

Lansing Fisher Body Historical

1-27-06

10:10 am

Team

Interviewer = Mike Fleming

Interviewee = Don Perry

Service = 6-28-72 (18) years old

Married - Single

Education = Eastern High School - LCC Some

Military = U.S. Air Force - 4 years

Reason for hire = His parents wanted Don to work at Fisher, but he was reluctant to do it at first, but now he is thankful

First Day = Don was very amazed about how big Fisher was, he got lost a few times.

Layoffs = Don was laid off in the 70's and then went to the Air Force for 4 years and then returned to Fisher Body.

Safety = Back then there was no safety training for booth cleaning, but today there are safety rules in effect.

Don was also a witness to the three booth cleaners who were killed in the paint shop. This was a very sad story because he was friends with each and everyone of these employees.

Don eventually became an "ailer" which is a man who maintains the machinery by greasing or oiling of parts.

Problems = This job is sometimes dangerous so no problems were used on this job

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* This job required Don to work mostly 7 days a week and during model changeover.

* In the beginning this group of Booth Cleaners there were 40-50 per shift. Today there are only about 20 per shift.

* 5 tubes = 140 one late 70's early 80's for 1 day then in, lots on there was a 3 day strike for contractors problems.

Meat Bases = Most of the Russians were cordial and respectable. Some were bad.

Don spoke about watching the piston hit school football games from the roof of Fisher.

* Cleaners = Mostly they were with skilled trades dept. There were made for all occasions, birthdays, families in need etc. Most people at Fisher would help out another employee when they are in need.

* Back earlier there wasn't on EMT or ERT group in the plant. Today there are teams of Emergency Medical Teams or Emergency Response Teams for a safer plant & atmosphere for employees.

* Environmental conditions for 3rd shift This was an eerie feeling when Alan first hired in. No people around darker, small noises, air leaks, Don didn't venture very far out of his area until later on.

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- * Name changes = Don felt that the plant was Fisher Body when he hired in and still Fisher Body after 34 years seniority.
- * Lunch breaks = a small cafeteria was used for midnight shift, but later on this was taken out and vending machines were brought in for them.
- * Bosses - Good bosses would trust employees to do their job. A bad boss would see other employees goofing off and let it go, so more work had to be done.
- * Wages = 1972 \$5.25 shift premium 10% on 3rd shift 2006 about \$7.00 per hr
- * Best Bargained Benefit = Health Care, Prescription coverage, eye care, Basic health package.
- * Smoking Policy = Don does not smoke but he thought it was unfair because there was still smoke in the plant from welders and body shops.
- * Union involvement = being on 3rd shift the time tables for union events were different, but Don always votes in union elections and volunteers when needed.
- * Don also shared with us that he took massage classes in college
- * Don also was involved in the Community Meals on wheels special Olympics, crocheting hats and gloves for

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and leaves for the Rescue Mission and Sparrow Hospital maternity ward.

The public has a dim view of GM people and what they do outside the plant or in community service.
Best Memory = The togetherness of all the people, helping out those in need.

donating time and money for people.

Worst Memory = The day the 3 men were killed in the paint ~~for~~ department.

- Plant Closing = very sad, after 34 years it would bring tears to Don's eyes