

9:10 am

Fishers Body Historical Team

12-5-05

Interviewer = Marilyn Coulter

Interviewee = Ora ~~Col~~ Colhour

Retired now
Seniority = 10-5-78 hourly ^{to} 1983 Salary = 1983

Married = No Children (2 daughters)

Education =

Military =

First Day = sealer line in paint, then in paint booth. The person training her wasn't very receptive to her! Never been in a car factory. The Body shop was awesome. Came here because of money.

* She eventually went on "utility" in paint which means learning everything about jobs in ~~your~~ your department for absentee replacement.
Daily Life - Drove herself. Lunch = stayed in for lunch each day.

* Holiday dinners were a big thing in Paint Dept.

* Clothing or Health + Safety in the Paint dept. at first in 78 - there was no protective clothing used. But then EPA come in and all working in the paint booth had to wear coveralls, earplugs etc. "pigskin" gloves. Very warm in the summertime. "Heat" relief was introduced in later years for booth workers during summer months. Also recommended were dust masks over your mouth. to ~~help~~ help you breathe better.

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- Not too many women in the paint booths but a majority of them worked outside the booth in the paint department.
- ★ Plant name changes = To Ora this will always be Fisher Body Plant.
 - ★ Salary = She was approached numerous times to join the salary ranks. She joined in 1983 and there were a few females also on salary in the paint shop.
 - ★ Proudest Moment = working ~~people~~ with people to remember where they come from! Helping them get better at their jobs.
 - ★ She played softball league for the city then when hired in to Fisher Body she played for hourly teams. Also bowling and golf.
 - ★ She had a very rewarding relationship with the skilled trades department. She didn't have to write work orders either.
 - ★ Most memorable moment = a skilled tradesman developed a counting system for building 212 wrote a suggestion and received the maximum suggestion award amount of \$20,000.
 - ★ Pranks = Ora was the victim of a prank in the booth but everyone understood she didn't participate in these at all.
 - ★ Layoffs + Changeovers = in 1979 she was laid off for about 6 months.

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A. Day to day as Solay - take & roll call menus location on sick people. Then call her boss and let them know how many people & they need. ~~for~~ sometimes even working on the line herself.

A Smoking Policy - Ara thought that this was infringing on her ~~own~~ civil rights. but her employees got retrained sometimes by her so they would go outside to smoke.

A New employees had restrictions of what they could wear such as deodorant, perfume, hairspray clothing etc. that will not work well in the paint.

Benefits (most appreciated) Major (Health Care.

Best time = when they gave a donation of money to her
Worst job = any job you do is what you make it.

A Ara miss work now because of Christmastime ~~at~~ ~~the~~ activities in the plant. She always thought GM helped each and everyone of their employees and families.

A. Best Advice = Come in and do your best and always ask for ~~the~~ help.

She never thought Fisher Body would close, also the other plant closings in this Lansing Area.