

**Shirley Sanborn discusses her career as a GM salaried secretary
at the Fisher Body plant in Lansing, MI**

1
2
3
4
5Doreen Howard: [recorder clicking] Okay.
6
7 [clicking]
8
9Linda Johnson: This is [clicking] February 7th. It's [clicking] Mond-, oh, excu-, let's start
10 over.
11
12 [laughter]
13
14Doug Rademacher: It's okay [inaudible 0:08].
15
16 [laughter]
17
18Linda Johnson: I was [inaudible 0:10].
19
20 [laughter]
21
22Doug Rademacher: We'll cut that.
23
24 [laughter]
25
26Linda Johnson: It's November 7th, 2005. [clicking] It is [clicking] Tuesday, Monday.
27
28Male: [Inaudible 0:17].
29
30 [clicking]
31
32Female: I'm doin' [whistling] good. [laughter] [clicking] But I know [whistling] I'm
33 here with Shirley Sanborn and the members of the Fisher Body History
34 Team. [clicking] And present today from the team [clicking] includes...
35
36Doreen Howard: Doreen Howard.
37
38 [clicking]
39
40Doug Rademacher: Doug Rademacher.
41
42 [clicking]
43
44Marilyn Coulter: Marilyn Coulter.
45
46John Fedewa: John Fedewa.

1
2 Cheryl McQuaid: Cheryl McQuaid.
3
4 [background movement]
5
6 Linda Johnson: And I'm Linda Johnson, and we're here to interview, as I said, Shirley
7 Sanborn. [creaking] [0:39] Shirley, could you, um, spell your last – state
8 your name and spell your [background movement] last name for me?
9
10 [clicking]
11
12 Shirley Sanborn: Shirley Sanborn, S-A-N-B-O-R-N.
13
14 [clicking] [creaking]
15
16 Linda Johnson: [0:48] And [creaking] you live where?
17
18 [clicking]
19
20 Shirley Sanborn: 13835 Thornapple Drive, Perry, [thumping] Michigan [clicking] 48872.
21
22 [clicking]
23
24 Linda Johnson: [0:57] And Shir-, Sh-, Shirley, [clicking] can, um, [tsk] you tell us, um, a
25 little bit about [clicking] yourself, your education, your, um, [clicking]
26 family life [clicking] before [rustling] and when you hired in [thumping]
27 to Fisher Body?
28
29 Doug Rademacher: Maybe one at a time.
30
31 Linda Johnson: One at a time.
32
33 [laughter]
34
35 Female: One.
36
37 [background noises]
38
39 Shirley Sanborn: When I graduated from high school, well Eastern High School, in 1947, I
40 went to work for Interstate Motor Freight Company on [inaudible 1:26]
41 Street. [clicking] I worked there 2 years and, um, [tsk] met my [clicking]
42 future husband there, s-, m-, [Carol McGiven 1:37]. [clicking] [tsk] And,
43 uh, I [clicking] talked on the phone with a man by the name [clicking] of
44 [Clyde Miller 1:44], who worked in Material Control Department,
45 [thumping] and he had a lady in his office that quit workin'. He said, "Why
46 don't you come over and apply for the job?" And I said, "Why not?" I was

1 makin' peanuts at Interstate, you know, [background movement] like 45
2 cents an hour at that...
3
4 Linda Johnson: Wow.
5
6 Shirley Sanborn: ...point in time. [knocking] And, uh, I came over here, and [scratching]
7 they hired me.
8
9 [clicking]
10
11 Linda Johnson: What...
12
13 Shirley Sanborn: I started on July 1st, 1949, and had Monday off for the 4th of July, so...
14
15 Linda Johnson: What a deal.
16
17 [laughter]
18
19 Female: What a deal.
20
21 [laughter]
22
23 Linda Johnson: Did they pay better here?
24
25 [laughter]
26
27 Shirley Sanborn: \$180 a month.
28
29 Female: Hm.
30
31 [laughter] [thumping]
32
33 Linda Johnson: Well that's...
34
35 Shirley Sanborn: If you call that better. [clanking] Well it was better than I was making.
36
37 [clicking]
38
39 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
40
41 Shirley Sanborn: And, uh, [laughter] [clicking] then I, uh, I worked in Material Control
42 until, um, well Mike and I got married [scratching] [tsk] in October of '51,
43 [creaking] [clicking] and, um, I was – [thumping] at that point, I was pre-,
44 already [clicking] pregnant at that time. I had my son, [Steven 2:44], in
45 [background movement] May of '52, [clicking] [tsk] and I didn't come ba-,
46 they called me, but I didn't wanna come back to work at that point in time.

1 [tsk] But then [clicking] in 1955 they called, and they had a sick leave
2 replacement for [Caroline Steeb 3:01], who worked in Quality Control at
3 that time. [clicking] So I said, "Okay, why not?" you know. [clicking]
4 Two incomes are better than one. [tsk] [clanking] And, uh, so I came to
5 replace her on sick leave, and then [tsk] they had an opening in, uh,
6 [clanking] what was in the Teletype Room up [clicking] at the north end
7 of the plant. [George Noos 3:22] was the supervisor at that, of that.
8 [clicking] So I went up there and worked in Teletype until [squeaking]
9 George Noos' [clicking] secretary, [Virginia Watkins 3:30], [squeaking]
10 went, left on pregnancy leave. [clicking] [creaking] So I went in and
11 worked for George Noos until [clicking] whenever. [clicking] I don't
12 remember the dates. [clicking] [Tell me, 3:39] [clicking] [Oh, 3:41] '69, I
13 transferred to...
14
15 Linda Johnson: Yep, [clicking] to Engineering...
16
17 Shirley Sanborn: Well, you know, they...
18
19 Linda Johnson: ...[yeah, for 3:45] consolidation...
20
21 Shirley Sanborn: ...they consolidated the...
22
23 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
24
25 Shirley Sanborn: ...the Sanitation ter-, [clanking] Department and Waste [thumping] Control
26 in with Maintenance.
27
28 [scratching] [clicking]
29
30 Linda Johnson: Hm.
31
32 Shirley Sanborn: And, uh, [scratching] [thumping] [clicking] [tsk] then I – [thumping] the
33 person they had workin' [inaudible 3:58] a kid, a [clicking] man by the
34 name of [John Boris 4:00] was a [background movement] total loser,
35 [clicking] so [clicking] they were tryin' to figure [thumping] out how ta,
36 [laughter] [clicking] how ta [clicking] get rid of him. [thumping] [tsk]
37 They finally succeeded, bought him off, I guess.
38
39 Linda Johnson: Hm.
40
41 [clicking]
42
43 Shirley Sanborn: So then I went into, uh, Engineering and worked [thumping] for s-,
44 [coughing] the engineer at that time was [Lee Reese 4:23]. [clicking] I
45 worked in there with him until, um, [clicking] he retired. [clicking] Then

1 [Leonard Varma 4:31] took over the duties [rustling] there and, and, um,
2 [clicking] that's wh-, where I stayed until I retired.
3
4 [clicking]
5
6 Linda Johnson: [4:38] And that was, you [thumping] retired in...
7
8 Shirley Sanborn: [tsk] I retired officially on January 1st of, [thumping] uh, 1993.
9 [thumping] I left on [clicking] December 1st of '92. [clicking] They had
10 what they [clicking] called a [clicking] golden handshake at that time, so
11 [scratching] [clicking] if I volunteered to retire at that point in time, I got
12 paid like [clicking] \$20,000 or something like that, so...
13
14 Linda Johnson: Oh, great.
15
16 [throat clearing]
17
18 Shirley Sanborn: ...but I had to take the [scratching] month without pay. [clicking] Big deal.
19
20 Linda Johnson: Yeah.
21
22 Shirley Sanborn: So that's what I did.
23
24 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
25
26 Shirley Sanborn: [tsk] So I officially retired on January [scratching] 1st, 1993. Since that
27 time, I've – [clicking] well my mother and dad had a cottage at Littlefield
28 Lake up north. And my [clicking] mother died in June 1995, [clicking] and
29 [tsk] I bought my brother's part of the cottage up there and, and, uh, so
30 now I have a [clicking] cottage at Littlefield Lake where I spend most a
31 the summers. And my son [clicking] bought, built a cottage right next to
32 mine, so we're all up there...
33
34 Linda Johnson: Oh, that's [thumping] nice.
35
36 Shirley Sanborn: ...havin' a good time. My son is a teacher at Okemos, and his wife is a
37 teacher at DeWitt. And they have 3 kids, my 3 grandchildren, and that's all
38 I have.
39
40 [sniffing]
41
42 Linda Johnson: That's great.
43
44 [coughing]
45
46 Shirley Sanborn: [Inaudible 5:54].

1
2 [clicking]
3
4 Linda Johnson: Oh, yeah, right.
5
6 [laughter]
7
8 Marilyn Coulter: You just opened the box.
9
10 [laughter]
11
12 Shirley Sanborn: Oh, okay.
13
14 [laughter] [background conversation]
15
16 Linda Johnson: Okay. [coughing] [thumping] [6:05] When you came ta work here in
17 [clicking] '49, um, [thumping] how were you treated as a woman working
18 in a plant in a [man's world 6:11]...
19
20 Shirley Sanborn: Like a peon.
21
22 [clicking]
23
24 Linda Johnson: Like a [coughing] peon. [clicking] [coughing] [6:14] Did they have dress
25 codes for you or...
26
27 [clicking]
28
29 Shirley Sanborn: Well you weren't allowed to wear [clicking] blue jeans or pant suits. You
30 had to wear skirts and blouses and [clicking] [tsk] stuff like that.
31
32 Linda Johnson: Hm.
33
34 Shirley Sanborn: They didn't [clicking] l-, let us wear [background movement] pant suits
35 until [tsk] 1970 or thereabouts.
36
37 [clicking]
38
39 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm. [thumping] Um...
40
41 Shirley Sanborn: [Then 6:34] there was no blue jeans. I mean, it was strictly...
42
43 Linda Johnson: Uh-huh. [clicking] [6:37] Dress clothes?
44
45 [clicking]
46

1 Shirley Sanborn: Dressy plant, pant suits.
2

3 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm. [background movement] [6:41] And, um, as a [background
4 movement] woman in the plant, did, were you [accorded 6:45] the same –
5 [background movement] when they had parties and stuff, were you
6 [thumping] a participant in it, [throat clearing] or I'd heard from some
7 women that, you know, they would plan a party for a, [clicking] a group of
8 men, but the women in the department [clicking] weren't invited,
9 [clicking] that personnel used to be that way.
10

11 Shirley Sanborn: Well [background movement] the [clicking] company used to give the
12 women Christmas parties, and, and men weren't invited to those.
13

14 Linda Johnson: Okay.
15

16 Shirley Sanborn: [And then 7:11]...
17

18 Linda Johnson: So [inaudible 7:12]...
19

20 Shirley Sanborn: ...just women. [clicking] So I guess it evened out.
21

22 Linda Johnson: All right.
23

24 [clicking]
25

26 Shirley Sanborn: It didn't – when Oldsmobile gave parties, [give'm 7:18] down at the Civic
27 Center, then everybody went, and they gave...
28

29 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
30

31 Shirley Sanborn: ...out [clicking] turkeys or whatever, but that brings up a whole different
32 subject.
33

34 Linda Johnson: Yeah. [laughter] Different, different culture.
35

36 [laughter]
37

38 Female: [Inaudible 7:29] culture.
39

40 Linda Johnson: Um, [where was I goin'? 7:34] [background movement] [7:37] When, um
41 [tsk] you first started in here, what, what did you feel like when you
42 walked into the plant, into an assembly plant?
43

44 [clicking]
45

1 Shirley Sanborn: [tsk] I worked in the office all the while I was here, and if, the only time I
2 went out in the plant was if, [clicking] just nosin' around. Uh, I had no
3 business being out there.
4

5 Linda Johnson: Oh. [7:57] They let you know that or...
6

7 Shirley Sanborn: No.
8

9 Linda Johnson: ...didn't care to?
10

11 Shirley Sanborn: No. They just – [clicking] well you had to walk, [thumping] at one point in
12 time, you headed from the, [over to 8:04] the front offices at that time,
13 [clicking] and you had to [clicking] walk through a tunnel and past the
14 Paint [Booths 8:10] to get to Building 9 offices...
15

16 [clicking]
17

18 Linda Johnson: Oh.
19

20 Shirley Sanborn: ...so that was about the [thumping] extent of my [clicking] vision in the
21 plant at that...
22

23 [clicking]
24

25 Linda Johnson: Well most...
26

27 Shirley Sanborn: ... point in time.
28

29 Linda Johnson: ...of this plant's kind of grown up around you over the years.
30

31 Shirley Sanborn: Oh, yes. Well yeah. They eliminated the whole Paint Department, and
32 [thumping] I worked here during the construction of the whole,
33 [scratching] whole new Body Shop, Paint Shop. [clicking] That was a big
34 deal, really big deal.
35

36 [clicking]
37

38 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm. [clicking] Working for Mr. Varma [clicking] and...
39

40 [clicking]
41

42 Shirley Sanborn: Yeah. Most of the people [scratching] came in from [clicking] [Works
43 8:43] Engineering [and 8:44] [clicking] Fisher Body General Offices, and
44 they did [clicking] most of the contracting and, uh, [clicking] put out the
45 bids. And we had people here from [Works 8:53] Engineering [that – Su-,
46 8:55] my friend, Su-, well [Susan Sites 8:59] now. She hired in through [–

1 replaced me as 9:01] vacation replacement. Then she stayed on
2 [background movement] as the [clicking] construction clerk type a thing,
3 [clicking] did all that. So [thumping] we worked together, and [clicking]
4 we'd have to prepare all the, all the, uh, [clicking] bid proposals, assemble
5 all the [clicking] stacks and stacks of proposals. And [clicking] then
6 [Frank Malvic 9:25] was a construction engineer at that time, and he'd
7 meet with [clicking] bidders and [scratching] contractors and sh-, show'm
8 what needed to be done and, [thumping] and go on from there.
9

10 Linda Johnson: Wow. Sounds like a lotta work...
11
12 [clicking]
13

14 Shirley Sanborn: It was a lot of work.
15
16 [thumping]
17

18 Linda Johnson: ...for 2 people.
19
20 [clicking]
21

22 Shirley Sanborn: Yeah, right.
23
24 [laughter]
25

26 Linda Johnson: Women's work.
27
28 [clicking] [coughing]
29

30 Shirley Sanborn: Women's work. Well that's what [knocking] Varma told me one time.
31 [knocking] He says, "You make good money for a woman." [laughter]
32 [thumping] I said, "[Well I make 9:53] good money for a man," at that
33 [laughter] point in time, you know.
34
35 [laughter] [clicking]
36

37 Female: Yeah.
38
39 [scratching]
40

41 Shirley Sanborn: ['Cause I was still – 9:58] when I retired, I was makin' [thumping] \$3,000
42 a month, so [thumping] that wasn't bad [thumping] for a woman.
43 [thumping] [laughter] Not bad for a man, either. [laughter]
44

45 Linda Johnson: No. [thumping] Still isn't.
46

1 Shirley Sanborn: Especially outside the plant.
2
3 [laughter] [clicking] [coughing]
4
5 Linda Johnson: [10:12] Over the years of, [thumping] uh, women coming into the plant,
6 you were probably, [background movement] there weren't a whole lot of
7 you [knocking] back in 1949, [clicking] were there, [clicking] working?
8
9 Shirley Sanborn: There were a lot of women here.
10
11 [clicking]
12
13 Linda Johnson: Were there?
14
15 Shirley Sanborn: A lot of women. [background movement] There was probably 40 or 50
16 women in the company, um, up front and...
17
18 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
19
20 [clicking]
21
22 Shirley Sanborn: They had all keypunch operators and...
23
24 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
25
26 Shirley Sanborn: ...computer s-, com-, not computer, um, comptroller women that...
27
28 [clicking]
29
30 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
31
32 Shirley Sanborn: ...they did all the payrolls.
33
34 [clicking]
35
36 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
37
38 Shirley Sanborn: And they figured it...
39
40 Linda Johnson: [10:37] All that was done right here?
41
42 [thumping]
43
44 Shirley Sanborn: That was done right here, and they did'm all on, [clicking] on [knocking]
45 plant calculators, and...
46

1 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm. [scratching] [clicking] Hm.
2
3 Shirley Sanborn: ...yeah. They had, then they had an Addressograph Room where they
4 [clicking] did all the addressograph stuff and did all the time [thumping]
5 cards and everything. And there [clicking] were a lotta women here at that
6 point...
7
8 Linda Johnson: [10:54] So that was...
9
10 Shirley Sanborn: ...in time.
11
12 Linda Johnson: ...quite a process back then.
13
14 Shirley Sanborn: Oh, yes.
15
16 [clicking]
17
18 Linda Johnson: And...
19
20 Shirley Sanborn: That was before data processing.
21
22 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
23
24 Shirley Sanborn: Before computers.
25
26 Linda Johnson: So okay. [clicking] [Inaudible 11:06] Doreen Howard.
27
28 Doreen Howard: [throat clearing] [clicking] [11:11] At what, um, time frame did a lot of the
29 changes come into effect in, [background movement] as far as the data
30 processing and, [scratching] and things like that?
31
32 Shirley Sanborn: Biggest change came about when they combined Oldsmobile [scratching]
33 and Fisher Body.
34
35 [clicking]
36
37 Doreen Howard: [11:25] And what [clicking] was it that, that they [background movement]
38 changed at that time?
39
40 [scratching] [clicking]
41
42 Shirley Sanborn: Well they started transferring [knocking] people between plants. People
43 that had worked here for [clicking] 25, 30 [knocking] years were suddenly
44 [knocking] shuffled off to Buffalo. [background noises] And, of course,
45 people that worked at Oldsmobile [always 11:39] – [background
46 movement] should I say it?

1
2 [laughter]
3
4Female: Say it, yes.
5
6Shirley Sanborn: They always thought they were better than the Fisher Body people
7 [background conversation], so being – [clicking] for them to be transferred
8 over [knocking] to Fisher Body was like [knocking] kick in the seat 'cause
9 they [background conversation] didn't want any part of us, and they were
10 [clicking] [background conversation] better than us...
11
12Female: Mm-hm.
13
14 [background conversation]
15
16Shirley Sanborn: ...better than us.
17
18Female: Mm-hm.
19
20 [clicking]
21
22Shirley Sanborn: And they weren't bashful about letting [clicking] you know that [throat
23 clearing] they were [clicking] being [inaudible 12:04] totally.
24
25 [clicking]
26
27Female: Yep. [laughter] I've met...
28
29Shirley Sanborn: A lot of hard feelings. I mean...
30
31Female: Mm-hm.
32
33Shirley Sanborn: ...it changed the whole atmosphere...
34
35 [clicking]
36
37Female: Mm-hm.
38
39 [clicking]
40
41Shirley Sanborn: ...of, of working here. [thumping] It [clicking] went from everybody
42 [knocking] knew each other and, [clicking] and were friends [knocking]
43 and went out after work and had drinks or whatever and, [knocking] and
44 were all, [as they say 12:25], one big happy family, more or less.
45 [background movement] After that, it was dog [clicking] eat dog.
46 [clicking] I mean, mostly [clicking] [background movement] I think more

1 of the men [background movement] because the women weren't too
2 [background movement] much affected...
3
4 [scratching]
5
6Female: Mm-hm.
7
8Shirley Sanborn: ...directly.
9
10 [clicking]
11
12Female: Mm-hm.
13
14 [background movement]
15
16Shirley Sanborn: But the men took a beating.
17
18 [thumping]
19
20Female: Hm, yep.
21
22 [thumping]
23
24Shirley Sanborn: And we lost a lotta good [thumping] intelligence, [thumping] just like
25 [Works 12:51] Engineering went out in Detroit, [background movement]
26 and [clicking] [knocking] people there, they, uh, knew the plants, how the
27 conveyors went, how [clicking] the plants ran, what worked and what
28 didn't work. [thumping] Their whole [clicking] education just went
29 [clicking] [knocking] and you start from scratch.
30
31Linda Johnson: Yep.
32
33Shirley Sanborn: Do it wrong again.
34
35Linda Johnson: Yep. [laughter] Train somebody new.
36
37 [knocking] [laughter]
38
39Linda Johnson: Mike, did you have a question?
40
41Mike Fleming: Yes. Mike Fleming. [13:15] Hi, [scratching] how are you?
42
43 [clicking]
44
45Shirley Sanborn: Fine, thank you.
46

1Mike Fleming: Um, I just, you [coughing] were talking about the \$3,000 a month before
2 [that 13:22], and the question I wanted to ask you was how did you feel
3 about the pay equity? 'Cause you started, you know, quite some time ago,
4 and it's been [background movement] 40 years, [clicking] I'm sure.
5 [background movement] [13:30] From the time you started to you, to
6 where you are now, how did you feel about the pay equity between [tsk]
7 men and women?
8

9Shirley Sanborn: The pay scale here was a very, very top secret business. Nobody was
10 [clicking] to even say [clicking] what they made or tell anybody else what
11 their salary was, [clicking] period.
12

13Female: Mm-hm.
14
15 [background movement]
16

17Shirley Sanborn: I mean, it was a, that was a big no-no.
18

19Mike Fleming: [13:59] So whenever they came around and [background movement] gave
20 a raise, [clicking] they would say...
21
22 [thumping]
23

24Shirley Sanborn: You did, you kept your mouth shut. [clicking] [tsk] The raises we got, and
25 I have to say this [but, uh, 14:09] all the time the contracts were signed
26 and everything, the salaried workforce [background movement] got as
27 good, if not somewhat better, [knocking] than the hourly got at that point
28 in time. [thumping] We were never shorted on [coughing] increases along
29 that line until they s-, [thumping] quit giving, uh, hm, well, let's say they
30 quit giving cost of living increases.
31

32Female: Mm-hm.
33

34Shirley Sanborn: S-, and they said that would be incorporated in a merit scale program that
35 would [background movement] go on. Well about a year later, they
36 cancelled the merit program, [knocking] so you just got [clicking]
37 [knocking] nothing.
38

39Mike Fleming: [14:53] Out of 40 years, did they give you all service awards for every 10,
40 15, 20, 25 years? Did they give you anything for your service time?
41
42 [clicking]
43

44Shirley Sanborn: We got a bracelet with a little – [clicking] I shoulda wore it. [clicking] A
45 little Fisher Coach on it.
46

1Female: Hm.
 2
 3 [clicking]
 4
 5Shirley Sanborn: And I got one for 5, 10, 15, 25 years I got a clock, [thumping] and 30, you
 6 got a little, um, [thumping] [clicking] pendant thing with like jewels in'm.
 7 Like 3 diamonds was 40 years or somethin' like that.
 8
 9 [background movement]
 10
 11Female: Cool.
 12
 13Shirley Sanborn: So...
 14
 15Male: Right.
 16
 17Shirley Sanborn: ...I still got all that [thumping] crap. [clicking] I'm gonna...
 18
 19Female: [Wear it. 15:28].
 20
 21 [laughter]
 22
 23Linda Johnson: If you wanna donations to the [background movement] museum, we're
 24 looking.
 25
 26 [coughing]
 27
 28Shirley Sanborn: What museum?
 29
 30 [background movement]
 31
 32Linda Johnson: At Michigan State University.
 33
 34 [clicking]
 35
 36Shirley Sanborn: Oh, really?
 37
 38Linda Johnson: They're...
 39
 40Shirley Sanborn: They have a museum [clicking] at Olds Transportation...
 41
 42Linda Johnson: Yes.
 43
 44Shirley Sanborn: ...Museum too.
 45

1 Linda Johnson: Well they'd probably like that too, but we're, uh, [clicking] working in
2 conjunction [with Lansing 15:43]...
3
4 Shirley Sanborn: I've got a collection of [thumping] model Oldsmobile [thumping] cars
5 dating back from 1957 to 1975.
6
7 Female: Oh [inaudible 15:48]...
8
9 Female: Hm. [clicking] Oh, yeah.
10
11 Shirley Sanborn: You know, it used to set on the counter behind...
12
13 Female: Mm-hm.
14
15 Shirley Sanborn: ...me.
16
17 Linda Johnson: Yep.
18
19 Marilyn Coulter: Yeah.
20
21 Cheryl McQuaid: Oh...
22
23 Shirley Sanborn: I got them.
24
25 Cheryl McQuaid: ...that's right.
26
27 [background movement]
28
29 Marilyn Coulter: Oh, [thumping] yeah.
30
31 [clicking]
32
33 Linda Johnson: Well if you wanna make a donation, [clicking] we can, uh, set it up if – so
34 think about it.
35
36 [knocking]
37
38 Shirley Sanborn: Well as I told my son, those model cars, last I heard, they're [clicking]
39 worth about \$300 each.
40
41 [background movement]
42
43 Linda Johnson: Oh, my. Wow.
44
45 Shirley Sanborn: [Inaudible 16:08]...
46

1 Linda Johnson: He'd probably like'm then.
 2
 3 Shirley Sanborn: ...go to my grandson's [clicking] college...
 4
 5 Linda Johnson: Oh, yeah, yeah.
 6
 7 Shirley Sanborn: ...education.
 8
 9 [laughter] [coughing]
 10
 11 Linda Johnson: They can only [throat clearing] go up in value.
 12
 13 Shirley Sanborn: I have some cups and glasses, so...
 14
 15 [laughter]
 16
 17 Linda Johnson: Yeah. [laughter] Pictures?
 18
 19 Shirley Sanborn: Posters.
 20
 21 [laughter]
 22
 23 Female: [Inaudible 16:20].
 24
 25 [laughter]
 26
 27 Female: Mm-hm.
 28
 29 [laughter] [background movement]
 30
 31 Linda Johnson: Doug Rademacher.
 32
 33 Shirley Sanborn: [Gosh, no. 16:24]
 34
 35 [laughter]
 36
 37 Doug Rademacher: I wanna go back a moment. You shared that when you came in in '49,
 38 [clicking] there were lots of women in the workplace. [background
 39 movement] Now [sniffing] I could be wrong, but there was a time right
 40 after the war [clicking] that, uh, [clicking] women had filled the workplace
 41 here [clicking] during the war, [thumping] and [scratching] then there
 42 came a period when the women were being forced out [clicking] [bringin'
 43 16:46] the men back into the [clicking] workplace. [16:48] Did you
 44 [clicking] see any of that?
 45
 46 Shirley Sanborn: No.

1
2 [clicking]
3
4 Doug Rademacher: No?
5
6 [clicking]
7
8 Shirley Sanborn: 'Cause I, I started [knocking] after the war in [clicking] '49, so by that time
9 – although there are some women in our retirees club that [throat clearing]
10 were here during [thumping] that period a [thumping] time. Not me.
11
12 Doug Rademacher: Okay.
13
14 Linda Johnson: Hm. [clicking] Besides, um, [clicking] work, there was some fun times
15 that you were responsible for in your department [clicking] and as well as
16 the [clicking] Fisher Body Women's Club. [clicking] [17:19] Could you
17 tell us [clicking] about some of those?
18
19 Shirley Sanborn: Well Women's Club used to h-, hold, [clicking] um, [clicking] dances
20 once a, usually once a year, [thumping] and we would have, uh, [clicking]
21 [scratching] poster parties to, a buncha women would get together and
22 make [background movement] posters for the [scratching] dances and,
23 and, uh, [knocking] [clicking] then, [background movement] [clicking]
24 well [inaudible 17:46]. [clicking] I should. They also had style shows.
25
26 [thumping]
27
28 Female: Hm.
29
30 Female: [Oh, fun. 17:50]
31
32 Shirley Sanborn: I was [thumping] not involved. That was a period a time between the time
33 I left and [thumping] came back when they had most of the style shows,
34 but they [clicking] put on some pretty good shows, [clicking] I understand.
35 [background movement] I went to one and won a purse, so it was
36 [thumping] [all right 18:03].
37
38 Linda Johnson: Oh, that's good.
39
40 [laughter] [knocking]
41
42 Shirley Sanborn: But, uh, we had, the-, they did that almost [clicking] every year, and
43 [clicking] it was a lotta fun.
44
45 Linda Johnson: [18:13] Where would they have those at?
46

1 [clicking]
2
3 Shirley Sanborn: Well it used to be the Elks Club...
4
5 [thumping]
6
7 Linda Johnson: Okay.
8
9 Shirley Sanborn: ...when it was down on North Lansing by [scratching] where the Estes
10 Furniture [thumping] used to be.
11
12 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm. Hm.
13
14 [background movement]
15
16 Shirley Sanborn: The Elks Club [used to be down 18:23]. Then we had [background
17 movement] some at the [clicking] Elks Club when it was on Moores River
18 Drive.
19
20 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
21
22 [clicking]
23
24 Shirley Sanborn: Our department parties were all over. [Brian Wandell 18:31] and I were
25 basically did [clicking] most of those.
26
27 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
28
29 Shirley Sanborn: And we had those, oh, we had'm at the Elks Club, and we had'm at the
30 [Forty and Eight 18:40] Club and, uh, the Radisson Hotel [background
31 movement] and a lot of other places. [clicking] But, um, used to be Club
32 Roma out by Laingsburg.
33
34 [thumping] [clicking]
35
36 Linda Johnson: I'm not familiar with [clicking] that.
37
38 [background movement]
39
40 Doug Rademacher: [Old restaurant 18:56].
41
42 Female: Mm-hm.
43
44 Female: [Inaudible 18:57].
45
46 Doug Rademacher: [It's Jambalaya's 18:57].

1
2Female: Oh, [Jambalaya's 18:58]...
3
4Shirley Sanborn: Yeah, [Jambalaya's 18:59] now.
5
6Female: ['Cause I remember that. 18:59].
7
8Shirley Sanborn: It's changed names [throat clearing] [inaudible 19:00].
9
10 [clicking]
11
12Doug Rademacher: [Inaudible 19:02].
13
14 [thumping]
15
16Shirley Sanborn: But we had some good parties, [scratching] really good parties.
17
18 [scratching]
19
20Linda Johnson: Mike Fleming.
21
22 [scratching]
23
24Mike Fleming: [19:08] Did you ever have an opportunity in your job to travel for the
25 [thumping] company or were you always [clicking] here in Lansing?
26
27 [thumping]
28
29Shirley Sanborn: I didn't travel for the company, but I had, uh, [background movement]
30 [thumping] one time, uh, [background movement] [clicking] [Chris Ignash
31 19:22] and I – she was the [clicking] maintenance clerk. [thumping] She
32 and I went to Buffalo, New York, one time [thumping] on a [clicking]
33 letter writing seminar. [laughter] I think, [clicking] [laughter] well I was
34 supposed to learn how to write letters. [thumping] [laughter] We had a
35 lotta [clicking] fun, but [laughter] that was the only trip I went on.
36 [laughter] But we did learn a lot.
37
38 [background movement]
39
40Linda Johnson: [19:52] Well you also, the Women's Club was responsible for the store in
41 the [clicking] plant?
42
43Shirley Sanborn: The store, yes, we...
44
45Linda Johnson: [19:57] Like popular with the employees?
46

1 Shirley Sanborn: ...we set the store [clicking] up and, [thumping] and, uh, [background
2 movement] donated – [knocking] [clicking] the money went to different
3 [background movement] charities around town. We'd, every year, we'd
4 figure out how much money we had and then divvy it up between various
5 organizations like Salvation [clanking] Army and WKAR and [clicking]
6 wha-, whatever...
7
8 [knocking]
9

10 Linda Johnson: Oh, yeah, it was...
11

12 Shirley Sanborn: ...else we thought...
13

14 Linda Johnson: ..usually quite a list.
15

16 Shirley Sanborn: ...was a good idea. Yeah, it was quite...
17

18 Linda Johnson: Like...
19

20 Shirley Sanborn: ...a list.
21

22 Linda Johnson: ...twel-, at least 12, [background movement] as I recall.
23

24 Shirley Sanborn: And we took turns [clanking] manning the store until [knocking] they
25 started putting [inaudible 20:18] [throat clearing] people in there,
26 [background movement] and then we got [knocking] [scratching] relieved
27 of that duty, but, uh...
28

29 Linda Johnson: [20:34] What'd you sell in the store?
30
31 [clicking]
32

33 Shirley Sanborn: Well a lot of, uh, company logo jackets [background movement] and
34 sweatshirts and [squeaking] [scratching] T-shirts and [squeaking] candy, a
35 lot [thumping] of candy, different kinds of candy and [clicking] whatnots
36 [clicking] that people made, uh, handicraft stuff. If people wanted to bring
37 it in, we'd [thumping] sell it. [clicking] We sold belt buckles and, with the
38 Fisher emblem...
39

40 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
41

42 Shirley Sanborn: ...on'm and [clicking], and, uh.
43
44 [background movement] [clicking]
45

1 Linda Johnson: You coulda sold [knocking] a lot of that stuff as the plant was getting
2 ready ta close down.
3
4 Shirley Sanborn: Oh, I bet.
5
6 [thumping] [sniffing] [thumping]
7
8 Linda Johnson: Doreen Howard.
9
10 Doreen Howard: [21:18] Um, what was a normal [clicking] work day like for you? What,
11 [clicking] what did your day consist of? What time did you start work, and
12 what time did you end work?
13
14 Shirley Sanborn: [tsk] [clicking] Forty-one years [clicking] I worked here, I started 8:00 in
15 the morning. [tsk] I left at, uh – well we used to get an hour lunch, and
16 then they made that 42 [clicking] minutes, [clicking] so I got outta here at,
17 what, 4:42 or [thumping] whenever that amounted [clicking] to. So
18 basically, I didn't change hours at all.
19
20 [clicking]
21
22 Linda Johnson: Hm, that was nice for you.
23
24 [clicking]
25
26 Shirley Sanborn: Yeah. [background movement] [Inaudible 21:53] I lived out by [Frandon
27 21:54] at that time, [background movement] run home and watch a
28 [clicking] soap opera and come back. [laughter] [Inaudible 22:00]
29 [laughter] fast trip.
30
31 [laughter]
32
33 Doreen Howard: [22:04] What was some of the – [thumping] what was some of your daily
34 activities that, that you did every day [clicking] as far as [clicking] [high-
35 pitched sound] your position? [tsk] [thumping] Somethin' that they relied
36 on you [clicking] every day to do, [clicking] certain [clicking] things?
37
38 Shirley Sanborn: Well when I worked for George Noos, we had [clicking] daily scrap
39 reports, so you'd turn in all the dif-, [thumping] all the plant [background
40 conversation] rejected material type of thing, broken windshields
41 [clicking] and [knocking] scrap this, scrap that, [clicking] and you had to
42 make a daily [throat clearing] scrap report. And then we had a [beeping]
43 report [thumping] [shown on 22:38] windshields, how many [throat
44 clearing] windshields were broken on each shift by [squeaking]
45 [knocking] what process. And, [thumping] [squeaking] [high-pitched
46 sound] and, uh, [door creaking] [thumping] and then, [clicking] then we

1 had all the Sanitation people, and I had kept all their [background
2 movement] daily hours. Every week you'd [thumping] [knocking] add up
3 their hours, and [knocking] then if there was discrepancies in between
4 [knocking] trades, like say the janitors. One janitor had [knocking] more
5 hours [thumping] than the other, [knocking] then they had to jockey back
6 and forth ta [thumping] [knocking] equalize the hours between them.
7 [clanking] Keep track of all the employee – they had these little envelope
8 packets with all their transfer slips and hiring notices and all that stuff
9 in'm. [clicking] And you'd keep track of all those, and when they got
10 transferred to another [thumping] department, [scratching] you'd send all
11 this [creaking] relevant information to the next department. And it
12 [clicking] was busy. [clicking] I didn't have – [clicking] I earned my keep,
13 [laughter] basically.
14
15 [clicking]
16
17Doreen Howard: Sounds like [inaudible 23:43]...
18
19Linda Johnson: You needed a rest just to go home and watch a soap opera.
20
21 [laughter]
22
23Shirley Sanborn: Days of [throat clearing] Our Lives, [thumping] As the World Turns.
24
25Female: Mm-hm.
26
27 [thumping] [clicking]
28
29Shirley Sanborn: [laughter] [clicking] But, uh, that was when I was in day-, in, in Sanitation
30 and Waste Control. When I [knocking] went out to Engineering, it was a
31 whole different [background movement] ball game.
32
33Doreen Howard: Mm-hm. [24:02] What'd [clicking] they expect of you [background
34 movement] from the [clicking] Engineering [thumping] Department that
35 was different from the Sanitation Department?
36
37 [thumping] [scratching]
38
39Shirley Sanborn: Well then they, [clicking] there, you were, [clicking] took care of all the,
40 uh, [background movement] all – there was always construction going on,
41 always, [thumping] [clicking] 12 months a year, someplace, somehow. So
42 that was always making up proposals and running copies and doing all the
43 – [clicking] [I was Varma's 24:29] secretary clerk, so doing all his typing
44 for him, [knocking] writing his [background movement] letters for him
45 and [background movement] editing his [background movement] writings
46 and...

1
2 [laughter]
3
4Doreen Howard: [24:43] So you, you...
5
6Shirley Sanborn: [Inaudible 24:44]...
7
8Doreen Howard: ...had a lot more res-, [background movement] job responsibility [clicking]
9 when you moved to the Engineering...
10
11Shirley Sanborn: Oh, yes...
12
13Doreen Howard: ...as far as...
14
15Shirley Sanborn: ...yes.
16
17 [high-pitched sound]
18
19Doreen Howard: ...as the amount of...
20
21 [knocking]
22
23Shirley Sanborn: Yeah.
24
25Doreen Howard: ...amount of work you had to do...
26
27 [clicking]
28
29Shirley Sanborn: Oh, yeah.
30
31Doreen Howard: ...increased. Yeah.
32
33Shirley Sanborn: Much more.
34
35Linda Johnson: Mike Fleming.
36
37 [clicking]
38
39Mike Fleming: Um, throughout all the time you've been here, 41 years, I'm [background
40 movement] sure [thumping] there's been good and bad. [25:02] Can you
41 think of what you would consider one of the best days that you've had
42 since you've been here at this facility?
43
44 [clicking]
45
46Shirley Sanborn: [tsk] January 1st, 1993.

1
2 [clicking]
3
4Mike Fleming: [25:16] Significance?
5
6Shirley Sanborn: Day I retired. [laughter] [coughing] No, I [clicking] have to say this. I
7 enjoyed my work [clicking] very much. [clicking] I enjoyed being here. I
8 had a lotta good friends. I did a lotta work, [clicking] and I was praised for
9 it continuously. [knocking] The bosses were very, very good about
10 complimenting [background movement] on my work and how I did it and
11 [clicking] how fast I did it and [clicking] whatever. [thumping] And the
12 engineers, [clicking] the guys in the Engineering office [thumping] were,
13 you know, they'd, they'd give me somethin' to do [thumping] and I'd do it,
14 you know. [thumping] I didn't...
15
16Mike Fleming: [25:55] Was there one ...
17
18Shirley Sanborn: ...sit around and wonder why.
19
20Mike Fleming: ...day, though – but was there [laughter] one day that was, maybe you,
21 there was a – [thumping] it could've been an accident, it could've been a
22 party, [clicking] could've been – [thumping] [26:05] what stands out in
23 your mind most out of 41 years? Nothing particular?
24
25Shirley Sanborn: Hm.
26
27Mike Fleming: Something had to happen.
28
29Shirley Sanborn: [The 26:10] one thing that...
30
31Mike Fleming: [Inaudible 26:11].
32
33Shirley Sanborn: ...stands out in my mind is when I got my 25-year clock, and I had to go
34 up to Mr. [Wheatheran's 26:15] office, and he's – I don't know if you knew
35 Mr. Wheatheran or not [laughter] but he is [laughter] [inaudible 26:21].
36 [thumping] He was funny as a crutch. [clicking] I mean, he tried to put
37 you at ease, but the more he tried to put you at ease, the more uneasy you
38 got, so [laughter], so but, uh, [clicking] that particular [clicking] event
39 stood out in my mind for a long time. [laughter]
40
41Mike Fleming: [26:39] So what did he do [thumping] when you, [clicking] when you got
42 the clock? [creaking] [background noises] [clicking] You wanna talk
43 about it [clicking] now?
44
45Shirley Sanborn: Uh, when I got what?
46

1Mike Fleming: When you got your clock [thumping] and you went...
2
3Shirley Sanborn: Oh, no...
4
5Mike Fleming: ...to his office...
6
7Shirley Sanborn: ...no.
8
9Mike Fleming: ...[to get it 26:49].
10
11Shirley Sanborn: That was kind of an, [clicking] kind of an afterthought, basically.
12
13 [laughter]
14
15Female: Mm-hm.
16
17 [clicking]
18
19Shirley Sanborn: No.
20
21Female: ['Cause 26:56]...
22
23Shirley Sanborn: He was a good guy. [clicking] He was funny. [creaking] I used to replace
24 his secretary when she was gone. Her name was [Pearl Pretty 27:01].
25 [coughing] [laughter] [clicking] You'd go in there to replace her, and
26 here's [big 27:08] Wheatheran sittin' at her typewriter typing up his own
27 letters. [laughter] [throat clearing] [Inaudible 27:13].
28
29Female: [Inaudible 27:14].
30
31 [background movement]
32
33Shirley Sanborn: [Uh, he wasn't 27:15] plant manager [inaudible 27:15]. But the plant
34 manager, [background movement] [clicking] Mr. [Trump 27:19] came out
35 and told him, [inaudible 27:20] says, [laughter] "We don't pay you to type
36 letters." [laughter] [clicking] Uh, but, uh, and we had a good time.
37 [clicking] I mean, basically it was a family. Everybody was [clicking]
38 polite, kind. [background movement] There were a few...
39
40 [knocking] [thumping]
41
42Mike Fleming: [27:39] What did you think about [clicking] the name changes...
43
44Shirley Sanborn: ...assholes around, but...
45
46Female: Mm-hm.

1
2 Shirley Sanborn: ...they're here, everywhere...
3
4 Female: Mm-hm.
5
6 Shirley Sanborn: ...you know.
7
8 [clicking] [thumping]
9
10 Linda Johnson: [27:44] Did you ever have anyone [clicking] in the maintenance
11 organization build anything special for you, like a government job, you
12 know, maybe, uh, something for your desk or [thumping] something for
13 your cottage or...
14
15 Shirley Sanborn: No [inaudible 27:56]...
16
17 Linda Johnson: ...anything like that, any...
18
19 [clicking]
20
21 Shirley Sanborn: No. The only thing I had built for me was a [thumping] little plastic thing
22 they kept my [clicking] cars in [clicking] to sit on the...
23
24 Linda Johnson: Oh, yeah, [knocking] uh-huh...
25
26 Shirley Sanborn: ...sit on the counter...
27
28 Linda Johnson: ...mm-hm.
29
30 Shirley Sanborn: ...behind me.
31
32 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
33
34 Shirley Sanborn: This little [clicking] [slidey 28:06] thing that...
35
36 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
37
38 Shirley Sanborn: ...held all the cars.
39
40 [scratching] [thumping]
41
42 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
43
44 Shirley Sanborn: And that wasn't built for me particularly.
45
46 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.

1
2 [background movement]
3
4 Shirley Sanborn: No, no way.
5
6 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm. [clicking] Doug Rademacher.
7
8 Shirley Sanborn: I can't say that for everybody, but that's...
9
10 [laughter]
11
12 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
13
14 Doug Rademacher: So you're speaking about some cars. [28:24] What, what are these cars,
15 and how many do you have, and who – [clicking] were they put together?
16 Did you put them...
17
18 Shirley Sanborn: They were put, [background movement] they were put out by the
19 Oldsmobile Public Relations Department [clicking] and the Oldsmobile
20 Women's Club. [thumping] And what they are are a model [clicking] car
21 about [scratching] so big, uh, the exact replica of a Oldsmobile. [clicking]
22 Underbody, [clicking] the, the [clicking] doors didn't open, but the, the
23 whole thing is a [scrapping] [clicking] exact replica of a car that was built at
24 that time.
25
26 Doug Rademacher: [28:56] So they're between 10 and 12 inches long?
27
28 Shirley Sanborn: Yeah, about [clicking] 10 inches. [clanking] And I have, [clicking] uh, uh,
29 from '57 to '75.
30
31 [clicking]
32
33 Female: Mm-hm.
34
35 Shirley Sanborn: And I've got a couple [clicking] of extras in there, [clicking] so 20.
36
37 Doug Rademacher: Yeah.
38
39 Female: Hm.
40
41 Shirley Sanborn: And they sit...
42
43 Female: Yeah.
44
45 Doug Rademacher: [29:20] And these are all models of [background movement] vehicles
46 built...

1
2Female: [Inaudible 29:21]...
3
4Doug Rademacher: ...here at Lansing?
5
6Shirley Sanborn: Yep. [thumping] Includin' the Toronado and...
7
8 [clanking]
9
10Female: Mm-hm.
11
12Doug Rademacher: [29:28] Station wagon [clanking] [from the 29:28]...
13
14Shirley Sanborn: Station...
15
16Doug Rademacher: ...4-4-2s.
17
18Shirley Sanborn: ...wagon [inaudible 29:30].
19
20 [clicking]
21
22Doug Rademacher: Yeah.
23
24Female: Wow.
25
26Female: Yeah.
27
28Shirley Sanborn: Yep.
29
30 [background movement]
31
32Doug Rademacher: Interesting.
33
34 [clanking]
35
36Female: Yep.
37
38Mike Fleming: [29:33] Did you put them together yourself?
39
40 [clanking]
41
42Female: [No 28:35].
43
44Shirley Sanborn: [Pardon? 29:35].
45
46 [background movement]

1Mike Fleming: [29:36] Did you put them together yourself or did they come already
2 assembled?
3
4 [sighing] [clicking]
5
6Shirley Sanborn: I had some myself, and then they came, uh, [tsk] oh, various. Uh, one a the
7 former plant engineers, [Bob McKinstry 29:48], had a [clanking] row of'm
8 and, uh, then [knocking] Lee Reese had a row of'm, and then there was
9 somebody else that had some. They were all upstairs in the, in the display
10 case in the [thumping] aisle that went past the cafeteria.
11
12Female: Mm-hm.
13
14Shirley Sanborn: And they ended up down in [John Rosen's 30:08] office, [clicking] and he
15 called [knocking] one time, and I don't know [clicking] why. They were,
16 took all those display cases down and did whatever with'm. [clanking]
17 And he calls, and he said, uh, he had all these model cars upstairs. He
18 says, uh, "Does anybody want'm or you want me to chuck'm?" [clanking] I
19 said, "I want'm."
20
21Female: Hm.
22
23Shirley Sanborn: So he hauled'm down to me, and they were all dusty, dirty, [clicking]
24 crappy, [clicking] abused.
25
26Female: Mm-hm.
27
28 [background movement]
29
30Female: Mm-hm.
31
32Shirley Sanborn: So I took'm in the restroom and washed'm off.
33
34 [laughter] [background movement]
35
36Linda Johnson: [30:40] You made'm all shiny again?
37
38Shirley Sanborn: Got'm all shiny again and had'm all lined up on [background movement]
39 the counter behind me [clanking] there, and, uh, [clicking] and [clicking] I
40 don't [inaudible 30:48] who brought it up, but I think it was [Dan McClane
41 30:49]. He says, "I can have [clicking] you a case built for [clicking]
42 those." And [clicking] 'cause people kept comin' by and wantin' to steal'm.
43
44 [clicking]
45
46Female: Mm-hm.

1
2 [throat clearing]
3
4 Shirley Sanborn: [Inaudible 30:58] nailed down sometimes.
5
6 Female: Mm-hm.
7
8 [clicking]
9
10 Shirley Sanborn: But, uh, [laughter] [clicking] anyway, Dan had that case built [clicking]
11 for me, and I had a padlo-, had a lock on it, so that...
12
13 Female: Hm.
14
15 Shirley Sanborn: ...preserved'm. Then when I retired, told Leonard Varma I wanted to, I
16 wanted to take those cars. And he said, "Oh, you don't want those old
17 things." I said, "Yes, I do." [clanking] "Yeah, no you don't." [clanking] I
18 said, "Well okay." [tsk] So I left, and he went on vacation, and I came in
19 and got'm.
20
21 [laughter] [clicking] [rustling]
22
23 Linda Johnson: Well Dan...
24
25 Shirley Sanborn: With the...
26
27 Linda Johnson: ...was the one...
28
29 Shirley Sanborn: ...with the help of a couple other people.
30
31 [thumping]
32
33 Linda Johnson: ...that brought those, uh, notebooks to our attention.
34
35 [clicking]
36
37 Shirley Sanborn: Mm-hm. There's a Women's Club book or Girl's Club [clicking] albums
38 around here someplace...
39
40 [clicking]
41
42 Linda Johnson: I haven't...
43
44 Shirley Sanborn: ...but maybe they got tossed...
45
46 Linda Johnson: ...I don't know.

1
2 Shirley Sanborn: ...I don't know.
3
4 Linda Johnson: I don't know...
5
6 Shirley Sanborn: Maybe [Terry Weston 31:50]...
7
8 Linda Johnson: ...[inaudible 31:50]...
9
10 Shirley Sanborn: ...took'm home with her. I don't know.
11
12 [clicking]
13
14 Linda Johnson: Cheryl McQuaid.
15
16 [clicking]
17
18 Cheryl McQuaid: You've mentioned that you worked [thumping] with, um, [Leonard Varma.
19 [31:58] What was he like to work for?
20
21 Shirley Sanborn: Super.
22
23 Cheryl McQuaid: [32:01] Was he? Good boss?
24
25 Shirley Sanborn: Good boss. [background movement] [clicking] Yep, very good boss.
26
27 [background movement]
28
29 Cheryl McQuaid: I know the one thing I always heard about [Leonard Varma] was if you
30 [thumping] asked him what a project was gonna cost, he always said, "It'll
31 cost what it costs."
32
33 Shirley Sanborn: Yep.
34
35 Cheryl McQuaid: That was his saying, [huh? 32:16]
36
37 Shirley Sanborn: Figure what it cost and [clicking] add 10%. [clicking] [laughter] He, he
38 had, at that point in time, he had – so [clicking] his hair was [still red
39 32:25], and he had a temper [clicking] that he [clicking] would lose
40 [scraping] occasionally, but, um, [clicking] never to me. [clicking] Never
41 to me, no. We got along fine.
42
43 [background movement] [thumping]
44
45 Linda Johnson: Doreen Howard.
46

1 [thumping]
2
3Doreen Howard: You were here during the [thumping] name changes of the plant. It went
4 from Fisher [scraping] Body to BOC. [32:47] Were you here during the
5 BOC...
6
7Shirley Sanborn: No, BOP.
8
9Doreen Howard: BOP?
10
11 [clicking] [clanking]
12
13Shirley Sanborn: Then BOC.
14
15Doreen Howard: Then BOC? Okay.
16
17 [clicking]
18
19Shirley Sanborn: Buick, Olds, Pontiac.
20
21Doreen Howard: Oh, okay.
22
23 [clicking]
24
25Shirley Sanborn: Then Buick, Olds, Cadillac.
26
27 [clicking]
28
29Doreen Howard: Okay.
30
31Male: And then LCA.
32
33Doreen Howard: [33:01] And then [clanking] were you here from, [clicking] when it went
34 to the [background movement] LCA?
35
36Shirley Sanborn: Oh, yes.
37
38Doreen Howard: Okay. [clicking] [33:07] How did you feel about these name changes
39 and...
40
41Shirley Sanborn: I thought it was ridiculous.
42
43Doreen Howard: [33:10] And [laughter] what do you to re-, refer to the plant? How do you
44 refer to this [clanking] building?
45
46Shirley Sanborn: Fisher Body.

1
2Doreen Howard: [squeaking] [clanking] [33:17] Do you have any, um, [clicking]
3 [thumping] special memories or, or anything [knocking] about the
4 building [clicking] that's dear to your heart or anything?
5
6Shirley Sanborn: Nah, no. I...
7
8Doreen Howard: [clicking] Uh...
9
10Shirley Sanborn: ...sat at the same desk [scrapping] for 40 years, uh, [coughing] not quite,
11 but...
12
13 [clicking] [laughter] [clicking]
14
15Marilyn Coulter: Uh, at, in 1949 – Marilyn Coulter, [throat clearing] [just a 33:39] question.
16 [33:40] Was, what about the women's facilities? I know they've had to,
17 um, [clicking] they've had to put more out on the floor. Wo-, did,
18 [snapping] did women who worked in the office, did they have the same
19 number [thumping] of facilities as the men did?
20
21Shirley Sanborn: There was one restroom.
22
23Marilyn Coulter: [33:51] Just one restroom?
24
25Shirley Sanborn: One for men, one for women. [background movement] That's all there was
26 [up in 33:56] the main office area.
27
28Marilyn Coulter: [Okay. All right. 33:57]
29
30 [background movement]
31
32Linda Johnson: Doug Rademacher.
33
34 [clicking]
35
36Doug Rademacher: There used to be a garden [clicking] of flowers and bushes that made up
37 the Fisher Body Coach out in front.
38
39Shirley Sanborn: Yeah.
40
41Doug Rademacher: [34:09] Was that here the day you hired in, or do you know when that was
42 created?
43
44 [clicking]
45

1 Shirley Sanborn: It was there when I hired in, and it [clicking] was there until [background
2 movement] th-, they decided it cost too much to maintain, basically.
3

4 Linda Johnson: Do you know [when that 34:23]...
5

6 Shirley Sanborn: We used to have gardeners who used to work in the department I worked
7 in [thumping] for the Waste Control Salvage Sanitation. [background
8 movement] They'd go out there [clicking] and [pick 34:32] all the,
9 [clicking] all the flowers, pl-, planted'm every spring. And [clicking] then
10 they, they had a chalk diagram that they [clanking] put down [clanking] in
11 the spring, and then they'd [background movement] plant these flowers
12 [clicking] according to the diagram. And then they'd, all summer long,
13 they were out there [squeaking] clippin' and [clicking] clippin' and
14 [clicking] clippin' and clippin' and [laughter] clippin' and...
15
16 [laughter] [thumping] [throat clearing]
17

18 Female: [Inaudible 34:57].
19
20 [clicking] [knocking]
21

22 Shirley Sanborn: But [coughing] yeah, it was, uh – people came from all over to take
23 pictures of that thing.
24

25 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
26

27 Shirley Sanborn: All over.
28
29 [background movement]
30

31 Doug Rademacher: I grew up 3 blocks from here, and I just, [scratching] that was something
32 I'll always remember and [scratching] couldn't believe they took [clicking]
33 it out.
34
35 [clicking]
36

37 Shirley Sanborn: Oh, I know. That's such a, [scraping] such a shame.
38

39 Female: Mm-hm.
40
41 [clicking]
42

43 Shirley Sanborn: I mean, what the hell, you know. I mean, [thumping] I mean, these guys
44 worked – they were gardeners, but they didn't [clicking] [throat clearing]
45 spend all their time clippin'. [clicking] They mowed the yards, picked up

1 trash, [coughing] all the rest of the [knocking] gardening stuff. [scraping]
2 You know, [clicking] was not my decision.
3
4 [clicking]
5
6 Doug Rademacher: Well you said [clanking] people came from all over. [clicking] Do you...
7
8 Shirley Sanborn: I mean, other countries, even.
9
10 Doug Rademacher: That's what I was wonderin'. [35:37] Do you know, [for example 35:39]...
11
12 Shirley Sanborn: Not specifically, no, but [thumping] I know they did. They were out there
13 takin' [knocking] pictures all the time.
14
15 Female: Mm-hm.
16
17 Shirley Sanborn: [Inaudible 35:46]. [laughter]
18
19 [clicking]
20
21 Doug Rademacher: Well it was, it was beautiful.
22
23 Shirley Sanborn: It was. [throat clearing] It was unusual. I mean, you have a, [knocking]
24 you have a picture of a [knocking] s-, coach in the center of this thing and,
25 and all the different colors that the, [background movement] the flowers
26 were all different colors to go with the coach. [clicking] So it was, uh,
27 [knocking] it was beautiful.
28
29 [high-pitched sound]
30
31 Doug Rademacher: It was.
32
33 Shirley Sanborn: It really was.
34
35 [background movement] [thumping]
36
37 Linda Johnson: [36:11] Well is there anything I haven't asked you or my cohorts haven't
38 asked you? Doug Rademacher?
39
40 Doug Rademacher: I'll ask another [clicking] question.
41
42 Linda Johnson: Okay.
43
44 Doug Rademacher: You shared that, um, [sniffing] after [clicking] contracts that your wages
45 were always increased according to the gains made by the union. [36:29]

1 Could you share a little bit [thumping] about [sniffing] what you think
2 [scraping] about unions and did you...
3
4 Shirley Sanborn: I think they're the greatest thing since [scraping] mashed potatoes.
5 [clicking] I mean, at that [background movement] point in time, if it hadn't
6 been for the union, we wouldn't a got squat.
7
8 Female: [Inaudible 36:43]...
9
10 Shirley Sanborn: And we knew it. I mean, there was no getting around it. [clanking]
11 [clicking] Everybody knew that. [clanking] If they didn't, they were
12 stupid.
13
14 Female: [Mm-hm 36:53].
15
16 [background movement] [clicking]
17
18 Shirley Sanborn: There was a lot of those around too, but [laughter] [inaudible 36:57]. No, I
19 think, uh, you know, I, I'm – depresses me greatly to see the [throat
20 clearing] [clicking] things that the unions go through nowadays with a lot
21 of, [background movement] lot of things, [clicking] Delphi, for example.
22 Used to be Ternstedt back when I hired in. Matter a fact, [thumping] the
23 guy that ran the Ternstedt desk in Material Control is the guy that
24 suggested I come [thumping] over here and get hired, so.
25
26 [laughter] [clicking]
27
28 Doug Rademacher: Grateful to him, [I assume 37:29].
29
30 [background noises]
31
32 Shirley Sanborn: Yeah.
33
34 [laughter]
35
36 Female: Mm-hm.
37
38 Doreen Howard: [37:33] So you were here for when they struck for [scraping] [clicking]
39 30-and-out [clicking] back in the, what was that? About seventy...
40
41 Doug Rademacher: The u-, the union...
42
43 Doreen Howard: ...four?
44
45 Female: [Inaudible 37:40]...
46

1 Doug Rademacher: It was, [clicking] I think that was the '69, [scraping] when they walk,
2 walked out for the 30-and-out. The union asked for 30 years of service
3 [thumping] to retire. [clicking] [37:50] Do you remember that?
4

5 Shirley Sanborn: I don't remember that specifically, but my brother [clicking] worked in the
6 Paint Shop, and he [clicking] retired [thumping] with 30-and-out, so he
7 [squeaking] retired [in '48 37:57] [inaudible 37:58].
8
9 [clicking] [laughter]
10

11 Male: Hm.
12

13 Shirley Sanborn: I mean, [laughter] I mean, [laughter] [thumping] [clicking] and then he's
14 been gripin' ever since about all the money he doesn't get.
15
16 [laughter]
17

18 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm. [38:10] Do you have any...
19

20 Shirley Sanborn: [What do you expect? 38:10]
21

22 Linda Johnson: ...other family members that worked here besides [clicking] your brother?
23 What was your brother's name?
24
25 [throat clearing]
26

27 Shirley Sanborn: Frank Kobel.
28

29 Linda Johnson: Frank Kobel?
30

31 Shirley Sanborn: K-O-B-E-L. [clicking] He's now living in Florida with, [clicking] he's got
32 3 children that [clicking] live down there, and his wife died a couple years
33 ago, so he's, uh...
34

35 Linda Johnson: Mm-hm.
36

37 Shirley Sanborn: S-, anything else?
38
39 [clicking]
40

41 Linda Johnson: [38:34] If you, have I – is there anything else you'd wanna share that we
42 haven't asked you?
43
44 [background movement]
45

46 Shirley Sanborn: Well if you wanna know why my name is Sanborn, not McGiven.

1
2 Linda Johnson: Yeah. [laughter] [38:44] But yeah, why is that?
3
4 [laughter]
5
6 Shirley Sanborn: It's because my son's father and I were divorced, and I remarried a guy
7 named [John 38:50] Sanborn, who was a [clicking] pipefitter welder for
8 the local...
9
10 Linda Johnson: Oh.
11
12 Shirley Sanborn: ...288.
13
14 Female: Oh.
15
16 [clicking]
17
18 Female: [Inaudible 38:55].
19
20 Shirley Sanborn: [No 38:56] [background noises] and, [clicking] but he's, he's dead now
21 too.
22
23 Female: Oh.
24
25 Shirley Sanborn: They're all dead. [clicking] [laughter] They're all dead.
26
27 [laughter]
28
29 Linda Johnson: You outlive'm all.
30
31 Shirley Sanborn: All dead.
32
33 [clicking]
34
35 Female: [Hm 39:05].
36
37 Shirley Sanborn: So it's just me and my son [clicking] and his wife and 3 kids.
38
39 Linda Johnson: [39:08] How old are those grandchildren?
40
41 [clicking]
42
43 Shirley Sanborn: The oldest is 16, four-, and the next boy is 14, and the girl is 13. [clicking]
44 They all go to DeWitt.
45
46 Linda Johnson: Cheryl McQuaid.

1
2 Cheryl McQuaid: [39:21] How did you meet Mr. Sanborn?
3
4 Shirley Sanborn: The bowling alley.
5
6 [clicking]
7
8 Cheryl McQuaid: [39:25] Were you on a bowling team or...
9
10 Shirley Sanborn: Yeah. Women's – [clicking] Fisher Body Women's Team.
11
12 [laughter]
13
14 Cheryl McQuaid: Oh, how fun.
15
16 Linda Johnson: Do you have a...
17
18 Shirley Sanborn: He wasn't...
19
20 Linda Johnson: ...picture of you?
21
22 Shirley Sanborn: ...he was, uh, on the [thumping] construction team.
23
24 Linda Johnson: That's another thing we'd like, [clicking] a picture of a Fisher [clicking]
25 Body bowling team and [background movement] their Fisher Body shirts.
26 [clanking] [39:40] You got somethin' like that?
27
28 [clicking]
29
30 Shirley Sanborn: I don't know for certain. I'd have to – [clanking] I've got 26 photo albums
31 [clicking] full a pictures...
32
33 Linda Johnson: Oh, my.
34
35 Shirley Sanborn: ...at home.
36
37 Marilyn Coulter: [Yes 39:54].
38
39 [clicking]
40
41 Linda Johnson: Well think about that. We were looking for somethin' like...
42
43 Shirley Sanborn: [Inaudible 39:57]...
44
45 Linda Johnson: ...that.
46

1 Shirley Sanborn: ...if you could find the [clanking] Women's Club [creaking] album,
2 [knocking] it might have something. I'm not sure about that.
3
4 [background movement]
5
6 Cheryl McQuaid: [40:05] Is that how the bowling team came about? Was that part of the
7 Women's Club or...
8
9 Shirley Sanborn: No. It was just a buncha [background movement] women got together and
10 uh, [clicking] made a bowling team, or league [inaudible 40:15]...
11
12 Cheryl McQuaid: So it was...
13
14 Shirley Sanborn: ...we had...
15
16 Cheryl McQuaid: ...all co-workers, [huh? 40:17].
17
18 Shirley Sanborn: ...we had 4 or si-, [what we have, 40:19] [thumping], 6, 6 teams or
19 something like that.
20
21 Linda Johnson: Doug [throat clearing] Rademacher.
22
23 [thumping]
24
25 Doug Rademacher: You said you had a great time working here. You had good friends.
26 [40:33] Has your friendships carried over into your [background
27 movement] life after Fisher Body?
28
29 Shirley Sanborn: Not really, no.
30
31 [clicking]
32
33 Doug Rademacher: [40:38] You said that you meet with the gals, so can you tell us about that?
34
35 Shirley Sanborn: Well I meet with'm once a month, but we're, [clicking] we're [clicking]
36 friends but not buddies. [clicking] [background noises] There's a
37 difference.
38
39 [laughter]
40
41 Doug Rademacher: [Okay. 40:52]
42
43 [thumping] [laughter]
44

1 Shirley Sanborn: No. The, [clicking] my, my one – I'm probably a lot different than a lotta
2 women. I had very few close friends. [clicking] My closest friend moved
3 to Wyoming last year, which would [clanking] pull us apart.
4
5 [laughter]
6
7 Linda Johnson: That's a distance.
8
9 [laughter]
10
11 Female: Yeah, that's a distance.
12
13 [coughing]
14
15 Shirley Sanborn: [clicking] Other than that, um...
16
17 [clicking]
18
19 Female: Mm-hm.
20
21 Shirley Sanborn: No. [clicking] [thumping] [clicking] Yeah, I, I've learned to live alone. I've
22 lived alone now for th-, [clicking] 39 years.
23
24 [background movement]
25
26 Female: Wow.
27
28 Female: Wow.
29
30 [creaking]
31
32 Shirley Sanborn: And I don't mind my own company, so you know, no problem.
33
34 Doug Rademacher: We don't mind your company either.
35
36 Female: We don't mind.
37
38 [laughter]
39
40 Shirley Sanborn: No problem.
41
42 [laughter]
43
44 Female: [Inaudible 41:46].
45
46 [clicking]

1
2Shirley Sanborn: But, uh...
3
4 [clicking]
5
6Linda Johnson: Well thank you...
7
8Marilyn Coulter: Yes.
9
10Linda Johnson: ...for comin' here today.
11
12 [clicking]
13
14Mike Fleming: Yes, thank [clicking] you...
15
16Shirley Sanborn: [Inaudible 41:51]...
17
18Mike Fleming: ...very much.
19
20Linda Johnson: It's great to see you [throat clearing] again.
21
22Cheryl McQuaid: Thank you, Shirley.
23
24Marilyn Coulter: Yeah.
25
26Mike Fleming: Thank you [inaudible 41:53].
27
28Female: [Inaudible 41:44]. [recorder clicking]
29
30
31/lk