

1 **Bud Williams, an African American, discusses his career as a UAW production worker**
2 **and GM manager at the Fisher Body plant in Lansing, MI**
3
4

5Doreen Howard: Okay. Hi, Doreen Howard. I'm with the Lansing Fisher Body Historical
6 Team. We're at the Fisher Body plant in the Skill Center Conference
7 Room. Today is October 25, 2005, and we will be interviewing Bud
8 Williams. [0:20] Bud, can you state your name and spell your last name
9 and your address, please.

10
11Bud Williams: Uh, Bud Williams. My last name is spelled Williams. Address 410
12 Elmhaven Drive in Lansing, Michigan 48917.

13
14Doreen Howard: And why don't you guys go ahead and introduce yourselves.

15
16Linda Johnson: I'm Linda Johnson.

17
18John Fedewa: And I'm John Fedewa.

19
20Doreen Howard: Okay, um, we'll get some of the biographical information out of the way
21 here. [0:54] Um, are you married?

22
23Bud Williams: Yes.

24
25Doreen Howard: [0:58] And do you have any children?

26
27Bud Williams: Yes, I have three daughters.

28
29Doreen Howard: Okay. [1:01] And did any of your children work here?

30
31Bud Williams: No.

32
33Doreen Howard: No. Okay. [1:06] Um, do you have, um, any military service?

34
35Bud Williams: No, I don't.

36
37Doreen Howard: [1:12] And what is your educational background?

38
39Bud Williams: Uh, two years of college.

40
41Doreen Howard: Um, I'd like to start with, um, [1:21] can you recall your first day that you
42 were hired in to Fisher Body?

43
44Bud Williams: I sure can.

45
46Doreen Howard: [1:32] When was that?

1
2Bud Williams: That was on September 16, 1964. I was hired in in the Trim Department.
3 My supervisor was Stu [Morrier 1:45]. I worked in installing door rubbers
4 on the old 88s and 98s.
5
6Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
7
8Bud Williams: I, I think I started, yes, I started on the, on the day shift.
9
10Doreen Howard: The day shift.
11
12Bud Williams: On the day shift, yes. And we were working at the time 10 hours per day
13 and I thought the day would never end. [chuckle] It was quite an
14 experience. I've never worked that long, that many hours before.
15
16Doreen Howard: [2:28] Now when you hired in what, what brought you to Fisher Body?
17 What was your reasons for coming here?
18
19Bud Williams: Well, I was working at the time I was, I was driving a truck for the City
20 and it was, got kind of cold out there, you know, winter, so I thought I'd
21 look for an inside job and I came over and I put in an application at Fisher
22 Body and it seemed like before I got home, good, they called me. Well, I
23 put it in I think on a Monday and they called me like Tuesday, yes.
24
25Doreen Howard: Wow.
26
27Bud Williams: They called me Tuesday and I came back on Wednesday and I went to
28 work that same day.
29
30Doreen Howard: Linda?
31
32Linda Johnson: Linda Johnson. [3:23] Bud, how old were you when you came into the
33 plant?
34
35Bud Williams: 22.
36
37Linda Johnson: [3:25] And were you from Lansing or were you from...?
38
39Bud Williams: No, I was from, I came here from, I lived in New York City before I came
40 to Lansing. I originally am from Camden, South Carolina. I left, when I
41 finished school I went to New York City and I left New York City and
42 came to Lansing.
43
44Linda Johnson: [3:50] And how old were you when you...?
45
46Bud Williams: I was 22.

1
2 Linda Johnson: ...started here? 22?
3
4 Bud Williams: 22 years old when I started working.
5
6 Linda Johnson: [3:55] Did you have a family yet?
7
8 Bud Williams: No. All alone.
9
10 Doreen Howard: [4:01] '64, when, when you hired in in '64, was there very many blacks
11 that worked here at that time?
12
13 Bud Williams: Uh, yeah, I would say there was a quite a few, yes.
14
15 Doreen Howard: There was a large minority working here.
16
17 Bud Williams: Right. Yes.
18
19 Doreen Howard: [4:20] Was there a lot of women that worked here at the time?
20
21 Bud Williams: No, wasn't very many women.
22
23 Doreen Howard: Just mostly males.
24
25 Bud Williams: Mostly men.
26
27 Doreen Howard: And you, and you worked in Trim.
28
29 Bud Williams: They had a few women but not very many. Most of the women I think
30 were the ones that got hired during the Korean War.
31
32 Doreen Howard: The Korean War.
33
34 Bud Williams: Right. You didn't have any, any women of my [inaudible 4:46].
35
36 Doreen Howard: [4:48] When, when you first hired in, was there any initiations or special
37 pranks that they, they did to you as a new hire?
38
39 Bud Williams: Uh, um, none that I can remember except during when Thanksgiving came
40 they told me to go downstairs and see Jerry Brooks who used to be the
41 personnel director and he would give me my Thanksgiving turkey and that
42 was a big joke they would pull on all the new hires. [chuckle]
43
44 Doreen Howard: Okay. [5:26] Um, so the reception that you received was, was a good...?
45
46 Bud Williams: Yes, very warm...

1
2Doreen Howard: ...good reception.
3
4Bud Williams: ...reception.
5
6Doreen Howard: Good. Um, that first day that when you came in and you said you did door
7 rubbers...
8
9Bud Williams: Yes. [sneeze]
10
11Doreen Howard: [5:47] ...uh, can you explain what that job is and what you had to actually
12 do?
13
14Bud Williams: Yeah, it's a weather strip that you put around the door to keep the wind
15 and water, dust and things, whatnots from getting in to the cars.
16
17Doreen Howard: Uh-huh.
18
19Bud Williams: At that time, we put them on with a little hammer. Nowadays, I think
20 they're rolled in.
21
22Doreen Howard: [6:14] Was that considered a good job or a not so good job?
23
24Bud Williams: No one liked it because you go around with your head, standing on your
25 head all day, your head down. The job wasn't bad, it was just the idea that
26 you have your head down looking under the bottom of the doors and the
27 cars didn't ride up on high platforms like they do now for you to do under
28 work.
29
30Doreen Howard: So ergonomically it was [inaudible 6:44].
31
32Bud Williams: At that time, yeah, it was, it was a pain ergonomically.
33
34Doreen Howard: Okay. [6:50] Um, now how long did you do that job?
35
36Bud Williams: I did that probably six months.
37
38Doreen Howard: [6:57] And then, then where did you go?
39
40Bud Williams: Then from there I moved to a job doing wheelhouse molding which
41 wasn't, was a little, you moved [phone ringing] from walking on your
42 head to sitting.
43
44Doreen Howard: To sitting down, mm-hm. [tape click] Okay, um, [7:22] can you explain a
45 little bit what wheelhouse moldings are...?
46

1Bud Williams: Yes.
2

3Doreen Howard: ...and what that job entailed?
4

5Bud Williams: Yes, wheelhouse molding is a chrome molding that would go around the
6 wheel openings on the body on the rear end of the car. At that time, we
7 didn't have the front end of the car, just the rear end. So you would put
8 the molding on, put it in place, put four clamps on it to hold it in place,
9 drill seven holes and drive seven screws on the same car.
10

11Doreen Howard: [8:01] Were those power tools at that time or [inaudible 8:04]?
12

13Bud Williams: Yes, they were all electric tools. They didn't have air tools like we do
14 today. All tools were electric and the, all of the metal shavings from the
15 drill we used to have get your hands all burnt up with them. When you're
16 drilling, they all fall down on your hands and you just get all burnt up. No
17 one cared at that time. You just stayed and worked.
18

19Doreen Howard: I see. [8:38] Now how long did you do that particular job?
20

21Bud Williams: Oh, I did that probably a year, yeah, about a year on that job. You ride
22 around on a little stool all day. I don't know if any of you ever
23 experienced that or not.
24

25Doreen Howard: So you sat on a stool and scooped yourself back and forth...
26

27Bud Williams: Back and forth.
28

29Doreen Howard: ...along with the line.
30

31Bud Williams: Yes.
32

33Doreen Howard: Up underneath the wheel housing.
34

35Bud Williams: Yes.
36

37Doreen Howard: So you could...
38

39Bud Williams: Right.
40

41Doreen Howard: ...scoot down.
42

43Bud Williams: Mm-hm.
44

45Doreen Howard: Okay. [9:06] Um, so were you always in Trim? Did you always stay in
46 Trim or did you go to any other departments?

1
2 Bud Williams: Yes, I always, when I worked production I was always in Trim.
3 [coughing]
4
5 Doreen Howard: Okay. [9:20] At what point in your career did you make the transition to
6 salary?
7
8 Bud Williams: That was in 1975.
9
10 Doreen Howard: '75.
11
12 Bud Williams: Yes.
13
14 Doreen Howard: [9:31] And what year did you work when you first started in...?
15
16 Bud Williams: I also worked in the Trim Department in the glass area, windshield and
17 back lights.
18
19 Doreen Howard: [Inaudible 9:43] okay. [9:45] And , um, how were you, how were you
20 accepted into the management side of the house coming from...?
21
22 Bud Williams: It was a very warm reception. I've never had any problems. As far as
23 racial problems, there never was any.
24
25 Doreen Howard: Oh, that's good. [10:06] Um, during your time here, um, were you ever
26 laid off at all?
27
28 Bud Williams: The only layoff I had was during the model changeover.
29
30 Doreen Howard: Model changeover.
31
32 Bud Williams: Other than that, never laid off. And we used to have some pretty long
33 changeovers, six, they run anywhere from four to eight weeks' layoff
34 during the model changeover.
35
36 Doreen Howard: And...
37
38 Bud Williams: Other than that, we worked all the time, never had a layoff.
39
40 Doreen Howard: Okay. [10:40] Now did over your, the course of your employment here,
41 I'm interested in some of the changes that occurred in the plant as far as,
42 um, you know, as technology started coming in, um...
43
44 Bud Williams: Oh, well...
45

1Doreen Howard: ...some of the things that, that you saw that happened in the plant that
2 people like myself who didn't work here during that time what's some of
3 the differences between the, how manufacturing was set up then to how
4 it's set up now?
5

6Bud Williams: Well, like doing, when I got hired, everything was done by hand. For
7 instance, all of your, your glass we would build it, install it by hand. No
8 automation whatsoever. All of your timekeeping, everything, had a
9 timekeeper used to come around and pick up your cards, take them to
10 payroll or wherever they took'm and record your time from there, bring
11 the cards back every certain time. You had old punch clocks. Everyone
12 that come in had to punch a card. If you didn't punch your card, you
13 didn't get paid. There wasn't no computers so the supervisor didn't know
14 whether you were here or not, the only reason they know is when you
15 punch your card or if they're on the line they did because if you weren't
16 on the job they knew you were absent.
17

18 And as the years gone by, they went from [inaudible 12:31] into the glass
19 area we got a few robots in there setting, setting windshields and back
20 glass and doing the side glass, putting the urethane on the side glass,
21 quarter glass we called them but some of those didn't last very long
22 because they didn't have very much success with them and they went
23 away for a while and then eventually they would come back. But at last it,
24 oh, when transition from I would say it must have been around '78 when
25 that started and it probably lasted until around '79, '80 and that's when
26 they started making the transition into the body shop with all of the robots
27 doing all of the welding.
28

29Doreen Howard: Mm-hm. Now you said you never worked in the body shop areas at all.
30

31Bud Williams: No, I never worked in the body, body or paint.
32

33Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.
34

35Bud Williams: ...during that time.
36

37Doreen Howard: Um, let's see here. Um, I didn't have anything [inaudible 14:06]. [14:11]
38 Being in supervision, Um, did you see any changes as far as the, um,
39 supervisory techniques that were used maybe when you first came in
40 versus the things that they, they do now? Has there been any changes in
41 that arena?
42

43Bud Williams: Uh, yes. A big change in the way the, the supervisors taking, uh,
44 [inaudible 14:43] when we first started we called, the supervisors had what
45 do we call, headcount sheets. We had to go out and take headcounts like
46 the teacher did with the students in school manually and the way we do

1 things now is all computer, press a button. We use a computer, we just sit
2 there and as the people punch in, you know, they disappear from your
3 screen. Once they disappear you know everybody is here [chuckle] as
4 opposed to standing there walking down the line and looking to see if
5 they're here or someone had to come by [inaudible 15:36] she, he or she is
6 here, so big difference, big change.
7

8Doreen Howard: Mm-hm. Linda?
9

10Linda Johnson: [15:47] Bud, you were talking about changeover and punching in and out,
11 what did you do for lunch? What was your afternoon break, how did you
12 take it?
13

14Bud Williams: Lunchtime working on the line at that time you get a lunch hour or break,
15 you spent it lying down trying to get a little break. That was our, that's
16 how we spent our lunchtime then as opposed to now people run out to go
17 out, outside or whatever and sit but at that time all we wanted to do was sit
18 down for a few minutes We wanted to get as much rest as you can.
19

20Linda Johnson: [16:30] Did you bring lunch from home or did you...?
21

22Bud Williams: Yes.
23

24Linda Johnson: ...frequent some of the restaurants around the plant?
25

26Bud Williams: I brought lunch from home. Sometimes if we didn't, you go to the
27 cafeteria and at that time the cafeteria was much different than today. You
28 can go up to the cafeteria now and walk right up to the counter and get
29 something to eat. Back then you, you had a line, everyone ate at the
30 cafeteria, so the cafeteria was full. [Inaudible 16:57] want to stand in line
31 so a lot of people brought their, brought their lunch, sit right down on the
32 job and ate.
33

34Linda Johnson: [17:10] When you hired in, how much were you making then...?
35

36Bud Williams: I...
37

38Linda Johnson: ...and before you retired?
39

40Bud Williams: I started at \$2.55 an hour. Union dues were \$5.00 a month.
41

42Linda Johnson: [17:24] Did we have a union hall then?
43

44Bud Williams: Yes, we still had, union hall is at the same place then as it is now.
45

46Linda Johnson: On Michigan Avenue.

1
2Bud Williams: Michigan Avenue, Local 602.
3
4Male: [17:45] Why did you hire in to Fisher Body?
5
6Bud Williams: I was, as I said earlier, I was working for the City of Lansing driving a
7 truck and in the wintertime it got pretty cold out and I wanted to come –
8 we were plowing snow. They call you all time of night, weekends,
9 holidays. Whenever they call you got to go during the winter so I wanted
10 an inside job and that's when I came over on a Monday and put in an
11 application, Tuesday they called me, and Wednesday I went to work.
12
13Doreen Howard: Over the timeframe that you worked here, you've met a lot of people.
14 [18:36] Um, can you share any special memories of some of the
15 employees that you worked with and maybe some of the things that you,
16 that you did either during work or after work with any of the friends that
17 you made here?
18
19Bud Williams: Oh yes, we, well, we were pretty wild back then. We had a lot, being
20 young, you know, we, nobody was settled. Af-, after work, we would go
21 out after-hour joints or whatever, did whatever you do at after-hour joints.
22 Sometimes we hang out until the next day, spend a lot of our time looking
23 for something to get into. [chuckle]
24
25Doreen Howard: Typical young, young men.
26
27Bud Williams: Yeah, just typical things that young people do.
28
29Doreen Howard: Yeah. Did you ever...?
30
31Bud Williams: Uh, minus drugs. We didn't fool with the drugs back then.
32
33Doreen Howard: [19:51] Did you get ever involved with any of the, um, dinners or the
34 retiree parties or, or anything like that during your time?
35
36Bud Williams: No. I don't remember too many retirees' parties, any of them having any
37 big parties and stuff back then. If they did, I guess I was too busy doing
38 my own thing 'cause [inaudible 20:18] even notice.
39
40Doreen Howard: Um.
41
42Bud Williams: I never [inaudible 20:24].
43
44Doreen Howard: Linda?
45

1 Linda Johnson: [20:25] Bud, do you have a good memory of Fisher Body that will always
2 stick in your mind?
3

4 Bud Williams: Uh, yes. I, I do. The fact that I got a good inside job, I had good, uh,
5 benefits even though then they weren't as good as they are today but still
6 they were good, better than what I had before I came and those, those kind
7 of things will always stick right in my mind, you know, being inside
8 where I wanted to be working.
9

10 Linda Johnson: [21:15] [chuckle] Did you have a favorite job in the plant?
11

12 Bud Williams: Yes, utility job. I've always liked that.
13

14 Linda Johnson: [21:26] And your worst job was?
15

16 Bud Williams: Door rubbers. [laughter]
17

18 Doreen Howard: Doug?
19

20 Doug Rademacher: [21:36] Why was door rubbers the worst job for you?
21

22 Bud Williams: Because you had to walk along on your head all day, your head down,
23 during this time you had to walk with your head down and looking
24 underneath the door. You had to put the door rubbers on with a hammer at
25 that time. You hammered from the center of the door all the way around
26 and the top of the door the door rubber was rolled in, that part was good
27 but when you got ready to hammer it in so you're looking down, laying on
28 your head.
29

30 Doug Rademacher: [22:14] Didn't they, didn't they have plastic nails...?
31

32 Bud Williams: Yes.
33

34 Doug Rademacher: ...that you pounded into...?
35

36 Bud Williams: Yes.
37

38 Doug Rademacher: ...separate holes? You had to line those up.
39

40 Bud Williams: Right.
41

42 Doug Rademacher: You definitely...
43

44 Bud Williams: And you break one of those then you got to let somebody know. They
45 would very easily pop, brittle, they pop off very easy and once you pop

1 one off you got to tell somebody about it or then the rubber goes down
2 loose and you get water leaks.
3
4Doreen Howard: You touched base on benefits. [22:47] Is there any benefit that you think,
5 um, helped you more than, than another during your time here or that you
6 see as, um...?
7
8Bud Williams: Uh.
9
10Doreen Howard: ...an outstanding benefit that you would have...?
11
12Bud Williams: Yes.
13
14Doreen Howard: ...not maybe gotten somewhere else?
15
16Bud Williams: Hospitalization.
17
18Doreen Howard: Hospital.
19
20Bud Williams: Yes.
21
22Doreen Howard: Mm-hm. That's a definite [inaudible 23:13].
23
24Bud Williams: Yes. Hospitalization is definitely a big benefit.
25
26Doreen Howard: [23:20] Were you ever able to, um, did your kids have the opportunity to
27 utilize any of the, the benefits...?
28
29Bud Williams: Um.
30
31Doreen Howard: ...that were offered through General Motors?
32
33Bud Williams: Yes, I had one had an opportunity to but she didn't go through with it. We
34 got the – it was back in '84 when we had the, uh, General Motors had a
35 program for minority and women to go to college.
36
37Doreen Howard: Oh.
38
39Bud Williams: And one of my daughters got the, had the opportunity. Well, she took it
40 and she started college but then she dropped out. General Motors was
41 paying for her four years of school.
42
43Doreen Howard: Oh.
44
45Bud Williams: And...
46

1Doreen Howard: That was a nice opportunity.
2

3Bud Williams: It didn't cost me a dime but she started and about two months I think and
4 dropped out.
5

6Doreen Howard: Mm-hm. Linda? Cheryl?
7

8Cheryl McQuaid: Bud, I've known you since the day I hired I've known Bud, um, and
9 you've always, um, been a well-liked, well-respected supervisor. [24:40]
10 what would you say were some of the things, um, that you did that made
11 the people like you so much as compared to another supervisor?
12

13Bud Williams: Well, one thing, I came off the line and I think if the supervisor come up
14 through the ranks, you know, if you don't forget where you came from
15 then it makes you a better supervisor. Some, some can forget pretty
16 easily. Some of them if you didn't come off the line, why you just didn't
17 know, but I came up through the ranks. And you treat people the way you
18 would like to be treated, everybody like human beings instead of I'm the
19 boss and you're the worker, do as I say. That's not the way I looked at it.
20 It's everybody's problem, let's solve it together. And they've always
21 worked for me. I never had a problem like, like some people did. Yes, we
22 had our share, yes.
23

24Doreen Howard: Doug?
25

26Doug Rademacher: [25:52] But when you worked on the line, did you develop brother and
27 sister attitude with your coworkers?
28

29Bud Williams: Yes, definitely.
30

31Doug Rademacher: [26:02] Can you explain what that feeling is and what it's like to work in a
32 group of people?
33

34Bud Williams: Oh, very, very good. Uh, working, working with others has always been
35 a, a pleasure rather the old cutthroat, backstabbing type. I've always
36 found it a lot better to get along with your coworker, work real well with
37 them and the day goes by good, the weeks, even the years, some of them
38 real good and get along with. Even though back then we, we covered each
39 other, each other a lot better than today people seems to, seems to say,
40 well, it's your job, you do it. But back then we didn't what you call squeal
41 on people, we didn't do that. We would not. I imagine it was probably
42 something wrong. I don't remember if it was right or wrong at that time
43 but we didn't no matter what it was, we didn't tell on anyone. A guy walk
44 off the job to go to the bathroom or something, everybody jump in and
45 cover his job and today you won't have that. He's gone, he's gone.
46 Nobody is going to touch it. But we covered for everyone like a blanket.

1 We wouldn't tell nothing. It's a lot different from the way we do things
2 than how things are done today.
3
4Doreen Howard: [27:49] When, when you hired in it was called Fisher Body at that time?
5
6Bud Williams: Yes, Fisher Body.
7
8Doreen Howard: And we went through name changes over the time period that you were
9 employed here.
10
11Bud Williams: Yes, [inaudible 28:03].
12
13Doreen Howard: [28:03] Um, what was your reaction to some of the changes, the name
14 changes that we went through and can you give me your feelings toward
15 that?
16
17Bud Williams: Well, when they first changed it from Fisher Body to BOC we, we, well, I
18 guess we really didn't have any real bad feelings about it but people just
19 wondered why would they do that. Why would they change it to BOC
20 when we never, never built those particular cars, any car that would begin
21 with those letters BOC. We never had that, never. At that time, we built
22 the, the Olds and the Chevy I think when they started the BOC, the Buick,
23 the Olds and the Chevy. They never had the BOC there. It's supposed to
24 have been Buick, Olds, and Cadillac but Cadillac was never there. We
25 had the Buick, the Olds. That never happened until they started building
26 the Cadillac across town but I never did.
27
28Doreen Howard: Doug?
29
30Doug Rademacher: You said you didn't think much of it when it changed to BOC. [29:25] At
31 the time when the corporation decided to interact or interchange the
32 supervisors from across town to Fisher Body, what was your feeling about
33 that?
34
35Bud Williams: Now that was something that we, we really had a problem with was every,
36 every supervisor that came from the other side over this, over here they
37 seemed to got promoted before anybody over here did and we really had a
38 problem with that.
39
40Doreen Howard: Hm.
41
42Bud Williams: It caused, caused a lot of animosity b-, between the salary people but I
43 guess we got over it but it still happened. We didn't like it at all. We
44 didn't want to go over to that side. They didn't want to come over here
45 because all of us had the seniority and they didn't. Over there they had the
46 seniority meant 20 years or better. They come over here like five or six

1 years when they come up to one of us, how much seniority do you got? I
2 was hired in '64, he got hired in '67, '68. Well, they didn't like that
3 'cause that knocked them way down on seniority. We didn't like it
4 because it seemed like they got promoted over us and they did.
5

6Doug Rademacher: [30:59] Can I, can I ask was that, did the, um, not only, not only the front
7 line supervisor but did all the superintendents and everything interchange
8 too is that why possibly the...?
9

10Bud Williams: Yes.
11

12Doug Rademacher: [31:11] Is that why maybe the, the promotions came to those that traveled
13 with the, with the new superintendents...?
14

15Bud Williams: Mm-hm.
16

17Doug Rademacher: ...and so forth?
18

19Bud Williams: Yes, that's the way it happened.
20

21Doug Rademacher: [31:22] Was that plant-wide?
22

23Bud Williams: It was pretty much plant-wide, yes.
24

25Doug Rademacher: [31:30] Is that still going on today, that same group now that we're...?
26

27Bud Williams: Well, it's hard to say it's the same group because now you don't know
28 where they're coming from. Now they come from everywhere, all, even
29 different states and it's not just from across town.
30

31Doug Rademacher: [31:52] Do you recognize supervisors from other states being promoted
32 earlier or is it...?
33

34Bud Williams: No, most of them, most of them come with the, with the promotion
35 already.
36

37Doreen Howard: [32:10] Bud, when did you retire?
38

39Bud Williams: I retired, uh, April 1, 2000.
40

41Doreen Howard: Mm-hm. [32:20] And then you came back as a contract employee?
42

43Bud Williams: Yes, I came back, uh, in July, July 10, 2000, with the intention of working
44 just two weeks doing the, doing the changeover in, in 2000.
45

46Doreen Howard: Mm-hm.

1
2Bud Williams: And I'm still here.
3
4Doreen Howard: And you will continue to work until this plant is completely....
5
6Bud Williams: Until this plant is closed.
7
8Doreen Howard: Closed.
9
10Bud Williams: Yes, complete. Right now they tell me my last day will be November 30.
11
12Doreen Howard: Doug?
13
14Doug Rademacher: [32:58] Bud, so you retired and then General Motors contacted you at
15 home or did you know you were going to be re-invited back?
16
17Bud Williams: They contact me at home and asked me would I come in to work for the
18 two weeks downtown to help them out.
19
20Doug Rademacher: And you had only been off since April and now this was the July
21 downtime.
22
23Bud Williams: This was the July downtime, yes.
24
25Doug Rademacher: [33:25] And did you miss the place already?
26
27Bud Williams: Yes, I did. I had missed it already. In fact, I was sort of happy to come
28 back for a little while because I really don't do a lot on the outside so, yes,
29 I missed it already.
30
31Doug Rademacher: [33:44] And your decision to stay until the end here, is that another part of
32 the reason that you stayed this long?
33
34Bud Williams: Right.
35
36Doug Rademacher: You want to see this thing through.
37
38Bud Williams: Yes.
39
40Doug Rademacher: [33:55] What's your feeling about the Fisher plant closing forever?
41
42Bud Williams: Oh, I, I feel – when it first was announced that they was closing, you
43 know, it, it hurt but then I realized that actually they're not closing, all
44 they're doing is just moving to a different location so it's better than some
45 of the places where they're closing right down. Actually, they'll be going
46 to a new, new home. Yes, we'll miss this building because this for the

1 last 41 years this was home for me. In fact, I spent more time here than I
2 did at home. So yeah, we didn't like it but once you look at it on the
3 positive side, you know, they're just moving across town.
4

5Doug Rademacher: [34:52] In that respect, 41 years even though the building, the corporation
6 changed names, what's this building called to you?
7

8Bud Williams: Fisher Body. [laughter]
9

10Doug Rademacher: [35:04] And so my question to you is you just said the building is going
11 away but...?
12

13Bud Williams: The memories.
14

15Doug Rademacher: ...the new building is it really just an extension of Fisher Body?
16

17Bud Williams: No. Not, not to me because I won't be going over there. I know I'm
18 probably not even allowed to go in there. You know, they got so many
19 restrictions, you know, and after working 41 years then they go over there
20 and you're not, you can't get in there. It seems like we should be able to
21 walk in when we get ready like, like I do here but I don't know. Time
22 changes, I'd go over and probably have to be strip-searched to go in.
23 [laughter]
24

25Doug Rademacher: You're probably right.
26

27Doreen Howard: [36:00] Um, with the closing here and the new plant starting out, what
28 words of wisdom would you offer to some of the new supervisors that are
29 coming on board at the new plant and what, what would you say to them?
30

31Bud Williams: Uh, treat your people right and they'll take care of you every time. You
32 got a good group, treat them right, you don't have to worry about the job
33 being done and being done right. They will take care of you.
34

35Doreen Howard: [36:46] Is there anything that you can remember at all, something special
36 to you that you want to tell us about that we haven't covered at all today?
37

38Bud Williams: Um, no, I can't think of any. No.
39

40Doreen Howard: No? Okay.
41

42Doug Rademacher: Bud, I had one more question.
43

44Bud Williams: Okay.
45

1 Doug Rademacher: [37:14] What's the most rewarding moment that you were able to impact a
2 coworker's life here either on the job or at home? Was there a time when
3 a person had a problem and you were able to help? Is there anything that
4 holds in your memory on that?
5

6 Bud Williams: Uh, yes. There was a, there was a guy that I can't even remember his
7 name, anyway, there was a guy that used to work for me in the paint shop
8 and this poor guy was on the verge of being fired and he, he did, he had a
9 lot of vacation time and I guess he was sort of on the, I would say he was,
10 he was illiterate and he didn't, he didn't know nothing about his vacation
11 time or anything and he would get sick. And he was actually, the guy was
12 actually sick, nobody ever believed him. He'd take so much time off and
13 he would say I'm sick, I'm sick. Until I ran into the guy one day in the
14 streets and he didn't know I was there and I saw the guy, he was sick. He
15 was out on the sidewalk, he was vomiting and they called an ambulance,
16 the storeowner did, took him to the hospital. And three or four days after
17 that he came back to work and told me he was sick but he would never,
18 you know, bring a doctor's statement or anything. He'd just work but he
19 didn't understand.
20

21 And if I hadn't seen that, I probably would have gone along with
22 everything everybody else but seeing that then that I took care of the guy
23 and convinced everybody else that the guy actually was sick 'cause I went
24 to see him over at the hospital. He was in the hospital and he was actually
25 sick and I found out later that the poor guy had cancer. He survived it.
26 He's a survivor. He's still living today and this happened back I think was
27 in '89 when that happened. The guy is still living today and he's still
28 working there.
29

30 Doreen Howard: Hm.

31

32 Bud Williams: Yeah. I was glad I was able, I was coming out of the store when I saw this
33 for some reason that was, that was one of them moments I'll never forget.
34 But the poor guy would have been fired. You come in, you take them into
35 an interview, he'd just sit there, wouldn't say a word. Whatever anybody
36 did to him, it was okay. Even [inaudible 40:33] didn't know anything
37 about him. He, he never would talk. He just let you do whatever but now
38 he, he thanks me every time he see me now.
39

40 Doug Rademacher: And I thank you too.

41

42 Linda Johnson: Thank you Bud.

43

44 Bud Williams: All right.

45

46 Doreen Howard: Thanks a lot Bud. [throat clearing]

1

2Doug Rademacher: It's been a pleasure interviewing you.

3

4Bud Williams: Thank you.

5

6

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