1 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY – SHAWN NICHOLSON 2 MARTA M BOBILLO DISCUSSES HER CAREER AS A PRODUCTION WORKER AT

3 THE FISHER BODY PLANT IN LANSING, MI

4 5

6Marilyn Coulter: Lansing Fisher Body Historical Team interview. Uh, it's w-, [coughing]

it's Thursday, February 9, 2006. The time is approximately n-, 12:45 p.m. We're at UAW Local 602, Frank Dryer Greenhouse. Uh, we'll first start

out with the interviewers.

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11Earl Nicholson: Earl Nicholson.

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13Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid.

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15Doug Rademacher: Doug Rademacher.

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17John Fedewa: John Fedewa.

18

19Gary Judy: Gary Judy.

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21Marilyn Coulter: And I'm Marilyn Coulter. Today we're here with Miss Marta Bobillo.

[0:27] Marta, will you please say and spell your name for us, please?

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24Marta Bobillo: Marta Milagros Bobillo, M-A-R-T-A B-O-B-I-L-L-O.

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26Marilyn Coulter: [0:37] And could you give us your address, please?

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28Marta Bobillo: 4139 Sheffield Boulevard, Lansing, Michigan 48911.

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30Marilyn Coulter: [0:45] Are you married?

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32Marta Bobillo: No. I'm divorce.

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34Marilyn Coulter: [0:48] Children?

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36Marta Bobillo: Four.

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38Marilyn Coulter: [0:50] Um, boys, girls?

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40Marta Bobillo: Two boys and two girls.

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42Marilyn Coulter: [0:54] Uh, Marta, where were you born?

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44Marta Bobillo: I was born in Santa Clara, Cuba.

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46Marilyn Coulter: [0:58] And were you raised there also?

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2Marta Bobillo: [Yeah 1:00], up to the age of 15. 4Marilyn Coulter: [1:02] And how did you get to...? 6Marta Bobillo: I came to the United States in the Freedom Flights. Freedom Flights. All right. [1:10] And your education level, please? 8Marilyn Coulter: 10 [humming throughout audio] 11 12Marta Bobillo: I finished high school in Waverly High School and I got 2 years of 13 college. 14 [1:17] Uh, any military background? 15Marilyn Coulter: 16 17Marta Bobillo: I was brought up in a military school in Cuba from the age of 7 to the age of 15. 18 19 20Marilyn Coulter: [1:26] And what did your parents do? 21 22Marta Bobillo: Uh, my d-, previous to Castro, my dad used to work as a private eve for – 23 working for the United States for 4 different governments and my mother 24 was a teacher in the university at Santa Clara and, uh, making, um – I 25 don't know how you say here. It was like a designer for clothing. 26 27Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. Like for clothing [designs 1:52]. [throat clearing] 29Marta Bobillo: 30 Oh. [1:54] And, um, did they do that here in the United States also? 31Marilyn Coulter: 33Marta Bobillo: Uh, no, they didn't. When we came here from Cuba because the, the lack of the language, uh, my mother had to do sewing at home from different 34 companies and my dad came to work at Fisher Body 3 days after we arrive 35 36 here. 37 38Marilyn Coulter: So he worked at Fisher. [2:12] Did he retire from Fisher Body also? 39 40Marta Bobillo: Yes, he retired from Fisher Body. 42Marilyn Coulter: Oh. [2:17] Now was he a, a line worker or was he a skilled tradesperson? 43 44Marta Bobillo: Um, my dad started in the Body Shop and then he went into Paint Department and, and he went into Sanitation before he retired. 45 46

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1Marilyn Coulter: Oh, [awesome 2:28]. [2:30] And what did you do before you hired in to

2 Fisher Body?

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4Marta Bobillo: I was a housewife before I hired Fisher Body.

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6Marilyn Coulter: All right. [2:36] So, um, what – why did you hire in to Fisher Body?

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8Marta Bobillo: Uh, at the time I hired at Fisher Body, I had 2 small children and I was

married but the money was pretty tight at the time because we had some of

my ex-husband's relative living with us and so...

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12Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

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14Marta Bobillo: ...I wanted, uh, to help out with the money.

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16Marilyn Coulter: [2:58] So, um, you hired in in what year?

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18Marta Bobillo: I got hired in 1977.

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20Marilyn Coulter: 1977. [3:04] So you have what, 28 years seniority now?

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22Marta Bobillo: Yes, I do.

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24Marilyn Coulter: [3:09] So when you hired in here, can you take us – I want to take you

back to when you first hired in. [3:14] Can you tell me what your process was like and what your first day was like when you came into Fisher

27 Body?

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29Marta Bobillo: Um, my dad got outta work one night and he knew we were struggling

financially, so I only lived 2 blocks from Fisher Body, so my dad stopped by the house and told me if you wanna work at Fisher Body, even though I don't approve of you working there, they're taking applications right now. [throat clearing] So I walk over there. It was early in the morning. I walk

and put in a my application and a week later, I got hired.

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36Marilyn Coulter: A week later. [3:50] Do you remember what job you did?

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38Marta Bobillo: Uh, my first job in the shop was putting HVACs together, the air

conditioner and heating system and I was there a week and then I was sent to the Body Shop to hang doors on the wagons and on the Toronados.

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42Marilyn Coulter: So I'm just gonna take you back just a little bit but first at your first job,

43 you said you were doing HVAC systems. [4:18] So were you building that

on the line or was that something that you did off the line?

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1Marta Bobillo: It was 3 people and we had to build them and put'm – every 20 minutes,

we - we'll rotate.

3

4Marilyn Coulter: [4:30] You'd rotate to...?

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6Marta Bobillo: To building it, to installing it on the car.

7

8Marilyn Coulter: [4:33] Oh, so you built and installed?

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10Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm.

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12Marilyn Coulter: So that's interesting but taking another break back. You said that your

father didn't approve of you working here. [4:42] Why did he not want

14 you [to work 4:43]?

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17

16Marta Bobillo: Uh, well he wanted me to go to s-, you know, keep on going to school and

even though I was married and had kids, he wanted me – he didn't want

me to work in the shop.

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20Marilyn Coulter: Oh, I see. He just didn't want you to work...

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22Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm.

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24Marilyn Coulter: ...in the shop. And you said that, um, also you lived 2 blocks away. [5:03]

What was it like and what did you know about the plant before you came

26 in?

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28Marta Bobillo: Um, my husband at the time, he was [clanking] working in the plant and

my dad was working at the plant, so, and I had uncle and I have quite a 29 few family members. So I really – I know they worked hard at the time $\,$ 30 31 and I really wanted – I really n-, never thought of myself working in a factory honestly but I never heard [throat clearing] bad about it either. So I 32 33 was just – [tapping] to me, it was like, um – I'm very grateful to Fisher Body because we got here from Cuba and 3 weeks later – I mean 3 days 34 35 later, I'm sorry, 3 days later, my dad was working there, so we never had 36 to be on welfare. We never had to ask nobody for money because n-, even

37 9 months after that, we own our own house.

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39Marilyn Coulter: Oh, that's excellent. [5:55] So you came in and you knew you could get a

good job there and it was a good living and so did it make it a little bit easier [throat clearing] for you coming in to the plant since, you know,

your father and your husband already worked here?

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44Marta Bobillo: Um, not really 'cause they were on the opposite shift.

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46Marilyn Coulter: Oh.

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1 2Marta Bobillo: I got hired the dayshift. 4Marilyn Coulter: [6:13] Dayshift and how long were you on the dayshift? I was on the dayshift until my 90 days. 6Marta Bobillo: 8Marilyn Coulter: [6:18] So in 1977, when you hired in, um, what department? [6:22] You were in the Trim Department? [thumping] 10 11Marta Bobillo: Uh, I th-, I got hired into Trim... [Inaudible 6:26]. 13Marilyn Coulter: 14 ...and a week later, they sent me to the Body Shop... 15Marta Bobillo: 16 17Marilyn Coulter: So... 19Marta Bobillo: ...because they needed people in the Body Shop. 20 21Marilyn Coulter: [6:31] In the Trim Shop, were there many women there? 23Marta Bobillo: N-, a few but not many but when I got to the Body Shop, there was [inaudible 6:38]. [coughing] 24 25 26Marilyn Coulter: So... 28Marta Bobillo: No females hardly. 29 30Marilyn Coulter: [6:43] First of all, you're only – how tall are you, Marta? 32Marta Bobillo: I'm 5'6". 33 34Marilyn Coulter: You're 5'6" and you're a small woman. 36Marta Bobillo: I was 97 pounds back then. 38Marilyn Coulter: Ninety-seven pounds and you just told us [laughter] that you were hanging 39 doors. 40 41Marta Bobillo: Yes, I was. 42 43Marilyn Coulter: [6:55] So can you please explain hanging doors and being so small? [6:59]

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What was – what did that...

44 45

1Marta Bobillo: I – if I would been the age I was at the time, only 20 years old, I don't think I could handle it. I was on that job for 30 days, until they moved me 3 from that job to, uh, to doing the hoods on the car and, at that time, I have a partner that was 6'2", [laughter] so it was not easy putting hoods on the 4 5 cars. 7Marilyn Coulter: [7:22] So when you say you were hanging doors, were you physically picking these doors, doors up? [7:26] Did you have any equipment? 10 11Marta Bobillo: No. I was picking'm up myself and putting'm on. [7:31] And were they heavy? 13Marilyn Coulter: 14 15Marta Bobillo: Very. 16 17Marilyn Coulter: They were very heavy. [7:34] And you did it for 30 days? 19Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm. 20 21Marilyn Coulter: [7:36] How long did it take you to learn that job? 23Marta Bobillo: Probably second day I was doing it alone. 24 25Marilyn Coulter: The second day you were doing it alone. [7:44] So where there many men 26 down – many women down [inaudible 7:46]? 27 28Marta Bobillo: No. At the time, I w-, I didn't even like [throat clearing] going to the bathroom because all the whistling and screaming with the guys. 29 30 [laughter] It was terrible. 31 32Marilyn Coulter: It was terrible... 33 34Marta Bobillo: [Mm-hm 7:55]. 36Marilyn Coulter: ...to be the only woman down there? [7:56] So at that time, 1977, it was still difficult for women inside the plant to work there? 37 38 39Marta Bobillo: Yes, it was. 40 41Marilyn Coulter: [8:05] So can you tell us a little bit about what that was like? 42 43Marta Bobillo: I just didn't like the, you know, the harassment. Actually, at the time, you didn't call it harassment but to me it was and I was a married woman with 44 45 2 kids and [inaudible 8;18] if I went to the bathroom or got outta my little

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1 area where they didn't know who I was, they'd be screaming, you know, 2 whistling and stuff. 3 4Marilyn Coulter: [8:26] So primarily it came from the guys who really didn't know who vou were? 7Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm. Yes. It did. 9Marilyn Coulter: [8:30] But what about for the ones that you worked with on your – [throat clearing] in your general area? 11 12Marta Bobillo: I had to prove that I could do the job to them. They doubted me at first and then they see I did it and tried my best and they respect me. 13 14 15Marilyn Coulter: Ahh. [8:45] So at first, they didn't think that you, you needed to be there being a little woman and in the Body Shop with all these men and – did 16 17 they help you learn the job? 18 19Marta Bobillo: Hm. Some o-, and, uh, that was the impression at first, that I didn't need to 20 be there and I should be a [laughter] secretary, that I was told that many times, that I should be doing critical, uh, you know, being a secretary or 21 22 something and, um, I said no, I can do this. And o-, some of the guys 23 would give up on me and other guys would show me an easier way to do it 24 and when they see I can do it, I earn their respect. 25 26Marilyn Coulter: Oh. [9:19] So if there weren't many women down there, how was it for the facility? [9:24] Was it a big area. [9:26] What was, what was the 27 28 environment like? 29 30Marta Bobillo: Um, we had a − I had to go to the bathroom − to go to the ladies' bathroom all the way up to, uh, almost by the office. It was there by the hospital 31 32 because there were no ladies' bathroom in the Body Shop. 33 34Marilyn Coulter: [9:41] So about how far would you say that was. [9:42] How long did – how many minutes did it take you to go? 35 36 37Marta Bobillo: About 5 minutes. 39Marilyn Coulter: [9:46] Five minutes to use the bathroom? 40 41Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm. 42 43Marilyn Coulter: And so [inaudible 9:53]. [clanking] So, Marta, you were in the bo-, you started in Trim and then you were in the Body Shop but I want to take you 44 45 back a little bit also. [10:06] Um, when you hired in, did you hire in a small group of people on your first day? [10:10] Were there a lotta men 46

1 Page 7 of 39

1 hiring in in Trim or a lotta women? [10:13] Were you in a group? [10:14] 2 How was that? 3 4Marta Bobillo: Um, I got hired in a group of 15. 6Marilyn Coulter: Of 15.

8Marta Bobillo: It was, uh, 3 of us ladies and the rest of'm were guys.

10Marilyn Coulter: [10:25] So how were you chosen to go to the HVAC [clanking] group? 11

12Marta Bobillo: Uh, they just sent us to the department they needed us in. 13

14Marilyn Coulter: [10:32] So d-, were you like in a room and they then told you where to go or did somebody come and get ya and [thumping] take ya there? [10:38] 15

16 Did a... 17

Uh... 18Marta Bobillo:

...supervisor pick ya? [10:39] How did [inaudible 10:40]? 20Marilyn Coulter:

21 22Marta Bobillo: We were in a room and the superv-, and the supervisor would, [clanking] 23

you know, came and tell – and we were told where to go. 24

25Marilyn Coulter: All right. Okay. [10:47] And so you worked there and did that job and you obviously said [inaudible 10:52] the next couple days and you feel 26 comfortable and you're doing that and then how did you feel when they 27 28 said go to Body Shop and why did they tell you you had to go to Body 29 Shop?

30 31Marta Bobillo: Uh, they said they needed us in the Body Shop and they had enough 32 people in Trim. There was somebody on vacation that I was replacing

33 them and they – one of the ladies that got hired with me was sent to the Body Shop the first day and when I went down there a week later and I 34 35 asked for her t-, you know, where she was at, so I wanted to have lunch with her, they told me she had guit the first day at l-, by lunchtime because 36

her hair got fire with the sparks from the welder. 37

38 39Male: [Hm 11:30].

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41Marilyn Coulter: [11:31] So her hair caught on fire...

42 43Marta Bobillo: And...

45Marilyn Coulter: ...from the welder.

46

1 Page 8 of 39 1Marta Bobillo: ...she got scared and quit by lunchtime that first day we got hired.

2

3Marilyn Coulter: [11:39] So what were some – Doug Rademacher.

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5Doug Rademacher: [11:42] Marta, did you ever speak to her after...

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7Marta Bobillo: No.

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9Doug Rademacher: ...the day you met her when you hired in? [11:47] You never met her

0 again?

11

12Marta Bobillo: I had never seen here again.

13

14Doug Rademacher: [11:48] Okay. Thank you.

15

16Marta Bobillo: 'Cause 2 of us lady went to Trim and the other l-, she went to the Body

Shop because she was bigger built. She was like about 5'8" or heavier than we were, so they sent her right the first day to the Body Shop.

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20Marilyn Coulter: [12:04] Marta, you're in the Body Shop, how – and they had fire and

smoke – how did the dress differ from Trim Shop to Body Shop? [12:12]
Did you have to wear special clothing if there's fire and sparks and...?

23

24Marta Bobillo: I had a, um, hairnet 'cause I had long hair at the time, plus [clapping] I had

25 to wear then coveralls in the Body Shop.

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27Marilyn Coulter: [12:24] So was there any protective equipment that you had to wear?

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29Marta Bobillo: That was it. I didn't have no gloves or nothing, just...

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31Marilyn Coulter: [12:33] No gloves?

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33Marta Bobillo: No.

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35Marilyn Coulter: [12:34] What about your eyes?

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37Marta Bobillo: I don't really remember if we wore glasses back then or n-, I don't think

so. I don't believe wearing glasses until way down the road.

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40Marilyn Coulter: Hm. [12:44] So was, was it noisy?

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42Marta Bobillo: Very, very noisy.

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44Marilyn Coulter: [clicking] [12:49] How did that compare to the Trim Shop?

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1Marta Bobillo: [thumping] Uh, eh, I couldn't even speak to the person across from me at the time, especially I was soft-spoken and being new in the Body Shop, so, 3 eh, I couldn't even talk to the, the man who was working across from me 4 until breaks. 6Marilyn Coulter: [13:09] So how did you communicate? 8Marta Bobillo: Um, probably by signs and, you know, by just pointing and stuff. 10Marilyn Coulter: Pointing. [13:20] Were there any kind of new hire initiations or pranks or things that you had to deal with? 11 12 13Marta Bobillo: Um, probably the 90 days to see if you could last, you know, the – how they changed me around on different jobs for my first 90 days. 14 16Marilyn Coulter: Hm. [13:38] What about the coworkers, did they do any pranks or...? 17 Some of'm did. 18Marta Bobillo: 20Marilyn Coulter: [13:45] What types of things did they do? 21 Uh, hide my lunch, um, do different [laughter] little things just to s-, you 22Marta Bobillo: 23 know, see what I would do. 24 25Marilyn Coulter: [13:53] Hide your lunch? 26 27Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm. 29Marilyn Coulter: [13:56] What did you do for lunch? [13:57] Did you bring it in every day? 30 [13:58] Did you go to the cafeteria? 31 32Marta Bobillo: I used to bring my lunch and sit right there. That's the only time I can rest, 33 [laughter] especially when I was in the Body Shop. [laughter] 34 35Marilyn Coulter: [14:06] Did you get many breaks? 37Marta Bobillo: No. Not really. 'Cause a lotta time, I would use my breaks to fill out this – the bolts and everything to make sure that I was ready when the line 38 39 started back up. 40 41Marilyn Coulter: [14:19] You worked... 42 43Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm.

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...during your breaks?

45Marilyn Coulter:

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1Marta Bobillo: Yes, I did, many of'm.

3Marilyn Coulter:

[14:24] And why did you do that?

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5Marta Bobillo: 'Cause I had to prove a point, that I was a woman and I could do it. [throat

clearing] I wasn't gonna be, you know – stop the line myself.

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8Marilyn Coulter: You weren't gonna stop the line yourself, so you didn't take much breaks.

[14:37] You just – well did you just go to the bathroom and...

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11Marta Bobillo: I normally just went [zipping] to the bathroom at lunch. I wasn't – I

wouldn't do too much drinking of water or anything 'cause it was so far

away and I normally didn't have enough time.

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15Marilyn Coulter: [Wow 14:51]. [14:52] Um, [knocking] since your father and your husband

– were you still working, uh, opposite shift of them when you were in the

17 Body Shop?

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19Marta Bobillo: Yes, I was.

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21Marilyn Coulter: Okay. [15:02] So you didn't have anybody who would come and help you

22 with...

with.

23

24Marta Bobillo: No. [clanking] [papers rustling]

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26Marilyn Coulter: [15:08] So how long did you hang doors?

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28Marta Bobillo: I hang door for about 30 days. [clanking]

29

30Marilyn Coulter: [15:15] You learned that job?

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32Marta Bobillo: Yes.

33

34Marilyn Coulter: [15:17] You got it? [15:18] Then [thumping] how did you get transferred

to the...

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37Marta Bobillo: Then they moved to me to [inaudible 15:22]...

38

39Marilyn Coulter: [15:25] And d-...

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41Marta Bobillo: ...and put a new hire on the doors.

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43Marilyn Coulter: [15:27] And [inaudible 15:27] is what?

44

45Marta Bobillo: Uh, the front of the car.

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1Marilyn Coulter: [15:32] It's the front?

2

3Marta Bobillo: I mean not the – the hood. I mean – I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

4

5Marilyn Coulter: Uh-huh.

6

7Marta Bobillo: I was doing hoods.

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9Marilyn Coulter: The hood.

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11Marta Bobillo: Hoods.

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13Marilyn Coulter: [15:38] And was it a better job or a worse job than hanging doors?

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15Marta Bobillo: Um, in a sense it was better because I – it wasn't as much heavy lifting but it was worse because we had to be 2 of us to put it on and my partner was

it was worse because we had to be 2 of us to put it on and my partner was 6'2", so I had to be on my tippytoes to be, you know, lifting up with it.

17 18

19Marilyn Coulter: [16:02] You had to be on your tiptoes?

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21Marta Bobillo: Yes.

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23Marilyn Coulter: [16:05] So how long did you do that?

24

25Marta Bobillo: I did that for 3 weeks.

26

27Marilyn Coulter: [16:10] A few weeks?

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29Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm.

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31Marilyn Coulter: [16:12] Then you did what?

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33Marta Bobillo: [thumping] Then I was put as Utility as an extra person there in that

department and the Door Department.

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36Marilyn Coulter: [16:22] A Utility person does what?

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38Marta Bobillo: Replace who-, whoever didn't come in to work that day.

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40Marilyn Coulter: [16:28] Was that a preferred job?

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42Marta Bobillo: Um, for me it wasn't [laughter] because I had a different job every day

and I mean, eh, they were all pretty hard jobs to learn.

44

45Marilyn Coulter: [16:42] Would you feel that because they put on so many different jobs it

46 helped you?

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1 2Marta Bobillo: It made me stronger. 4Marilyn Coulter: [16:49] As a worker? 6Marta Bobillo: It made me stronger [to see 16:51] that I can it, you know, but in – at the time, I think they were trying to see if I can make my 90 days or if I would break down. That's a lot of a – the people that were hired with me didn't 8 9 make it. 10 11Marilyn Coulter: [17:05] Did many of the other women that were in there break down? 13Marta Bobillo: I'm the only woman of the 3 of us that stay there. 14 Oh. [17:13] How long did the other one last? [17:15] Do you remember? 15Marilyn Coulter: 16 17Marta Bobillo: I don't know. I never find out but I know that she's not there because when I look at my seniority date, she's not in there. 18 19 20Marilyn Coulter: Aww. [17:26] Were – how did the supervisors treat you? 21 22Marta Bobillo: Um, well I remember one time when I was Utility in the Body Shop and I 23 only been here working for a couple months, [throat clearing] they send 24 me to – upstairs to Trim 'cause everybody showed up in the Body Shop 25 and they needed somebody in Trim and one of the supervisors when I got there, he say I asked for somebody; I didn't ask for a kid. 'Cause being 26 that I wasn't even a hundred pounds, I was real small, so he told me – and 27 28 my supervisor that came with me to bring me where – there area where I 29 was gonna be working said she might look like a kid but she work like a man. So he let me that day and he used to call for me to come up 30 [laughter] and work for him again when they needed it. But it was just, 31 32 you know, you had to prove yourself all the time. 33 34Marilyn Coulter: [18:21] So once you gained the respect from the men, being the Utility [woman 17:25]... 35 36 37Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm. 39Marilyn Coulter: ...who could do it... 40 41Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm.

45Marta Bobillo: That's right.

42

43Marilyn Coulter:

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...they knew that Marta could work?

1Marilyn Coulter:	[18:32] How did that make you feel when that supervisor spoke up for
2	you?
3	Mall I was you know I feel that I same his years at that you know
4Marta Bobillo:	Well I was, you know – I feel that I earn his respect, that, you know,
5 6	[inaudible 18:43] respected when – 'cause back then, you know, a lotta the
6 7	male supervisors didn't – [throat clearing] they didn't respect you but ar-, you see, when I was – the first day I got hired when I went to Trim to
8	work, Arlene Parker was my supervisor and, uh, on the HVAC job and she
9	had been my dad's partner on the Body Shop welding and she went
10	through a lotta harassment herself in the Body Shop, so she gave me a
11	little pep talk that day and I think that helped me a lot through the years,
12	you know. You don't break down. You go and, and, and get stronger and
13	go out there and show that you can do it. My dad used to call her the little
14	sergeant [laughter]
15	
16Marilyn Coulter: 17	[Well 19:28] so
18Marta Bobillo: 19	'cause they were partners in the Body Shop for a long time.
20Marilyn Coulter:	[19:32] So someone who was a friend of your father's actually helped you
21	by
22	
23Marta Bobillo:	Mm-hm.
24	
25Marilyn Coulter:	giving you words of wisdom?
26	
27Marta Bobillo:	Yes, Arlene Parker did help me a lot.
28	[40,40][77]
29Marilyn Coulter:	[19:40] Were there many women who were supervisors back then?
30 31Marta Bobillo:	No. She just became a supervisor like 6 months prior to me being in there.
32	ivo. She just became a supervisor like o months prior to the being in there.
33Marilyn Coulter:	[19:48] How was that to work for a woman in the plant?
34	[15] 16] 116 W Was that to Work for a Woman in the plants
35Marta Bobillo:	I, I really never had no problem working for a woman. I know a lotta the,
36	eh, other ladies have a lotta problem working for females but I never did.
37	
38Marilyn Coulter:	[20:02] How long did you work in the Body Shop?
39	
40Marta Bobillo:	I – [throat clearing] on my 87th day, I was sent back again to [clanking]
41	Trim.
42	
43Marilyn Coulter:	Sent back to Trim.
44	Decrees whether said I was not needed at the falculated Dade Of
45Marta Bobillo: 46	Because, uh, they said I was not needed at the [clanking] Body Shop
40	anymore.

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1	
2Marilyn Coulter: 3	[Oh 20:18]. [20:19] Transition, tell me about that. [How was it 20:21]?
4Marta Bobillo: 5 6 7 8 9	It was a completely different scenario again in Trim. At that time, I was sent to work in Repair and that was – they had 30 men working on repair for the C line and 30 men working for the A l-, A line. It was A line and B line, right? A line and B line. So they sent me to the, um, A line and it was 29 men and myself and they all hadda lotta seniority and I only had 87 days seniority, so that didn't go too well either.
11Marilyn Coulter:	[20:54] Can you tell us about it?
12	[20.54] Can you ten us about it:
13Marta Bobillo: 14 15 16 17 18 19	I, I learn a lot. I learn a lot because some of the guys took me under their wing and they called me kid. That was my nickname. Some of them still call me kid when they see me. But, uh, they, they took me under their wing. At f-, at first, it didn't go too well in there. Then they show me how to do it and I was — [Larry Simon 21:16] was my partner and him and I did like every repair guys, did 1 on each side of the line.
20Marilyn Coulter: 21 22	[21:23] Repair, if I'm mistaken, is considered to be a pr-, preferred work, yes?
23Marta Bobillo: 24	Yes, it sure is.
25Marilyn Coulter: 26 27 28 29	Eighty-nine days [laughter] of seniority and you're in the Repair Department working with twenty-nine men. For those 29 men, it didn't go over too well. [21:49] When you say didn't go over too well, can you explain that for me?
30Marta Bobillo: 31 32 33	Uh, some of'm complained about being that I have no seniority and they're like yeah, all – they're saying that I wasn't be able to learn a job or do any – I was gonna slow them down.
34Marilyn Coulter: 35	Mm-hm.
36Marta Bobillo:	All different kinda complaints.
38Marilyn Coulter: 39 40	[22:08] On Repair, did you work on the line while the jobs were moving down the line or were you in banks?
41Marta Bobillo: 42	On the line was a job for moving. We had sets of [2 to 22:17] repair.
43Marilyn Coulter:	[22:21] What did you have to know to work in Repair?
45Marta Bobillo: 46	On the, on the time I was started there, it was – I had the rear doors and anything to do with the trunk. They had to split us up in teams.

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1 2Marilyn Coulter: [22:35] So [coughing] any part that went on that door or in that trunk, you 3 had to know? 4 5Marta Bobillo: Yes, I did. [22:42] How long did it take you to learn that job? 7Marilyn Coulter: 9Marta Bobillo: Um, not long. 10 11Marilyn Coulter: [22:47] Were there any pranks played on you there? 12 13Marta Bobillo: Oh, yes. [laughter] 14 15Marilyn Coulter: [22:51] Can you share any of those? 16 17Marta Bobillo: Uh, just, uh, all the time they have us assigned to do. They would hide my tools. They'd put the wrong tools in my pouch when I went to break and 18 all different kinds of things just to see if I knew what every-, you know, 19 20 the tools were, what I needed to use or – like the sockets would be one of 21 the things that they were – switch'm around to see if I – when I grab a 22 socket, I knew what it was. 23 24Marilyn Coulter: [23:16] And was that the same once you passed the test? 26Marta Bobillo: They – I was [part of'm 23:21]. [clanking] 27 28Marilyn Coulter: Those were pranks that were testing pranks. [23:27] Were there any kinda 29 pranks that were just fun, a way to laugh to [background noises] get you 30 through the day? 31 32Marta Bobillo: We did have a lotta fun. We always – we ate a lot back then. 33 [23:37] Oh, really? 34Marilyn Coulter: 36Marta Bobillo: Yes. On Fridays, we all bring something and have our little dinners and [throat clearing] we hadda lotta fun. 37 38 39Marilyn Coulter: [23:44] On Fridays, everybody brought dinner? [23:47] How was that for being a woman with all those men? 40 42Marta Bobillo: Eh... 43 44Marilyn Coulter: [23:50] Did you end up doing a lotta the food...

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Yes, a lot of it.

46Marta Bobillo:

1 2Marilyn Coulter: ...prepare? 4Marta Bobillo: Yes. 6Marilyn Coulter: Aww. [23:56] Was that something that was expected of you? 8Marta Bobillo: Yes, it was [inaudible 23:59]. 10Marilyn Coulter: [24:01] How did you feel about that? [thumping] 11 12Marta Bobillo: At the time, I d-, eh, now I think about it but at the time I didn't think about it because I thought it was expected for me to do it, you know? 13 14 15Marilyn Coulter: [24:13] Just feed the guys and...? 16 17Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm. 19Marilyn Coulter: [24:15] By feeding them, did that make it easier for you to work there too? 21Marta Bobillo: Hm, yes, it did. 22 23Marilyn Coulter: Hm. [24:21] [laughter] A way to a man's heart is through his belly, huh? 24 25Marta Bobillo: That's right. 26 [laughter] [Inaudible 24:24] you're working. [24:27] How long did you do 27Marilyn Coulter: 28 repair? 29 30Marta Bobillo: I did repair for 9 months. 31 32Marilyn Coulter: Nine months. [24:33] How did the women th-, think about it? [24:35] 33 What did the women think about you knowing that here you were a woman working over there and they're over there working on the line 34 35 doing something else? [24:42] Did they treat you the same? 36 37Marta Bobillo: Uh, not really. 39Marilyn Coulter: [24:47] Can you tell me about that? 40 41Marta Bobillo: A lotta of the women's, you know, they would ask me what was I doing 42 there, how did I get that job. That was one of the questions. How do you 43 get that job? 44 45Marilyn Coulter: [24:56] How'd you get that job? 46

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1Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm.

2

3Marilyn Coulter: [24:59] And you're response would be?

4

5Marta Bobillo: That I was sent here from the Body Shop. That was the opening they had

at the time.

7

8Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [25:06] How'd the supervisors treat you?

9

10Marta Bobillo: Hm, I really didn't have no problem with supervisor. What I did at the

time is, uh, [Tom Brown 25:13] was the general foreman and, uh, he would have me – have somebody do my job to take me off the line and do a lotta critical, uh, you know, clerical work for him, do a lotta the typing and a lot of the – at the time, you know, they had to do a lotta reports and

stuff or he had – would put somebody on there and take me off the line at least Thursdays or Fridays to do the week's – whatever they had to write

for the week, the reports.

18

19Marilyn Coulter: [25:41] How did your coworkers feel about that?

20

21Marta Bobillo: I think the guys expected it. I was a woman and, you know, when I first

22 started there, he asked me – because the other foreman's office was right

by the Repair...

24

25Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

26

27Marta Bobillo: ...and he asked me if I can type and if I can s-, you know, write in English

and stuff and I said yeah. I speak with an accent but I don't think with one or write with one. [laughter] So, uh, he had me do a lotta his work...

30 [throat clearing]

31

32Marilyn Coulter: You s-...

33

34Marta Bobillo: ...once a week.

35

36Marilyn Coulter: You speak English. [tsk] [26:12] Were there many people who spoke

Spanish also working around you? [26:18] Were there people who automatically thought that maybe you couldn't even though you can?

40

41Marta Bobillo: I stayed to myself most...

42

43Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

44

45Marta Bobillo: ...of the time. I really don't know.

46

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1Marilyn Coulter: [26:28] Was – were there any other people who were Hispanic, Latino,

2 Cuban working...

3

4Marta Bobillo: Not...

5

6Marilyn Coulter: ...[inaudible 26:33]?

7

8Marta Bobillo: ...around my area. No.

9

10Marilyn Coulter: [26:35] Were there many [background noises] in that – do you know

whether or not there were many working in the plant at that time?

1112

13Marta Bobillo: I think there were but Body Shop mainly.

14

15Marilyn Coulter: [26:43] In the Body Shop mainly?

16

17Marta Bobillo: Yes.

18

20

21

19Marilyn Coulter: Okay. So you're working there; you're typing; you're, you're cooking, plus

you're doing the men's work. [26:53] What was it like for you to do all that at work and then go home and be a mother and raise your kids and be

22 a wife?

23

24Marta Bobillo: Today I don't know how I did it 'cause I had to go home and take care of 2

little kids and laundry and cook and everything a-, on top of being tired for doing all men's work, uh, you know, in the shop, so today I really – at this

age, I don't think I could do it. I was young and strong I think.

28

29Marilyn Coulter: [27:21] Did you stay on the same shift? [27:23] How did the shift you

30 worked and raising your kids go?

31

32Marta Bobillo: I went to, um – I stay on the first shift for a year. That's when I got

bumped [thumping] from Repair to door rubbers a year later.

34

35Marilyn Coulter: Oh, so now you got bumped. [27:39] What does that mean, you got

36 bumped?

37

38Marta Bobillo: I had – somebody that had more time had put in for Repair and came to

Repair and I had to go back to the rubbers on the opposite [tapping] shift.

40

41Marilyn Coulter: So you got changed from your department, changed from your shift and

now you're doing another job. [27:59] Tell me about that.

42 43

44Marta Bobillo: I was, uh, at the time, the door rubbers was, uh, you had to pound them on

because they had some clips that you had to do and then you had to put

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some sealer and you had to roll'm in. I was doing the front door. So we

2 had 4, 4 people doing left and right and front and rear.

3

4Marilyn Coulter: [28:21] How was that for you?

5

6Marta Bobillo: Uh, that was a tough job.

7

8Marilyn Coulter: [28:26] It was a tough job?

9

10Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm.

11

12Marilyn Coulter: [28:27] Once again, were there many women there?

13

14Marta Bobillo: Um, they didn't – n-, I didn't get more – mostly women until '78, like

September, a little bit after I'd been there a couple months, then they

started [sending] [inaudible 28:40].

17

18Marilyn Coulter: Okay. You're in Trim Shop and you said there wasn't much difference

with that. [28:47] What difference was it between working on the dayshift

and the nightshift? [28:52] Was there a difference?

21

22Marta Bobillo: Um, I think the men accepted us more and we didn't have all the, you

know, screaming and hollering, that stuff [difference 29:02] but it was the

24 more partying...

25

23

26Marilyn Coulter: [29:05] Party.

27

28Marta Bobillo: [laughter] ...on the nightshift. It was a different crowd, the younger

29 crowd.

30

31Marilyn Coulter: [29:09] So w-, tell me about the environment. [29:10] What was it like?

32

33Marta Bobillo: It was – I was shocked myself 'cause I was – there was a lotta people that

would go to, you know, have their fun at lunch and come back and be

35 different.

36

34

37Marilyn Coulter: [29:23] So what kind of fun were they having at lunch?

38

39Marta Bobillo: They go have their little drinks and stuff.

40

41Marilyn Coulter: Oh. [29:28] Were – now where were they drinking? [29:29] Drink in the

parking lot? [29:30] Where were they drinking?

42 43

44Marta Bobillo: I don't really know.

45

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1Marilyn Coulter: [29:33] Really? [29:33] [You don't really know 29:33]? [29:34] So you were there and there – was, was there music? [29:39] Was there noise? 3

[29:41] Was there more pranks? [29:43] What types of things? [29:44]

4 What was the environment like?

6Marta Bobillo: I wasn't a very n-, I [have more 29:48] – the best partner I ever had, I

think it was Adele Roberts.

8

[Inaudible 29:53]. 9Marilyn Coulter:

11Marta Bobillo: Dave Evans.

13Marilyn Coulter: [29:55] What made him the best partner?

14

15Marta Bobillo: He was – I mean everybody that had any problem anywhere would come and talk to Dave. That man always brought his – the – his lunch every day. 16 17 He never left his bench and never ever in the year and a half that I was

18 partners with him, if he had a bad, if he had a bad day, he left it at home.

19 He always was in a nice, pleasant.

20

21Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [30:21] So were there younger people on nightshift than

22 davshift?

23

Yes. 24Marta Bobillo:

26Marilyn Coulter: All right. [clanking] [30:30] Marta, you're working on the nightshift. It's different. There's younger people. They're got music going. They're doing 27 a little partying. You've been in the Body Shop. You've been in Repair. 28 29 You're doing – you're hanging doors. You said it was hard. [30:47] What made the job hard? You said you had to roll'm in and stuff. [30:50] Can 30 you make us understand a little bit more about what made it – hanging 31

32 door rubbers hard?

33

34Marta Bobillo: That it was so busy and you had to do so many motions. Like when I was [inaudible 30:59] the, the bottom part of the door and the sides, I had to – 35 36 like the bottom, I was on my head and I remember a remark that one of the 37 repairmens down the line had to say when he went by that he asked me let me see your other face because I've been looking at this one every time I 38 39 go by. And it's because we spend so much time pounding the side of the car. Then we had to the door and then we had to seal it and roll'm in, so 40 that was so busy that by the time we get done doing all this, the next car 41 42 was there in front of you, so I had to run to get another, another door rubber and make sure if it was a 2 door or a 4 door or a 98 or 88, different 43

44 kinds we had in all the cars and come back and put'm on.

45

46Marilyn Coulter: [31:44] He made reference to your other face, meaning your behind, right?

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1 2Marta Bobillo: Yes. 4Marilyn Coulter: You said when you were in Body Shop, you had catcalls and hootin' and hollerin' because you were a woman. [31:56] Did you find that in Trim 6 Shop also? 8Marta Bobillo: A few times. Yes. 10Marilyn Coulter: Hm. [32:01] How did you deal with it? 11 12Marta Bobillo: Uh, I didn't – back when I was in the Trim Department my husband was working there and I had a very jealous husband, so I kinda joked in front 13 14 everybody, oh, like [they were sweet 32:13] [thumping] and I would only talk to my partner and just sit there on my breaks or go to the bathroom 15 16 and come back. 17 18Marilyn Coulter: [32:21] What was it like for you working on the same shift as your husband? [32:25] How did that work for you in the plant and what did you 19 20 do with your children now that you were both working on the same 21 nightshift? 22 23Marta Bobillo: Uh, when, when I went to the nightshift being that my dad was on the nightshift still in the Body Shop, my, uh – they were living in Leslie at the 24 time, so when my dad came into work, my mother came in with him and 25 26 stayed with my kids at home and when I was working, then when I got 27 outta work, my dad would pick my mother up and they went back home. 28 So my – I have 4 children and my parents would help me out with that. 29 30Marilyn Coulter: [33:01] Was it difficult working in the plant with a jeal-, with a jealous 31 husband? 32 33Marta Bobillo: Very. Very difficult. 34 35Marilyn Coulter: [33:08] If, if I may, was that strenuous on your marriage? 37Marta Bobillo: Yes, very strenuous because of the comments or the guys looking at me or what-, people don't have no way of knowing [throat clearing] that he was 38 39 my husband, so they would make a remark or say something [inaudible 40 33:231. 42Marilyn Coulter: [33:25] Did you and your husband work in the same department in close

1 Page 22 of 39

proximity to each other or did he work in another department?

43

44

1Marta Bobillo: 2 3 4	Hm, he work it out — well — 'cause he had more seniority, quite a few more seniority than I did, he work it out that he always work in the same department as I did.
5Marilyn Coulter: 6 7	Hm. [33:41] So, um, did you get divorced shortly after you [inaudible 33:45]?
8Marta Bobillo: 9 10	I was working there for 5 years when I got divorced. [clanking] [thumping]
11Marilyn Coulter: 12 13 14 15	[33:54] Having your husband work here and he had more seniority [sighing] than you, did you 2 eat lunch together, get – go – come into work and leave work together? [34:04] Did you take your breaks together? [34:05] How did that work?
16Marta Bobillo: 17 18 19	When I was working dayshift, I would walk to work 'cause – and when I was on the nightshift, I would ride with my husband and we would bring lunch and eat lunch together.
20Marilyn Coulter: 21	Now you walked. [34:20] So you lived close to the plant?
22Marta Bobillo: 23	Yes. I – we only lived like 3 or 4 blocks away [but 34:25].
24Marilyn Coulter: 25	[34:26] Did you like living that close to the place you worked?
26Marta Bobillo: 27 28 29	Yes, I did. I – to me the – after leaving Cuba, this was home, around the Fisher Body area here 'cause I was raised – I mean, I was partly raised around here.
30Marilyn Coulter: 31 32 33	Okay. [34:41] Was it – was living that close to the plant [papers rustling] [inaudible 34:44] when you did go to nights as far as being a mother? [34:48] Were – did you ever go home at lunchtime and see your kids or anything like that? [34:52] Were you ever able to do things like that?
35 36Marta Bobillo: 37 38 39	No. I never went home for lunch because by that time, the kids were sleeping and I knew my mother was taking care of'm, so they were [inaudible 34:59] hands.
40Marilyn Coulter: 41	Okay. [35:03] When you, um – you stayed in Trim for the next 5 years?
42Marta Bobillo: 43 44 45 46	Yes. No. I gotta take it back. Uh, when there was a big laid off in '79 and I did not l-, get laid off because seniority – I lacked seniority of 1 week to be laid up, so they send me to Paint and I was on a spray booth there for 3 months until I got, I got outta there when they start calling people back.

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1Marilyn Coulter: A couple of questions. [35:37] First of all, what's a spray booth?

2

3Marta Bobillo: A spray booth is when you're painting the cars.

4

5Marilyn Coulter: [35:42] Painting the cars?

6

7Marta Bobillo: Yes.

8

9Marilyn Coulter: So I know there must've been special equipment that you had to wear.

[35:51] Did you have to wear special clothing into the [inaudible 35:54]?

12

13Marta Bobillo: Uh, we had a, a mask [pen clicking] and coveralls.

14

15Marilyn Coulter: [35:59] What did you – [pen clicking] what part of the car did you

16 [background noises] paint?

17

18Marta Bobillo: I was working on the right-hand side of the car.

19

20Marilyn Coulter: On the right-hand side. [36:11] Were you doing door-, doorjambs,

21 decklids, hoods? [36:17] What were you spraying?

22

23Marta Bobillo: I was spraying the – half of the, half of the whole outside of the car.

24

25Marilyn Coulter: Half of the whole outside of the car.

26

27Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm.

28

29Marilyn Coulter: [36:27] Was that hard to learn?

30

31Marta Bobillo: Yes.

32

33Marilyn Coulter: [36:30] How long did it take you to learn how to [background noises]

34 paint a car?

35

36Marta Bobillo: Uh, I – it wasn't – probably the second day, I was doing my own but the

hard was the fumes and the smell in there. It was my sinuses.

38

39Marilyn Coulter: [36:43] Did it affect you?

40

41Marta Bobillo: Yes, it did.

42

43Marilyn Coulter: [36:46] Does it still affect you?

44

45Marta Bobillo: Uh, I have – probably. I had asthma as a kid, so that didn't help it, so.

46

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1Marilyn Coulter: Asthma and spraying paint. That doesn't [laughter] sound like a wonderful

2 combination.

3

4Marta Bobillo: At the time, I used to do whatever job I was sent to do. I never thought

about, you know, not doing it.

6

7Marilyn Coulter: [37:05] What was it like going from Trim Shop to Paint?

8

9Marta Bobillo: To me it was a different world.

10

11Marilyn Coulter: [37:10] What made it different?

12

13Marta Bobillo: As soon as you walk in there, the smell and the atmosphere w-, wearing

the coveralls [again 37:18], everything else.

1415

16Marilyn Coulter: [37:20] How were the people?

17

18Marta Bobillo: The people were pretty nice. By that time, there was a lot more females

and stuff in paint.

20

21Marilyn Coulter: [37:31] Were there a lot of women spraying paint? [37:34] Uh, paint back

then, did it have lead in it and did it affect children at all? [37:38] Do you

23 know anything about that?

24

26

22

25Marta Bobillo: Now I do. At the time, I didn't. I nev-, I didn't even think about it at the

time but I know there was lead in that paint and the time I was there, it

was 4 of us in that booth and, eh, I was the only woman in there.

28

29Marilyn Coulter: [37:53] Really? Did they ever test you?

30

31Marta Bobillo: No. I never been tested for lead.

32

33Marilyn Coulter: Never tested you. [38:00] What was it like being in the booth?

34

35Marta Bobillo: [Yeah 38:04]. I felt very isolated. I really – that was – I was glad when I

36 was working [clanking] and that was the only time I didn't like working in

37 the shop.

38

39Marilyn Coulter: [38:15] Because of the isolation?

40

41Marta Bobillo: Yes.

42

43Marilyn Coulter: [38:18] And because you had to wear a mask, were you able to

44 communicate to the other...?

45

46Marta Bobillo: No. I was – not at all. [pen clicking]

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1 2Marilyn Coulter: [38:24] So what did you do for 8 hours? 4Marta Bobillo: I just get out, [laughter] um, on my breaks and set outside to kind of breathe a little bit [clanking] a air, different air. That's all I did on my 6 breaks. 8Marilyn Coulter: [38:36] Was there much difference? 10Marta Bobillo: Not really but to me at least I didn't have to wear the mask. 11 People in Trim, they party [inaudible 38:44] had a good time? [38:48] 12Marilyn Coulter: What were the people like in Paint? [38:49] Did – how did they treat you 13 14 in Paint? 15 16Marta Bobillo: They treated me pretty nice. We used to put, uh – on the ovens, we'll bake hams and had all kinda food in there. 17 18 19Marilyn Coulter: [38:59] What – you just said they had lead paint and you guys are baking 20 hams? 21 22Marta Bobillo: Yes, we were. We're cooking right there, [throat clearing] warming up our 23 food and everything in the oven. [laughter] 24 25Marilyn Coulter: [39:09] If the ovens are hot enough to cook food, what was the, what was 26 the climate like? [39:16] Was it hot? 27 28Marta Bobillo: Yes, really hot in there. 29 30Marilyn Coulter: It was hot. [39:21] Can you give me an idea of what the heat was like? [39:24] Eh, was it summertime or s-, winter? 31 32 33Marta Bobillo: In the summertime, it was really hot in there. 34 35Marilyn Coulter: [39:29] So if it was n-, like 80 degrees outside, how hot would it be 36 inside? 37 38Marta Bobillo: It had to be over a hundred. 40Marilyn Coulter: At least a hundred. You had to wear coveralls. [39:42] Did you have shower facilities, locker facilities? [39:46] Was it dirty? 41 42

as soon as I got home.

43Marta Bobillo:

46Marilyn Coulter:

44

45

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Yes, it was very dirty but I would just come back home and take a shower

Mm-hm. [39:55] And how far was the locker room from your job?

1 2Marta Bobillo: It was a ways. 4Marilyn Coulter: [40:01] Did the plant supply their own... 6Marta Bobillo: Coveralls? ...coveralls [inaudible 40:07]? 8Marilyn Coulter: 10Marta Bobillo: Yes, they did. They did but I would take mine home and wash'm myself. 11 12Marilyn Coulter: Really. [40:12] They didn't wash'm for you? 13 14Marta Bobillo: They could've but I would, you know – I didn't go in and take my shower. I used just to take'm [clanking] home. 15 16 17Marilyn Coulter: Oh. Hm. [40:23] And you were there for how long? 19Marta Bobillo: I was in the booth for about 3 months. After that, I went out to the sealer 20 line [clanking] and I was there for 2 months and then I was sent back to 21 Trim [coughing] [inaudible 40:32]. 22 23Marilyn Coulter: [40:33] What was the sealer line like? [40:35] What did you do on sealer 24 line? 25 26Marta Bobillo: On the sealer line, we had to coverages of our – all the holes [inaudible 40:40] on the car 'cause I was like a Utility person there too on the sealer 27 28 line. 29 30Marilyn Coulter: [40:46] So was the sealer Play-Doh or was it a gun? 31 32Marta Bobillo: Eh, depending on the job... 33 34Marilyn Coulter: [40:53] Like a paint gun? 36Marta Bobillo: ... I was doing, there were different ones. 38Marilyn Coulter: Was... 40Marta Bobillo: Some of the jobs you had to do like a, like a Palmer gun kinda thing but it was white and [inaudible 41:04]. I forgot how they call that. And other 41 42 ones you had a gun. 43 44Marilyn Coulter: [41:08] So you had – some was like a Permagum and that's kinda like – 45 but what would you say, like Play-Doh or a Silly Putty?

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46

1Marta Bobillo: Like a Play-Doh. Mm-hm. [Inaudible 41:16]. 3Marilyn Coulter: [41:17] And you put [that up almost like 41:18] bubblegum, right? 5Marta Bobillo: And some were patches, just depending on what we were doing. 7Marilyn Coulter: You're there and now you're back in the Trim. [41:29] What job did you do? 10Marta Bobillo: In Trim, I was Utility again. 11 12Marilyn Coulter: [41:34] Utility again? 13 14Marta Bobillo: Yes. [41:37] What year are we talking about [inaudible 41:38]? 16Marilyn Coulter: 17 18Marta Bobillo: '79. 20Marilyn Coulter: '79. [41:41] Are there more women now? 21 22Marta Bobillo: Yes. Quite a few came in in '78. S-... 24Marilyn Coulter: 26Marta Bobillo: When I came back from, you know, the, the laid offs, there were quite a 27 few more in there. [throat clearing]. 28 29Marilyn Coulter: [41:54] As more women came in the plant, what were some of the changes 30 that you noticed? 31 32Marta Bobillo: They changed some of the men's [coughing] bathroom into ladies', uh, 33 one of the change and... 34 35Marilyn Coulter: [42:04] So you, so you didn't... 37Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm. 39Marilyn Coulter: ...have to take 5 minutes to go to the... 40

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41Marta Bobillo:

43Marilyn Coulter:

45Marta Bobillo:

42

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Yes.

...bathroom?

It wasn't as far anymore.

1Marilyn Coulter: [42:09] By having more – by moving around so much and working in all the different departments and you have more women coming in, did you 3 develop any long-lasting friendships that extended outside of the plant? 5 6Marta Bobillo: Oh, yes. I think we have like – to me it's like a family. 8Marilyn Coulter: [42:33] A family? 10Marta Bobillo: My unit with Fisher Body is like a family. [banging] Mm-hm. 11 12Marilyn Coulter: [42:38] What makes it a family? 13 14Marta Bobillo: 'Cause even if we don't see each other, we still have each other, each other's heart and think about each other and think about our birthdates. 15 16 you know, like [Cher 42:48] as an example, I don't hardly ever see her 17 anymore but I remember, you know, her, her birthday [throat clearing] and remember her kids and, you know, to me it's a family. 18 19 20Marilyn Coulter: We've talked about family. We've been in the facility. So I wanna change gears here. [43:03] Can you tell me about some of the happy times you've 21 22 had in the plant with your y-, with your work family? 23 24Marta Bobillo: Oh, we had a lot. You know, seeing our, our family, uh, friends get married, have babies and the kids grown up, being there for graduation, 25 26 different activities [we had 43:24]. 27 [43:29] Different activities [inaudible 43:27] and did you ever vacation 28Marilyn Coulter: 29 [throat clearing] with these people? 30 31Marta Bobillo: Sometimes, yes. Mm-hm. 33Marilyn Coulter: Sometimes, yeah. When you said – you made reference to your union family. [43:41] Are you union active? 34 35 36Marta Bobillo: Yes but I didn't become active until later on in my life. 38Marilyn Coulter: Until later on in your life. [43:50] What did you, um – how did you 39 become active in it? 40 41Marta Bobillo: Uh, different people and they had a lotta influence on me, like have been 42 inviting me to go to [thumping] union meetings, to do different activities 43 and... 44 45Male: [Oh 44:04].

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1Marilyn Coulter: [Oh 44:06].

2

There's quite a few people that I [owe 44:10], you know, like [Resa 3Marta Bobillo: Moore 44:11] 'cause he partly kinda pushed me into it, [the time 44:17] and I have like Sam Warren and yourself, Marilyn Coulter, and [Shelly 5 6 Grisson 44:25], you know, and Veronica Johnson. There's quite a few 7 people that kinda invited me to meetings and a little bit here and there and 8 got me involved slowly. I started with [Sam's 44:34] Committee. [Peg] 9 [Inaudible 44:35], she had to quit [Sam's 44:38] Committee for some 10 reason and she asked me to please take her place and that's how I got 11 involved.

12

14

13Marilyn Coulter:

[44:47] Staying with the union [in all 44:48] of it, can you tell me how the union family and the work family mesh together? [44:57] What impact did

your union family have on your work life?

15 16

17Marta Bobillo: I involve my family in with my union family.

18

19Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm.

20

21Marta Bobillo: Bring them into – [coughing] to the events and to – like [Bianca 45:10],
22 especially my youngest one, she had been raised around everybody in the
23 family and the union, she consider aunts and uncles, grandmas and

24 grandpas and everything.

25

26Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. So you were involved with a lot. [45:24] During your time – and

I'm gonna – and I'm jumping here

2728

29Marta Bobillo: [Hm 45:26].

30

31Marilyn Coulter: Allow me that for a second. Let me jump back at work. Now you were involved in the union. When you were involved at work, during your time working in the plant, the roles of employees kind of [throat clearing] changed. [45:43] Did you ever get involved in some of the programs that they had? Like, for example, they had QWL, which was Quality Work Life. They had Team Build. They had Product Development. [45:57] Did you get involved in any of those types of programs where all the

38 employees had an impact on the business?

39

40Marta Bobillo: Yes, I have. I was involved with, uh, P-90s...

41

42Marilyn Coulter: [Inaudible 45:09]...

43

44Marta Bobillo: GMX 130. That's in the early involvement with Quality Control [throat

clearing for, um, the GrandAms and the, uh, Aleros and [inaudible]

46 45:21].

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2Marilyn Coulter: [46:21] So the P-90 was a...? 4Marta Bobillo: The P-90 was a Chevrolet. 6Marilyn Coulter: A Chevrolet. 8Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm. 10Marilyn Coulter: [45:26] And that was a - the, the, the... 11 12Marta Bobillo: The early involvement. Like right now we're doing the Delta. 13 14Marilyn Coulter: Okay. So you said Quality Control. [46:34] When did you get in Quality Control? 15 16 17Marta Bobillo: [sighing] Oh, [my 46:38]. The Quality Control, they – back then they used to do a test to get into Quality Control. [throat clearing] So. uh. 18 [Westbrook 46:48], one of the supervisors... 19 20 21Marilyn Coulter: [Yeah 46:49]. 23Marta Bobillo: ...and [Matt Heston 46:50], they... 24 [Hm 46:52]. 25Marilyn Coulter: 26 27Marta Bobillo: ...asked me if I would – and they said that we need people [clanking] in Quality Control and, uh, do you wanna put in for a test and I, I said, well I 28 29 don't have no seniority 'cause it was in '80 and, uh, so they said put in and I put in and I passed the test, so I was hired in Quality Control but I only 30 lasted a few months because the seniority, [throat clearing] it was reduced 31 32 and [clanking] I moved back out again. 33 34Marilyn Coulter: [47:18] So Quality Control is a preferred seniority job? 36Marta Bobillo: Yes. [thumping] 38Marilyn Coulter: [47:24] Once you got in there... 40Marta Bobillo: I always had return rights, so every time they needed people, they would call me back in and I would be in and out of [Quality 47:32]. 41 42 43Marilyn Coulter: Once again, preferred job. [47:35] being a woman, what did people think 44 [tapping] about you?

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45

1Marta Bobillo: I got asked again how did I get the job but I was al-, I always been a

person that likes [chance 47:44], like putting for different stuff.

3

4Marilyn Coulter: You're a woman and you're a minority. [throat clearing] [47:49] Did that

ever play a role?

6

7Marta Bobillo: Oh, yes.

8

9Marilyn Coulter: [47:53] In those jobs?

10

11Marta Bobillo: Yes.

12

13Marilyn Coulter: [47:55] How was it being a woman and a minority working in a preferred

job? [coughing]

1415

16Marta Bobillo: A lotta time I was asked if I – who would I – who was I doing or who was

I seeing and a lotta questions [on that 48:07], especially after I got

18 divorced.

19

20Marilyn Coulter: Oh.

21

22Marta Bobillo: Mm-hm.

23

24Marilyn Coulter: [48:12] Did that come from not only men but women too?

25

26Marta Bobillo: Yes.

27

28Marilyn Coulter: [48:16] How did that make you feel?

29

30Marta Bobillo: Uh, you – I just tell'm like that because I put in for it. I never – I always

31 known that I was okay with God and myself and I didn't worry about it.

32

33Marilyn Coulter: Okay. So you're working in the [background noises] Quality Control

getting a chance to work on some of the advanced projects, the P-90s and the 130 projects, which were the different types of projects. [48:39] What was that like? [48:40] Were you working with – did you work [throat clearing] more with the management? [48:43] Tell me about that.

38

39Marta Bobillo: That was [John 48:45], management of the union, and the engineers.

40

41Marilyn Coulter: [48:49] What was it like having...

42

43Marta Bobillo: [Inaudible 48:50].

44

45Marilyn Coulter: ...that type of responsibility?

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1Marta Bobillo: I really like it because it was challenging to me and it wasn't a s-, much involved [inaudible 49:00] that I was right now was, uh, Delta because to 3 Delta, I was – I, I thought this time around we had more of a [coughing] 4 input in it [within 49:10] [background noises] [inaudible 49:11] and I think they finally listened to us more. 5 7Marilyn Coulter: Hm. [clanking] 9Marta Bobillo: [Inaudible 49:15]. 10 11Marilyn Coulter: Lansing's always been called the capital of quality [background noises]. 12 You obviously have been more than qualified to do all the jobs that you've 13 done. [49:26] Um, what impact do you think that the workers had on 14 making that name a reality? 15 16Marta Bobillo: [I think this 49:33] majority of it [throat clearing] 'cause we have, uh, 17 caring people that care about the job they did. I believe it. That's how [it did 49:41]. You wanted that car – I remember when people used to follow 18 their car. They know they were gonna have a car built and they used to 19 20 follow it through to make sure everybody did it right. But I s-, I think we, 21 we always did that anyway. 22 23Marilyn Coulter: [49:56] So you think that [inaudible 49:56]? 25Marta Bobillo: That we care about what we're building. 26 27Marilyn Coulter: [50:00] People care? 29Marta Bobillo: Yes. I believe that. 30 31Marilyn Coulter: [50:03] And would the workers – [background noises] they caring about 32 what they do and, um, [clanking] employees cared about what they did –

33 how did the supervisors feel about employees getting involved, [throat clearing] like yourself, having more power?

34

35

36Marta Bobillo: I believe that they've been there with us, the majority. We have ups and

downs in the supervisors but I think the majority care. 37

38

39Marilyn Coulter: [50:33] But most of them have been supportive?

41Marta Bobillo: Yes.

42

45

43Marilyn Coulter: Marta, you told me that you got a divorce. [50:42] How did being a single 44

mother now, working, having responsibilities, getting union active, how big a role did your benefits and things like that play into the raising of

your children? [tapping] 46

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1 2Marta Bobillo: If I wouldn't been working, [throat clearing] I don't think I could've ever got a divorce 'cause, you know, I, I didn't have [coughing] [inaudible 3 4 51:05] my family, my kids and my benefits. 6Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [51:10] So those are un-, union negotiated benefits? 8Marta Bobillo: Yes. 10Marilyn Coulter: Now they also have tuition assistance programs, which is also known as TAP. [51:19] Have you ever used any of those? 11 12 13Marta Bobillo: Oh, yes, quite a bit, any chance I had. I was – I went to LCC [inaudible 51:27] Michigan State some for accounting, bookkeeping, hotel and 14 restaurant management. I had taken quite a few classes there. 15 16 17Marilyn Coulter: Hm. [51:36] Now I know you said accounting and bookkeeping and I also know that you also hold a position in your local union, yes? 18 19 20Marta Bobillo: Yes, I do. 21 22Marilyn Coulter: [51:44] And what position is that? 23 24Marta Bobillo: Trustee. [clicking] 26Marilyn Coulter: [51:47] So you're negotiated [snapping] benefit helped you to prepare you 27 for your leadership job? 28 29Marta Bobillo: Yes. 30 31Marilyn Coulter: [51:56] Correct? 33Marta Bobillo: And I'm gonna call Dorothy Stevens. If I live to be 150, I can never pay 34 my union. 35 36Marilyn Coulter: [52:03] And [laughter] so how do you, you – so you liked your union a 37 lot? 38 39Marta Bobillo: Yes, I do. 40 [52:09] And are you also involved in community activities? [throat 41Marilyn Coulter: 42 clearing] [52:12] What other type [inaudible 51:12]? 43 44Marta Bobillo: Um, I'm involved with my church and I'm involved with the Advent 45 House, the homeless and different organizations around Lansing. 46

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1Marilyn Coulter: [52:22] What other types of organizations are you involved with? 3Marta Bobillo: Uh, I'm vice president of CLUW, Coalition of Union Working Women, and we do a lotta – and we are very involved in the community. [loudspeaker] I also a member of – I'm also a member of APRI, the 5 6 [inaudible 52:43] president and quite a few other organizations. 8Marilyn Coulter: [52:49] So you've worn many hats while you've been there? 10Marta Bobillo: Yes. 11 [52:54] Have you ever – you're active in your union and you came in in 12Marilyn Coulter: the '70s. [52:57] Were you ever involved in any strikes? 13 14 15Marta Bobillo: Uh, no. The only strike that I was in was the one that only lasted a couple days, so I never really been involved in'm. 16 17 18Marilyn Coulter: [53:07] Was your father active in the union? 20Marta Bobillo: Uh, he, he did not [trade 53:14] unions because he believe in a union but he never really got involved, probably because of his language [inaudible 21 22 53:20]. He couldn't – he could understand English real good but he couldn't communicate as well. He wanted to. 23 24 [throat clearing] [53:26] Now can you tell us about what it was like for 25Marilyn Coulter: some of the other people who may be Spanish speaking who, who aren't 26 able to communicate as well as you? [coughing] There's some things that 27 28 you did for your fellow workers. 29 30Marta Bobillo: I have – I had translated every time I've, you know, I've been asked to or needed or assist somebody that needed it. 31 32 33Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [53:51] So what types of situations would they put you in to 34 translate for? 35 36Marta Bobillo: Uh, anything from s-, people getting time off or having problems or, uh, they'll be at the hospital, they can't communicate and, uh, you know, 37 different activities at work or show somebody how to do their job. 38 39

43
44Marta Bobillo: Yes...
45
46Marilyn Coulter: Yes.

40Marilyn Coulter:

41

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Mm-hm. [54:12] So you've also been instrumental in, um – excuse me – I know [throat clearing] in a lot of, um, union, um, grievance procedures.

1 2Marta Bobillo: ...I have. 4Marilyn Coulter: [54:25] And, um, you were also instrumental in helping your union start a special project [inaudible 54:33]? The Hispanic Latino [inaudible 54:39]. Oh, the Hispanic Latino, yeah, [to the 54:41] Civil Rights Department. 7Marta Bobillo: 9Marilyn Coulter: Yeah. 11Marta Bobillo: Yes. 13Marilyn Coulter: [54:44] 'Cause you've also been on the trustee and the s-, and the Civil Rights Committee and you were Recreation Committee and do you also 14 do a lot of union recruiting? 15 16 17Marta Bobillo: Yes. 19Marilyn Coulter: [Mm-hm 55:03]. [Yeah 55:03]. 20 Yes. Any time I can. 21Marta Bobillo: 23Marilyn Coulter: Mm-hm. [55:07] When new people come into the plant, what do you 24 tell'm? 25 26Marta Bobillo: I tell'm to attend union meetings. I try to invite'm to our programs. 28Marilyn Coulter: [55:21] Can you tell us about how you – do you try to help mentor young 29 women who come in the way Arlene Parker mentored you? 30 31Marta Bobillo: Yes. I try. [tapping] 33Marilyn Coulter: And, um, now we're coming through another change. You've been through a lot of changes, [throat clearing] the facility that hired your father 34 and your husband and you and fed your children, Fisher Body is going to 35 be closed. [55:49] How does that make you feel? 36 37 38Marta Bobillo: Sad. Even though that I see a bright future, um, with Delta and everything 39 coming out with the new plant, it's very sad because to me that was home. It's like that what helped me be what I am today [in a 56:09] financial with 40 my kids, raise my kids, puttin' through – my kids through college and 41 42 everything I could. 43 44Marilyn Coulter: Hm. So you're closing one door and opening another as you're getting 45 ready to go to Delta. [56:25] Is there anything [under 56:26] the spirit of Fisher Body you hope continues to transfer over to Delta? 46

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1	
2Marta Bobillo:	Yes, our quality. [throat clearing] Hopefully that we have been number 1
3	again and still continue to be number 1.
4 5Marilyn Coulter:	[56:40] What does it feel like to be [tsk] making history?
6	[30.40] What does it feel like to be [tsk] making mistory:
7Marta Bobillo:	It's great. It feels wonderful to see that we accomplishing something.
8	
9Marilyn Coulter:	[56:51] Do they have a lot of the hourly employees helping open this new
10	plant?
11 12Marta Pobillo	Voc. Voc. wo did Wo started up 12 of us and now it's gotton to a years
12Marta Bobillo: 13	Yes. Yes, we did. We started, um, 12 of us and now it's gotten to a very large number.
14	iai ge number.
15Marilyn Coulter:	[57:09] That, um – as you – how do you think it's gonna affect the
16	community, Fisher Body leaving?
17	
18Marta Bobillo:	I, I think it's be hard for, for the – right here for the area, especially the
19	neighborhood that I [throat clearing] love and live in for so long but I
20	think, you know, Delta, hopefully it's gonna help us out
21 22Marilyn Coulter:	[57:34] [How 57:34]?
23	[37.34] [<mark>110W</mark> 37.34]:
24Marta Bobillo:	in general.
25	O .
26Marilyn Coulter:	[57:37] As we, as we close on going to Delta and you changed and you
27	went from a time when women were being tested to see if they could do
28	the job, uh, having catcalls and now you're active and involved, do you
29	feel that as a woman and a minority now that things are – that women
30	have arrived and minorities have arrived [and things 58:01] about equal?
31 32Marta Bobillo:	I wouldn't say we're equal yet but we're getting there, a lot closer to
33	getting there because, um, if we took this long, I'm still the, I'm still the
34	only Hispanic female that been in the executive board or Latina or
35	whatever you wanna label me now because [laughter] they have so many
36	labels for us but I'm the only one that ever been in executive board still up
37	to this date.
38	
39Marilyn Coulter:	[sighing] [58:30] With that being the case, do you feel – is there
40 41	something that as a culture you have to work from the inside or is that – [tsk] are there still doors to be opened and
42	[tsk] are there still doors to be opened and
43Marta Bobillo:	Both. Both.
44	
45Marilyn Coulter:	[<mark>inaudible</mark> 58:45]?
46	

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1Marta Bobillo: Both.

3Marilyn Coulter: [58:49] So are there any types of – [clanking] [throat clearing] [clanking] Marta, we talked a lot about your life today, can you – [thumping] is there 5

anything that you'd like to share with us that we haven't touched on?

6 [clicking]

8Marta Bobillo: Uh, not really. I just want to say that I'm very proud of all of you and I love all of you right here at this table right now, plus everybody else in my 10

union and they ain't anything I would do for my union and my people and

I'm here to serve whoever I can. That's how I feel. 11

12

14

15 16

13Marilyn Coulter: Marta, a lot of people who will be hearing [thumping] this interview have

> never even stepped in a plant. [coughing] Excuse me. [59:36] What would you like people to know [tsk] about the workers inside the factory, UAW Local 602 members? [59:45] What is it about us that you'd like them to

17 know about us?

18

19Marta Bobillo: Um, I would like the [coughing] [inaudible 59:52] to know that we are

20 hardworking. We are conscious people, that we care and we're not [inaudible 1:00:02] beer-drinker like they label us, some people do 21 22 [clanking] and that there's a lotta educated people in the plant, a lotta 23 people with degrees and education and we do really care about what we're

doing.

24 25

26Cheryl McQuaid: [Inaudible 1:00:15].

27

28Marilyn Coulter: [1:00:16] I know they say that there's – they – that but they also have a lot

29 of bible groups that are [all 1:00:20] inside the plant also, [don't we

30 1:00:22]?

31

32Marta Bobillo: Yes, you do. There's a lotta people that have bible studies and they love

33 studying and all different kinda activities.

34

35Marilyn Coulter: [Right 1:00:30]. I have to say that if you don't have anything else to say,

this has been an outstanding interview and I appreciate you taking time 36

37 [throat clearing] [inaudible 1:00:38].

38

39Doug Rademacher: Thank you, Marta.

40

41Male: Thank you, Marta.

42

43Male: Thank you, Marta.

44

45Gary Judy: Thanks, Marta.

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Thank you, all. [coughing] 1Marta Bobillo:

2 3 4/lo

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