

1 **The Fisher Body Old Crates, a group of women who retired from salaried clerical jobs**
2 **at the Fisher Body plant in Lansing, MI, offer a female perspective of**
3 **work in the factory during careers spanning five decades**
4
5

6 Doug Rademacher: [recorder clicking] [background conversation] Good afternoon. This is
7 Doug Rademacher. [background conversation] I'm at [background
8 conversation] Applebee's on West Saginaw, [background conversation]
9 Lansing, Michigan. [clicking] It is January 11th [clanking] and I'm going
10 to interview some women [clanking] who worked in Salary from the
11 [papers rustling] Fisher Body Plant. And this is the Lansing Fisher Body
12 Historical Team and we're recording this for Michigan State University
13 Oral History Project. [clanking] [recorder clicking] [clanking] And I
14 believe we're recording. This is the Lansing Fisher Body Historical
15 Team. [background conversation] Uh, Doug Rademacher interviewing
16 the ladies at [clanking] Applebee's on West Saginaw. [clanking] Good
17 morning, lady – or good afternoon ladies. [laughter] [0:46] Did you
18 wanna go around the room?
19

20 Shirley Sanborn: My name's Shirley Sanborn. [clanking] I hired in at Fisher Body in 1949
21 [background conversation] [thumping] and retired on January 1st, 1993,
22 [background conversation] and have enjoyed every minute of my
23 retirement. [laughter] I've already interviewed with Doug [clanking] so
24 [background conversation] somebody else go 'head.
25

26 Genevieve Treadwell: Well my name's Gen, Gen, Genevieve Treadwell and I hired in
27 [background conversation] [clanking] December 3rd, [background
28 conversation] 1966 and, and [rustling] I hired in to General Accounting
29 and then I worked in Payroll and then Data Processing [clanking] and
30 then [clanking] down in Material Control, secretary in Material Control
31 [background conversation] and I did some [real quiet 1:33], [clanking] I
32 had to go down and, uh, babysit Florence Jeffrey's chair while she was
33 gone [laughter] on coffee break or such things. [background
34 conversation] [laughter] And there's something I would like to say, but,
35 uh...
36

37 Doug Rademacher: Please do. This is. [background conversation]
38

39 Genevieve Treadwell: ...they had a, they had a meeting [background conversation] place there,
40 and I heard some words [background conversation] that I'd never heard
41 before [background conversation] while the, they were having their
42 morning meeting, [background noises] and [clanking] really did,
43 [background conversation] and, um, I [background conversation]
44 worked in Material until I retired [scratching] and, um... [background
45 conversation] [rattling]
46

1 Doug Rademacher: [2:15] Well what was it like? Did you...
2
3 Genevieve Treadwell: I poi-, I will though say I have not got anything but, um, General Motors
4 cars since I started work there. [background conversation] And I was
5 driving Ford when I started workin' there.
6
7 Doug Rademacher: [2:28] And was all your years wonderful there or did?
8
9 Genevieve Treadwell: Yeah. Great. Yup, I, um, a great place to work. [background
10 conversation] Many benefits, lots a friends. [background conversation] It
11 was, it was great. It was a great place to work. And I did, do hate to see
12 anybody that works there [background noises] who buys other than a
13 GM car.
14
15 Doug Rademacher: Well I agree with ya on that. [2:49] Um, what brought you to Fisher
16 Body? Did you, uh, hear about them employing or [background noises]
17 [background conversation] did you...
18
19 Genevieve Treadwell: No.
20
21 Doug Rademacher: ...take school or what, what exactly brought you to [inaudible 2:57].
22 [background noises] [background conversation]
23
24 Genevieve Treadwell: A neighbor move, a lady moved into our neighbor and she worked there,
25 and I got [background noises] [inaudible 3:03] I told her one day I'd like
26 to work for some big company like General Motors. [background
27 conversation] [background noises] So I started to work there about a
28 month later. [background conversation] [background noises]
29
30 Doug Rademacher: [3:12] And how old were ya at that time?
31
32 Genevieve Treadwell: I'm not tellin'. [laughter]
33
34 Doug Rademacher: Some things stay secret, huh?
35
36 Genevieve Treadwell: No, I'll tell ya how old I am not, but not [laughter] [inaudible 3:21]. No,
37 I'm not gonna. No.
38
39 Doug Rademacher: Okay.
40
41 Genevieve Treadwell: I guess that's about it.
42
43 Doug Rademacher: Okay.
44
45 Judy Devers: I'm Judy Devers and, uh, I hired in 1966. Uh, my husband [background
46 conversation] interviewed for a job with [background conversation]

1 Oldsmobile [background conversation] and they were [background
2 noises] desperate for help at the time and I didn't even interview for the
3 job; they just called and asked if I'd come in, and I did. [background
4 noises] I know that's not the way it is today. Uh, I worked in Labor
5 Relations my entire time there, by choice. [background conversation]
6 Um, [background conversation] we were talking about the different
7 things that used to be. We can remember when the women first were
8 allowed, or wore pantsuits. We all got together and the same day came
9 in with'm. [background conversation] Some of the bosses almost had
10 heart attacks when they saw us in suits, [laughter] pantsuits. Um.
11
12 Doug Rademacher: [4:07] So the clothing at that time was, up till then was only,
13 [background conversation], uh...
14
15 Female: Dress.
16
17 Doug Rademacher: ...dress, blouses, and...
18
19 Judy Devers: Dress.
20
21 Doug Rademacher: ...skirts or what was it? [background noises]
22
23 Female: Dresses.
24
25 Judy Devers: Yup.
26
27 Female: We didn't wear...
28
29 Judy Devers: Dresses.
30
31 Female: ...pants.
32
33 Doug Rademacher: Dresses?
34
35 Judy Devers: I remember one of the fellas getting sent home for wearing a pale yellow
36 shirt. It had to be a white shirt and tie.
37
38 Female: Mm-hm.
39
40 Judy Devers: Um.
41
42 Doug Rademacher: [4:25] Were you received well as a woman when you came in...
43
44 Judy Devers: Yes.
45
46 Doug Rademacher: ...into your department? [background conversation]

1
2Judy Devers: Yeah. I, I [coughing] worked with very, very nice people my entire
3 career. I was very lucky. Um, [background conversation] tryin' to think.
4 Um. Oh, we were talking about different things they used to have that
5 they don't have now were coffee break rooms. [background
6 conversation] We used to always have a coffee break. I think you
7 women, or maybe everybody in general, could only work so many hours
8 without a break. Am I right?
9
10Female: [background conversation] [Inaudible 4:52].
11
12Judy Devers: Or maybe it was the [inaudible 4:55].
13
14Female: [Inaudible 4:55].
15
16Female: [Inaudible 4:55].
17
18Female: But they had [inaudible 4:56].
19
20Female: [Inaudible 4:55] 20 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes in the
21 afternoon.
22
23Judy Devers: Yeah, yeah. I don't know how that – [background conversation] I think
24 the coffee break rooms got taken over as offices or something and
25 eventually they disappeared.
26
27Doug Rademacher: [5:07] And so it didn't go out with just concession machines? It went out
28 before that?
29
30Judy Devers: Yeah, it went out before that. [background conversation] And I, for a
31 while we went up to the [tapping] cafeteria, [background conversation]
32 but then that.
33
34Female: Did you, did you work there when they used to have the coffee wagons
35 go around the Plant?
36
37Doug Rademacher: Oh, absolutely. The Wagon...
38
39Female: Coffee wagon.
40
41Doug Rademacher: ...that they spoke of.
42
43Female: Oh yeah.
44
45Doug Rademacher: [5:21] And so, were, [throat clearing] did you frequent the wagon also or
46 just?

1
2Female: Nope, never did.
3
4Doug Rademacher: No, but you.
5
6Judy Devers: We had vending machines down in the coffee break rooms. [background
7 conversation]
8
9Female: We used to sneak out [inaudible 5:29] then.
10
11Judy Devers: Yeah, [laughter] that's it, off the w-, off the wagon. [laughter]
12
13Doug Rademacher: [5:33] Now, did you set up, after the coffee break room went up, did you
14 set up a coffee pot and everyone kind of go around that area or
15 somethin'?
16
17Judy Devers: Yeah. A few people had coffee pots and we'd go down, and it was really
18 a better deal, pay a nickel for a cup a coffee or a dime rather than what
19 we were paying. [background conversation] Um, what else did we have
20 that was – [background conversation] oh, there was the Executive
21 Dining Room, and I know that the executives went up there for lunch
22 and had prime rib and lobster for about \$3 or something. [laughter]
23
24Doug Rademacher: [6:03] And you...
25
26Judy Devers: The rest of us didn't have that.
27
28Doug Rademacher: ...you weren't included in that?
29
30Judy Devers: No. [laughter] [background conversation]
31
32Doug Rademacher: [6:09] Uh, can you talk about, [background conversation] uh, who was
33 one a the [background conversation] best bosses you worked for?
34
35Judy Devers: I had...
36
37Doug Rademacher: Were they all good?
38
39Judy Devers: ...I had a lotta nice ones, I really did. I did.
40
41Doug Rademacher: [6:20] Is there anything that stands out in your memory as one of the
42 best days ya ever had working at Fisher Body? Did you impact
43 somebody's.
44
45Female: [Inaudible 6:27] day I retired.
46

1Judy Devers: The day you retired. [laughter]
2
3Female: I think every day was pretty good.
4
5Judy Devers: No, yeah, I, I agree with [Betty 6:30]. I think, ya know, I enjoyed goin'
6 to work. And I thought I'd have a hard time when I retired. I didn't, but I
7 thought I would. [background conversation] Lotta my friends were from
8 [background conversation] outta state, and a lotta my friends were Fisher
9 Body people, and [background conversation] still are.
10
11Doug Rademacher: [6:48] When you hired in, did you expect to work there [background
12 conversation] your whole career [background conversation] or that was
13 your plan or did you, [background conversation] was that just a stepping
14 stone, in your mind?
15
16Judy Devers: No. No, I, [background conversation] I planned to work there my whole
17 career.
18
19Doug Rademacher: Okay.
20
21Judy Devers: That's, [background conversation] that's really somethin' that maybe
22 doesn't happen anymore, [background conversation] but, ya know,
23 [background conversation] you, you were [background conversation]
24 really dedicated because you wanted to get in your, your time for your
25 retirement. [background conversation] The health insurance, the benefits
26 were great. [background conversation] Pay was, the pay was good.
27 [background conversation]
28
29Female: Paid good to women.
30
31Judy Devers: Yeah, for a woman, it was very good.
32
33Doug Rademacher: [7:18] For a woman?
34
35Judy Devers: Being a secretary.
36
37Doug Rademacher: And so what do you mean? At that time, was hard to find w-,
38 employment?
39
40Judy Devers: Well, lotta times...
41
42Doug Rademacher: That paid well outside?
43
44Judy Devers: ...men were, were, uh, promoted who [background conversation] there
45 were women who were better – more qualified, let me say that.
46

1 Doug Rademacher: [7:32] And what – was it, uh, cronyism or was it, uh, [background
2 conversation] seniority? Of course, with the union, it was.
3
4 Judy Devers: Oh, it wasn't seniority.
5
6 Doug Rademacher: No?
7
8 Female: It was chauvinistic.
9
10 Judy Devers: Yeah. [laughter] Chauvinistic. [laughter]
11
12 Female: Glass ceiling.
13
14 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [7:44] So did that stay in place all the time?
15 [background conversation] Did ya feel that [background conversation]
16 that chauvinism or...
17
18 Judy Devers: No, not a...
19
20 Doug Rademacher: ...was there a time when...
21
22 Judy Devers: ...not...
23
24 Doug Rademacher: ...when it finally was?
25
26 Judy Devers: ...not at the end it wasn't as much as it was [background conversation]
27 for a while there. There was just no way a woman was [background
28 conversation] gonna get a promotion. [background conversation]
29
30 Female: There's still a difference, too.
31
32 Judy Devers: The – well, [background conversation] I don't know now. But yeah,
33 [background conversation] for a while, it was...
34
35 Female: [background conversation] At one point...
36
37 Judy Devers: ...it was obvious.
38
39 Female: ...there were no female supervisors. [background conversation]
40
41 Judy Devers: Uh.
42
43 Female: And there was no blacks. The only black person was a [wood 8:07]
44 cleaner.
45
46 Female: Couldn't be married, either.

1
2Judy Devers: Oh, that's right.
3
4Female: [Inaudible 8:11] said that...
5
6Female: No, you couldn't.
7
8Female: ...you couldn't be married.
9
10Female: No, you couldn't be married.
11
12Female: Oh that's right, you couldn't be married [inaudible 8:13].
13
14Female: If you were pregnant, you had to leave at 6 months. [background conversation]
15
16
17Female: Yup.
18
19Doug Rademacher: [8:16] So [background conversation] [inaudible 8:18] you couldn't be married and work or you couldn't be married?
20
21
22Judy Devers: No, you couldn't be married...
23
24Female: If you worked in the same department.
25
26Judy Devers: ...to another person...
27
28Genevieve Treadwell: In the same department.
29
30Shirley Sanborn: In the same department.
31
32Judy Devers: ...in the same department.
33
34Female: You could work in the Plant, but you didn't, couldn't be in the same department.
35
36
37Doug Rademacher: [8:29] Now, did dating go on anyway behind the scenes?
38
39Female: Oh, of course. Oh, of course. [laughter]
40
41Female: [Inaudible 8:33].
42
43Female: [Inaudible 8:33].
44
45Female: [Inaudible 8:33]. [laughter] [background conversation]
46

1 Doug Rademacher: [8:37] Even though they might not be [presidents 8:38] in your story,
2 you could share about that.
3
4 Judy Devers: No, I can't name names. [laughter]
5
6 Doug Rademacher: [Inaudible 8:42]? Could you just say...
7
8 Judy Devers: We all know.
9
10 Doug Rademacher: ...there was this couple or? [laughter]
11
12 Female: Nope.
13
14 Female: Mm-mm.
15
16 Female: No.
17
18 Female: Are you sure, Judy?
19
20 Judy Devers: I'm sure. [laughter] Go ahead, it's – you have your chance next.
21
22 Female: No. [laughter]
23
24 Doug Rademacher: Oh please, don't be shy at all. We all.
25
26 Female: Both of the nurses. [laughter]
27
28 Doug Rademacher: Yes, I, I've talked with a few of you before at the last, uh, at the last
29 meeting. [background conversation]
30
31 Female: Can you do that?
32
33 Female: I don't know.
34
35 Doug Rademacher: [9:03] So I guess...
36
37 Marge Morey: Well.
38
39 Doug Rademacher: ...would you like to share your name and?
40
41 Marge Morey: I'm Marge Morey and I work in the hospital there, [background
42 conversation] but I was fortunate enough, [background conversation],
43 eh, uh, to get a...
44
45 Female: [Inaudible 9:15].
46

1 Marge Morey: ...have some experience [tapping] down in Detroit [tapping]
2 [background conversation], uh, [background conversation] at
3 Continental Motors, [background conversation] uh, as an industrial
4 nurse.
5

6 Doug Rademacher: Okay.
7

8 Marge Morey: And I just loved it so much. So when I married my husband who lived in
9 Lansing, [background conversation] well, I decided I was gonna try to
10 [background conversation] get a job industrial nursing, [background
11 conversation] and I went over, I put my name in all the different
12 factories, and I went over to [background noises] [background
13 conversation] Fisher Body. [laughter] And that's when [Marge Rearden
14 9:39] [tapping] was [laughter] a nurse that was leaving and, and when
15 they heard [background conversation] I had worked in [background
16 conversation] Detroit [background conversation] and, oh, I was hired.
17 [laughter]
18

19 Doug Rademacher: [9:48] And how did you meet your husband and did he work for General
20 Motors?
21

22 Marge Morey: N-, uh, no, he worked for the state. [background conversation]
23

24 Doug Rademacher: Okay. [background conversation]
25

26 Marge Morey: In Highway [background conversation] Department [background
27 conversation]. All a that. [laughter] It was – when I worked at [tapping]
28 Continental Motors, they went on strike [background conversation] and,
29 uh, [background conversation] one year while I was working there,
30 [background conversation] and [background conversation] they were
31 payin' the salary people, and they finally decided "This is ridiculous.
32 We're paying these people for sitting here." [background conversation]
33 And the strike went on for quite a long time. [background conversation]
34 So [background conversation] couple days, the day before [tapping] the
35 4th a July [background conversation] they said every salaried person had
36 to take their vacation [background conversation] tomorrow, starting
37 tomorrow [background conversation] for 4th a July [background
38 conversation] for a week. [background conversation] And I had, I was
39 savin' my money; I wanted to take a cruise. [laughter] [background
40 conversation] And I had to take my vacation, [background conversation]
41 and that changed [background conversation] everything. [background
42 conversation] So I went, uh, up to Miss-, to Ludington and [background
43 conversation] was visitin' a friend of mine that [background
44 conversation] I worked with down there [background conversation] and
45 she moved to [background conversation] Ludington. [background
46 conversation] And my [background conversation] husband-to-be,

1 [laughter] I didn't know, [background conversation] [coughing] but he
2 and another friend, [background conversation] a mutual friend
3 [background conversation] a this friend a mine come up the [background
4 conversation] 4th a July, [background conversation] and that's...
5
6 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [11:01] To Ludington?
7
8 Marge Morey: ...that where [background conversation] it happened, but I mean, it
9 wasn't immediately, but [background conversation] that's how we met
10 [background conversation] up there. And he, [background conversation]
11 he lived in Lansing [background conversation] and, uh, [background
12 conversation] he, we started to date, we dated for about a year
13 [background conversation] [tapping], and then [tapping] [background
14 conversation] we got married. [background conversation]
15
16 Doug Rademacher: [11:17] And you commuted from [tapping] Detroit to Lansing to see
17 each other? [background conversation]
18
19 Marge Morey: [background conversation] Uh, well no, uh, [background conversation]
20 he's passed away, but I worked in Continental Motor, [background
21 movement] or at, uh, Fisher Body [background conversation] until
22 [background conversation] our son came along, and then he didn't want
23 me to work anymore. [laughter]
24
25 Doug Rademacher: Oh, I was meaning [background conversation] about, uh, when you guys
26 courted...
27
28 Marge Morey: [background conversation] Oh yeah, he used to...
29
30 Doug Rademacher: ...he lived in Lansing...
31
32 Marge Morey: ...come down.
33
34 Doug Rademacher: ...and you were.
35
36 Marge Morey: Yeah, he used to...
37
38 Doug Rademacher: Did.
39
40 Marge Morey: ...come down [background conversation] on Friday night after
41 [background conversation] work [background conversation] and stayed
42 in [background conversation] a motel and, [background conversation]
43 and g-, leave [background conversation] Monday morning. [throat
44 clearing] He used to drive me to work [laughter] [background
45 conversation] Monday morning at Continental Motors [background
46 conversation] and then he'd c-, come up to the state, [background

1 conversation] eh, f-, to start his job at 8:00. [background conversation]
2 And I...
3
4 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [Inaudible 11:53].
5
6 Marge Morey: ...worked at 7. [background conversation]
7
8 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [11:55] And you were a nurse [background
9 conversation] at Fisher Body?
10
11 Marge Morey: Uh, yeah. [background conversation]
12
13 Doug Rademacher: [11:57] And you saw many [background conversation] different bosses
14 [background conversation] over the years? [laughter]
15
16 Marge Morey: Well, [background conversation] yeah, [background conversation] but I
17 can't remember their names.
18
19 Doug Rademacher: Okay. [background conversation] [12:04] Do you, um, do you
20 remember...
21
22 Marge Morey: The.
23
24 Doug Rademacher: ...what it was like [background conversation] to have a, uh, [background
25 conversation] auto assembler [background conversation] come off the
26 assembly line and, and the injuries and things? [background
27 conversation]
28
29 Marge Morey: Oh. Yeah, [inaudible 12:13].
30
31 Doug Rademacher: What was it like? Did ya...
32
33 Marge Morey: Oh.
34
35 Doug Rademacher: ...did ya feel for those people? [background conversation] Or did you,
36 uh. [background conversation]
37
38 Marge Morey: Yes, but ya know, they, [background conversation] they treated a lot of,
39 of, uh, [background conversation] cases there and Joyce, of course, she
40 can remember this too. [background conversation] But no, at – because
41 they had a nice hospital, [background conversation] completely
42 furnished, [background conversation] and, uh, [background
43 conversation] so and a doctor full-time and, uh [background movement]
44 [background conversation]. But [background conversation] it, it just got
45 to the point, [background conversation] what if it was a real bad case?
46 [background conversation] Then they just, they would just take'm right

1 over to the closest hospital, [background conversation] which was St.
2 Lawrence. [background conversation]
3
4 Doug Rademacher: [12:46] Now, you worked at, uh, [background conversation] in that field
5 in Detroit. [background conversation] [tapping] Was there a difference
6 when you came to Lansing? [background conversation] Was it...
7
8 Marge Morey: [background conversation] Yeah, it was...
9
10 Doug Rademacher: ...you just said it was...
11
12 Marge Morey: ...a st-...
13
14 Doug Rademacher: ...a full [inaudible 12:54].
15
16 Marge Morey: ...uh, yeah, it was, uh, [background conversation] smaller. [background
17 movement] Our hos-, it, they call it a first aid. [background movement]
18 They didn't even call it – [background movement] but it was,
19 [background conversation] ya know, I mean, we took care [background
20 conversation] of patients there, [background conversation] but that,
21 [tapping] the serious cases [background conversation] were always taken
22 to the hospital. [background conversation] And but where with Lansing,
23 though, it, [background conversation] it Fisher Body, [background
24 conversation] they had every – and I mean, you could [background
25 conversation] treat everything and anything there. [background
26 conversation] Because they were equipped [background conversation]
27 for that. [background conversation]
28
29 Doug Rademacher: And. [background conversation]
30
31 Female: I had a [inaudible 13:19] surgery on treatment.
32
33 Marge Morey: Oh yeah. Lotta treatment rooms, and rest rooms and sleep. [laughter]
34 [background conversation] A lotta the patients just [inaudible 13:28].
35 [laughter]
36
37 Doug Rademacher: That's quite all right.
38
39 Marge Morey: [laughter] No.
40
41 Doug Rademacher: [13:31] What was the, um...
42
43 Marge Morey: Patients. [background conversation]
44

1 Doug Rademacher: ...[inaudible 13:32] [background conversation] the most common,
2 [background conversation] uh, reason that someone would come up
3 there? [laughter] Was it.
4

5 Marge Morey: I think to rest. [laughter]
6

7 Doug Rademacher: To rest?
8

9 Female: Yeah. [laughter]
10

11 Doug Rademacher: Was it, uh, [laughter] [background movement] was there, uh...
12

13 Female: [background movement] [Inaudible 13:42].
14

15 Doug Rademacher: ...I just wondered if the, uh. [background conversation]
16

17 Marge Morey: Ya had to take, [background conversation] and they, they were never
18 [background conversation] in a hurry to go back. [laughter] [background
19 conversation] Their foreman used to call down [background
20 conversation] [inaudible 13:48]. "What's takin' so long?" [laughter]
21 [background conversation]
22

23 Doug Rademacher: [13:51] [Inaudible 13:51] you. [background conversation] "What are you
24 tryin' to do, [background noises] [background conversation] [inaudible
25 13:54] somebody up there? Send'm back to the line." [laughter]
26 [background conversation]
27

28 Marge Morey: [background conversation] No, but it really, [background conversation]
29 we used to kinda, [background conversation] [background movement] it
30 was kind of a joke [background conversation] with us because they'd
31 [background conversation] come down through [inaudible 14:03]...
32

33 Female: Yeah. [background conversation]
34

35 Marge Morey: ...and [background conversation]...
36

37 Female: [Inaudible 14:03]. [background conversation]
38

39 Marge Morey: ...[background conversation] but they was just smart and they knew what
40 they could [background conversation] get by, get away with,
41 [background conversation] I think. [laughter] [background conversation]
42

43 Doug Rademacher: Did you. [background conversation]
44

45 Marge Morey: And then they would...
46

1 Doug Rademacher: [14:10] But there were glass...
2
3 Marge Morey: ...most of'm...
4
5 Doug Rademacher: ... [inaudible 14:11]?
6
7 Marge Morey: ...had a raise, [background conversation] eh, most of'm had to, uh,
8 [background conversation] rest. [laughter] [background conversation]
9
10 Doug Rademacher: [laughter] [background conversation] [14:16] So, uh, but I was just
11 wondering have you noticed, [laughter] [background conversation] uh,
12 over the years [background conversation] a difference [background
13 conversation] in the type of injuries [background conversation] that
14 people came in [background conversation] with? [background
15 conversation] Was it, uh, [background conversation] back then,
16 [background conversation] ya had the [background conversation] older
17 welders [background conversation] and, [background conversation] and
18 the type of [background conversation] equipment they used to use
19 [background conversation] that was heavy and...
20
21 Marge Morey: I, I think. [background conversation]
22
23 Doug Rademacher: ...and cumbersome? [background conversation] Did it [background
24 conversation] have a lot more...
25
26 Marge Morey: [background conversation] Uh.
27
28 Doug Rademacher: ...strains [background conversation] and sprains [background
29 conversation] and...
30
31 Marge Morey: [background conversation] Uh, yeah.
32
33 Doug Rademacher: ...lacerations...
34
35 Marge Morey: [background conversation] Yeah.
36
37 Doug Rademacher: ...or did it get better as, [background conversation] as the...
38
39 Marge Morey: No.
40
41 Doug Rademacher: ...as the safety went, [laughter] went on? [background conversation]
42 [laughter] Never got better, huh? [laughter] [background movement]
43 [background conversation]
44

1 Marge Morey: No, a lotta them came in with [background conversation] back, back,
2 [background conversation] hurt their back. [background conversation]
3 [laughter]
4

5 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] Well I know I went through that myself, so.
6 [background conversation]
7

8 Marge Morey: Oh did you?
9

10 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] Oh, [inaudible] 14:52].
11

12 Marge Morey: You really did [background conversation] hurt it? [laughter]
13

14 Doug Rademacher: Oh, I've had, [laughter] [background conversation] I've worked there 27
15 years, [background conversation] yes, [laughter] [background
16 conversation] and I, [laughter] I did hurt my [background conversation]
17 back [inaudible] 14:57]. [background conversation]
18

19 Marge Morey: No but that was one, [background conversation] ya know, [background
20 conversation] I mean [background movement] a lotta, [background
21 conversation] ya wondered about it, but probably had reasons enough
22 that they said they injured it, [background conversation] ya know,
23 [background conversation] on the job [background conversation] and
24 they'd come down and [laughter] [background conversation] get a
25 treatment [background conversation] and [background conversation]
26 rest. [background conversation] [laughter]
27

28 Doug Rademacher: Did you ever [background noises] [background conversation] have the
29 opportunity [background noises] [background conversation] to go out
30 and watch [background conversation] people on the assembly line
31 [background noises] [background conversation] as a nurse? [background
32 conversation]
33

34 Marge Morey: [background conversation] Uh, n-, we [background conversation] were
35 taken out on [background noises] tours and [background conversation]
36 stuff, but no. Actually, [background noises] [background conversation]
37 we didn't have [background conversation] to go up to. [background
38 conversation]
39

40 Female: Well, we had to [background conversation] go through the Body Shop to
41 [background conversation] get to the...
42

43 Marge Morey: Go to the Cushion Room. [laughter]
44

45 Female: ...Cushion Room [inaudible] 15:26], [background conversation]
46 [laughter] because they had a small [background noises] [background

1 conversation] [inaudible 15:29]. [background conversation] [background
2 noises] [clanking] [background conversation]
3

4 Marge Morey: 'Cause it was a long walk [background noises] over to the main
5 [background conversation] [background noises] [background
6 conversation] main [background noises] [background conversation]
7 hospital. [background noises] [background conversation]
8
9

10 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] Okay. [background conversation]
11

12 Female: [background conversation] And then they, they built that [background
13 conversation] nice beautiful new hospital, [laughter] ya know, and we,
14 [background conversation] we had the old one. [background
15 conversation] [laughter] [background conversation]
16

17 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] Just gonna move this tape recorder
18 [background conversation] down a little further. [background
19 conversation] [tapping] [laughter] As we do this.
20

21 Female: I hope you missed [background conversation] [background movement] a
22 couple a the things I said. [laughter]
23

24 Doug Rademacher: Oh, I hope not. [laughter] We wanna get all a this. It's just, [recorder
25 clicking] [background conversation] actually it's just, [background
26 conversation] [laughter] like I said, [background movement] it's for
27 historical purposes...
28

29 Female: Oh.
30

31 Doug Rademacher: ...not for anybody's [background conversation] to be afraid of.
32

33 Female: Yeah. [background conversation]
34

35 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [recorder clicking] [16:06] Go ahead and say
36 your name.
37

38 Joyce Burch: Joyce Burch, [background conversation] Medical Department.
39 [background conversation] And we used to have fun [background
40 noises] when I first hired in there. [background conversation]
41 [background noises]
42

43 Doug Rademacher: [16:17] When did ya hire in? [background conversation]
44

45 Joyce Burch: 1950. [tapping] [background conversation] [background noises]
46 September [background noises] 1950. [rattling] [background

1 conversation] [background noises] And then I [background
2 conversation] left for a year [background conversation] and then I
3 [background conversation] [background noises] came back again and
4 [background conversation] they hired me [background noises]
5 [background conversation] as a part-time [background conversation]
6 help [background conversation] but I went on [background
7 conversation] to be the head nurse and, [laughter] [background
8 conversation] and [after 16:35].
9

10 Doug Rademacher: [16:36] Why did you leave for a year? [background conversation]
11 [background noises]
12

13 Joyce Burch: Well, my husband [background conversation] wanted to [background
14 noises] move to Florida. [background conversation]
15

16 Doug Rademacher: Okay. [16:44] And that didn't work out [background conversation] and
17 ya decided...
18

19 Joyce Burch: No.
20

21 Doug Rademacher: ...to go back for employment? [background conversation]
22

23 Joyce Burch: [background conversation] If I went down and went to work,
24 [background conversation] it woulda been fine, [background noises]
25 [background conversation] but he wouldn't go to work so I wouldn't go
26 to work, [background conversation] so we came home. [background
27 conversation] [laughter]
28

29 Doug Rademacher: Guess that settled that, huh? [laughter] So.
30

31 Marge Morey: I forgot.
32

33 Doug Rademacher: [16:59] Talk about your, [background conversation] uh, hiring into the
34 Plant. [background conversation] Was that...
35

36 Marge Morey: I forgot to tell.
37

38 Doug Rademacher: ...your goal [background conversation] was to [writing] stay there also or
39 was it, [background conversation] uh, [background conversation] a
40 stepping stone for something that you had thought about? [background
41 noises] [background conversation]
42

43 Joyce Burch: No, [background conversation] I liked the work and [background noises]
44 [background conversation] it was in my [background noises] field
45 [background noises] [inaudible 17:10] [background conversation] and

1 [background conversation] we had a good time, and. [background
2 conversation] [background noises]
3
4Female: You liked the people?
5
6Marge Morey: I...
7
8Joyce Burch: Yeah.
9
10Marge Morey: ...I forgot to tell you, [background conversation] I started in 1949.
11 [background conversation]
12
13Doug Rademacher: Oh. [laughter] [background conversation]
14
15Joyce Burch: Marge and I worked together for several years [background
16 conversation] until she left [background conversation] [inaudible
17 17:30]...
18
19Marge Morey: [Inaudible 17:30].
20
21Joyce Burch: ...[inaudible 17:30]. [laughter]
22
23Marge Morey: [background conversation] Yeah, 1955. [laughter] [background
24 conversation] Yeah. [background noises] [background conversation]
25
26Joyce Burch: And I retired in [background conversation] 1977. [background
27 conversation] [background noises] July. [background conversation] And
28 I had a [background conversation] [background noises] good
29 relationship all through [it all 17:43] and everything. [background
30 conversation]
31
32Marge Morey: It, it was fun. [background conversation] [background noises]
33
34Joyce Burch: Uh, Dr. [Ashner 17:47] was our [background noises] head doctor,
35 [background conversation] [background noises] and everything went
36 find while he was there, [background noises] [background conversation]
37 and then when he [background conversation] retired [laughter] they just
38 hired anybody [laughter] and...
39
40Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [17:57] Now...
41
42Joyce Burch: ...and get used to it.
43
44Doug Rademacher: ... y-, you mentioned that doctor's name. Was he, he did a good job? Did
45 you feel that.
46

1Joyce Burch: Oh yeah. Oh gosh.
2
3Doug Rademacher: [18:04] Was working at the Fisher Body [background noises] Plant as a
4doctor a good job? [background conversation] [Inaudible 18:08].
5
6Joyce Burch: Dr. Ashner [background conversation] started the first [background
7conversation] medical department [background conversation] in
8Oldsmobile [background conversation] and then [background
9conversation] [background noises] when they built [background
10conversation] Fisher Body, he went [background conversation]
11[background noises] over there [background conversation] and.
12[background conversation]
13
14Marge Morey: [background conversation] He was [background conversation] the best
15doctor, [background conversation] though. [background conversation] I
16mean, he gave [background noises] [background conversation] those
17patients [background conversation] good care.
18
19Joyce Burch: [Inaudible 18:25]. Right. [background conversation] [background
20noises]
21
22Marge Morey: And, uh, he was [background conversation] strict. [laughter]
23[background conversation]
24
25Joyce Burch: Oh yeah. [background conversation] [laughter]
26
27Marge Morey: But he was good too. [background conversation]
28
29Joyce Burch: They finally let us wear pantsuits [background conversation] in about
30[background conversation] '65, was that? [background conversation]
31
32Marge Morey: Yeah. [background conversation]
33
34Joyce Burch: [background conversation] Somethin' like that. [background
35conversation] [Inaudible 18:42].
36
37Doug Rademacher: [18:42] And you went out in '75, [background conversation] so...
38
39Joyce Burch: '77.
40
41Doug Rademacher: ...what was the feeling, [background conversation] [background noises]
42was it, [background conversation] was there pressure on women
43[background conversation] when you first hired in [coughing]
44[background conversation] or were you just [throat clearing]
45[background conversation] received?
46

1 Marge Morey: Mm.
2
3 Joyce Burch: No, not in the Medical Department. [background conversation]
4
5 Doug Rademacher: Not in the Medical? [background conversation]
6
7 Marge Morey: Uh-uh. [background conversation]
8
9 Joyce Burch: [background conversation] Just a buncha nurses that worked together
10 and [background conversation] we had to switch shifts all the time...
11
12 Marge Morey: Every 3 days.
13
14 Joyce Burch: ...just like they did on the line [laughter] but, uh.
15
16 Doug Rademacher: [19:04] Now that was 2 shifts [background conversation] or 3 shifts
17 [background conversation] you...
18
19 Marge Morey: [background conversation] 2.
20
21 Doug Rademacher: ...switched? [background conversation]
22
23 Joyce Burch: 2. [background conversation]
24
25 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] Two shifts? [background conversation]
26
27 Joyce Burch: Mm-hm. [background conversation] We worked the, [background
28 conversation] the line time, [background conversation] and [clanking]
29 [background noises] if there was [background conversation] any.
30
31 Marge Morey: [clanking] [background conversation] 25 men workin' [background
32 conversation] and we had to work [background conversation] overtime.
33
34 Joyce Burch: [background conversation] [Inaudible 19:18]. [background conversation]
35
36 Marge Morey: And they, but they couldn't [background noises] [background
37 conversation] work any longer than, [background conversation]
38 [background noises] what, 10, [background conversation] [background
39 noises] uh, 10 hours a day, [background conversation] though.
40
41 Joyce Burch: [Inaudible 19:24].
42
43 Marge Morey: At that time you couldn't, [background movement] [background
44 conversation] 10 hours [background noises] [background conversation]
45 but 25 men employees workin', [background noises] [background
46 conversation] had a stay. [background conversation] [background

1 noises] And we took turns, [clanking] [background noises] [background
2 conversation] didn't we? [laughter]
3
4 Joyce Burch: Mm-hm. [laughter] [background noises] [background conversation]
5 Somebody had to be there to cover [background conversation]
6 [background noises] [laughter] while they were [background
7 conversation] working. [laughter] [background conversation]
8 [background noises]
9
10 Doug Rademacher: Yeah. [19:38] And did you do things in the Medical Department?
11 [background conversation] As a team, did you have [background
12 conversation] lunches together or did you do things [background
13 conversation] at the holiday times? [background conversation]
14
15 Marge Morey: Uh-huh.
16
17 Doug Rademacher: Or [background conversation] were you all individually [background
18 noises] [background conversation] kinda?
19
20 Joyce Burch: Uh.
21
22 Marge Morey: No, we, we. [background conversation]
23
24 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [background noises] How'd ya spend your
25 lunches [background conversation] and things? [background
26 conversation]
27
28 Marge Morey: Oh. [background conversation] Well, [laughter] 2 of us went to,
29 [laughter] we had, [laughter] we had 2 – what are you laughing about?
30 No, we had 2 nurses would go at a time, right? [background
31 conversation]
32
33 Joyce Burch: Yeah.
34
35 Marge Morey: 2 of us, [background conversation] uh, for lunch [background
36 conversation] and then come back and then two more. [background
37 noises] [background conversation] [tapping]
38
39 Doug Rademacher: [20:08] Oh, was there, uh, ever...
40
41 Joyce Burch: [Inaudible 20:11].
42
43 Doug Rademacher: ...was there a place called Harry's Place? Was that ever?
44
45 Marge Morey: [laughter] Oh yeah, but we knew the c-, [tapping] the afternoon shift.
46 [laughter] We knew when they were over at Harry's. [laughter]

1
2 Doug Rademacher: So.
3
4 Marge Morey: [laughter] They'd pay us a visit. [laughter]
5
6 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [20:25] Was that more of a, [laughter]
7 [background conversation] it was more of an afternoon shift than a day
8 shift [background noises] [background conversation] visit or?
9 [background conversation] I know they serve [background conversation]
10 lunches and things over there.
11
12 Marge Morey: No we didn't, not during the day.
13
14 Joyce Burch: We didn't go in ourselves...
15
16 Marge Morey: [background conversation] No.
17
18 Joyce Burch: ...we'd get'm comin' back, and, uh, the afternoon shift [laughter] was the
19 one.
20
21 Doug Rademacher: Yes.
22
23 Joyce Burch: We did all our own suturing and everything, [background conversation]
24 unless it was a major [background conversation] thing [background
25 conversation] [background noises] that they had a have an [background
26 noises] anesthetic, [background conversation] then [background
27 conversation] [background noises] gave'm all kinds a treats.
28
29 Marge Morey: [background conversation] They liked the treatments 'cause they could
30 lay down. [background conversation]
31
32 Joyce Burch: Yeah. [laughter] [background conversation] [Inaudible 21:00].
33 [background conversation]
34
35 Marge Morey: [background conversation] They could lay down for 20 minutes
36 [background conversation] or 20 minutes. [laughter] [background
37 conversation]
38
39 Doug Rademacher: [21:04] What's your thought about [background conversation] [laughter]
40 nowadays they've added a [background conversation] physical therapist
41 [background conversation] that they a separate room where [background
42 conversation] the, [background conversation] if they feel it was a work-
43 related injury, they'd, [background conversation] they would have you...
44
45 Marge Morey: [background conversation] Oh. [background conversation]
46

1 Doug Rademacher: ...go to physical therapy [background conversation] within the
2 [background conversation] Plant...
3
4 Marge Morey: [background conversation] Oh, we had [background conversation] all a.
5
6 Doug Rademacher: ...itself?
7
8 Female: [Inaudible 21:18]
9
10 Doug Rademacher: [21:18] You had all that too?
11
12 Marge Morey: Oh yah. Yeah, they had [background conversation] machines
13 [background conversation] [inaudible 21:22]. [background conversation]
14
15 Joyce Burch: [background conversation] [background noises] Yeah. I don't regret it a
16 bit. I [background conversation] liked...
17
18 Marge Morey: Oh it was [inaudible 21:30]. [background conversation]
19
20 Joyce Burch: ...the time I worked there. [background conversation]
21
22 Marge Morey: And [inaudible 21:32].
23
24 Joyce Burch: When I was referring to Judy is [background conversation] 2 of you,
25 [background conversation] man and wife, [background conversation]
26 working together. Ya know, [background conversation] well,
27 [background conversation] I married the [background conversation]
28 safety supervisor. [background conversation] [laughter] [background
29 conversation]
30
31 Female: Pretty good place for romance. [laughter] [background conversation]
32
33 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] It was, [background conversation] [laughter]
34 it was a wonderful place [laughter] for romance...
35
36 Joyce Burch: Yeah.
37
38 Doug Rademacher: ...huh? [laughter] [background conversation] [21:53] And [background
39 conversation] so you [background conversation] ran across your
40 husband in there, eh, over a period of years [background conversation]
41 and...
42
43 Joyce Burch: Yeah.
44

1 Doug Rademacher: ...were able to, uh, [background conversation] well, they couldn't do
2 anything about it once you were [background conversation] married,
3 right? [background conversation]
4

5 Joyce Burch: Well, they could've kicked me out or they could've kicked him out, but
6 they [background conversation] didn't say anything. [background noises]
7 [background conversation]
8

9 Doug Rademacher: [22:13] But there was an effort to [background conversation] keep
10 people from...
11

12 Joyce Burch: [background conversation] [background noises] Yeah.
13

14 Doug Rademacher: ...engaging in, [background conversation] [background noises] in...
15

16 Joyce Burch: At first it was.
17

18 Doug Rademacher: ...[inaudible 22:18] or it was just, [background conversation] was that
19 just, what do ya think [background conversation] the reason
20 [background conversation] [background noises] was? [background
21 conversation] Why did they wanna [background conversation] keep
22 people [background conversation] apart? [background noises]
23 [background conversation] Because. [laughter]
24

25 Female: The rules. [background conversation]
26

27 Joyce Burch: Oh, [background conversation] might, [background conversation] one
28 might [background conversation] cover for the other one. [background
29 conversation] [background noises] [background conversation]
30

31 Doug Rademacher: I know that they didn't want [background conversation] supervisors
32 interacting [background conversation] with the workers...
33

34 Joyce Burch: [background conversation] [background noises] Yeah. [background
35 conversation]
36

37 Doug Rademacher: ...out on [background conversation] the floor. [background conversation]
38 [background noises] You couldn't date also, [background conversation]
39 but I don't know [background conversation] really the years that
40 [background conversation] were in place [background conversation] for
41 that. [background conversation]
42

43 Joyce Burch: [background conversation] [background noises] And [inaudible 22:46]
44 [background noises] [background conversation] late '60s and '70s they
45 finally started [inaudible 22:51] [background conversation] [background
46 noises].

1
2 Doug Rademacher: 'Kay. [background conversation] [background noises] [laughter] How
3 are you? You're just gonna pass today? [background conversation] Are
4 you?
5
6 Nora MacKenzie: I think I'll pass. [laughter] [background noises] [background
7 conversation] [Inaudible 23:00] very well, [background conversation]
8 [background noises] don't speak very well. [background conversation]
9 [background noises]
10
11 Doug Rademacher: Would you like to share your name for the record, though, [coughing]
12 [background conversation] today? Did ya? [background conversation]
13
14 Nora MacKenzie: My name [background movement] is [background conversation] Nora
15 [clanking] [background conversation] MacKenzie [background
16 conversation] and, uh. [background conversation]
17
18 Doug Rademacher: Okay, [background conversation] [background noises] Norma.
19 [background conversation] Well, [background conversation] thank you
20 for [background conversation] sharing that you, uh, [background
21 conversation] have lunch with the ladies [background conversation] and
22 still get together. [background conversation] It's obvious you've become
23 good friends [background conversation] over the years. [background
24 conversation] [background noises] [papers rustling] [23:21] So, uh, how
25 bout over at this side a the table? [background conversation]
26 [background noises] [laughter]
27
28 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] [background noises] I'm Lillian Matter...
29
30 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [background noises] Hi, Lillian.
31
32 Lillian Matter: ...and [background conversation] the last 10 years I worked,
33 [background conversation] [background noises] I used to go out
34 [tapping] and have some a this at ma lunch hour. [laughter] [tapping]
35 [background conversation] [background noises]
36
37 Doug Rademacher: Yes? [laughter]
38
39 Female: [background conversation] You did, really? [laughter]
40
41 Doug Rademacher: That would, uh. [23:38] Now, did you go [background conversation]
42 visit one a the local establishments? [background conversation] Are you
43 saying on your lunch or after hours or? [background conversation]
44 [background noises]
45

1 Lillian Matter: Well, not myself [tapping] [background conversation] [background
2 noises] really.
3

4 Doug Rademacher: Okay. [background conversation]
5

6 Lillian Matter: I was a buyer in purchasing and [background conversation] salesmen
7 used to come over [background conversation] and [background
8 conversation] take the buyers out for lunch, [background conversation]
9 and many times [tapping] we had some a that. [background
10 conversation] [tapping]
11

12 Doug Rademacher: Uh-huh. [background conversation] [background noises] [23:56] And
13 that was just a good [background conversation] [background noises]
14 [laughter] business practice, [laughter] wasn't it? [laughter] [background
15 conversation]
16

17 Lillian Matter: [laughter] Exactly, [background conversation] exactly. [background
18 conversation]
19

20 Doug Rademacher: Seemed to solve, [background conversation] [laughter] been able to
21 [background conversation] get to the point a the [background
22 conversation] matter...
23

24 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] Yeah. [background conversation]
25

26 Doug Rademacher: ...little more often? [background conversation] [laughter]
27

28 Lillian Matter: Yeah, they could [background conversation] sell me more that way, I
29 guess. [laughter]
30

31 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [24:07] And did you go to the local
32 establishments [background conversation] though or did?
33

34 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] Oh yes. [background conversation]
35

36 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] Back then I guess [inaudible 24:11].
37

38 Lillian Matter: Yeah, I only had lunch [inaudible 24:13]...
39

40 Doug Rademacher: Mm-hm. [background conversation]
41

42 Lillian Matter: And uh, [clanking] [background conversation] [background noises]
43 [inaudible 24:16] would eat lunch too, ya know?
44

1 Doug Rademacher: Right, right. [background conversation] [background noises] [24:19] So
2 it didn't ever [background noises] [background conversation] carry over
3 afterward? [background conversation]
4

5 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] Well usually my boss and I go [inaudible]
6 24:24] [clanking] [background movement] [background conversation]
7 [background noises] and, uh, [inaudible] 24:29] time to time, because I
8 didn't think it was proper for me to go until. [background conversation]
9 [background noises]
10

11 Doug Rademacher: Right. [background conversation] [background noises]
12

13 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] [background noises] I was very proper then,
14 because. [background conversation] [background noises] [laughter]
15

16 Doug Rademacher: Very proper then. [laughter] [background conversation]
17

18 Lillian Matter: Wasn't. [laughter] [background conversation] [background noises]
19

20 Doug Rademacher: Okay. [laughter]
21

22 Female: [background conversation] What'd she say? [laughter] [background
23 conversation] [background noises]
24

25 Doug Rademacher: Could you, uh. [background conversation] [background noises]
26

27 Lillian Matter: I hope that wasn't recorded. [laughter] [background conversation]
28

29 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [24:43] Which, [background movement]
30 [background conversation] which year did ya hire in? [background
31 conversation] [background noises]
32

33 Lillian Matter: 1952. [background conversation] [background noises]
34

35 Doug Rademacher: And what, uh, [background noises] [inaudible] 24:47].
36

37 Lillian Matter: Retired in '84. [background conversation]
38

39 Doug Rademacher: [24:49] What training did [background conversation], did you come in
40 as [background conversation] that you were able to go into Purchasing?
41

42 Lillian Matter: Well I worked [background conversation] 7 years – oh, into Purchasing?
43 [background conversation]
44

45 Doug Rademacher: [24:56] [background conversation] What, [background conversation]
46 what led you into that field?

1
2 Lillian Matter: Well, [I went there 24:58] [background conversation] in '74.
3 [background conversation]
4
5 Doug Rademacher: Okay.
6
7 Lillian Matter: And, uh, [background conversation] I worked prior to [background
8 conversation] [background noises] [inaudible 25:03] as a clerk in
9 purchasing, [background conversation] [background noises] and then,
10 [background conversation] um, [background conversation] my boss
11 retired and they upgraded me into [background conversation] a buyer,
12 [background conversation] [background noises] which was the first time
13 that's [background conversation] ever happened there. [background
14 conversation] [background noises] [inaudible 25:17] [background
15 conversation] General Motors [background conversation] [background
16 noises] was only 3 other [background conversation] women [background
17 noises] [background conversation] buyers [background conversation]
18 [background noises] and they were [background conversation]
19 [background noises] in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and [background
20 conversation] [background noises] different places. [background noises]
21 [background conversation]
22
23 Doug Rademacher: And you were the first. [background conversation] [background noises]
24
25 Lillian Matter: But I was the first [background conversation] one, yeah. [background
26 conversation] [background noises]
27
28 Doug Rademacher: The first woman [background noises] purchaser/buyer for [background
29 conversation] [background noises] [clanking] General. [clanking]
30
31 Lillian Matter: Yeah.
32
33 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [background noises] Was it Fisher Body?
34 [background conversation] [background noises] Okay. [background
35 conversation] [background noises]
36
37 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] [background noises] That's why they had.
38 [background conversation] [background noises]
39
40 Doug Rademacher: [25:35] [background conversation] And you were treated equal by the
41 men [background conversation] or were the, [background conversation]
42 move into that position, [background noises] [background conversation]
43 that was?
44
45 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] Oh they had to. They needed [background
46 conversation] fibers. [background conversation] They needed material.

1 [background conversation] They treated me very well. [background
2 conversation] [laughter] [background noises] [clanking]
3
4 Doug Rademacher: [background noises] [background conversation] [25:47] But were
5 [background noises] [clanking] [background conversation] any of them
6 [clanking] [background conversation] hoping to get that [background
7 conversation] promotion [background conversation] [background noises]
8 rather than?
9
10 Lillian Matter: Only one [background conversation] that I know of, [background noises]
11 [background conversation] [clanking] and, uh, then they upgraded
12 [background conversation] [background noises] me, I, I was allowed
13 [papers rustling] [background conversation] [background noises] to park
14 [papers rustling] in the, uh, supervisor's [papers rustling] parking.
15 [papers rustling] [background conversation] [background noises] That
16 only happened [2 days 26:02] [papers rustling] [background
17 conversation] [background noises] and [papers rustling] [background
18 noises] [somewhat 26:03] I don't [papers rustling] know [papers
19 rustling] how he did it [papers rustling] but [papers rustling] he arranged
20 it [papers rustling] so [papers rustling] that [papers rustling] I [papers
21 rustling] couldn't [papers rustling] park there [papers rustling] anymore
22 [papers rustling] [laughter] [background conversation] [background
23 noises] [papers rustling] [laughter] because he wanted the job, I'm sure.
24 [papers rustling] He had no other reason. [papers rustling]
25
26 Doug Rademacher: Okay. [background conversation] [Inaudible 26:20].
27
28 Lillian Matter: But it was alright. [tapping] [background conversation] So I parked out
29 in [background conversation] front.
30
31 Female: She wants to be next. [background conversation]
32
33 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] Okay. [background conversation] [laughter]
34
35 Doug Rademacher: Well you're, you're just getting, [background conversation] [laughter]
36 you're playing around.
37
38 Lillian Matter: She used to be that too, come on, [inaudible 26:32].
39
40 Bernia Parr: Oh, oh.
41
42 Doug Rademacher: [26:33] Please share your name.
43
44 Bernia Parr: Oh. My name is...
45
46 Doug Rademacher: [26:34] Tell us when ya hired in.

1
2Bernia Parr: ...my name is Bernie Parr, and I worked there for a lotta years. [tapping]
3 [laughter] [background conversation] There was never any [background
4 noises] discrimination that I could see [background conversation]
5 between the men and the women. [background conversation] Ho ho.
6 [background conversation] [laughter]
7
8Doug Rademacher: Ho ho, huh? [laughter]
9
10Female: [background conversation] [Inaudible 26:48]. [background conversation]
11
12Female: [background conversation] [Inaudible 26:48]. [background conversation]
13
14Female: [background conversation] When did you hire in?
15
16Lillian Matter: Oh, I hired in, [background conversation] um, [background
17 conversation] in Grand Rapids. [background conversation] When did I?
18 In [background conversation] 1943 [background conversation] and then
19 [background conversation] my husband came home from the
20 [background conversation] Service and we moved [background
21 conversation] to Lansing, and I [background conversation] retired
22 permanently in 1977. [background conversation] That's it. [background
23 conversation]
24
25Doug Rademacher: That is it?
26
27Lillian Matter: That's it.
28
29Doug Rademacher: [27:15] What about that "ho ho"? [laughter] I thought there was
30 something there that.
31
32Lillian Matter: About what?
33
34Doug Rademacher: You said something about there was no [background conversation]
35 discrimination between men and women, and you said "ho ho."
36 [laughter] Now, I think there's.
37
38Lillian Matter: No, I thought that we were treated very well. [background conversation]
39 [background noises] I was treated very, very well. [background
40 conversation] And everybody else I know, [background conversation]
41 [background noises] not everybody, [background conversation] but most
42 everybody. [background conversation]
43
44Female: [Inaudible 27:39].
45
46Doug Rademacher: [27:40] Women couldn't smoke but the men could?

1
2Female: Men could, [background conversation] [throat clearing] [background
3 conversation] but the women couldn't [background conversation]
4 [inaudible 27:42].
5
6Doug Rademacher: Did that go on for?
7
8Female: Not that, and I, and I didn't smoke [background noises] [background
9 conversation] at that time at all, [background conversation] [background
10 noises] yeah, and that, it bothered – it didn't bother me [background
11 conversation] that much but I just thought [background conversation] it
12 was [background conversation] quite [background conversation]
13 discriminatory. [background conversation] You know, [background
14 conversation] why should they [background conversation] be allowed to
15 smoke if the women [background conversation] couldn't? They were
16 doin' their job too. [background conversation]
17
18Doug Rademacher: [27:59] Did, were you allowed breaks [background conversation] to go
19 smoke? [background conversation]
20
21Female: [background conversation] [background noises] Women took'm.
22 [background conversation]
23
24Doug Rademacher: Yeah. [background conversation] They took'm. [background
25 conversation] [laughter] [background conversation]
26
27Female: [background conversation] That's what they took [inaudible 28:04].
28 [background conversation]
29
30Doug Rademacher: [28:05] Now, was, [background conversation] did you just go
31 [background conversation] to the women's room to do it? Yeah, like
32 smokin' in the, in the [background conversation] room, in the,
33 [background conversation] that was the only way [background
34 conversation] to get the time? [background conversation]
35
36Female: [background conversation] Wasn't very long and found out [background
37 conversation] the women over at Oldsmobile [background conversation]
38 were allowed a [background conversation] [background noises] smoking
39 [background noises] [background conversation] area, so.
40
41Female: Wow. [coughing] [background conversation] [background noises]
42
43Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [28:21] And did that come to a heated...
44
45Female: No. [background conversation] [background noises]
46

1 Doug Rademacher: ...point or did it just...
2
3 Female: No, they just...
4
5 Doug Rademacher: ...start?
6
7 Female: ...announced [background noises] [background conversation] that
8 women would be [background conversation] [background noises]
9 allowed to smoke [background conversation] [background noises] at
10 their desk [background conversation] [background noises] if they
11 preferred. [background conversation] [background noises]
12
13 Doug Rademacher: [28:30] And do you remember [background noises] [background
14 conversation] what year that was by chance [background conversation]
15 [background noises] or [background conversation] [background noises]
16 was it [background conversation] [background noises] into the '50s or
17 [background conversation] the '60s [background conversation] or?
18 [background conversation] When were women allowed to smoke?
19
20 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] It was the late '70s. [background
21 conversation]
22
23 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] The l-.
24
25 Female: [background conversation] Musta been '70s. [background conversation]
26
27 Female: [background conversation] [Inaudible 28:41]. [background conversation]
28
29 Female: [background conversation] [Inaudible 28:41]. [background conversation]
30
31 Female: [background conversation] [Inaudible 28:41]. [background conversation]
32
33 Female: [background conversation] [Inaudible 28:41]. [background conversation]
34
35 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] '70s. Well, mid-'70s.
36
37 Doug Rademacher: [28:53] [background conversation] Well I'm kinda curious, [background
38 conversation] back to you were saying that there was no [background
39 conversation] discrimination with that little chuckle, [background
40 conversation] can you, [background conversation] [laughter] was there,
41 [laughter] [background conversation] what was your position?
42 [background conversation] What'd you do? [background conversation]
43
44 Lillian Matter: Well, I was just, uh, a peon. [background conversation] [laughter]
45

1 Doug Rademacher: Yeah? [laughter] [29:07] Have you [background conversation] advanced
2 now that you've? [background conversation] [laughter]
3
4 Lillian Matter: [background conversation] And what? [background conversation]
5
6 Doug Rademacher: Have you advanced? No, I'm [background conversation] serious.
7 [laughter] [29:13] What, what department did you work in? [laughter]
8 What'd you do? [background conversation]
9
10 Lillian Matter: Well, now, let me see. [background conversation] I worked in, um,
11 [background conversation] ac-, uh, [background conversation] general
12 accounting. [tapping] Not general, but [background noises] [background
13 conversation] a-, cost accounting, [background conversation] and then I
14 went – what was the name a that department? [background conversation]
15 [background noises] [background conversation]
16
17 Female: [Inaudible 29:29].
18
19 Lillian Matter: Huh?
20
21 Female: [Inaudible 29:30].
22
23 Lillian Matter: What was the name a the? [background conversation] [background
24 noises] [background noises]
25
26 Female: [Inaudible 29:31] department, wasn't it?
27
28 Lillian Matter: No. It was a whole [background conversation] thing [background
29 conversation] first. [background conversation] [background noises]
30
31 Female: Not quality standards?
32
33 Lillian Matter: I was the only girl, [background conversation] 19 men, and I liked the
34 odds.
35
36 Doug Rademacher: You liked the odds, huh? [laughter] [background conversation] Well
37 they must've treated you very well then, actually. [laughter]
38
39 Lillian Matter: They really did. I h-, I would have [background noises] no complaints
40 whatsoever.
41
42 Doug Rademacher: [29:52] So they weren't ever [background noises] rude to you?
43 [background conversation]
44
45 Lillian Matter: No.
46

1Female: Not, not, not. [background noises] [background conversation]
2
3Doug Rademacher: Not to your face anyway. [laughter]
4
5Lillian Matter: [background conversation] Right. Yup. [laughter] [background
6 conversation] How come you know them so well?
7
8Doug Rademacher: Uh, just [laughter] I think I just know that, [background conversation]
9 that, uh, [background noises] thing about men. [laughter] [background
10 conversation] They usually don't know how to talk...
11
12Lillian Matter: No.
13
14Doug Rademacher: ...to a person until they're gone. [background conversation] Is that, isn't
15 that true? [laughter] [30:12] So was there a, were you expected to coffee
16 or anything [background conversation] [background noises] or were you,
17 did you have [background noises] a position, ya know, [background
18 conversation] where [background conversation] ya used to [tapping] see
19 it on TV where the, a [background conversation] secretary had to do the
20 [background conversation] coffee for the boss or anything. Did that
21 [background conversation] ever happen? [background conversation]
22
23Lillian Matter: Never.
24
25Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] Wasn't gonna happen. [background noises]
26 [background conversation]
27
28Female: Yeah, that's [inaudible 30:29]. [coughing] [background conversation]
29
30Lillian Matter: [background conversation] I'd get coffee [background conversation] for
31 myself.
32
33Doug Rademacher: Good.
34
35Lillian Matter: [coughing] [background conversation] If they were standing.
36 [background conversation] We had the coffee room, [background
37 conversation] and boy, [background conversation] that was a
38 [background conversation] nice place. [background conversation]
39
40Doug Rademacher: [30:36] Do you remember...
41
42Female: Labor Relations.
43
44Doug Rademacher: ...a day or [background conversation] anything in your mind
45 [background conversation] that was a [background conversation] great
46 day at, at work?

1
2Female: [background conversation] See, see they set the standards on the job.
3 [background conversation]
4
5Lillian Matter: [background conversation] No, that we used to overstay our time.
6 [background conversation] [laughter]
7
8Doug Rademacher: [30:45] You mean work past getting paid [background conversation] or
9 what'd you [background conversation] mean by that? [background
10 conversation]
11
12Lillian Matter: Pardon?
13
14Doug Rademacher: What do you mean by overstaying your time? [background
15 conversation] Did you work [background conversation] later than you
16 were getting paid [background conversation] or what do you mean by
17 that? [background conversation]
18
19Lillian Matter: Well, [background conversation] we were supposed to have,
20 [background noises] [background conversation] how many, about 10
21 minutes, I think, or 15. [background noises] [background conversation]
22 Well a guy couldn't make it in that. [background conversation] So,
23 [background conversation] I just decided to [background conversation]
24 stay a little long. [background conversation] Like 20 minutes,
25 [background conversation] 25.
26
27Doug Rademacher: Okay. [background conversation]
28
29Lillian Matter: No, they're very good to us. I'm thankful [background conversation] for
30 the job I had. [background conversation]
31
32Doug Rademacher: [31:13] Do you have any feelings about the [background conversation]
33 Fisher Body Plant closing? [background conversation]
34
35Lillian Matter: [background conversation] What? [background conversation]
36
37Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] The Fisher Body Plant, [background
38 conversation] now that it's closed [background conversation] and maybe
39 being torn down, what does that [clanking] [background conversation]
40 [background noises] have any feelings about that?
41
42Lillian Matter: I feel sad [background conversation] about that. [background
43 conversation] I do. [background noises] [background conversation]
44 Because it was a good place to work and [background conversation] I
45 liked it.
46

1Female: Everybody was nice.
2

3Lillian Matter: Yeah, well, [background noises] [background conversation] I hate to see
4 it go. [background noises] [background conversation]
5

6Doug Rademacher: [31:34] Do you think it was a, [background conversation] [background
7 noises] in your mind isn't that what Lansing was [background
8 conversation] [background noises] or is with the university and the, and
9 the, um, state [background conversation] government, [background
10 conversation] did you think Fisher Body had its [background
11 conversation] own place in Lansing? [background conversation]
12

13Lillian Matter: [background conversation] Yes. [background conversation] I do.
14 [background conversation] I don't know what to say. I don't feel like
15 talkin' anymore. [background conversation]
16

17Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [background noises] Okay. [background
18 conversation] That's okay. Appreciate all that you've shared.
19 [background conversation] [32:01] And who are you?
20

21Tressie Hotchkiss: I'm [clanking] [background noises] Tressie Hotchkiss.
22

23Doug Rademacher: Hi. [background conversation]
24

25Tressie Hotchkiss: And I, [background conversation] [Tom Boss 32:05] hired me in
26 [background conversation] payroll [background conversation] in 1942.
27 [background conversation] [tapping] And I worked there twice
28 [background conversation] for a year when I got married and went to
29 California, [background conversation] come back, and then,
30 [background conversation] uh, [background conversation] I worked --
31 [background conversation] no, [Kurt Lewis 32:20] hired me,
32 [background conversation] and then Tom Boss. [background
33 conversation] And I went there because they were paying better
34 [tapping] than anybody else. [background conversation] I worked at the
35 bank first and they didn't pay good at all, [background conversation] so,
36 uh, went over to Fisher Body. [background conversation] But ya had to
37 quit when you were 6 months pregnant, so that was the end a that.
38 [background conversation]
39

40Doug Rademacher: [32:41] So you worked 1 year, you left to California, [background
41 conversation] you came back, hired again, [background conversation]
42 and then [background conversation] are ya, how long [background
43 noises] did ya work and then you got pregnant.
44

45Tressie Hotchkiss: Right. [background noises] [background conversation] [laughter
46

1 Doug Rademacher: [32:49] How long did you work? [laughter]
2
3 Tressie Hotchkiss: Altogether? [background conversation]
4
5 Doug Rademacher: Well, up to that [background conversation] pregnancy. Did ya put a few
6 [background conversation] years in before and all [background
7 conversation] [background noises]? And, and that was it that you had to
8 leave?
9
10 Tressie Hotchkiss: Yep. [background conversation]
11
12 Doug Rademacher: And you were [background conversation] hired back after [background
13 conversation] that?
14
15 Tressie Hotchkiss: I didn't wanna come back. [background conversation]
16
17 Doug Rademacher: Decided to raise a family [inaudible 33:03]. [background conversation]
18 [background noises] Now...
19
20 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] Yeah, right. [background conversation]
21
22 Doug Rademacher: ...and that was w-, um, [background conversation] [clicking] [inaudible
23 33:06].
24
25 Tressie Hotchkiss: And I remember, [background conversation] uh, [background
26 conversation] the office was [background conversation] pretty good until
27 [background conversation] they got the federal order [background
28 conversation] for the, the, uh, E-29s or whatever they made.
29 [background conversation] Then we were really crowded. [background
30 conversation] They just [background conversation] hired so many
31 people [background conversation] [background noises] in there
32 [background noises] [background conversation] that [inaudible 33:22]
33 [background conversation] [background noises] close together.
34 [background conversation] Course the federal government payin' our
35 [background conversation] salaries then, so. [background conversation]
36
37 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] Okay. [background conversation]
38
39 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] They hired a lotta people in. [background
40 conversation] [background noises]
41
42 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [33:35] So how many years did you work
43 there till? [background conversation]
44
45 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] [laughter] [background conversation] Not
46 more'n 6 or 6.

1
2 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [background noises] [33:42] And you had,
3 uh, you went there for the money, you said it paid better. [background
4 conversation] Did you, [background conversation] uh, stay in the
5 accounting field [background conversation] after or did ya stay home
6 and be? [background conversation]
7
8 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] I stayed home. [background conversation]
9
10 Doug Rademacher: [33:51] And did your husband work for General Motors? [background
11 conversation] [background noises]
12
13 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] [background noises] Yep. He did.
14 [background noises] [background conversation]
15
16 Doug Rademacher: [33:58] Was he at the Fisher Body Plant? [background conversation]
17
18 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] No, he was at Oldsmobile. [background
19 conversation] [background noises] [tapping] [coughing]
20
21 Doug Rademacher: Okay. [background conversation]
22
23 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] But I went through, [background
24 conversation] I went through, [background noises] [background
25 conversation] uh, Fisher Body on May 6th [background conversation]
26 when they closed.
27
28 Doug Rademacher: Yes. [background conversation]
29
30 Tressie Hotchkiss: I decided to go over there, see if I could [background conversation] get
31 in, [background conversation] and they let me in. So I walked down
32 [background noises] [background conversation] the halls, [background
33 conversation] [background noises] uh, [background conversation]
34 [background noises] where I used to work, at Payroll. [background
35 conversation] [background noises] Kinda sad. [background
36 conversation] [background noises]
37
38 Doug Rademacher: Kinda sad. [34:23] And did it...
39
40 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] [background noises] Mm.
41
42 Doug Rademacher: ...have any resemblance of when it was [background conversation]
43 when...
44
45 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] [background noises] Oh...
46

1 Doug Rademacher: ...you left? [background conversation] [background noises]
2
3 Tressie Hotchkiss: ...not a bit. [background conversation] [background noises] No.
4 [background conversation] Just [background conversation] didn't look as
5 elite.
6
7 Doug Rademacher: Did not look as elite?
8
9 Tressie Hotchkiss: Right. [background conversation] [background noises]
10
11 Doug Rademacher: [34:38] So the office had changed? The...
12
13 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] Pretty much. [background conversation]
14
15 Doug Rademacher: ...they weren't separate, they were [background conversation] cubicles
16 now, and.
17
18 Tressie Hotchkiss: [background conversation] Yeah. [background noises] Just. [background
19 conversation]
20
21 Doug Rademacher: Yeah, [background conversation] a lotta things did [background
22 conversation] [background noises] change.
23
24 Tressie Hotchkiss: Yes. [background conversation]
25
26 Doug Rademacher: I'm sure a that. [background conversation] [background noises] Is there
27 anything else [background conversation] that you'd like to share?
28 [background conversation]
29
30 Tressie Hotchkiss: I enjoyed my work there, [background conversation] and [background
31 conversation] everybody, [background conversation] made lots a friends,
32 [background conversation] [background noises] so. [background
33 conversation] That's all. [background conversation] [background noises]
34
35 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [phone ringing] Hm. [background
36 conversation]
37
38 Marge Morey: [background conversation] Can I tell you...
39
40 Doug Rademacher: Then, uh. [background conversation]
41
42 Marge Morey: ...can I tell you [background conversation] a little story [inaudible
43 35:11]?
44
45 Doug Rademacher: Sure, tell me a story. [35:11] And who are you?
46

1 Marge Morey: And – huh?
2
3 Doug Rademacher: Tell me your name. [background conversation]
4
5 Marge Morey: Marge Morey.
6
7 Doug Rademacher: Marge?
8
9 Marge Morey: Marge Morey. No, my...
10
11 Doug Rademacher: Hi, Marge.
12
13 Marge Morey: ...I have a niece that, [background conversation] uh, industrial engineer,
14 [tapping] [background conversation] [background noises] and she was
15 really brilliant girl and all, [background conversation] [background
16 noises] and she got a job at General Motors, [background conversation]
17 and she worked there for quite a while. [background conversation]
18 [background noises] And I forgot, just seems to be that General Motors
19 [inaudible 35:31] and the men treated her [background conversation]
20 beautifully. [background conversation] She loved her work, [background
21 conversation] they got along fine, no problems. [background
22 conversation] Well, when they closed the Plant, then [background
23 conversation] she [background conversation] left and, [background
24 conversation] [background noises] uh, Ford hired her, [background
25 noises] [background conversation] and they, those guys were so terrible
26 to her. [background noises] [phone ringing] They just, [phone ringing]
27 they just gave her such [phone ringing] a rough time, she quit. [laughter]
28
29 Doug Rademacher: Oh, and that's been [background conversation] this year or this last year?
30 [background conversation] [background noises]
31
32 Marge Morey: No, no, no. [background conversation] [background noises]
33
34 Doug Rademacher: Oh.
35
36 Marge Morey: She quit, [background conversation] [background noises] this was,
37 [background conversation] well, ya know, few years ago. Not too – but I
38 mean, she was a good engineer, but General Motors, they treated her
39 [throat clearing] beautifully, [background conversation] and the men did,
40 [laughter] and then Ford, [background conversation] they, they just gave
41 her [background conversation] [background noises] such a rough time
42 [background conversation] she quit. [laughter] [background
43 conversation]
44
45 Doug Rademacher: [36:10] Do you remember when [background conversation] [laughter]
46 they merged the, uh, the two plants? The, the Fisher [background

1 conversation] Body with the Oldsmobile? Do, were y-, were any of you
2 there then? [background conversation] [background noises]
3
4 Lorraine Lietzke: I was [inaudible 36:20]. [background conversation]
5
6 Doug Rademacher: You were? Well, let's, [background conversation] let me move this down
7 then [laughter] and get that story. [laughter] I think I'd like to hear
8 somethin' about that. Let me put the.
9
10 Lorraine Lietzke: [recorder clicking] Lorraine Lietzke. [background conversation]
11
12 Doug Rademacher: [36:28] Lorraine, go ahead, tell me your name again. [background
13 conversation]
14
15 Lorraine Lietzke: Lorraine Lietzke. [background conversation]
16
17 Doug Rademacher: Okay. [background conversation] [background noises] I had just asked a
18 question about, [background conversation] [background noises] uh, if
19 any of you had been there [background noises] [background
20 conversation] when, uh, [background conversation] the two plants kind
21 of [background conversation] merged their [background conversation]
22 management and stuff. [background noises] [background conversation]
23 Can you, [background conversation] uh, tell me about that?
24
25 Lorraine Lietzke: [background conversation] Yes. [background noises] [background
26 conversation] I worked in, uh, Payroll department [background noises]
27 and, uh, we were transferred over [background noises] to, uh.
28 [background noises] What was it [background noises] called?
29 [background noises]
30
31 Female: [Inaudible 36:51]?
32
33 Lorraine Lietzke: Human, [background noises] Human [background conversation]
34 Resource Center, yeah. [background conversation]
35
36 Doug Rademacher: Okay.
37
38 Lorraine Lietzke: On St. Joseph Street. [background conversation] [background noises]
39 And I was there [background noises] [background conversation] for
40 about [background noises] 2 years and then [background conversation] I
41 retired [background noises] from there. [background conversation]
42 [background noises] It was, uh [background conversation], quite a,
43 [background conversation] upheaval, really. [background noises]
44 [background conversation] [laughter] [background noises]

1 Doug Rademacher: [37:09] Now, were you, [background conversation] [background noises]
2 you've been in [background noises] both [background noises] facilities
3 then. [background noises] You worked [background noises] for...
4

5 Lorraine Lietzke: [background noises] Yeah. [background noises]
6

7 Doug Rademacher: ...Olds [background conversation] [background noises] Corporation and
8 you came over [background conversation] [background noises] to
9 Fisher? [background conversation] [background noises]
10
11

12 Lorraine Lietzke: [background noises] No. [background conversation] I worked at
13 [background conversation] [background noises] Fisher.
14

15 Doug Rademacher: Oh, you always worked at Fisher.
16

17 Lorraine Lietzke: Mm-hm. [background noises] [background conversation] I started Fisher
18 in March [background noises] of [background noises] [background
19 conversation] 1950, I believe, and then I retired in, uh, [background
20 noises] [background conversation] 1986. So. [background conversation]
21

22 Doug Rademacher: [37:26] Can ya tell us about [background conversation] the changes
23 [background conversation] that were goin' on? Now, what department
24 did you work in?
25

26 Lorraine Lietzke: I worked in the [background noises] Payroll department [background
27 noises] the entire time. [background conversation] [background noises]
28 [tapping]
29

30 Doug Rademacher: [37:34] And did you see [background conversation] changes? Do you
31 remember [background conversation] the old, did they use adding
32 machines and stuff [background conversation] originally?
33

34 Lorraine Lietzke: Well I w-, I was a comptometer operator, and that's how [background
35 noises] we all started. [laughter] And gradually, uh, went to different
36 machines and. [background noises] It's education. [laughter]
37

38 Doug Rademacher: [background noises] [37:52] Y-, so you saw different, [background
39 noises] [background conversation] uh, technologies introduced over the
40 years? [background noises] [background conversation]
41

42 Lorraine Lietzke: Oh yeah. [background conversation] Everything changed. [background
43 conversation]
44

45 Doug Rademacher: [38:00] And you were there with the computer [background
46 conversation] boom...

1
2Lorraine Lietzke: Yep. [background conversation]
3
4Doug Rademacher: ...and all that? [background conversation] [38:02] Did you get training
5 to...
6
7Lorraine Lietzke: [background conversation] We, uh. [background conversation]
8
9Doug Rademacher: ...to upgrade your [background conversation] skills for that?
10
11Lorraine Lietzke: Well, we had, uh, we ran for dummy payrolls there for quite a while.
12 [background conversation]
13
14Doug Rademacher: [38:12] Explain what a dummy payroll is. [background conversation]
15
16Lorraine Lietzke: Well, ya did it the old way, and then you did it with, through IBN,
17 [background conversation] and then you had a compare and [background
18 conversation] get all the wrinkles out, make sure [background
19 conversation] everything worked right. [background noises]
20 [background conversation] But we finally m-, [background
21 conversation] uh, got that [background conversation] resolved,
22 [inaudible 38:25]. [background conversation] [laughter] [background
23 conversation]
24
25Doug Rademacher: [38:31] And [background conversation] [background noises] do ya have
26 any stories you'd like to tell? [background conversation] [background
27 noises]
28
29Lorraine Lietzke: No.
30
31Doug Rademacher: No? [laughter] [38:35] What was it like working in Payroll?
32 [background conversation] What that, uh, [coughing] they said,
33 [coughing] uh, [background conversation] I've heard some other ladies
34 talk about get paid well over at Fisher? [background conversation]
35
36Lorraine Lietzke: Oh yes.
37
38Doug Rademacher: [38:43] Is that what brought you in was...
39
40Lorraine Lietzke: Yeah.
41
42Doug Rademacher: ...the money? [background conversation] Opportunity? [background
43 conversation]
44
45Lorraine Lietzke: Yeah, it was, uh, [background conversation] [background noises] better
46 position than what I [background conversation] had before. I just worked

1 at Penny's as a comptometer operator before, and [background
2 conversation] it was, uh, [background conversation] good wages and a
3 [background conversation] good place to work. [background
4 conversation] Good benefits. [background conversation]
5

6Doug Rademacher: [39:01] And was it, in your eyes, did you ever have problems bein' a, a
7 woman or was there a lotta women in the office and that was never a
8 problem or was there, uh, [background noises] was there male
9 chauvinism or was there, uh, strong competition amongst women?
10 [background noises] Tell me a little about that. [background noises]
11

12Lorraine Lietzke: I don't wanna get into that. [laughter] No. [laughter]
13

14Doug Rademacher: But ya, but ya lived it. [laughter] [background conversation]
15 [background noises]
16

17Lorraine Lietzke: I got my 32 years in. [laughter]
18

19Doug Rademacher: And that's.
20

21Lorraine Lietzke: [background conversation] And now I'm enjoying my retirement.
22 [tapping] [background conversation] [laughter]
23

24Doug Rademacher: [39:31] Can ya share one of your, [background noises] what was a good
25 day at Fisher Body? [background conversation] [background noises]
26 You came in...
27

28Lorraine Lietzke: I. [background noises]
29

30Doug Rademacher: ...ya punched in, [background noises] [background conversation] got
31 your coffee. What, what made a [background noises] good day
32 [background conversation] from a bad day? [background conversation]
33

34Lorraine Lietzke: I don't remember. [laughter]
35

36Female: We never had to punch in.
37

38Lorraine Lietzke: No, we didn't punch in.
39

40Doug Rademacher: You didn't have to do any a that?
41

42Female: Salary. [background conversation] [background noises]
43

44Doug Rademacher: [39:48] So there was no, you didn't have to s-, even sign in or anything?
45 It's just...
46

1Female: No.
2
3Doug Rademacher: ...on your on or?
4
5Female: Came in and set down at your desk.
6
7Lorraine Lietzke: The boss s-, [background conversation] stood in the corner [laughter]
8 and made sure everybody [background conversation] [background
9 noises] was in there.
10
11Female: Yeah.
12
13Female: Only had to...
14
15Lorraine Lietzke: Yeah.
16
17Female: ...check to make sure [laughter] you were there on time.
18
19Lorraine Lietzke: Right. [laughter] [background conversation] And you didn't leave until,
20 [laughter] until [background noises] the clock struck. [background
21 conversation] [laughter]
22
23Doug Rademacher: Well, I've got one more young lady here. [laughter] [40:11] Why don't
24 you introduce yourself and, and tell me about your, [background
25 conversation] when you hired in and your first day of work?
26 [background conversation] Where'd you hire into?
27
28Florence Jeffery: [background conversation] [background noises] I'm Florence Jeffery and
29 I [background noises] hired in right outta high school at [background
30 conversation] 18 years old [background conversation] and I was hired in
31 by [inaudible 40:23]. [recorder clicking] [background conversation]
32 [background noises] He didn't even know what he was doin' when he's
33 hirin' me. [laughter] [background conversation] And I went from,
34 [background conversation] I worked in the Payroll department,
35 [background conversation] I worked in [background conversation] Labor
36 Relations, [background conversation] and, uh, worked for the
37 Comptroller, worked in Cost Accounting, [background conversation]
38 [background noises] [tapping] Cost Analysis, and then I [background
39 conversation] [background noises] went up and worked, [background
40 conversation] ended up workin' for the Plant Manager [background
41 conversation] [background noises] as the secretary. [background
42 conversation] [background noises]
43
44Doug Rademacher: The Plant Manager. [40:42] Which was [background conversation] the
45 Plant Manager [background noises] at that time?
46

1 Florence Jeffrey: [Weethorn 40:44]. [T. F. Weethorn 40:44]. [background conversation]
2
3 Doug Rademacher: [Thomas 40:46]?
4
5 Florence Jeffrey: Thomas Weethorn. [background conversation] [background noises]
6
7 Doug Rademacher: [40:48] And did you like working for him?
8
9 Florence Jeffrey: Oh yes, [background conversation] very much so. Course I worked for
10 [background conversation] Mr. [Trump 40:51] when he was there, I
11 worked for Mr. [Bidwell 40:52], [background conversation] [Harry
12 Emerson 40:54], and, [background conversation] uh, Mr. Weethorn.
13 [background conversation] [background noises] I liked him really well.
14 [background conversation] [background noises] And [Don Shenawa
15 40:58] Came in after Weethorn retired. [background conversation] I
16 retired after 38 years, in, uh, [background conversation] 1944. I hired in
17 in 1944, I h-, I retired in 1982. [background conversation]
18
19 Doug Rademacher: [41:11] So you went, [background conversation] of those, uh,
20 [background conversation] now, you, um, [background conversation]
21 [background noises] [tapping] worked with Mr. Shenawa also?
22 [background conversation] [background noises]
23
24 Florence Jeffrey: Yes.
25
26 Doug Rademacher: Uh.
27
28 Florence Jeffrey: [background conversation] He was the last c-, he was the last Plant
29 Manager [background noises] [background conversation] I worked for.
30 [background conversation]
31
32 Doug Rademacher: [41:19] Did he keep you as his [background conversation] secretary
33 when he, when he came in [background conversation] after the, Mr.
34 Weethorn? [background conversation]
35
36 Florence Jeffrey: Yes. [background conversation] For while. [background conversation]
37 Then I guess he left General Motors himself. [background conversation]
38 [background noises]
39
40 Doug Rademacher: [41:28] What was that like moving up [background conversation]
41 through the ranks? [background conversation] You say you started in
42 Payroll and then moved [background conversation] your way up
43 through?
44
45 Florence Jeffrey: Cost Analysis [background conversation] right on up to Comptroller's
46 Secretary [background conversation] to Plant Manager's. [background

1 conversation] I enjoyed it. [background conversation] I really liked it
2 there. [background conversation] There were always good to me.
3 [background conversation]
4
5 Doug Rademacher: [41:41] And what kind of education [background conversation] did you
6 have [background conversation] to get in?
7
8 Florence Jeffrey: High school. [background conversation]
9
10 Doug Rademacher: You went right from...
11
12 Florence Jeffrey: 12th Grade.
13
14 Doug Rademacher: ...high school right in [background conversation] and never had to train?
15 [background conversation]
16
17 Florence Jeffrey: [background conversation] Nope. I was out about 8, 8, 9 days
18 [background conversation] outta high school when they [background
19 conversation] hired me in.
20
21 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [41:52] And where did you go to
22 [background conversation] high school? [background conversation]
23
24 Florence Jeffrey: Eaton Rapids [background conversation] High School. [background
25 conversation]
26
27 Doug Rademacher: Eaton Rapids. [background conversation] [background noises] Now, you
28 came in in the [background conversation] '40s, you said?
29
30 Florence Jeffrey: I came in '44. [background conversation]
31
32 Doug Rademacher: [41:59] And how did you hear about them hiring and that? [background
33 conversation]
34
35 Florence Jeffrey: Well, my girlfriend [background conversation] [inaudible 42:03] father
36 took her and I both to Lansing [background conversation] and he
37 dropped us off at different places to hi-, fi-, [background conversation]
38 look for jobs. I [background conversation] [laughter] had the drop-off at
39 Fisher Body and they hired me, [inaudible 42:11] [laughter] centrifugal
40 fusing and they hired her. [background conversation] [laughter] That
41 was just a [background conversation] [laughter] few days after we
42 graduated [background conversation] [laughter] from high school.
43 [background conversation] [laughter] They don't do that now.
44 [background conversation]
45

1 Doug Rademacher: [42:19] Did you, uh, [laughter] you stay [background conversation] in
2 contact with her all these years? [background conversation]
3
4 Florence Jeffrey: Oh yes, I still get letters [background conversation] from her.
5
6 Doug Rademacher: [42:24] Did she, [background conversation] was she a [background
7 conversation] in the line at Fisher Body with you [background
8 conversation] [background noises] or?
9
10 Florence Jeffrey: No, she always went centrifugal fusing and she got [background
11 conversation] married and moved out. She's Las, Las Vegas now.
12 [background conversation]
13
14 Doug Rademacher: Okay. [background conversation]
15
16 Florence Jeffrey: I still live in Eaton Rapids.
17
18 Female: Is that [Adam 42:36]?
19
20 Doug Rademacher: Sounds like quite a distance, [background conversation] at that time.
21
22 Florence Jeffrey: Yeah.
23
24 Doug Rademacher: Eaton Rapids into, uh, [background conversation] into Fisher Body.
25 [42:41] How'd you make that trip back and forth [background
26 conversation] every day? [background conversation]
27
28 Florence Jeffrey: It was, it was 5 of us who had rode together. [background conversation]
29
30 Doug Rademacher: [42:47] [background conversation] Ya carpooled in?
31
32 Florence Jeffrey: [background conversation] Carpooled in. [background conversation]
33
34 Doug Rademacher: [42:48] Now, did you take turns or was there's just one vehicle...
35
36 Florence Jeffrey: [Inaudible 42:50].
37
38 Doug Rademacher: ...and you all? [background conversation] [background noises]
39
40 Florence Jeffrey: We just drove one day a week. [background conversation] [background
41 noises] There was 5 of us. [background conversation] We drove one day
42 a week. [background conversation]
43
44 Female: My day was Monday. [laughter]
45

1 Doug Rademacher: [42:56] Do you remember which vehicle you had back then?
2 [background conversation] [background noises]
3
4 Florence Jeffrey: [laughter] Oldmobile. Always Eighty-Eight Oldsmobile, [background
5 conversation] till they quit makin'm. [background conversation]
6
7 Doug Rademacher: And.
8
9 Florence Jeffrey: [background conversation] I'd still have one now if they still [laughter]
10 kept makin'm.
11
12 Doug Rademacher: I know, I would too.
13
14 Florence Jeffrey: I got a Buick now. I don't like it. [background conversation] [laughter]
15
16 Female: You don't? [laughter]
17
18 Doug Rademacher: I've had a hard time warmin' up...
19
20 Female: I'd have a hard time.
21
22 Doug Rademacher: ...to the Buick myself.
23
24 Florence Jeffrey: [Inaudible 43:13].
25
26 Doug Rademacher: Sure miss my Oldsmobiles.
27
28 Female: [Inaudible 43:14].
29
30 Doug Rademacher: [43:17] So, so tell me about working for, [background conversation]
31 sounds like Mr. Weethorn [background conversation] was your favorite.
32 [background conversation]
33
34 Florence Jeffrey: Oh yes, he was. [background conversation]
35
36 Doug Rademacher: [43:22] Tell me about what it was like when he'd come in and how did
37 he treat you as [background conversation] his secretary?
38
39 Florence Jeffrey: Oh, wonderful. [background conversation] He was very good.
40 [background conversation] He was hard workin', it's hard work, and ya
41 had to stay there till [background conversation] it's time to go home,
42 [background conversation] but I still liked it. [background conversation]
43
44 Doug Rademacher: Did he ever do anything special [background conversation] for ya? Was
45 there any [background conversation] lunches or something that...
46

1 Florence Jeffrey: Oh yes.
2
3 Doug Rademacher: ... you got [background conversation] to do?
4
5 Florence Jeffrey: On my birthday and on Christmas, and [background conversation]
6 Secretary's [background conversation] [background noises] Day he
7 always took me out, [background conversation] gave me gifts and
8 [background conversation] [background noises] he was very, very nice.
9 [background conversation]
10
11 Doug Rademacher: [43:50] So there always was a Secretary's Day? [background
12 conversation] I wonder h-, when did that...
13
14 Florence Jeffrey: Oh. [background conversation]
15
16 Doug Rademacher: ...practice?
17
18 Florence Jeffrey: [background conversation] Ever since I've been there. [background
19 conversation]
20
21 Female: Yeah, yeah.
22
23 Florence Jeffrey: [background conversation] And then when I worked for the Comptroller,
24 he used to take me out for Secretary's Day. [background conversation]
25 So it's been there for years. [background conversation] 'Cause I worked
26 there 38.5 years. [background conversation]
27
28 Doug Rademacher: [43:50] And did you ever [background conversation] visit this
29 [background conversation] Harry's place or? [background conversation]
30 [background noises] [laughter]
31
32 Florence Jeffrey: I knew where it was, I parked over there, but I never visited inside.
33 [laughter]
34
35 Doug Rademacher: [44:11] Never visited all those years. [background conversation] I know
36 it's been there 82 years.
37
38 Florence Jeffrey: Think my son visits there now, [background conversation] but.
39 [laughter]
40
41 Doug Rademacher: [44:17] And who's your son? Does he work at [background
42 conversation] Fisher Body?
43
44 Florence Jeffrey: Yes, [Mark Jeffrey 44:18]. He works out on the [background
45 conversation] line. [background conversation]
46

1 Doug Rademacher: Okay. [background conversation] [background noises]
2

3 Florence Jeffrey: Laid off right now. He's been back in the new Delta Plant pretty soon.
4 [background conversation] [background noises]
5

6 Doug Rademacher: [44:27] So you're very [background conversation] grateful for that, that
7 he has [background conversation] the opportunity? [background
8 conversation]
9

10 Florence Jeffrey: He said General Motors paid his bills very well. [background
11 conversation] [laughter]
12

13 Doug Rademacher: That's wonderful. [background conversation] [tapping]
14

15 Florence Jeffrey: They were always good to me.
16

17 Doug Rademacher: [background conversation] [44:37] And what's your feeling about the
18 closing and possible tearing down...
19

20 Florence Jeffrey: [background conversation] Well I felt bad...
21

22 Doug Rademacher: ...of the...
23

24 Florence Jeffrey: ... about it. [background conversation]
25

26 Doug Rademacher: ...of the building? [background conversation] [background noises]
27

28 Florence Jeffrey: Just as long as they leave the [background conversation] pension alone, I
29 don't mind payin' some a my healthcare, but I don't like the idea that
30 they're [background conversation] cuttin' the pension down and
31 [background conversation] [tapping] they might cut our stock too,
32 dividends. [background conversation] [background noises] Don't like it,
33 but I'll take it. [background conversation] [laughter]
34

35 Female: Great.
36

37 Doug Rademacher: Well now we've had everyone at the table [background conversation]
38 share them-, their names, any stories anyone's willing to do or ya just?
39 [background conversation]
40

41 Female: We were just thinkin' they used to take out, [background conversation]
42 we had a women's club or [background conversation] girl's club
43 [background conversation] that used to.
44

45 Female: Used to [inaudible 45:11]. [background conversation]
46

1Female: [Inaudible 45:11]. I know they used to have bands and stuff, too.
2 [background conversation] Uh.
3
4Female: Yeah.
5
6Female: Management always [background conversation] took out the
7 [background conversation] women's or [background conversation] the
8 girls for [background conversation] [background noises] once a year,
9 right?
10
11Female: [Inaudible 45:21] Christmas too.
12
13Female: A Christmas party. [background conversation]
14
15Female: Dinner, big dinner. [background conversation]
16
17Female: [background conversation] Very nice dinner. [background conversation]
18
19Female: [background conversation] It was nice. [background conversation]
20 [background noises] [background conversation]
21
22Female: [Inaudible 45:37]. [background conversation] [background noises]
23
24Female: [background conversation] Yeah. [background conversation]
25 [background noises]
26
27Female: When I just about got out of [background conversation] [background
28 noises] [inaudible 45:42] [background conversation] [background
29 noises] [tapping] she had on the floor [laughter] [background
30 conversation] back when [inaudible 45:47].
31
32Doug Rademacher: Oh well, this'll be [background conversation] [background noises] for
33 Michigan State University. [background conversation] I could make a,
34 [background conversation] [background noises] I could make a disc if
35 you guys all wanna [background conversation] [background noises] hear
36 it some other time, [inaudible 45:57]. But I would love to have anyone,
37 [background conversation] any of you that would like to do a, a separate
38 interview.
39
40Female: Yeah, [Ruth West 46:06] isn't here and she worked in Salary
41 [background conversation] [background noises] and Payroll and so she's
42 be [background conversation] [background noises] the one, [background
43 noises] [tapping] she isn't here today.
44
45Doug Rademacher: [background noises] [background conversation] [46:13] And what about
46 you? [background noises] Are you willing to do, [background noises]

1 um, [background noises] a one-on-one [background noises] and just
2 [background noises] share some, uh, [background conversation] this is
3 just going [background conversation] down in history as, uh.
4 [background noises]
5
6Female: I don't know that I'd [background conversation] say everything
7 [background conversation] that [background conversation] [inaudible]
8 46:26].
9
10Female: Your collar I think's in the way.
11
12Doug Rademacher: No, there's, there's stories that you [background noises] don't remember.
13 [background conversation] If you're, if you're willing to do a one-on-
14 one? [background conversation] Anybody interested in that?
15 [background conversation] [laughter] Not am I getting [background
16 conversation] any takers right at the moment. [background conversation]
17 [background noises] [laughter] Well, [background conversation] it's
18 been a wonderful opportunity. [background conversation] I appreciate ya
19 all [background conversation] takin' the time and, [background
20 conversation] and, uh, [background conversation] sharing your lunch
21 with me.
22
23Female: Sure.
24
25Doug Rademacher: And I. [background conversation]
26
27Female: Ya know, all the people that aren't here, [background conversation]
28 maybe wanna try again.
29
30Doug Rademacher: Well I'll check again. I, I heard you're going to...
31
32Female: Did you want...
33
34Doug Rademacher: ...Finley's next time.
35
36Female: Right. [papers rustling]
37
38Female: ...did want that list a names?
39
40Doug Rademacher: Yeah, I'll take all that [background conversation] with me. [background
41 conversation]
42
43Female: [background conversation] If anybody has any ideas, maybe
44 [background conversation] they could...
45
46Doug Rademacher: But, uh, [inaudible] 46:57].

1
2Female: ...write'm down and we could [background conversation] [papers
3 rustling] [background conversation] [background noises] [inaudible
4 46:59] next time.
5
6Doug Rademacher: Yes, Shirley had a doctor's appointment. [background conversation]
7 Well, again, I thank you all, [background conversation] and,
8 [background conversation] uh...
9
10Female: Well thank you.
11
12Doug Rademacher: ...appreciate [background conversation] anything you'd, you're willing
13 [background conversation] [background noises] and if ya know anyone
14 that would be interested in an interview, [background conversation]
15 you're welcome to pass those names [background conversation] onto us
16 how, uh, over at Local 602, [background conversation] call the Union
17 Hall, and they will get that to Doug Rademacher, [background
18 conversation] and I hope that, [background conversation] uh,
19 somebody'll...
20
21Female: Is that...
22
23Doug Rademacher: ...cons-.
24
25Female: ...is that your name?
26
27Doug Rademacher: Yes.
28
29Female: Doug Rad-.
30
31Doug Rademacher: Yes, I am.
32
33Female: And what's [inaudible 47:21]. [background conversation]
34
35Doug Rademacher: No, we had the [inaudible 47:24]. [background conversation]
36
37Female: What's the one that used to work [inaudible 47:29]?
38
39Doug Rademacher: [Inaudible 47:30] [background conversation] [background noises] [chair
40 squeaking] was [Richard 47:30] and [Toby 47:30]. We were.
41
42Female: Toby.
43
44Doug Rademacher: Toby, which was [Robert 47:33], really.
45
46Female: Yeah.

1
2Doug Rademacher: Yeah. [Hollycross 47:34].
3
4Female: [Dan Hollycross 47:35]. [background conversation]
5
6Doug Rademacher: Sure.
7
8Female: [Inaudible 47:38].
9
10Female: Dan used to work in the church, didn't he?
11
12Doug Rademacher: No, my father [background conversation] had the liquor store.
13
14Female: [Inaudible 47:43].
15
16Doug Rademacher: The liquor store, over on Saginaw.
17
18Female: [Inaudible 47:46] sounds, [background conversation] sounds familiar.
19 Mr. Rademacher. [background conversation]
20
21Female: [Inaudible 47:46]. [background conversation]
22
23Doug Rademacher: There's a lotta Rademachers. 13 of'm at the Fisher Plant alone, so.
24 [background conversation]
25
26Female: So no wonder. [background conversation]
27
28Doug Rademacher: Well, thanks again. [background conversation]
29
30
31/rt