biggest changes
19that you noticed workin’ in the plant? Either one of you can take it first.
20

21Preciliano Anguiano: Well, the most I noticed was...
22

23Marilyn Coulter: Chano.
24

25Preciliano Anguiano: Chano. The supervisors different. Yeah.
26

27Marilyn Coulter: [43:32] How so?
28

29Preciliano Anguiano: Well, at first, they had all the supervisors that were, that were with you
30for [inaudible 43:39] and they were with you [and then you changed
3143:43] but as the time went on, you had this higher supervisor that
32would come in and they didn’t care what – they didn’t care about the
33people. They care about their jobs.
34

35Marilyn Coulter: So, you’re talking about the contractor supervisors.
36

37Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, the contractor supervisors.
38

39Marilyn Coulter: So, that was a big change. [Inaudible 43:59].
40

41Preciliano Anguiano: That was a big change, you know, and they change the cars back in the
42‘80s from – this is ‘84 from a Oldsmobile to a Pontiac, uh, Grand Am.
43

44Marilyn Coulter: [44:08] So, did the processes change also?
45

1Preciliano Anguiano: They did. They definitely did 'cause when we were buildin' those 98s
2 and 88s, we used to do, like, 300 – was it 215 jobs from – from when we
3 started 'til noon...
4

5Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
6

7Preciliano Anguiano: ...and then we did, like – I think it was like 245...
8

9Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
10

11Preciliano Anguiano: ...when the shift ended. It was like 500 cars...
12

13Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
14

15Preciliano Anguiano: ...that we did every day...
16

17Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
18

19Preciliano Anguiano: ...but when we got the Pontiac, that dropped, like, s-, say a couple'a
20 hundred jobs.
21

22Marilyn Coulter: Oh.
23

24Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, and I stayed on 'til the plant shut – [throat clearing] when the
25 plant went out.
26

27Marilyn Coulter: [44:54] So, what type'a changes did you see Nacho?
28

29Atanacio Trigo: About the supervisors?
30

31Marilyn Coulter: About the building, the environment. [throat clearing] [45:00] What are
32 some of the big changes you noticed from working? You hired in the,
33 the late '60s and you retired...
34

35Atanacio Trigo: By the time I retired?
36

37Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. What are some of the big changes that you noticed?
38

39Atanacio Trigo: You know, the supervisors too.
40

41Marilyn Coulter: Supervisors.
42

43Atanacio Trigo: They, they never – only thinkin' more about their own self.
44

45Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
46

1Atanacio Trigo: About their job, you know. I know the management would, you know,
2 were pushin'm too, you know.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
5
6Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know. Adding more to the people and [inaudible 45:25], you
7 know.
8
9Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [45:28] Um, what about your coworkers? Did you look at
10 them as family?
11
12Atanacio Trigo: Yeah!
13
14Marilyn Coulter: Really?
15
16Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
17
18Marilyn Coulter: Were they family to you?
19
20Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
21
22Marilyn Coulter: [45:36] Um, what'd ya do for holidays and things like that? What kinds
23 of things do you guys do and did you associate – a couple'a questions.
24 Did ya look at'm as family and did you associate with any of your
25 coworkers outside of the work?
26
27Preciliano Anguiano: Y-, yeah, yeah, we, we did.
28
29Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, we go out have cookouts, you know, go out dancing and
30 [inaudible 45:57].
31
32Marilyn Coulter: Cookouts, dancing.
33
34Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah.
35
36Preciliano Anguiano: Most, mostly I did 'cause mostly all the sup-, mostly the people that I
37 associated with was the guys from here that were from my hometown.
38
39Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
40
41Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
42
43Preciliano Anguiano: You know, and, uh – oh! Guys from, like, from Texas, you know.
44
45Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
46

1Preciliano Anguiano: And sometimes we go to a friend's house, you know, a White guy like
2 [Dale Bruner 46:21] or – who was the other one? Uh, can't remember
3 his name.
4

5Marilyn Coulter: So, [inaudible 46:31].
6

7Preciliano Anguiano: 'Cause sometimes we would hang around with him on the outside too.
8

9Marilyn Coulter: On the outside too...
10

11Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, yeah. yeah.
12

13Marilyn Coulter: ...so some people had a big impact on your life on the outside.
14

15Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah. Yeah, you know.
16

17Marilyn Coulter: [46:41] Um, what about holidays? Did you guys do anything special in
18 the plant during holidays, birthdays? [Inaudible 46:47]
19

20Atanacio Trigo: Well, we used to have a pot – was it a pot dinner?
21

22Marilyn Coulter: Potluck?
23

24Atanacio Trigo: Well, yeah.
25

26Male: Potlucks.
27

28Atanacio Trigo: Bring a plate or you pay money [inaudible 46:55].
29

30Marilyn Coulter: Hm. [46:57] So, you had benefits also...
31

32Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
33

34Marilyn Coulter: ...did you not for all the workers?
35

36Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
37

38Marilyn Coulter: Um. One'a the things that, um...
39

40Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 47:07] 'cause I, now, 'cause I live in Lansing for 20 years...
41

42Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
43

44Atanacio Trigo: ...yeah, so I knew a lotta people here, you know.
45

46Marilyn Coulter: So, you lived in Lansing for 20 years.

1
2Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, you know, like when we came in summertime, they used to
3 play baseball all the time. I used to play for the union too!
4
5Marilyn Coulter: [47:21] So, a question. If you lived here in Lansing for 20 years...
6
7Atanacio Trigo: Mm-hm.
8
9Marilyn Coulter: ...what did your community think of coworkers? What types of things
10 did you hear about people who worked at Fisher Body?
11
12Atanacio Trigo: You know, they didn't say anything. They – oh, you know, they
13 [inaudible 47:37] we got a good job and all this stuff.
14
15Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
16
17Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, so, no, they didn't...
18
19Preciliano Anguiano: Said we were rich.
20
21Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
22
23Marilyn Coulter: They thought you were rich.
24
25Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. [laughter]
26
27Preciliano Anguiano: [Inaudible 47:47] work for General Motors.
28
29Marilyn Coulter: Earl.
30
31Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Earl Nicholson. Now that we've ordered – o-, o-, opened that Pandora's
32 box, uh, you workin' at Fisher Body, single. [47:58] You know, what,
33 what, what was that like? I mean, d-, we – were women more or less
34 attracted to you before and after? I mean, you know, you're a young
35 man, you're hired in the factory, you're makin' a lotta money, you got –
36 you know, I mean, is this somethin' that when you went to a dance – is
37 that somethin' that, that you think might've attracted women to you?
38
39Preciliano Anguiano: Well, yeah! Y-, yeah.
40
41Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, you know, yeah, you know, because myself, you know, I was well
42 dressed, you know, to go out and everything, you know. Clean, you
43 know...
44
45Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Well-mannered.
46

1Atanacio Trigo: ...and I had money. Yeah, you know, [inaudible 48:35] especially the
2 people that you was brought up with, all, all, all the Mexicans, they –
3 you know, you're different! Hey, [inaudible 48:46], you know. Well,
4 you gotta good job and other stuff, you know. You makin' money now,
5 you know. Yeah, you got it made and they'd say yeah, [what you gettin'
6 there 48:56]? Find out if I got it made. Yeah, you know.
7

8Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Chano, you were just – I just, just heard you – get a giggle outta you
9 from that [inaudible 49:03]. [laughter]
10

11Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, well, I used to know – well, I do know, uh, some Mexicans that,
12 um, they went overboard, you know. They'd show their fancy, fancy
13 rigs and necklaces...
14

15Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
16

17Preciliano Anguiano: ...you know. You can tell they, they came from nothin' into somethin',
18 you know? I mean, it was – I mean, you could see these clowns, man,
19 you know. You could tell. These mother fuckers showin' off, you
20 know? Damn, man, you know? But other than that, you know...
21

22Atanacio Trigo: They showin' that they got money, all that shit, you know?
23

24Marilyn Coulter: [laughter] They had that good GM [inaudible 49:44].
25

26Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
27

28Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, yeah.
29

30Earl Nicholson, Sr.: So, so...
31

32Preciliano Anguiano: But they forgot where they come from! [Goatee 49:47].
33

34Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [49:48] So, [coughing] so, working at Fisher Body, would the – did that,
35 did that – elevate you in your own community on some level? [Inaudible
36 49:59].
37

38Preciliano Anguiano: Not, not mine, no.
39

40Earl Nicholson, Sr.: No?
41

42Preciliano Anguiano: No.
43

44Earl Nicholson, Sr.: They just treated you the same.
45

46Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, they just same.

1
2Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Okay.
3
4Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
5
6Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
7
8Preciliano Anguiano: The plain Janes or whatever you call it.
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Um, [inaudible 50:14]. Um, okay. Gentleman, question to you and that
11 is that, um, in working at Fisher Body, people always said we were
12 noted as the capital of quality. You know, bodies by Fisher. [50:32]
13 What was it that you think made Lansing Fisher Body a step above the
14 rest? What made us the best?
15
16Atanacio Trigo: People.
17
18Marilyn Coulter: People?
19
20Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, people in there.
21
22Marilyn Coulter: Chano?
23
24Preciliano Anguiano: I think the quality of the jobs. You know, there were – [inaudible 50:51]
25 – I mean, you could buy an Oldsmobile, it lasts forever, you know?
26
27Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
28
29Preciliano Anguiano: But then we got this new jobs. I mean, they look different from the ones
30 we used to build and people kinda liked'm and you – tell us hey, man,
31 we built it. This is a new car, so look at it, man. Maybe go buy some,
32 you know?
33
34Marilyn Coulter: Now I know earlier I asked you too about changes. Now both'a you
35 have been here from a long time where we had one type of working and
36 then in the '80s, the late '80s, they started having employee
37 involvement. [51:26] What do you think about that or were you ever
38 involved in the [inaudible 51:28] processes?
39
40Atanacio Trigo: Uh, what kind'a process?
41
42Male: Break. Take a break.
43
44Marilyn Coulter: So, when we talk about employee involvement and employees gettin'
45 involved in the process, I know the quality of work life, otherwise

1 known as QWL, that was something that came around in the '80s.
2 [51:49] Was that something that either one of you got involved in?
3
4 Atanacio Trigo: I did myself though. Yeah, you know. [Inaudible 51:55] I was like lead
5 man...
6
7 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
8
9 Atanacio Trigo: ...and had to bring back some stuff to the people I relieve and
10 everything.
11
12 Marilyn Coulter: So, you got involved...
13
14 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
15
16 Marilyn Coulter: ...because you, you helped give out information.
17
18 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, right.
19
20 Marilyn Coulter: [52:08] And what about you Chano? Did you participate in it?
21
22 Preciliano Anguiano: Yes, I did but you know what? We had, uh, we had a lot in the – well,
23 when I hired in here 'til...
24
25 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
26
27 Preciliano Anguiano: ...'til the '80s or – you know the '80s then when we started getting that,
28 that, uh, employee involvement and all that...
29
30 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
31
32 Preciliano Anguiano: ...but I, I usually went just 'cause they gave me – they pay me on my
33 lunch hour.
34
35 Marilyn Coulter: You got paid lunch.
36
37 Preciliano Anguiano: I got a paid lunch hour.
38
39 Male: Half hour [inaudible 52:38].
40
41 Preciliano Anguiano: Half hour...
42
43 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
44
45 Preciliano Anguiano: ...you know, half hour pay and...
46

1 Marilyn Coulter: [52:41] How often were these meetings?
2

3 Preciliano Anguiano: They were once a week.
4

5 Marilyn Coulter: Once a week. [52:44] But, um, do you think that it did have some impact
6 on the product?
7

8 Preciliano Anguiano: Oh, well, I think it did.
9

10 Marilyn Coulter: You think it did? Okay. Um, but now I know one'a the things that we
11 both heard you talk about – we're gonna just digress a little bit. You
12 both talked about strikes. [53:01] Can you talk about – a little bit about
13 the strikes? Maybe the first strike you were on? How long you were
14 off? How did it affect you? Were either one of ya on strikes?
15

16 Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Yeah [inaudible 53:12] back [inaudible 53:14] strike, you know,
17 when they had that, you know, we had the long strike.
18

19 Marilyn Coulter: [53:18] W-, what, what happened with the long strike?
20

21 Atanacio Trigo: Well, actually we were fighting for, uh, for 30-and-out regardless of age.
22

23 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
24

25 Atanacio Trigo: And for overtime and for our health benefits.
26

27 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [53:31] How long were you out? Do you remember?
28

29 Atanacio Trigo: What was it? About six months. I don't know.
30

31 Male: Sixty-some days.
32

33 Atanacio Trigo: Y-, y-, yeah, it was a long time.
34

35 Marilyn Coulter: [53:37] So, how did that affect you?
36

37 Atanacio Trigo: It was in winter time.
38

39 Marilyn Coulter: Oh.
40

41 Atanacio Trigo: Y-, yeah, now my thing out – my think was that I was a captain and I
42 had my, my crew there from 8 – from 8 'til about 11:00 at night. Yeah,
43 you know, in front'a, uh, Fisher Body. Right in front'a the doors. Yeah.
44

45 Marilyn Coulter: So, now, you said you were a captain. [53:56] Does that mean you were
46 – had a strike detail or something?

1
2Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I had my, my group.
3
4Marilyn Coulter: [54:01] How, how m-, do you remember how many people were in your
5 group?
6
7Atanacio Trigo: About five I think. Yeah, you know. And we were gettin' around – we
8 were gettin' paid around, around \$35 a week.
9
10Marilyn Coulter: Oh!
11
12Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
13
14Marilyn Coulter: [54:14] And that was strike pay.
15
16Atanacio Trigo: Mm-hm.
17
18Marilyn Coulter: [54:18] Did you ever have any incidents?
19
20Atanacio Trigo: No, no, no. You know, there were people that wanted to come in there
21 but I, uh, put a stop to it, you know. Couldn't – unless they somebody
22 they [expect 54:30] to be in there.
23
24Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
25
26Atanacio Trigo: Y-, yeah, you know, but no, no. [My problem 54:35] was is that people,
27 they used to go to bars and drink a lot though...
28
29Marilyn Coulter: [laughter]
30
31Atanacio Trigo: ...so I had to go get'm. Come on, let's go back out. [laughter]
32
33Marilyn Coulter: Ah.
34
35Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. Nah, everything went okay. Cold though.
36
37Marilyn Coulter: It was cold [inaudible 54:46].
38
39Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
40
41Marilyn Coulter: [54:47] What about you Chano? Were you ever in a strike?
42
43Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, in the '70s, the strike Nacho talkin' about. Another thing that
44 strike – it was [inaudible 54:56]. We used to work a lotta overtime...
45
46Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

1
2Preciliano Anguiano: ...and one day – and the strike, we had – after the strike, we had
3 voluntary overtime to where you had to sign a piece’a paper you wanna
4 work over nine hours.
5
6Atanacio Trigo: Hm.
7
8Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, and I used to have – I worked mostly in the parking lot. I was – I
9 wasn’t the leader but carried little sign that says UAW on strike.
10
11Marilyn Coulter: Ah. [Inaudible 55:24] was in the parking lot.
12
13Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
14
15Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
16
17Preciliano Anguiano: I had a lotta fun there, you know. We just sit around, bullshit, and
18 walkin’ back and forth a little bit.
19
20Atanacio Trigo: It’s for a cause!
21
22Marilyn Coulter: For a cause.
23
24Atanacio Trigo: A good cause. Yeah, you know.
25
26Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Earl Nicholson. Uh, you mentioned, uh, benefits. [55:43] Uh, what were
27 the benefits that you had before the strike as opposed to after? What
28 was the improvement?
29
30Atanacio Trigo: We had some better...
31
32Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Oh, oh, stop tape. Okay, uh, alright. [56:02] I was just q-, I was just –
33 what I, what I’d like to know specifically is what did you gain from the
34 strike?
35
36Preciliano Anguiano: We got a better pension, better vision, dental, and, uh, pay – was it paid
37 personal holidays or was – where you get a, a day a week or was it a
38 month?
39
40Marilyn Coulter: A month.
41
42Preciliano Anguiano: A month?
43
44Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Mm-hm.
45

1Preciliano Anguiano: You get a free day with pay and, uh, that was, that was nice, man. A
2 lotta people used to come in when they had the personal day off. They
3 forget all about it, so they send you home.
4

5Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
6

7Preciliano Anguiano: You had a fee day off and come into work, you know, just like a rat
8 fact-, a factory rat? You go to a hole every day to eat your cheese and
9 then [one day they 56:59] [laughter] [put it on the door hinge 57:00],
10 free day. You know, free cheese. Yeah.
11

12Marilyn Coulter: Okay. So...

13

14Atanacio Trigo: You guys don't remember that, no? [laughter] About [the rat and 57:12]
15 cheese?
16

17Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [Inaudible 57:14] and cheese.
18

19Atanacio Trigo: Yeah, [inaudible 57:15].
20

21Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [Inaudible 57:15] nineteen – in the 1990s.
22

23Atanacio Trigo: Yeah. [laughter]
24

25Earl Nicholson, Sr.: So, let's, let's talk – we, we've talk about a strike as a work stoppage.
26 [57:24] Were there e-, uh, were they any other work stoppages over a
27 period of time that you'd like to talk about?
28

29Preciliano Anguiano: I think we had – one day we had one'a those wildcats, uh, days.
30

31Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [57:36] You recall a wildcat?
32

33Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah, we had one here, uh...
34

35Atanacio Trigo: A [inaudible 57:40]?
36

37Preciliano Anguiano: It was one day s-, uh, where they just...
38

39Male: A walkout.
40

41Preciliano Anguiano: Walkout day, you know?
42

43Atanacio Trigo: Yeah.
44

45Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [57:46] And do you remember, do you remember what day that was?
46

1Preciliano Anguiano: No, I don't remember. But we had one'a those [inaudible 57:51].
2
3Earl Nicholson, Sr.: [57:53] It was – was it a wildcat or a...?
4
5Preciliano Anguiano: It was a wildcat strike, you know. One day, everybody left the plant.
6
7Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Wow.
8
9Preciliano Anguiano: I don't – I can't recall what day it was or what month or what year but
10 we had one.
11
12Earl Nicholson, Sr.: So, Cheryl?
13
14Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid. I'm sorry gentleman, it was so nice talkin' to you and
15 we need wind up your interview. [58:18] Is there anything that we've
16 not asked you that you'd like to tell us about? Maybe your favorite
17 memory?
18
19Atanacio Trigo: Like, when you talk about quality in that place there, like myself, you
20 know, all the 33 years that I worked there, I did my best, you know. I
21 did quality work.
22
23Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
24
25Atanacio Trigo: You know, 'cause I seen a lotta people that would throw their motors
26 and everything, scratch the jobs and everything, you know, but myself,
27 to me it was a honor to work there.
28
29Preciliano Anguiano: I had a lotta, I had a lotta fun here workin'. I had a lotta fun working
30 here, you know. I met a lotta people and I seen a lotta people, you know
31 – a lotta people died too. You know, friends that you were friends with
32 here at the plant. That's the saddest part [inaudible 59:16]. You do your
33 time, say 30 years – 30, 40 years and then you walk out the plant and a
34 year later or six months later, you're dead. I mean, that's the sad, the
35 saddest part for my – for me working here, you know, seeing my friends,
36 you know, die and there's a lotta people here that they're – I call friends,
37 family [both 59:47] Hispanics, call'm Chicanos then, Latinos, African
38 Americans, Negroes, Niggers, excuse me, and Whites, and hillbillies.
39 You know, there was a lot of'm and I glad that I was a part of it. I knew
40 mostly – most of the people that work in trim, night shift and day shift,
41 and there's a lot of'm.
42
43Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter.
44
45Marilyn Coulter: I have one last question. This has been such a wonderful interview.
46 [1:00:26] Um, but gentleman, I know, Nacho, you said, um, that you

1 were involved in your union. Can you tell me what impact – what you
2 did in your union and what impact your union had on you and then I'd
3 like to stop [inaudible 1:00:39].
4

5Atanacio Trigo: 'Cause I, I, you know, I learned – definitely taught me how to help
6 somebody else, uh, you know, and by getting involved with the union,
7 you know, and by going to Black Lake, I learned more about the union,
8 uh, you know, and what, you know, like what was the function of the
9 union. You know.
10

11Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [1:01:06] Chano?
12

13Preciliano Anguiano: I wasn't involved with the union.
14

15Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
16

17Preciliano Anguiano: I mean, I came to meetings once in a while but I think the last meeting I
18 came was – had to do with my work, sunroofs and T-tops. They were
19 tryin' to eliminate it, I think...
20

21Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
22

23Preciliano Anguiano: ...and I came here to union hall, sat down, listened to everybody's
24 bitchin', then came my turn to bitch. Well, I only brought it up and then
25 they had to adjourn it. What is – how does it go? You bring it up, then
26 they...
27

28Marilyn Coulter: You got tabled?
29

30Atanacio Trigo: They tabled it.
31

32Preciliano Anguiano: Yeah.
33

34Marilyn Coulter: They tabled it.
35

36Preciliano Anguiano: Tabled it, yeah.
37

38Marilyn Coulter: For investigation or something like that?
39

40Preciliano Anguiano: Right. At that time, they were looking for, uh, people to count votes and
41 I [inaudible 1:02:02] – I raised my hand up and I [inaudible 1:02:06] to
42 be – count votes.
43

44Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
45

46Earl Nicholson, Sr.: Okay.

1
2Preciliano Anguiano: And my friend [Hector 1:02:15], he second it and then they put it up to a
3 vote and he was, uh, he was elected.
4
5Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 1:02:24]. Thank you for sharing your stories. It's been
6 awesome. Um.
7
8Male: It's great seein' you guys.
9
10Preciliano Anguiano: [Inaudible 1:02:35] very much.
11
12Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 1:02:35] time. [throat clearing]
13
14Male: Enjoyed it.
15
16Preciliano Anguiano: No offense sayin' the N word, you know, because I know – I knew a
17 lotta black people.
18
19Marilyn Coulter: Chano...
20
21Preciliano Anguiano: They were – man, they were nasty.
22
23Marilyn Coulter: And we [inaudible 1:02:45] and that's okay but I've known you for a
24 long time.
25
26Atanacio Trigo: Because in my case, you know, if he wasn't for my bad knees, man, I
27 would'a still be there.
28
29Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. Now...
30
31Atanacio Trigo: [Inaudible 1:02:53] in there.
32
33Marilyn Coulter: Okay.
34
35Earl Nicholson, Sr.: I'm gonna stop it.
36
37Marilyn Coulter: You wanna stop it.
38
39Cheryl McQuaid: Go ahead.
40
41Male: Yeah, go ahead.
42
43
44/ad