

1 **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY – SHAWN NICHOLSON**
2 **TIMOTHY L. BERRY DISCUSSES HIS CAREER**
3 **AS A UAW PRODUCTION WORKER AND SANITATION BOOTH CLEANER**
4 **AT THE FISHER BODY PLANT IN LANSING, MI**
5
6

7Cheryl McQuaid: This is Cheryl McQuaid. I'm with the Lansing Fisher Body Historical
8 Team. [papers rustling] Today is November 7, 2005. It's approximately
9 10:15 a.m. [papers rustling] We're with Tim Berry and, um, getting ready
10 to interview him and we'd like to go around and let everybody in the room
11 present [background noises] state their name.
12
13Michael Flemming: Mike Flemming.
14
15Marilyn Coulter: Marilyn Coulter.
16
17Doreen Howard: Doreen Howard.
18
19Linda Johnson: Linda Johnson.
20
21Doug Rademacher: Doug Rademacher.
22
23John Fedewa: John Fedewa.
24
25Cheryl McQuaid: And Tim Berry. [0:35] Could you state [clapping] your name and spell
26 your last name and your address for the record?
27
28Timothy Berry: Tim Berry.
29
30Cheryl McQuaid: [0:42] B-E-R-R-Y?
31
32Male: Yeah.
33
34Timothy Berry: Um, address is 4075 Holt Road.
35
36Cheryl McQuaid: [0:49] And is that Holt, Michigan?
37
38Timothy Berry: Yep.
39
40Cheryl McQuaid: [0:51] Tim, do you remember – eh, first, uh, are you married?
41
42Timothy Berry: [laughter] No.
43
44Cheryl McQuaid: [0:56] Uh, have any children?
45
46Timothy Berry: Yes.

1
2 Cheryl McQuaid: [0:59] Uh, boys, girls?
3
4 Timothy Berry: One a each.
5
6 Cheryl McQuaid: One girl and one boy. [1:03] And were you in the service?
7
8 Timothy Berry: No.
9
10 Cheryl McQuaid: [1:06] Um, what is your educational background?
11
12 Timothy Berry: Twelfth grade.
13
14 Cheryl McQuaid: [1:10] Twelfth grade?
15
16 Timothy Berry: Everett, Everett, Lansing, Everett.
17
18 Cheryl McQuaid: [1:14] Do you remember – could you tell us what [throat clearing] day you
19 hired in at Fisher [tapping] Body and if you remember that very first day
20 walking into this plant?
21
22 Timothy Berry: Yeah. I hired in 9/2/76 and, uh, I remember getting hired in and, uh, it was
23 a little scary.
24
25 Cheryl McQuaid: [1:29] Was it?
26
27 Timothy Berry: Yes.
28
29 Cheryl McQuaid: [1:31] What was scary about it?
30
31 Timothy Berry: Uh, well I was only 18, so I didn't know anything about the shop or I
32 didn't know much about shopwork and actually I was like the youngest
33 one here and, uh, [nothing but a 1:44] kid. I was a kid and, uh, so it was a
34 little scary seeing everybody working in all the big shop and everything.
35
36 Cheryl McQuaid: [1:54] What, um, what job were you hired in on?
37
38 Timothy Berry: End up doing, uh, front door regulators.
39
40 Cheryl McQuaid: [2:01] What is a regulator?
41
42 Timothy Berry: A regulator is, uh, what makes – it's the, the, um, door window track, what
43 makes the window go up and down.
44
45 Cheryl McQuaid: Oh. [2:13] Could you explain a little bit about that job while you were
46 learning it?

1
2 Timothy Berry: Uh, uh, yeah, I guess so, uh... [laughter]
3
4 Cheryl McQuaid: I think somebody mentioned once about regulators, that they [tapping] had
5 to put their arms in the door and...
6
7 Timothy Berry: Yep. [throat clearing]
8
9 Cheryl McQuaid: [2:28] What kind of safety equipment?
10
11 Timothy Berry: Oh, it was greasy and, [static-like background noises throughout audio]
12 uh, so you just had like, uh, gloves and had a arm sleeve and back then
13 [tapping] the regulators [tapping] were more like metal and they like, uh, -
14 and, um, some of'm were electrical and some of'm was manual [tapping]
15 [inaudible 2:48] and we rivet'm on [tapping] with rivets.
16
17 Cheryl McQuaid: [2:53] Pop rivets?
18
19 Timothy Berry: Yeah. And, and it had a, a metal, um – I don't know. But we used – had a
20 couple screws in it too but mostly it was metal.
21
22 Cheryl McQuaid: [3:09] And did you...
23
24 Timothy Berry: Rivet [it in] [inaudible 3:10].
25
26 Cheryl McQuaid: [3:11] How long did you do that job?
27
28 Timothy Berry: Uh, jeez, uh, probably 2 or 3 years.
29
30 Cheryl McQuaid: [3:20] Really?
31
32 Timothy Berry: Mm-hm.
33
34 Cheryl McQuaid: Michael Flemming?
35
36 Michael Flemming: Um, Tim, y-, y-, you, you came in on regulators. [3:26] H-, how long did
37 it take you to get the job where you knew how to do it and your partner?
38 [3:32] Did you have a partner that you worked with? [3:34] Did they h-,
39 happen to help you do any of those [inaudible 3:36]?
40
41 Timothy Berry: Um, eh, it took me about 3 days to break in and actually I had a, um –
42 there was 4 of us putting in regulators and, uh, one – they ran a lotta 4
43 doors back then, so had, uh, back doors, 2 on back doors and 2 on front
44 doors but I did, uh, [clicking] all the front doors driver's side back then
45 was what I did.
46

1 Michael Flemming: [4:03] Did they – your, your opposites, d-, did they help you at all
2 [inaudible 4:06]?
3
4 Timothy Berry: Uh, no. They normally had their – they had their own work. Yeah. They
5 did the back doors and the front doors and...
6
7 Cheryl McQuaid: Doug Rademacher?
8
9 Doug Rademacher: [4:15] Tim, would you tell me about how you heard about Fisher Body,
10 uh, what it was like, how you managed to get employed? And, uh, let's
11 start with that.
12
13 Timothy Berry: Well actually I got a twin brother [background noises] and, uh, my dad
14 was self-employed and I knew my mom didn't like it and, uh, so – and I
15 wasn't very good at school, so – and there was a lotta shops around here at
16 the time, so I, uh, [clanking] put like a – my application in at Oldsmobile
17 and, uh, [tsk] I put on a suit, believe it or not, when I was a senior in high
18 school. My dad goes where you going? I said I'm going down to
19 Oldsmobile to put my application in. And, uh, he said, Tom, you go
20 with'm. That's my twin brother. And they hired my brother, so. [laughter]
21 But, uh, a couple weeks, a couple weeks later, I put in here and I got hired
22 in here. So it was pretty funny, I thought anyhow.
23
24 Cheryl McQuaid: Doreen Howard?
25
26 Doreen Howard: [5:15] What department did you come in on and what shift did you hire
27 into?
28
29 Timothy Berry: Hired in in Trim and it's, um – I [don't 5:23] remember the department
30 [coughing] but, uh, I hired in on days.
31
32 Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter?
33
34 Marilyn Coulter: [5:31] Tim, do you remember how you got chosen for the regulator job?
35 [5:35] Was there a process? [5:36] Did the supervisor come get you?
36 [5:38] How – can you tell us how they got you on that job?
37
38 Timothy Berry: Yeah. We, uh, just all when we hired in, a couple supervisors came in and
39 they said I'll take him and him and her and there and, and they just put me
40 there. It was...
41
42 Cheryl McQuaid: Doug R-...
43
44 Timothy Berry: ...an open job.
45
46 Cheryl McQuaid: Doug Rademacher? [throat clearing]

1
2 Doug Rademacher: Tim, you said, uh, you were the youngest in here. [6:00] Did you hire in
3 with a buncha young people? [6:02] Was there any camaraderie with the
4 group that you hired in with and [pen clicking] how many people did you
5 come in with? [pen clicking]
6
7 Timothy Berry: Uh, [tapping] um, no. I think I was pretty – I was about the youngest, right
8 outta high school and, uh, but there was about, um, betw-, close to 10 of us
9 in that room when we first hired in if I remember...
10
11 Doug Rademacher: [6:25] Did...
12
13 Timothy Berry: ...right.
14
15 Doug Rademacher: [6:26] Did you guys stay close? [6:27] Did you recog-, s-, you know, since
16 you came in together, did you build a, a quick bond and kinda ever be able
17 to...
18
19 Timothy Berry: Uh...
20
21 Doug Rademacher: ...see each other and remember that that was the day that you...
22
23 Timothy Berry: I r-...
24
25 Doug Rademacher: ...came in here? [thumping]
26
27 Timothy Berry: Actually, I remember, uh, actually only 1 guy, [throat clearing] 1 guy and
28 he's, uh, been Paint Committeeman and I don't even remember his name
29 but – so we just nods our heads at each other when we see each other.
30 That's about it. [clicking]
31
32 Cheryl McQuaid: [6:53] When you hired in, um, [clicking] were there any jokes pulled on
33 you being a new hire [throat clearing] and later on, did you pull any jokes
34 on new hires that came in to the plant?
35
36 Timothy Berry: I don't remember any but [laughter] [inaudible 7:07], you know. No.
37
38 Cheryl McQuaid: [7:09] No?
39
40 Timothy Berry: Not that I know of. [clanking] No. I don't remember.
41
42 Cheryl McQuaid: Michael Flemming?
43
44 Michael Flemming: [7:13] Were you involved in any layoffs or [background noises] strikes
45 that they had here?
46

1 Timothy Berry: Uh, if I remember right, in '76, they – we walked out, um, but we came
2 back the next day and then, uh, I think 2 or 3 years later, we walked out
3 for a day or two and – but no, not really.
4

5 Michael Flemming: [7:36] So where'd you go after [throat clearing] you left the, uh – talk, talk
6 to us – to me about where you l-, when you left Trim, what types of jobs
7 did you go in the areas [inaudible 7:45]?
8

9 Timothy Berry: I, uh, pretty much stayed in Trim for 24 years and I end up, uh, moving to
10 door glass, door rubbers. I end up being Utility, uh, most of the time I've
11 been here and then after when I got 24-1/2 years in, I, uh, got into
12 Sanitation and end up doing – being a booth cleaner [background noises]
13 and, uh, and now I'm s-, still in Sanitation. [tapping] I'm not booth cleaner
14 right now but.
15

16 Michael Flemming: [8:15] What's a booth cleaner?
17

18 Timothy Berry: Uh, we clean, uh, paint booths and, uh, [clanking] uh, tanks, um, just
19 getting all the junk outta there, cleaning it up. [throat clearing] [Inaudible
20 8:29].
21

22 Cheryl McQuaid: [8:29] So you've had, uh, confined space training then?
23

24 Timothy Berry: Correct. Yeah. Yep.
25

26 Cheryl McQuaid: [8:36] What other kind of training have you had with GM?
27

28 Timothy Berry: Hm, [tsk] [laughter] uh, I don't know. It's just like lockout, uh, normal
29 stuff. Uh, [pause] just coordinator training a little bit. I was, I was a
30 coordinator for a little bit. Um, boy, I don't know.
31

32 Cheryl McQuaid: Doreen...
33

34 Timothy Berry: [Inaudible 9:05].
35

36 Cheryl McQuaid: ...Howard?
37

38 Doreen Howard: Uh, going back to the Trim Department, you said you had worked there 24
39 years [throat clearing] and had done various jobs. [9:13] Um, can you
40 explain some of the other jobs that you did? You talked about the door and
41 the door rubbers and things like that. [9:18] Could you explain what some
42 of those jobs were and what they entailed?
43

44 Timothy Berry: Hm, I, I was Utility mainly and, uh, what Utility is is, uh, when you show
45 up, if there's, uh, people absence and then you take their place. And, uh,
46 [throat clearing] um, can throw you anywhere and that – and I, I liked that

1 because, uh, once you got used to doing a job, it was s-, pretty easy, I
2 mean, and so it took out the boredom. Um, and a lotta jobs, we're pretty
3 much, uh, you know – and it kept you busy and, uh, um, but doing every –
4 a different one every day was sorta fun, you know, because you weren't so
5 bored. Um, uh, at one time, I thought I knew almost all the jobs in Trim,
6 you know, because I got shipped out a lot and I was pretty lucky. Um, I
7 had – I didn't have a hard time picking'm up, [throat clearing] you know,
8 learning'm. [tapping] So they're just, uh – no. Nothing really sticks out. I
9 think, uh, door glass was a fun job to do. It was [sorta 10:31] fun.
10 [tapping] Uh, I never did do very good in, uh, um, [pause]...
11
12Male: [Inaudible 10:40].
13
14Timothy Berry: ...hood. The...
15
16Cheryl McQuaid: [10:43] Vinyl top?
17
18Timothy Berry: Vinyl tops. Thank you. I didn't – don't have a steady enough hand for that
19 [background conversation] but...
20
21Marilyn Coulter: Uh...
22
23Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter?
24
25Marilyn Coulter: [10:49] Tim, what made door glass [background conversation] a good job
26 for you?
27
28Timothy Berry: Uh, because there was like a, um, 6 of us doing it, 3 on each side and it
29 was just more fun. I mean I was fairly young and, and that's, uh, and I end
30 up doing that like, uh, '78, '79 and, uh, some people more my age or a
31 couple years younger than me, younger than me came in and we had s-
32 we had a lotta fun [inaudible 11:12].
33
34Marilyn Coulter: [11:12] So what are some of the things you did for fun?
35
36Timothy Berry: Uh, we just, uh, [inaudible 11:16], you know, [laughter] uh...
37
38Doug Rademacher: Do tell?
39
40Timothy Berry: [laughter] Just, you know, uh, [throat clearing] it's just we were in our
41 early 20s and I mean we just drank and we dranked a lot and just had a
42 good time, joked around a lot.
43
44Cheryl McQuaid: [11:32] So basically it was the camaraderie?
45
46Timothy Berry: Yes. Yeah.

1
2 Cheryl McQuaid: [11:35] Just being able to talk to your peers and...
3
4 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
5
6 Cheryl McQuaid: ...while doing the job?
7
8 Timothy Berry: Yeah.
9
10 Marilyn Coulter: [11:39] Did you play jokes on each other?
11
12 Timothy Berry: Oh, I, um, I [inaudible 11:44] – I imagine we did but, you know, nothing
13 really sticks out, you know. Uh, just, um – no, not really. Not that I can
14 think of anyhow.
15
16 Cheryl McQuaid: Doreen Howard?
17
18 Doreen Howard: [11:58] Can you talk about the changes that you saw that happened in the
19 Trim Department from the time when you came in to when you left that
20 department? Over 24 years, um, there should have been a lot of changes.
21 [12:12] Can you tell us some of them that you remember?
22
23 Timothy Berry: Yeah. Eh, well yeah. Um, like the regulators [thumping] end up being
24 pretty much, uh, plastic instead of a metal. A lotta cars were different. You
25 know, um, when I hired in, we were putting like Toronados and 98s and,
26 uh, and 98s and n-, we end up going to Grand Ams and smaller car. Um,
27 uh, a lot of, uh, the rules change, like, you know, drinking got h-, you
28 know, I mean [throat clearing] didn't allow it as much. It was – you know,
29 and, uh, harder to get away with or whatever and it just, uh – yeah. It's, uh,
30 I guess with me maturing, it – the plant matured I think, you know, it
31 seemed like, you know.
32
33 Doreen Howard: That's good.
34
35 Timothy Berry: And, uh, it was all right.
36
37 Cheryl McQuaid: Michael Flemming?
38
39 Michael Flemming: [13:14] [Yeah 13:14], talk about some of the safety, uh, health and safety
40 changes that you noticed, uh, not only in Trim but being a booth cleaner.
41 Uh, there had to be some changes that went along with that from the time
42 you started until u-, up until now [inaudible 13:33].
43
44 Timothy Berry: Yeah. I was a booth cleaner for about 3-1/2 years and, uh, pretty much it
45 was at the end of, uh, this plant closing and so, uh, not really much
46 changing really went on. Uh, I worked with a bunch a older guys and so

1 like they just pretty much watch [at 13:53] – [tapping] watched over me,
2 you know. They, um, they – most of them guys were big and heavy so
3 they couldn't get down there but they made sure, uh, [laughter] um,
4 [laughter] that the air was clean and all that [coughing] [inaudible 14:07]
5 stuff was, uh, taken care of and they made me feel a little comfortable that
6 it'll be all right.
7

8Michael Flemming: [14:12] Any, any special equipment you used when you [inaudible 14:14]?
9

10Timothy Berry: Air check, um, and they had air blowers, you know, for like the pits and,
11 uh, tanks and, uh, they all knew what they were doing and they were just
12 sorta teaching me how to do it and made sure that, uh, I was safe and
13 everything most of the time [inaudible 14:31].
14

15Cheryl McQuaid: Doreen Howard?
16

17Doreen Howard: [14:33] Can you describe the environment of the [papers rustling] booth
18 and [throat clearing] the pits and the things that you, that you worked in?
19

20Timothy Berry: Uh, well, [laughter] uh, the paint, um, booths were – it's like a river runs
21 through there and the paint, what misses falls down, falls down on the
22 grates and, and into the river and, and, uh, but most of the time during the
23 week, we just mowed the grates, which, which, which is like a lawnmower
24 but only it shoots out water and, uh, you put down this chemical, what we
25 call it acid and, uh, it really wasn't acid but it's what we called it. It was
26 like a soap and, and we'd mow it and then we, uh – the walls, we'd, uh,
27 PSI it. Um, the tanks, we'd drain'm [throat clearing] and then, uh, break it
28 up with a firehose and then air check it and it got, it got, um, clear and
29 then we'd go down there once the, uh, [background conversation] air was
30 clear and just like, um, shovel it and water hose it down the hole, you
31 know, down the drain and, uh, and then it goes into a Hoffman and then,
32 uh, eventually we clean the Hoffman too and so...
33

34Cheryl McQuaid: [15:50] What is PSI?
35

36Timothy Berry: Uh, 1,000 PSI is, uh, water pressure.
37

38Cheryl McQuaid: Oh, okay. [15:55] And what is a Hoffman?
39

40Timothy Berry: A Hoffman is where all the, um, [tsk] paint goes down to, you know, like,
41 uh, like paint in the paint booths, it starts there, it misses and then we clean
42 them out and then it goes – and we put it down there – the tank and
43 shovel'm out, put'm [inaudible 16:17] and the rest goes down into this, uh,
44 uh, drain and that goes down to the Hoffman where, uh...
45

46Cheryl McQuaid: [16:24] Is the Hoffman like another holding tank?

1
2 Timothy Berry: Right.
3
4 Cheryl McQuaid: Oh, okay.
5
6 Timothy Berry: Yeah. Like a holding tank.
7
8 Cheryl McQuaid: Doreen Howard?
9
10 Doreen Howard: [16:31] How, how large is this booth and how many people do you think
11 work inside of this particular booth? [thumping]
12
13 Timothy Berry: Well they got 4 different booths on each line, so it was, uh, um –
14 [clanking] good question. Uh, there's – most of the time there was like,
15 um, 4 or 5 people painting in there and, um – but it was different in
16 different – you got repair tank, got primer tank, you got clearcoat tank and
17 you got main color tank. And, and then we had 2 lines, so.
18
19 Doreen Howard: [17:04] So each type of painting applied to the vehicle had its own
20 separate booth or...?
21
22 Timothy Berry: Right.
23
24 Doreen Howard: Okay. [17:11] And then the person in there would be standing on top of a
25 grate system...
26
27 Timothy Berry: Yeah.
28
29 Doreen Howard: ...that had water underneath of it, correct?
30
31 Timothy Berry: Correct.
32
33 Doreen Howard: [17:18] And then the – whatever paint was not applied to the vehicle went
34 into the water?
35
36 Timothy Berry: Uh, right. Um...
37
38 Doreen Howard: [17:27] And then it was somehow separated and you went in to clean the
39 excess paint out?
40
41 Timothy Berry: Right.
42
43 Doreen Howard: Okay.
44
45 Timothy Berry: That's – mainly on the weekends that's what we did. Uh, correct.
46

1Doreen Howard: Okay.
2

3Timothy Berry: Uh, [tapping] but during the week, we had to clean the grates where the
4 people stand on so they don't get sticky and stuff.
5

6Doreen Howard: Okay.
7

8Timothy Berry: [Yeah 17:48].
9

10Cheryl McQuaid: [17:49] Tim, going back to when you first hired in, do you remember any
11 check pools, raffles, drawings? [17:57] Can you tell us a little bit about
12 those or if you ever participated?
13

14Timothy Berry: [laughter] Yeah. I participated. Uh, they had – [yeah 18:05] – check pools
15 [background noises] and a little bit of gambling [throat clearing] going on.
16 Um, they had, uh, uh – [I won't 18:13] mention names but they had people
17 going around selling little stuff, you know, and, uh, they had raffles of cars
18 [tapping] and, uh, [laughter] some of it end up being like rip-off stuff but,
19 you know, [laughter] but – yeah.
20

21Cheryl McQuaid: Linda Johnson?
22

23Linda Johnson: Tim, tell us how a check pool was run for the people that don't have the
24 fun and experience of the shop. Tell'm how that went.
25

26Timothy Berry: Well usually somebody'd go around and ask you if you want to be in
27 [background noises] the check pool and you put a dollar in and, uh, the
28 highest number on your check stub – usually [throat clearing] it's like the
29 last 3 digits and your change and if you made a poker hand out of that and
30 then you'd win.
31

32Linda Johnson: [18:58] How much could you hope that you might get on a Friday night...
33

34Timothy Berry: [Inaudible 19:01].
35

36Linda Johnson: ...or Thursday night?
37

38Timothy Berry: About [papers rustling] 50 bucks, 30, 40, 50 bucks. [throat clearing]
39

40Cheryl McQuaid: [19:08] Did you ever work any changeovers?
41

42Timothy Berry: Uh, um, yes, uh, mainly when I was, uh, in Sanitation, I worked'm all but,
43 uh, that's about it.
44

1 Cheryl McQuaid: When you hired in the – I think it was called the A and the B line, they
2 were both on 1 floor and then later that was split up. [19:31] Could you
3 tell me a little bit about that?
4

5 Timothy Berry: Uh, you're right that both of'm were – the lines in Trim were on both lines
6 upstairs and then when they moved'm – 1 downstairs, it was, uh, it was
7 like, uh, it seemed like we had a lot more space upstairs and, uh,
8 downstairs, uh, was it seemed like new, you know, uh, cleaner and, uh –
9 uh, I guess the biggest difference that I noticed [papers rustling] being on
10 the line was, uh, when they went to, uh, where we punch out by the card
11 because I remember we used to stand in line to punch out and it'd take you
12 like 5 or 10 minutes to punch out sometimes 'cause the [background
13 noises] the big ole line [tapping] and stuff. Yeah.
14

15 Cheryl McQuaid: [20:15] And then they changed to what?
16

17 Timothy Berry: Oh, they do. They changed it r-, where we punched out at the gate.
18

19 Cheryl McQuaid: Oh, okay.
20

21 Timothy Berry: Yeah. So by the time we – I got there, the line was gone, so, [background
22 noises] uh.
23

24 Cheryl McQuaid: [20:28] Do you remember your first boss?
25

26 Timothy Berry: Um, [George Nettles 20:32]. Yeah. Yep. Yes, I do.
27

28 Cheryl McQuaid: [20:37] And do you remember a favorite boss?
29

30 Timothy Berry: Uh...
31

32 Cheryl McQuaid: [20:42] Or maybe a not-so-favorite boss?
33

34 Timothy Berry: Uh, yeah, I had some good bosses but I'm terrible at names. [laughter]
35 Yes, I had some [throat clearing] really nice bosses.
36

37 Cheryl McQuaid: [20:53] What made a good boss a good boss?
38

39 Timothy Berry: Um, just, you know, I, I did my job and they [tapping] left me alone and
40 he had no problem with me and I had no problem with him. You know,
41 uh, [background noises] um, uh, didn't necessarily pick me out for trouble,
42 you know, or, or, uh – [tapping] I don't know. Someone – but, um,
43 [tapping] treat me like a human, you know, pretty much.
44

45 Cheryl McQuaid: Michael...
46

1 Timothy Berry: [Inaudible 21:27].
2
3 Cheryl McQuaid: Flemming?
4
5 Michael Flemming: Tim, you got, uh, 28-29 years almost now, uh, and through your time here
6 there's been some name changes. Uh, talk about the name changes.
7 [21:41] It went from what – BOC to LCA and it was originally Fisher
8 Body? [21:48] What do you call it and what do you feel about those name
9 changes?
10
11 Timothy Berry: Well when I hired in, it was Fisher Body and, uh, and then [background
12 noises] they started changing it around and I couldn't really tell ya what
13 the names were because I always stayed with [pen clicking] Fisher Body
14 and I think most of the people – what worked here anyhow, uh, we always
15 called it Fisher Body and then when people would say well there ain't no
16 more Fisher Body and I'd say well then Plant 6. You know? So...
17 [background noises]
18
19 Female: [Inaudible 22:15].
20
21 Timothy Berry: ...but, uh, but yeah, I couldn't even tell ya what's it's called today. We still
22 call it Fisher Body, most of us that still work here. [background noises]
23
24 Cheryl McQuaid: [22:24] Do you remember, um, the music in the plant?
25
26 Timothy Berry: Uh, yes.
27
28 Cheryl McQuaid: [22:30] Can you tell us anything about different music stations or some
29 cultural things that were happening?
30
31 Michael Flemming: [22:38] Well Tim was in Trim, wasn't he?
32
33 Timothy Berry: Yes.
34
35 Michael Flemming: Yes, indeed. So you know about the music.
36
37 Timothy Berry: Oh, yeah. The music was, uh, loud and it was good [banging] 'cause it
38 killed some time, you know, and, uh, and, um, every once in a while
39 somebody would, you know, not like, uh, what other people were playing
40 and have a little bit of a problem, you know, and, and the boss would have
41 to go around and tell everybody turn it down and, and, uh – but I also
42 remember water fights since we mentioned that. We used to, uh, get away
43 with, uh, water balloons and stuff but – and that stopped years ago but in
44 the summertime when it was hot, we used to get away with throwing water
45 on each other and having a little bit of fun and stuff like that. But that
46 stopped years ago but...

1
2 Cheryl McQuaid: Michael Flemming?
3
4 Michael Flemming: So, eh, eh, the music was loud. It was a great time in Trim at that time.
5 [23:34] What [pen clicking] was it like after lunch? [23:35] After
6 everybody went to lunch and came back and you're on, on second shift or
7 first shift?
8
9 Timothy Berry: I was second shift.
10
11 Michael Flemming: Yeah. [23:41] So when you came back from lunch on the second shift,
12 what was it like?
13
14 Timothy Berry: Eh, [laughter] uh, uh, eh, you know, I didn't – most of us, you know, eh,
15 we did our job and everything but, you know, we were, [background
16 noises] uh – again, in the early days, drinking was allowed, you know, and
17 we drank and had fun and there was a lotta people that stayed by
18 themselves and – I don't [background noises] know. We just, uh – I don't
19 understand the question really. I think it's...
20
21 Michael Flemming: [21:11] Well just, you know, eh, was it – did you have a good time after
22 lunch? [24:14] Did it seem to be more festive? [24:15] Was it more fun
23 after lunch or was it not more fun?
24
25 Timothy Berry: Eh, I, hm, eh, yeah, it was more fun because we knew that it was, you
26 know, closer to the end of the day and people were loosened up, you know
27 [background noises]...
28
29 Female: [Inaudible 24:30].
30
31 Timothy Berry: ...and getting used to being there for the day.
32
33 Female: Um...
34
35 Michael Flemming: [24:31] Did you have departmental, um, [background noises] parties, uh,
36 things that you all did at certain times of the year or just at any time at all?
37
38 Timothy Berry: Yeah. We had, uh, like, [background noises] you know, Thanksgiving
39 dinner, Christmas dinners and, and, uh, usually, uh, somebody would be in
40 charge of that and, [pen clicking] you know. It wasn't me but, you know, I
41 would, uh, you know, put in for it [throat clearing] and I'd definitely eat
42 and bring pop or chips or whatever because... [background noises]
43
44 Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn Coulter?
45
46 Timothy Berry: That's about it.

1
2 Marilyn Coulter: Tim, just a couple things. [25:02] Just, just for point of clarification, when
3 you say that drinking was allowed, was it that the rules weren't as strongly
4 enforced or do you think it was more tight because it wasn't like the
5 management said oh, it's okay if you bring your beer in, right?
6 [background noises] [papers rustling]
7
8 Timothy Berry: Eh, no, it wasn't legal but there was [papers rustling] a lotta people [what
9 25:18] [background noises] had, you know, [coughing] lockers full a
10 bottles and stuff like that. No, uh, they – [pen clicking] I think, you know,
11 back in the early days when I hired in [pen clicking] anyhow, uh, it was
12 very common people had [pen clicking] bottles and was selling bottles in
13 here.
14
15 Marilyn Coulter: [25:32] And [pen clicking] now when we had radios, was it 1 radio or was
16 it like 4 different radios all on the same station?
17
18 Timothy Berry: Um...
19
20 Marilyn Coulter: [25:40] How was that?
21
22 Timothy Berry: ...most of the time, uh, it was, you know, people having their own radios
23 and – but, uh, every once in a while you'd have a big ole radio and
24 everybody would listen to the same station and...
25
26 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
27
28 Timothy Berry: ...and most of the time we didn't have a big problem [clanking] but [you
29 was 25:55] sittin' on the line and doing the same job and over and over,
30 sometimes people [throat clearing] [could hear a] [inaudible 26:00] and
31 complain about the music and...
32
33 Marilyn Coulter: [26:04] So...
34
35 Timothy Berry: ...we had to cool it once in a while.
36
37 Marilyn Coulter: ...in the area that you worked in was it a rock area? [26:09] Was it a
38 country r-, area? [26:11] What kind of music did you listen to?
39 [background noises] [clanking]
40
41 Timothy Berry: I n-, I remember listening mostly to rock and roll and, uh, I remember
42 hearing s-, a lotta, um, uh – jeez, uh, um, Detroit music, uh, um, Motown...
43
44 Marilyn Coulter: Oh, Motown.
45

1 Timothy Berry: ...and, uh, it was a lotta that. Yeah. It was good. [We will 26:31] always
2 like that. It was always [background noises] fun.
3
4 Cheryl McQuaid: Linda Johnson?
5
6 Linda Johnson: Tim, you were talking about parties that your area would have.
7 [background noises] [26:38] Were you ever the focus of a party just for
8 you? [background noises]
9
10 Timothy Berry: Hm, [pen clicking] [tapping] no. I don't...
11
12 Linda Johnson: I recall taking pictures...
13
14 Timothy Berry: I don't b-...
15
16 Linda Johnson: ...of a young man [background noises] and balloons. I don't know if it
17 was like an...
18
19 Timothy Berry: Yeah.
20
21 Linda Johnson: ...engagement or...
22
23 Timothy Berry: Oh, yes.
24
25 Linda Johnson: ...a [inaudible 26:50]...
26
27 Timothy Berry: Yeah, y-...
28
29 Linda Johnson: ...for a birthday. [background noises]
30
31 Timothy Berry: Yeah. Uh, yeah. [background noises] Now since you mentioned it, it was
32 when I was gonna get married for the second time. Yeah. Yeah. They had
33 a little party and balloons. Yeah.
34
35 Linda Johnson: You...
36
37 Timothy Berry: I forgot about that.
38
39 Linda Johnson: You were well regarded then?
40
41 Timothy Berry: Well, thank you. [background noises] Thank you. Yeah, I was...
42
43 Linda Johnson: [Inaudible 27:07].
44
45 Timothy Berry: I was on days at that time... [thumping]
46

1 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
2
3 Timothy Berry: ...and, uh, yeah. Yeah. [We had 27:12] – [pen clicking] I end up getting
4 married for the second time and having another kid. That was pretty cool.
5 My daughter's, uh, 13 years old now. Yeah. So...
6
7 Cheryl McQuaid: Marilyn...
8
9 Marilyn Coulter: [27:24] Tim...
10
11 Cheryl McQuaid: ...Coulter?
12
13 Marilyn Coulter: ...eh, because they did this for you, did you kinda see the people that you
14 worked with kinda like your work family or anything like that?
15
16 Timothy Berry: Oh, yes. Um..
17
18 Marilyn Coulter: Eh...
19
20 Timothy Berry: ...definitely.
21
22 Marilyn Coulter: [27:33] Anybody that you're especially close to?
23
24 Timothy Berry: Uh, um, eh, then, you know, uh, [inaudible 27:39] but I don't – I haven't
25 seen any of'm around in a long time, uh, Gomer, you know, and [Tommy
26 27:48] and, uh, [Alva 27:50], a lotta – yeah. And I remember names and...
27
28 Marilyn Coulter: Hm.
29
30 Timothy Berry: ...but – and it was fun and – but not that I really got real close to
31 [background noises] and hung out outta here...
32
33 Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.
34
35 Timothy Berry: Uh, [background noises] for some reason, I never really hung out with...
36
37 Marilyn Coulter: [28:04] Was – would y-...
38
39 Timothy Berry: ...people I usually worked with.
40
41 Marilyn Coulter: [28:05] Would you say that's a downside of going from one department to
42 another, you lose contact with people? [background noises]
43
44 Timothy Berry: Uh, uh, no, not really. I mean it's pretty much life.
45
46 Marilyn Coulter: Hm.

1
2 Timothy Berry: I've been divorced twice [this life 28:20], so.
3
4 Cheryl McQuaid: And Douglas Rademacher?
5
6 Doug Rademacher: [28:26] Tim, would you tell me about the relationship that you recognize
7 with the union and the corporation?
8
9 Timothy Berry: Um, uh, okay. What I r-, you know, they – well GM needs to make
10 money, so we, you know, we [background noises] pretty much, uh,
11 [tapping] do what we can to get along. You know? And it's been that way
12 at this plant, uh, pretty much since I hired in, um, and I liked it that way.
13 You know? Um, not that – none of us, I don't think really, you know,
14 killed ourself working or anything like that [background noises] but I d-,
15 union and management pretty much got along pretty good. And the only
16 problem I had with that is when we had foremans coming in from a
17 different area, from a different plant and they didn't know we were trying
18 to – that we get along and then they would try to, uh, arm – you know,
19 strong hand us or whatever but they finally picked up too. We
20 [background noises] pretty much all get along at this plant anyhow, always
21 have.
22
23 Cheryl McQuaid: Linda Johnson?
24
25 Linda Johnson: [29:31] What is your best to you bargained benefit that you have gotten
26 from working here or for General Motors? [background noises]
27
28 Timothy Berry: Well I – it's been a good living. I, you know, [background noises] I'm not
29 an educated man and, and, uh, and it's been a good living. You know? It's,
30 um, helped me bring up 2 families and I'm still doing it, so it's been a good
31 living, honest living.
32
33 Cheryl McQuaid: Doreen Howard? [throat clearing]
34
35 Doreen Howard: Um, you've been here a long time and you've gone through a lot of
36 changes [background noises] in that time from the main changes from
37 Fisher Body till now. [30:22] Um, what's your feelings about the closing
38 of this facility and the demolition of this building?
39
40 Timothy Berry: You know, I at first, when May came and they shut the plant down, the
41 lines were done, it was like [background noises] oh, man, I don't like this
42 and this and that but I've been still working 'cause I'm in Sanitation
43 [background noises] and now I'm looking forward to the new plant
44 because it's pretty much, uh, um, a shop's a shop and, um, same union's
45 gonna be there s-, you know, different bosses. Uh, yeah, this place holds a
46 lotta memories but it, it is getting old and they've letting it, you know,

1 ain't done – kept up on maintenance real good the last few years and, and,
2 uh, I'm looking forward to going to the new plant. I got a lotta memories
3 here and, uh, uh, this place is like home, you know, and – but I'm – it's like
4 moving to a new house, you know, I guess. [Inaudible 31:22] [background
5 noises] It's gonna be all right. That's what I tell myself anyhow. [pen
6 clicking]
7
8 Cheryl McQuaid: [31:27] Does anybody else...
9
10 Timothy Berry: [Inaudible 31:27].
11
12 Cheryl McQuaid: ...have any questions for Tim? [pen clicking] Tim, I'd like to say thank
13 you very much for [background noises] being available to us.
14
15 Timothy Berry: Well...
16
17 Michael Flemming: T-...
18
19 Timothy Berry: ...you're welcome.
20
21 Michael Flemming: Tim, I'd like to thank you as well.
22
23 Male: Thank you, Tim.
24
25 Female: Thank you, Tim.
26
27 Male: [Inaudible 31:39].
28
29 Marilyn Coulter: Thank you, Tim.
30
31 Timothy Berry: Thank you.
32
33 Marilyn Coulter: [31:40] Was there anything that [tapping] you wanted to say that we did
34 not ask you?
35
36 Timothy Berry: Hm, no. Just that this place has been a, you know – and I already
37 mentioned it. It's been a good living.
38
39 Cheryl McQuaid: Thank you.
40
41 Marilyn Coulter: Thank you.
42
43 Male: [Inaudible 31:54]. [recorder clicking]
44
45
46/lo