

Lansing Fisher Body Historical  
Team

2-22-06

9:45  
am

Interviewee - Gus Caliacatsas

Interviewer - Cheryl McQuaid

Personal - 1962 to Present, come from Greece then to Germany, then to Canada then to Lansing.

He was just traveling to see the world.

One dream he had was to go to America

Seniority = 1962 - 1963

Military - Greek Army

Business = Gus Bar

2321 W Michigan Lansing MI

Married = yes

Education = 3rd Grade.

Birthdate = 3-3-36

There were some other Greeks living in the Lansing area when he arrived here.

Also when he came to America he would go ~~to~~ through the dictionary to learn how to speak English. He

would write notes down to communicate with each other. Hired in Fisher Body

in 1962. First check was \$58.00 from his first week at Fisher Body. The

longer he worked there were co-workers who would teach him English a little at a time. He was given a

suggestion award for \$10,000 for making an idea work on the line.

(2)

This would upset the union because of job cuts. His car was damaged by the union people. Then his house was damaged also and his life was threatened.

He then left Fisher Body and tried in at Goups Place for bartender for 8 1/2 years. Gus decided then to leave Goups and move on to other business. He was then to open a casino on Mackinac Island, but a fire broke out there and for the casino didn't open and Gus took the liquor license to Lansing.

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Feb 20 1982 opening of Gus Bar.

Gus has maintained many friendships from working in the plant. As well as when he opened his own business.

Gus felt that the GM Fisher Body employees were the best customers in Michigan, they tipped his staff very well.

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Plant closing - Gus feels bad and his business is down approx 75% from when the plant was open. But lately business has come back a little bit. Most of his customers are very trustworthy and have coming here for years.

(3)

\* Buying American = Gus has purchased  
approx 13 cars over the years.  
When Gus opened his place there were  
some employees from Fisher Body that  
helped him build his line.

\* Name changes = Gus feels that his first  
job in America was Fisher Body, so  
he feels that it will always be Fisher Body.

Happiest moment = when he first opened  
his business to serve his customers.

Saddest moment = was when the plant closed.

\* Gus has businesses in Texas also,  
1. alive trees also other businesses.