

BILLIE JEAN NEWSOME

Q What is your age?

A I am 32.

Q Why don't you just start talking about what your Christmas was like.

A Beautiful. Well, it was real nice. I had my family over for Thanksgiving, so I thought I would have them over for Thanksgiving and get it out of the way so I can I can have Christmas you know. So my son he supposed to came over for Christmas, but he didn't so he came over for New Year's, and it was my husband's first time meeting our daughter-in-law, she's from Morocco. So... it was real nice you know, reunion with new daughter-in-law and everything. Beautiful reunion, and most of all the rest. Plenty of rest and you ready to go back into the factory.

Q Your son is in the service?

A Yes he is.

Q You met his wife?

A Yea, I met his wife. She's from Morocco, Africa, and they got a daughter. She be 1 year old tomorrow.

Q Is this your first grandbaby?

A Yes.

Q Share with me what job you do in the plant.

A Okay... well... okay. I started in the plant in 1977. Michigan truck plant, that is my base plant. Okay, so um... I'm starting from the beginning you know. So um, I worked days for 90 days, then I went on afternoons. I was working the afternoon shift in 1980 and they laid the afternoon shift off. So, we was, well, I was like uh, back and

forth to Wayne Assembly you know. They had me working like uh... 89 days inspector you know. for one year. Then they laid me off for another year. So, you know, I was off and on for like I worked 60 days. off again, 4 months, off again, you know in between then. I wasn't married then. So when I went back to the car plant I met my husband.. He was there, my husband. After being laid off and everything I met him. We was talking it over you know, and my last foreman said I should marry him. So yea, I married him. So I got married in 1982. Okay, so I was laid off like um... for about two years beofre I went back in 1985, you know. No - 1984 I was laid off two years. So I went back to the truck plant they hired me in uh as uh what is it, uh, they hired me in as a watershield. Puttin' the paper on the door in trim department.

Q What is it called?

A Watershield job. So when I went in, uh, they trained me... you know, showed me the job I have to do. No - first they put me on the I.V. job pulling those I.V.'s you know, the wires and stuff out. So my friend say no ~~Billie Jean~~ I don't think you can that 'cause your breast are in the way. I said yea well I'll have to talk to Dick or somebody 'cause I don't think I'm gonna like this. So he talked to Dick and Dick took me up to the Watershield job. So, uh. they trained me.

Q What exactly is the Watershield job?

A The Watershield job is like the right door... the passenger door side. Okay it is a billup. The first time I was doing it, I was putting this sealer on the door with a sealer gun. Then I would take a sheet of

paper... well Watershield paper, put it on the door - fit it on the door, tear a piece of tape, put it down at the bottom of it, seal it up. Then I take the door handle, shake the door handle and then I will pull a rubber strip over the door.

Q What did you find hard about that job?

A What I found hard about it was puttin' that sealer on the door. Because every day I was messed up with that black stuff you know. Then while I was learning it, it was really a mess, you know... until I got the hang of it and everything. Oh, and I put it on the tailgate.

Q The tailgate too?

A Yes. So that was the hard part about it. You know, and the jobs started coming you know... doing that. So, uh, they laid me off in 1985. January 11, 1985.. So I was off a year and three months. I had drew all of my unemployement and everything.

Q How much did you get in unemployment? Did you get sub pay too?

A Yea, sub pay. It be nice, not to bad. So I went back to work. They called me back to work in 1986. February, 1986, and put me right back on the Watershield job you know. And I couldn't understand why, but you know, who was to question. I was glad to get back. So, uh, when I went back, I worked all the way up to changeover. They put in a new machine. They took the sealer gun out and they put the new machine in it like the robot.

Q Explain that to me. What do you mean?

A Okay. This machine, okay, it sits on my side. It can load the paper up and it's some kind of sticky chemical taking the place of the sealer

stuff you know. So, um, they put in the machine and as I mash this button, the glass will go down, and this sticky stuff will go all around the paper and it will come up then I just take the sheet out and put it on the door. So that's a little better.

Q Why is it better?

A Because I don't have to deal with grabbing the sealer gun and, uh, puttin' that stuff in and plus you don't have to worry about a mess from that stuff. So, you know, that is fantastic, that was beautiful. Now the job is a little better, but you know how they is. They figure they took off one thing and put something else on there you know. Because they took the tailgate off and they gave us the map pocket. The map pocket is something like a little glove compartment, to put maps and something in. So, uh, it's still the same.

Q Do you have to run on the job? Do you work pretty steady?

A Well, I'm not gonna run on a job.

Q What do you mean?..If the jobs are coming fast, don't you run?

A No. I let it go.

Q You let it go?

A Yes. I mean, you know, I told my foreman what my committee man told me. He said, do not run on the job. That's the main thing I keep in the back of my head. Work at my pace, you know, steady working pace. I do not run on the job. I used to because I used to try to, um, like the fellow that worked on the other side, I was trying to keep up with him, but I just realized he's been doing this job for 10 years, you know what I am saying? It is natural to him, you know, this is

something new to me 'cause I have been on like two years. So I started doing it, then I saw it was so uncomfortable for me, so I stopped, and worked at my own pace, you know, a steady pace. So... when Dick found out I was doing that, so he took me off the job. I couldn't keep it up, he probably was still keeping it up, but it was hurting him too, you know. So now I am working my steady pace, you know. If I don't put enough piping on... you know.

Q Who gets it? What happens?

A Well, the repairman gets it, you know. Well, Clifford gets it, if don't get it, it will go all the way then they will send someone else over to the other side and they'll get it. It don't be too many, it probably be one to two. It all depends how many map pockets they receive in a row. Sometimes you have three, you know, trucks in there that doesn't call for map pocket. So it all depends how many they, you know, send in. Sometimes there can be like 21 in the room.

Q So that's when you might fall behind?

A Yea, fall behind.

Q So you work with the robot now, you work at your own pace still. Do you think that the robot has added to the quality of the job? Do think that is better or worse with the robot?

A Well, I don't know, because so far, since the robots been in. They put in the changeover in July, you know, the second week of July. Okay, since I have been back working with it, we haven't had complaints about water leakage. I don't know if it has or what, because when we had the sealer, that black stuff there was a lot of water leakage. There was

something wrong there you know. But now since this robot is in, they don't, as far as I know, they don't come to be with complaints about water leakage, you know. Sometimes, I goes over there and check.

Q Oh, you do check? You are that interested? You want to know what is happening?

A Yea, because I feel like, um, I want to do my job good, you know what I am saying, and plus, I got a Ford product.

Q You do?

A Yea, I got a 85 Lincoln, and I feel like, um, you know, first I was buying other cars, but now I feel like since I work for Ford's I'll buy Ford products, you know. Bob told me that; he works on the line. He said why don't you buy a Ford product. You know, and I looked with my husband. I was gonna get a Riveria. And my husband said, since we work for Ford, he works next door.

Q Oh, he works at the car plant?

A Uh huh. He said since we work for Ford, we'll just go and get a Ford car, and we can get the A plan and everything, you know. And I said I really don't like what they got. -- He said let's try the Towne Car, you know. I said oh, okay. It was a luxury car and large.

Q That is a real luxury, luxury car?

A I said okay. Naw, I was taking the Ford, because when we travel we goes to like to Texas. He is from Texas.

Q Fort Worth?

A Yea, and we go to Texas like two Christmas' we been to Texas. Well, no one Christmas and when his mother passed we went. So, ah, it rides

like an airplane. So I see the quality, I enjoy. So by me working there, I wanted my quality job to be good and then plus I don't want no one coming and talking, you know, saying anything to me, you know. The better I work, the better I feel comfortable. Because if anyone comes and aggravates me, I be mad, you know. My whole day be ruined.

Q Well, how to they aggravate you? Do you remember times when they used to aggravate you?

A Yea, well, when we had this sealer stuff, that black stuff. They would constantly come over there. Like the men would over there from the garage, you know. So I guess the supervisors or something. And I guess this man would check for water leaks. He had a _____ and he would write down how many water leaks were from my side, and so they check it, it would be like a lot of water leaks. Then they would come over there and they would say what is the problem. I would say there is not no problem, only thing I am doing is putting the stuff on there and it is up to the sealers if they want to seal so... So they tell me to rub it down. I said I can't nurse this job. When these trucks start coming, I cannot stay there and just nurse the job, you know. So I don't what the problem is. And, the majority of the time, the sealer has air in it, and that's not no good. Because the air, like it foams up.

Q Bubbles?

A Yea, it bubbles up and you see it won't stick. You know what I'm saying? Because they have to have all the quality of the sealer there to make it stick like you know. So, doing this you know, they like

upset you, because you don't want no one standing there and watching you. You know like you're not doing the job.

Q Especially just coming back layoff?

A Yea, you don't know how long you will be there. They just use you when they can then they kick you back out there. You know, all this, you know, so um, I tell them. I say "Hey, I'm doing the best that I can".

Q Do you think that the small the robot and the way that it is putting the sealer on has improved the quality as well as gotten them off your back a little?

A Wait, let me tell you something. Okay, like I go out and check; they would tell me so much. You see, okay, so, um, they probably really not telling us. You know what I am saying? They put a \$25, uh \$50,000.00 machine in there, and this machine is taught to do it.

Q Is that what it cost, \$50,000.00?

A I don't know. I think it cost that much, you know, \$50,000.00, you know. So, uh, they're not goin' to tell me if their really reaching or what. They probably come back and tell me, "take the tape and cover the holes" you know what I am saying? It would probably be my fault. It would probably be like the tape is not covering the hole real good or something like that. They gonna go all around the issue, you know.

Q There not going to blame the machine?

A There not gonna blame the machine. Their gonna try to blame the machine operater. Now, check this out. When I was working, you know how all these people would come in there when we first launched our new truck?

Q Which people?

A Well, these people from the launching team, the launching team for the new truck. You know, like engineers and everything, they come in and check it out to see if they are properly being put together and stuff. So I was working and I am always talking and making conversation, you know, because I want to know, you know, who is who? Well, they have a badge; I looked, you know, and I asked them, I talked to them. I said "What is your job specialize in." The one walked on saying I specialize in sealer or something. I said "Oh, you specialize in sealer? He said yes, I am specializing any one of these new trucks. I got to find out where there coming from. I said "Oh yea". I said have you been getting water leaks from the door since they added the new machine in? He said yes. So, you know, he told me that, but they in the garage, you know, don't say nothing. So, he said he was trying to find out what was the problem.

Q Hasn't the employee involvement program created better communication that you would know what is going on? It sounds like the same old stuff.

A Okay, the employee involvement, um... I feel like, um, like just a little something from the committee, I mean, you know, that is just a little something the factory put up because they wants to know how you feel, the job, you know. They want to get closer to you, you know. The employee involvement it just came two or three years ago, something like that, you know. So, I remember when I first came in there in 1984, see they treated me like I was brand-new, like I came in from,

you know, Wayne Assembly and had never been at the truck plant. And, that's when the manager, ah, Wallace, was there, remember him? He was the truck manager then, he left. I don't know his first name. Well, anyway, they took us through like an orientation, which was nice because we didn't have to work and they paid us for the whole day.

Q What was that orientation like?

A The orientation, okay, they hired us in, filled out an application, and everything, and so we sit there. Then, they bring in, like they introduce the people in labor relations, they introduce people in stock, they introduce people like, uh, different programs, like the E.I. committee man, you know. They was taking us in as brand-new. So, we went in the room. We discussed with the committee man, they told us what is what. I think this was, um, P.E.P. program.

Q What is that?

A The P.E.P. is, um, Preparing Employment, I don't know, but it's some type of fund for health. It is a certain fund, you know, like we would go in and we would just work only eight hours. Okay, they would pay out of their P.E.P. program, and then we work ten hours, Ford would pay us the other two hours. Okay, so we was like gettin' two checks.

Q It was a way to stop the layoffs for a while. So they wouldn't lay you off they had a special program, and they can move you around any way they want.

A You know, the P.E.P. program they can do anything because we on the program we work for the P.E.P. program.

Q So you had this orientation?

Yes, the committee man explained to us what is happenin', you know, what does are job consists of, and, um, you know they told us how it worked any everything. So, we went to work the next day, we worked ten hours, you know. It was, I don't know, it was them little things, you know. Because what they did, was they hired us in, we was something like utility, you know, we would learn the job. Some of them was fast in learning the job. But, my policy is, I'm not gonna learn too many of them.

Q Why do you say that?

A Because I don't want to do it, you know, I don't want to be doing different jobs. I just want to do one.

Q You like one job?

A Yes.

Q Why is it that you like one job?

A Because I just like to stay, you know, in one job, you know. I don't like. You know, they can loan me out, you know, when they loan me out it would be two people, one job thats fine. I don't want to learn two or three jobs because, um, it's ~~aggravating,~~ you know what I'm saying. Once you get adjusted to one...

Q You like to be set?

A Yea.

Q Your new contact new year, their probably going to start paying you for knowing more than one job. Do you think that this is a good idea or bad idea? Would that affect you?

A You know what? That's um, you know what if someone's missing, you

now, it won't be hard, that's slick. They're tricky, you know what I'm saying? That's a little gimmick. Because if someone's absent, they'll always have somebody else who know they job and they can play chess (?) You know what I'm saying? That's good, then again, the fellow he wants to get more money he allowed it.

Q But that's not important to you?

A No it's not important to me I'm only a woman.

Q What does that mean.

A Because I can only do so much. I don't care what it is, you know.

Q Do you think because you are a woman your just...

A Some of those jobs I know man would have to do 'em, you know what I am saying? Some of them, I know, and I wouldn't try it. So I do my best whatever job they put me on, I'll try it, but you know, I'm not goin...

Q Have you had hard or bad experiences being a woman in the plant? There is not many women in that plant? Putting you on bad jobs, or even from the guys in the line or from the foreman. How do they relate to you?

A Very good.

Q What do you mean?

A I comes in there. I'm B.J., you know, I'm down open, I'm down to earth. That's how I want you to come to me - you know, open. They lie, you know, and you can tell it.

Q What do you mean they lie?

A They tell you, well, okay, just like I... when I first came... when I came back the second time on that job, it was R.T.'s job, and, um,...

Q It was what?

It was R.T., he name is Richard, you know. So, uh, it was his job, and I was, because people was coming into the labor relations they seen I was coming back, they knew I knew the job. So B.J., you might as well get ready 'cause you going back on that job. I said What? I don't have to come in here and like I'm new, you know, they gonna have to train me on something else, you know. He said "nope, you going back on that same job". Okay, so by the foreman and general foreman new me from the past. I come back on that same set, you know. I got upset because of in the P.E.P. program they explained to me in the P.E.P. program you supposed to learn three different jobs, you know. I didn't want to come back on the thing I was on there before I got laid off. I wanted to go to another department, I want to learn something else you know, something different. Because I feel like the sealer job is if anyone can do that; you can do anything, you know what I'm saying. Because it was hard, it was hard. Because you had to work in there too. You know what I'm taking about, you know. I feel like I want to explore somewhere else you know. Okay, they did it because I kept hollering about it. I called the committee men and I told him that they done stuck me right back on the same job, and I said that I want to be trained 'cause they explained, the P.E.P. people are to be trained, you know you stay on the job only three days and then you move on and go somewhere else.

Q You are supposed to fill in when someone is not there anywhere in the plant - that was the goal?

A That was the goal, but we supposed to train, like we take three days

with a person in training and we learn his job and we move on. You know, we was like utility and they was having us like utility people. So, ah, they put me on the job because R.T. saw me coming in. They put on that job, they trained me on that job. They starting me back off fresh on that sealer job for three days again, you know. So, you know, naturally people who had the job for a year it will come back to you naturally. So I was doing it any everything and I was talking and doing again, and found myself doing it for a week. So then I started holloring at my committee man you know. I said Brian, you know I always take steps procedures, I never go over nobody's head. I said Brian, I been on this job for goin' on seven days. The P.E.P. program and you all explained to me what was the P.E.P. program. I said I did not get hired in here a production worker and plus back on the same job. So he said okay B.J. we'll see. You know the committee man and the general foreman they always do their thing.

Q What do you mean?

A Well, they negotiate on you, you know what I'm saying. They makes deals like you say well suppose B.J. blah, blah this and you do this and thing sweetie pie will probably say well if she do this and then you know what I'm saying? You in the middle of this and they negotiating with you, you know, how you should do it.

Q Does that bother you?

A Well, if he do it right it don't bother me. If he do it wrong, it bothers me because I will take it to another step you know what I am saying? Because I told him, I told Brian, I said Brian, I said I am paying you out of my check every month and you suppose to be something

like a lawyer and I want my business taken care of right. He just looked at me like that's right, you know it's my right. He looked at me he said that's one thing about B.J. she is very meaningful and forceful and that's right. I said just because... just like on this job here, I said if it's not right you all be down here on me in a minute about gettin' this job together. So I want my business taken care of, you know. Treat me as quota and I'll treat you, you know what I'm talking about? So I started hollerin', so Brian said he would see what he was doin'. So Brian was too slow and I remember... what is... Archie Kenney? I remember he gave me his phone number and I called and he wasn't at home his recording was on. So he finally called me back and I explained to him what was happenin'. So he did somethin' I got off the job you know. I guess they gave me a breather, you know what I'm saying they just playing games with me. So I got off of it, so they had me floating around for a couple of three days you know, so... I gets right back on it, okay, so he said he needs R.T. over there for the I.V. line, you know. This person was gone. So I seen that I couldn't fight this Smitty no more, so went I went up to meet him, you know. I always catch him walking in the hall.

Q Smitty is the General Foreman right?

A General Foreman, yea Dan Smith. I went up to him, I said Dan be honest with me be truthful with me. I said am I gonna be on this job as long as I'm here. He looked at me, you know he looked me, and he said yea B.J. I think so because I need Richard T. over there on the I.V. line because we are short over there. I said well how come you didn't just tell me, you know... 'cause my mind was telling me get training here

you know I'm going by what the new program is, you know what I'm saying, but here they is playing games and see I'm like this, I want to know what's happen' you know, because that way I can adjust myself to, you know, how I'm gonna work, you know because you know you get trained for different jobs, but if you kind like in a ball, you know, you're not settled, you know. So, on one job, you can get adjusted to it you know. Like you can make it your second home, you know, because you're gonna be there you know for a while. Like I see you reading your paper, you know, you're gonna be there. He told me, yea, he was honest with me, he said yea B.J. you gonna be there. So, I said well, I said "Oh God", I started praying, you know, I goes to church a whole lot. I started praying to God, I said oh God, I said Lord I know I said is this true. I said Lord is this gonna be me here? I said Amen, you know. I said well God you got to make these things better. I said because I'm tired of a grimey monkey. Sealer all over the place, all over my shoes and people look at me and say God! You know I won't buy no new clothes. My housekeeper she gets mad with me. We was washing and the sealer would still be there. She say what is all this sticky stuff? I said, hey I'm not buying no new clothes, you know.

Q You don't wear coveralls?

A No. Ah ah, not coveralls. They make you too hot and then make you lose your feminine, you know?

Q Your what?

A Your feminen. It makes you look like a man in one of those. I'm already working like a man so I really don't, you know dress and look like one, you know. So I said oh God you got to make this better for

me. I said, I can't stand this, you know, it's like a pain. You know I hate to be nasty all the time. Everytime there's a party I gotta wash my hair and wash this stuff off. I couldn't gloves, you know.

Q Why couldn't you wear gloves?

A 'Cause I had to pull the tape and the tape was sticking. Now I use them because I'm not using the sealer, and sometimes the sealer gets on your hands. It's just a mess, like you said you had experience with it, you know. It was just a mess, you know. When you work with gooky stuff, it gets in your mouth and it is nasty.

Q One of the reasons you don't wear coveralls is because you want to still hold onto your femininity?

A Well, that's my opinion.

Q Your identity is important to you and that is what I want to talk about. Do the guys on the line relate to you as one of the guys? How do they relate to you?

A Well, my relationship with the guys is they relate to me as a woman. My relationship is like I, you know, closer like a sister image. You know what I'm saying? Like, um, ~~it a fella come and try to talk to me...~~ I'm married, I'm happily married. Like a fella come and try to talk to me I reverse it. I tell him well suppose your wife was doing this, you know, I break it down to him and they leave me alone. So I comes back with 'em like a sister image, you know. We get a relationship in like a buddy, buddy, like a friend, friend relationship. That's how I want my relationship with the fellas in there. They real nice.

Q They respect you? They don't try to get on with you?

A No. They give their respect. Well they call me a Holy Roly.

Q A Holy Roly?

A Yea, I'm saved you know. And I carry myself, you know. You never see me smoke or cuss or nothing in there you know. I just me, you know, naturally. And especially Scotty. Scotty tried it, but, um, I reversed my thing to him I told him suppose your wife was doing that? He just looked at me and he said you know your crazy.

Q So they call you...

A Holy Roly. Plus I go to church.

Q Is there any difference in the way the white guys or the black guys relate to you in that kind of respect.

A All of 'em relates to me just about the same, you know, because it's like, um... I always learned that you show how you is, you know what I'm saying? You show the type of people you is, you lay it out on the line you know. And then, they, they, okay, I'll say like a 'xample like Jack. Jack Holmes he works on the trim. He had gotten pretty bad himself, but it was like I will deal with their mind; I reverse that thing, because it's like, um, he started making the insinuation-like racial like you know.

Q What kind of things?

A Like, uh, B.J.... Well first of all like Detroit. You know, like a whole lot of 'em don't like Mayor Young, okay. So... um, you know they say little aggravations, you know. I guess what used to get me fired is I used to...

Q What kind of things would they say?

A Well, like, uh, Mayor Young is prejudice against them and stuff you

know. And then, I tell them well Mayor Young is doing his job. I said... me and my husband was talking we said because of all the white people had moved out of Detroit. They left Detroit for dead, you know what I'm saying? And, here comes a black Mayor who built Detroit up and now they taking it like, um, he's prejudice against them, you know what I'm saying because this mayor he's down to earth, you know what I'm saying? So, uh, they don't like that 'cause I tell 'em like it is, you know. So, uh, I tell Jack, I say Jack I said well... He made this comment he said you people you know. But you are starting to see what I'm saying about him and coming from. You people my father, my grandfather owned one of you. I said oh yea, and guess what? This is 86 baby, I said look, I said you here, I'm here we making the same money, I said I will probably have your granddaughter doing my housekeeping work you know? He look, you know, I turn his head around, you know I get 'em wear it hurts, you know. So they can just come off of it and then I come back as a sister image. I love 'em you know what I'm saying, you know. Just tell me if I say anything I'm sorry, I'll apologize you know I love 'em. ~~You know I come back to them I want to~~ be like friend image. Because all of us in this together, you know what I'm saying. We making the same thing, the same bucks, we got the same income, you know. And, I have to break 'em down again another time he kept throwing the insinuation like ah... Like ah, B.J., um, like he's downing me, you know what I'm saying. I had to cut him off, I said hey look.

Q What did he say?

A It was something about, um, something about, um, I don't have, you

know, ah, it was something about he was downing me 'cause I was black you know what I'm saying, you know. It was something, you know, so I just stopped right there. I didn't say it in front of everybody, I wispered in his ear, I said you know what Jack? I said, I work in the factory, my husband works in the factory, I said I got just as much as you, or more. So you might as well cut the bullshitting out, 'cause we we might as well work together and be for real people I said get that out of your head, you know. He looked at me, you know, so ever since then, um, he hasn't came to that role with me that we talked about. I don't know, they probably tease with other people, but I lay it down because I don't want to tease 'cause it's enough problems in there. So, um, you know, he left that alone. He started off with that believe or not, but not know. Just like they pick with 'em and stuff, and I say Jack I love you, and he thank you B.J., you know. So, you know, I turn it around into something like love you know which it all boils down to you know. We in this together, we have to work together and have a happy atmosphere 'cause it's already rough, working mentally and physically for the factory. You know what I'm saying so us brothers, uh, sisters, and the union we gots to you know we have to make this thing work comfortably, you know. And so...

Q You hired in 77 about 10 years ago, what do you think that kind of testing segmenting the whites in the plant and that kind of sort of thing? Do you think that it has gotten better or worse?

A It's still there. You can feel the vibes, it's still, you know I noticed, um, too, like, um when I first got hire in there ain't really caring too much about a black woman, you know. Black woman is in

there, but they didn't care too much about her because they have to hire you because they hire white woman too, you know. I worked, I didn't get my ninety days in; they fired me.

Q What happened?

A See, um, they put you on a hard job, you know what I'm saying, and see, um they want you to do it. They hired me in... they fired me three weeks after that, you know. They put me on a hard job you know. They put all of us ladies on a hard job when we first got in there because they, uh, I guess they was seeing where they at; do they want to work or whatever. So, I was hanging in there, in there on that job and stuff. Probably messing a couple of things up, but I was hangin' there you know. It wasn't no reason to fight. So they just fired me.

Q Were you carrying instrument panels in and putting the wires on the instrument panels?

A No. I was working in chasis then. I was doing the splasher job.

Q The what job?

A The splasher job. This job is like ah, I had to run about fifteen screws to put on one side of the truck and it was like, it was up there by the battery job, okay. It was like I had to shoot the mud splasher.

Q Underneath the tire that rubber thing?

A Yea. And I had to shoot the screws in. A whole lot of little screws. I had to use these screws to put everything, you know, screw 'em up, you know. So, uh,... The reason why they fired me was because they wanted to get rid of the woman. They got rid of two white woman and one black, that was me. They got rid of us. So, uh, I say well I tried, you know, so, uh, Jeff he tried to get in touch with me because

they had called those two white woman back, but they didn't call me back, you know. So, you know, Jeff was furious.

Q He is the president of the union?

A Yea president of the union. Jeff was furious because they wanted to know why, 'cause they didn't have no grounds for firing for me. They fired the white woman so it won't look so bad they had to get a black one too. I guess to go with 'em and stuff you know. So, uh, Jeff and Charlie Haskins he was the truck plant chairman. They was furious they wanted to know how come they fired me. Because they checked; I was doin' a good job and so... So, uh, they was looking for me, you know, they couldn't find out what happened to me. My phone number some way got crossed and so... They couldn't find me and stuff so one day, something told me call the plant. I was kind of grieving. I was kind of hurt. I wanted to know why they fired me.

Q You just got hired in and was making good money?

A Yea, and then they just fired me, you know, I don't know what for. So I waited.

Q You were just twenty-two years old then?

A Yea, yea, yea, I was twenty-two with my daughter. My daughter was like four years old. I had her when I was... No she was seven. I had her when I was fifteen. So I was hurt. I was off like three weeks, or four weeks. So I called back, I wanted to know why they fired me. So I called back and Jeff said B.J. where you been? I said home. He said girl we been trying to get in touch with you. We been trying to bring you back to work. I said what? He said yes because it wasn't your fault they fired you. So he said come on in here so we can take of

this. I said okay. So I came in, they paid me for the whole time.

Q Really?

A Yea, they fired me because there wasn't no reason why they fired me. Because they had brought the other two women back you know. But I was still out there and they was looking for me so they paid me for the whole time I was off. Okay, so, um, I worked afternoons then. But afternoons, afternoons shift was like a more friendly atmosphere. It was beautiful.

Q How was it friendlier?

A It was younger people. It was my age and everything. We was fresh. It was new and everything. So everybody was like together. So we would go and, that's when I was drinking and stuff. We would go out and have us a drink. It was more like, uh, a close environment. Everybody was close and everything and I hung in there. Then they laid off the shift and it hurt everybody because, uh, afternoon shift it was like a family. It was like everybody was together. It wasn't nothing no one wouldn't do for you. If you wanted somethin', they would tell who got it.

Q What do you mean?

A I'm talking about like weed or something, yea. Getting high.

Q Are there much drugs in the plant?

A It wasn't...

Q There talking about drug testing. The image of an auto worker is that they're all a bunch of dope of drugsters. There all doing dope and there all high.

A You know what? When I got hired in there, when I went on afternoons,

afternoons was doing it.

Q Doing what?

A You know, like gettin' high. It was like a world inside of a world, you know afternoons. You know what I'm saying. You just working, you working ten hours.

Q Paint a picture for me.

A Okay, it was like underground world. See, okay, like, uh, you in here for ten hours, when you leave out it five o'clock in the morning, you know what I'm saying. So we had to make the party... You know we had to make the best of it in the afternoons. So afternoon, drugs, it wasn't well okay. When I started it was in there. They was doing drugs, you know. Use drugs, you know weed.

Q Was there much coke?

A No. No coke. It was like speed, like debs. I used to take them to stay up, you know just to keep you up, just to work, you know. You come in like five o'clock and get off at five o'clock that's uh, you know that's underground life. You know, everybody was speeding back. ~~To me, when were my crowd was everybody was speeding back you know.~~ But now, I don't know I'm not offered to the drug scene because I figure if you offerin' you know who alls doing it, whatever. I'm not into it. I don't drink or nothin' anymore, see. So I don't know who or who is doin' it now.

Q Let's take a step back. I want to paint a picture of that underground scene, because that to me... Did you ever see Richard Pryor film Blue Collar?

A Yea, yea.

Q I think he captured in the film sort of the energy and the love that closeness folks have for each other in the plant. I want to capture that, that's real important to me, because I think it's something special that is not experienced in most other jobs. When you say that there was this closeness, would you get high when you got there at five o'clock in the racks, what would it be like?

A I have to talk it from my point of view because you know, like, um, when, um, when you go in and punch in and everything you get situated. You get ready for your job and stuff you know. So, um, you, um, okay, like me, I always took diet pills it would speed you up and stuff. So I always took mine before I came in you know, and stuff you know. So it was like, uh, you knew who it was because they would come and they would ask me. They say B.J. you got any blah, blah this, you know what I'm saying. I say yeh, I would give 'em one. I would give it to them because it was like when I get high I want everybody high with me, you know, and stuff you know. So, uh, it was like one thing would lead to another and then I never smoke weed because I would get paranoid you know. So, it was like I always wanted to get something to take home, you know, so I could have it around the house and stuff. So I asked who got some smoke, you know. So, when you in that crowd, you know who is who and then sometime I think, um, we never smoked weed in that plant.

Q You didn't?

A No. No. No. We gave Michigan Truck Plant that much respect you know. And most, I don't know, probably some guys sneak and do it, but there's always being people around. So I guess they didn't want them

to know that they did it.

Q Do some folks go to the bathroom to do it?

A Yea, in the lockers and stuff. Probably so. And then, you know if you doing, if you doing debs, you know who have the debs. If you doing smoke, then you know who has the smoke.

Q Do you think it interferes with production?

A Naw.

Q Do you think it mattered. You know the argument is that the auto workers did so much that they couldn't do good jobs. Now they do good jobs.

A No see... I think that, uh, our afternoon shift, we was like this... We was doing our jobs and then again we didn't care, you know. It wasn't a force thing you know. They just had us working, they had us working just doing our job. But we didn't have, uh, we didn't have a whole lot of pride to it, like. It was like we was in there making money, getting high, but we was doing the job. The foreman wasn't tough like they is now. You know what I'm saying.

~~Q You're saying the foreman is tougher now.~~

A Yea, the foreman is hard now, because...

Q How does that show itself?

A Because when they started the Quality Job One that's when they had started getting really tough on things, you know. And then, I guess by the, the, they finally fed up. I guess they had got a new program for the, with the head man how they wanted to be. So they pressured the foreman, the general foreman, and all of that. So they tougher now than they were back then, you know. Everything wasn't tight, you

know. Everything was freebie, you know.

Q What got tighter, when you say that what do you think about during your typical day that's different now than the way it was?

A Well, it's tighter because, uh, they want the quality in it. So, what I think is, is the top men is squeezing the supervisor and the general foreman, you know what I'm saying. Because they got this...

Q How does it end up on you?

A It ends up on me... the general foreman squeezes the foreman, and the foreman, well, he supposed to come and talk to the key operator. It boils down to this big factory, okay. I really see how it was, you know. This big factory okay like in the department trim. Okay they got four foreman, well, I think they do. Four foreman, one general foreman, and supervisor. Supervisor, general foreman, then four foreman. Okay the general foreman over these four foreman. Okay each foreman got a line they know how they line, they know the job. What kind of job is what it's supposed to be like, you know what I'm saying? Okay, so, when it's something wrong on they job, they general foreman would get they foreman, if the job was did on his job, they would get him and, Smitty, you know he hollers to get his point across to 'em. He holler at him and tell 'em blah, blah this you know. Get this together. So that foreman will go back to the key operator, you know, they got a, they got it so now they can get down to the main thing now.

Q They didn't have that before?

A Naw, it wasn't like it, that system wasn't like that. Now it's a better system you know. How it's set up and stuff you know.

Q When you say it's harder, does that mean the relationships are worse or better now between the supervisors, the general foreman, and the key operators.

A Well, um, they, what they trying to do is, they trying to make the situation real nice. They want it to be better, because that's why they got the employee involvement program. And ah, they want to have a foreman and key operations relationship, you know what I'm saying? They want to cut down this tower, you know.

Q How are they doing?

A They doing pretty good. It all depends on the foreman, but so far, see it's pretty good, you know, because, um, I guess everybody now is... What is boils down to is they don't need the aggravation; all this hollerin' and stuff, you know. Okay, Smitty, he holler at them, you know, but I turn my thing around. I holler at Smitty and he comes by and tell me B.J. don't say nothin', don't say nothin' to me. Because like I used... because me I used the same tack Smitty uses, you know. Like he be hollerin' and stuff I holler back at him and stuff. He said ~~don't holler at me B.J., I said see you can dish it, but you can't take~~ it, you know, so you ought to stop holler' at people and stuff you know. But, you know, it's, um, they tryin' to bring, um, employee and foreman relationship close and stuff.

Q How would you say you changed? You obviously went through big changes from the day you hired in to now they call you the Holy Roller, and when you hired in you were partying and having fun in a different way. What happened to make you change? How did it affect your work and your family.

A Beautiful. I met my husband over at the car plant in 1982.

A Beautiful. I met my husband over at the car plant in 1982. Then the afternoon shift had got laid off... okay... in 80. I was laid off for like two years... then Wayne Assembly that's when they started that Quality One, you know. 'Cause that's when...

Q What happened that made them start getting involved with the quality?

A 'Cause I guess the Japanese... I guess the Japanese was having quality and so they want you know to start having quality. They figure... I believe so... They figuring that Americans can make they cars... make they car a better quality too, you know what I'm saying? Because that's when everybody was buying the Japanese car like the Mercedes and them little Hondas you know all that you know. They was leaving from the American car so... Ford always been a step ahead you know. So Ford used it quality... Quality One, you know. So in 82 that's when they came out with that Escort, I think the Escort, yea, the Escort. So they hired the people with my seniority 77 they called us back it was like around 'bout fifty of us, you know. They hired us in back in an inspection program. We was inspectors. It was beautiful.

Q Now they have eliminated all of the inspectors?

A Yea, yea, I guess they got these machines now you know. You know, ah, you haven't been over there? Back over there at the end of my line three, and over there where, um, Tommy Lee work at... They got computers, little machines that check all of that stuff now.

Q It checks all of the electrical stuff?

A Yea, electrical stuff.

Q They used to have people doing it?

A Yea, you know, yea. So, um,...

Q That's another example of the new technology?

A Yea, but you know I don't think it's right, because I feel like the machines can't buy cars, you know. They should keep the workers in there you know. I, I figure as long as the workers work, they will spend money because they have money they will buy cars. If, if you get these computers and stuff in there, who gonna buy 'em, you know what I'm saying. People don't have no money, you know.

Q Well, how come Ford doesn't that?

A Well, Ford trying to see, you know, they don't have to pay that man... you see? Each employee calls costs a certain amount of money, you know what I'm saying? And see, this man, see this computer don't have to go to the bathroom, this computer don't have to... You don't have to worry about this computer not comin' in, you know what I'm saying? Ford looking at, you know, making money, but they not looking at who gonna buy it, you know what I'm saying. They tryin' to find a easier way.

Q So what they are doing is if they can sell cars and make more money off of each car?

A Yea, well, that's what they doin' but it ain't gonna work, you know, because, um, people gotta have a job.

Q Why?

A They got to live, you know? They got to have a job, these computers just can't come in here and just take over and, um, where these people goin', you know, there will be more people on the state on the aid or somethin'. You know...

Q But didn't it help your job, make it a little easier? You got this little robot next to you.

A Well yea, okay, just like they put that little robot in there, but he's not doing the job. I'm still doin' it, you know what I'm saying. The only he's doing it just putting the glue around the paper. But you know I have seen a job that a robot is doing what men is supposed to do, you know. Just like over there in body and stuff, you know. Okay just like a weldin' machine this robot is operated to punch certain holes out, you know. They used to have a man there welding out the holes, you know what I'm saying?

Q Don't you think on your job right now, it didn't eliminate you...

A No it didn't elimin... it helped me.

Q It helped you?

A Yea.

Q Eventually won't they add work to your job; take it away from someone else because that machine is helping you?

A Well, okay...

Q What I'm trying to relate to you is how you see your particular job. You want the automation because it will help you, but it will also eliminate a particular job. How do you deal with that?

A Well, see, it's up on the operator, because the operators can only do so much just like I got that new machine. They took the tailgate off so I got the new machine so they put the map pocket on. So you can only do so much, okay. So they probably did eliminate a job, but they had to um... Okay when they put some on this job, it falls back you know, more on the other job, so like the people in our line they ain't gonna do but so much. And, then that's still made a job. They still... you know what I'm saying? Somebody gets to put the rubber

strip on. They got to take something off you know what I'm saying? Because they try to over... they try to give... they cut your same job out and put a little bit on my job, you know what I'm saying? You know they took the tailpocket off, um, they took the tailgate off. So they put a little bit on mine then I complain I can't do it.

Q So if you stick together...

A Stick together and don't to too much they will still have to have those same peoples you know. But some people they work and don't realize what they doin' they probably do. Because people don't work alike, some people they can work you know it don't bother them you know they can get down.

Q So, if you were Owen Beaver, President of the Union, what would you do about technology?

A Technology, I wouldn't have a lot of technology comin' in. Just like, um, Bill was telling me they got this line feeder goin' back in the stock part gettin' the stock, this little robot goin' down the aisle. They got it next door, but they tore it up.

Q Who tore it up?

A I guess the employees, they didn't want it there, you know. Because that was a man's... that knocked a man's job out you know.

Q So the guys tore it up?

A Yea, they tore it up.

Q What do you think of that?

A I think it's fantastic! You know what? My husband he tells me, he's been there at Ford for twenty years at Wayne Assembly. And he tells me Wayne Assembly is more together. Well his department is cushion is

more together. If they someone in there tryin' to cut off a job, they will all stick together. They will not get they job cut off, you know.

Q Does that happen in trim, in your area?

A Ah, I don't see it, I can't see it, but it's whole lot different.

Q Maybe there's a difference being there ten years and sticking together twenty years.

A Yea, they know everybody in the Cushion Department, you know. So when he say it's... If someone come in there, an engineer come in there and try an cut off a job, they all stick together, they will. They will not, it anything, they will bring in two more men in they department, you know, they close, you know, they sticks together about that. So, um, I don't see it, I don't see it in mine. I see everybody, they not gonna overdo it you know. They gonna just do what they can and stuff you know, so I don't see it.

Q Go back to what you were saying about how you changed when you were saved.

A I met my husband in 82. They hired us in as inspectors like to bring in stock and we like check the part if there was a scratch or something they would put us in different departments. Okay, that was just for eighty-nine days you know, we had to do that for eighty-nine days. Okay after that, I got laid off again. Okay, so they hired me back in, and they hired me in to the Cushion Department, but my husband worked there, okay so they hired me on... They had me doing this () job, you know with this big ()gun, stapling the cushion to the metal, you know. I couldn't do it so, um, Ernie the foreman, um, I told 'em you know. I'm gonna tell you what I can't... I told 'em I

can't do it 'cause the gun is too hard for... it hurts my arm, you know. I said man, but you can train me to do anything else on this line I can do it you know, I can do it you know. So it was like a challenge to him. So he said okay. So he put me at the end of the line, he would be me at the teletype, feeding the line. Putting the... I had to go pick up the feedback, put it on the line and stuff, you know. So that wasn't hard as long as I learned the codes and stuff I was feeding the line. Okay, so, um, my husband, I met my husband in there and he didn't...

Q How did it happen?

A Well, how did it happen was... Okay, I'm still on to the gettin' high scene you know I had my big radio you know. I was sneaking my cognac in with my coke. You know I would go to the cafeteria and keep me a big tall glass of ice and, um, I was smokin' my cigarettes and stuff, you know. And all the other fellows would come up and talk to me you know, they would you know come to you and rap to you and all this stuff you know. So here come my husband, he relieved me on the line. So this man didn't say nothin' and thought what's wrong. Then I asked him later, I say, um, what's wrong with him? He was vain or something you know he was different from everybody else. I said, what's wrong with him. They said oh he goes to church I was talking to George and he said oh he goes to church. I said oh yea. So he relieved me then. And I used to be upset 'cause ah I had to work and here this man he was leaving work, he was leaving to go home. And I always like a challenge like that you know. Whenever a man don't pay me no attention I want to know why? I was smaller and everything then you know. I was going and

I was talking and he wasn't paying any attention to me.

Q He didn't want none of your cognac and coke?

A No, and then, after they told me that, I'm still going through that drinking stuff you know. So when he come back around like the next day and stuff I would turn my radio down, I would cover my cognac up, I would put my cigarette out. I was giving him that respect you know. Because ah...

Q Just out of respect?

A Yea, because by him not doing it you know. And then me I was always raised in church, you know. I really believe in God you know and stuff.

Q You said that you stopped the smoking was it out of respect to him or out of respect to your own past in your relation to the church, or was it like, "I gonna get this guy"?

A It was out of respect, um, from my church, you know, smoking was bad, I know drinking was bad, and then, the music, you know... I know, you know, that was, you know, that was bad because like I said I'm brought up on the church in the background, you know, and stuff. You know, I was given' him repect because it was like he was running around there with a halo o'er his head, you know what I'm saying? All these fellas they doing there thing and they talking, you know and everybody doing they thing. But him, I seen something different and it was like a halo over his head. He was nice, smooth, you know like everything was smooth, you know like everything was smooth and stuff. Well, I said I don't want to smoke in front of him, I'm gonna give him respect because he don't, you know, he don't do that stuff, so, that's when I put the

cigarette out, covered the liquor and, I turned the music down 'cause when he come around there by me to relieve, I give him that respect, you know. So, uh, I said one day... See when he comes down to me I am the end. He relieves the last person and he leaves out, you know. I said one day I'm gonna talk to that man. I said I'm gonna talk to him you know. But during that time, I, um, I was partying you know, I was doin' my thing and stuff you know. Um, my daughter was staying and stuff with my mom and uh, I had my apartment, this was how crazy I was, I had apartment, I had my cousin staying at my apartment and I was shacking with this fella down here on Eight Mile. And, my daughter was staying with my mother, so gettin' high and everythin' you don't have your mind together and stuff you know. So, he finally came back around again and I looked at him, I said can I talk to you? He said yea, so I started explaining my problems. I thought, telling him what was happenin' with me and stuff, you know. He say, uh, well, you know, the only thing I can tell you is to get your family back, get your apartment back, you know, get your lifestyle back together because what you is doing is not... What you doing, you not happy in doing it. So he gave me good sound advice.

Q The solid down-home stuff?

A That's right. I wasn't taking care of business, I was just out there. I wasn't you know. My daughter was staying with my mom and stuff you know. I was just doing it you know. So you know I started thinking about that you know and I was just really thinking about it you know. So, um, I told my... My cousin was staying there, they put me in the hole because they wasn't like paying the light bill and stuff and all

the money I was out... I think I was trying to save to money and see all the money I was saving, it went back into the apartment. It was just a mess, you know. Nothing didn't go out right. So I gave my cousin and them time to get out of my apartment and stuff you know. The house was... they messed it up you know. So when I did that they... I had to fight them to get out you know. I actually had to go move them out you know. So when I got in there the house was a mess. The light bill was up high you know. I had to take all the money I told myself was saving, put it back into... I had to paint the house, they had... Uh, it was a mess. Roaches in there, I had to fumigate it, I had to get it...

Q Where was this?

A This was in the... I used to stay in Inkster. Okay, I stayed right off of Henry Ruff into the gas homes. And, um, when I did that, okay, I was laid off again. I got laid off in between there again too. So when I did that I got my house back and everything. They called me back, I went back to work. I didn't see him no more, you know what I'm saying? So I said he had gave me good advice and I was coming in and I had just dropped me a deb, they call it diet pill, DUL, I had just dropped me a diet pill I comin' in and he always hung out in Doug's committee room. How know how Wayne has committee rooms, okay, he was coming around the corner and I was coming. He said hey devil. I looked at him and I said devil, why you calling me a devil? I got convicted right then 'cause I took one of those pills. I said why you calling me a devil? I knew he was angry and stuff, and I said oh god. So I wonder why this man calling me a devil, I couldn't rest. So I went

back to him and asked him. He just started laughing, he said I was just kidding with you. I said no you must have a reason for calling me devil, you call me... He said no I was just kidding with you. And then I told him I said you know what? You know that advice you gave me, you know I did it. He said oh good, good, you know. So they took me in the Trim Department and he was doing cushions. So, um, he finally made... Well... I was still doing the same I had my radio. So they call him Preacher at Wayne Assembly 'cause he always carrying his Bible and stuff. So, uh, I had different fellas coming over there and talking and stuff. So, this girl I was working the line with she said he don't come over there. It was like, uh, you know. What she got him over there for you know? He had come over there, he always had a bag of stuff, they always scoff him 'cause when he talks he always say something about the lord and stuff you know. So, um, he come over I talk with him about... Hey anything they say about church I like them. I wasn't doing it, so I liked it then. I guess it was just my change in me you know or something. So he was talking and commenting and stuff and these women and stuff were looking and him and saying how you get him. What's happening you got the Preacher on you, you know so I went on about my business. And so he asked me for my phone number, he would call me sometime you know. So whatever he was telling me about the lord sounded good to me, you know. It was different conversation from all the rest of 'em they conversation. So, I said okay, so...

Q What do you think of people who preach so much in the plant at time?

A At that time, he wasn't preaching there. He would have a conversation with you, but his conversation would be it was isn't god good, you

know and how you would react you know. It's some people so on fire it's just pathetic and they ain't know... you know what I saying? They so stingy and high you know. It ain't like that you. So, um, he asked me for my phone number and I asked for his. So we was... I don't know I never got around to giving it to him so one day I said, I promised to give this man my phone number so let me give it to him. You know just like you asked me... you know let me give it to 'em you know. So, um, I gave it to him, I got his. Okay during that time I was shacking with a Boxer you know. He was boxing and stuff you know. So, he called me and the fella I was staying with he answered the phone. So, um, he say can I speak to B.J.? You know that was my house, my telephone, wanted to talk to B.J. you know. He said yea so he gave the phone to me. And so we was having a conversation on the phone and he was down. I like to hear that because it was different, it was different from all the other conversation everybody else was puttin' down, you know. So, we was talking a long time and he, the boxer, he be sitting over there. 'Cause he couldn't say anything that was house you know I was saying like this is mine, you know. After the conversation end I hang up and stuff you know. After then, I got laid off again. Okay.

Q Were you worried all these times you were laid off that you would ever get called back, did it bother you?

A No it didn't bother me. 'Cause I took care of my business right you know. Laid off I had employment and stuff so.

Q Did you ever end up on A.D.C. or anything?

A Like I said when I married him I was almost to that point you know so. So, uh, when uh, I got laid off again, but before I got laid off I took

a medical. I did one of those stupid things, you know I didn't want to get laid off, I wanted to draw medical so went and had foot surgery so I was going through that you know slick, you know.

Q Did you need it?

A Well, yea, a corn. To get it straightened out corns you know I had corns and stuff and they straightened out my toes. Yea, in a way, you know. I didn't have to, but in a way I did you know so I said I'm gonna go ahead and do this so can just take the medical money instead of getting laid off for I could put it off longer and stuff you know. So, ah, something happened to that Boxer, oh I think, um, he ah, he went to jail or something, he did something and went to jail. So I was by meself single and stuff you know And I had fixed my house up, bought me, uh, this was the year when I bought a new table set and everything. I didn't have no furniture, even when we was together and stuff you know. So, uh, I seen him when I was gonna turn in my medical papers and I seen him. He said, uh, and I invited him over, hey why don't youn come over and some coffee and cake, we'll sit up and talk and so he said okay sure. So I gave him my address and stuff. So me and my twin sister... So it was two weeks I had to go turn my medical papers in. So we seen him park looking for my address. So I said Bobby there he is, I got a twin sister name Bobby. I said Bobby there he is. Bobby stopped him and I said you lookin' for me he said yea. I said okay I'll be right back. So he went on. So I had to go take care of my business. I came back, so he came in and we started talking and when he was talking I liked, I loved to hear a different conversation and stuff. So he asked me, uh, you know, he saw what we was doing, so

he asked B.J. have you been baptized before. Yea, you know, I said I been baptized probably some holy ghost. He said no you have to be baptized this way, you know, he opened the Bible to the book of Acts 238 where it says you have to be baptized in Jesus' name for the () I said what? I said what are you talking about, I have to go do this all over again? You know... Me I'll try anything. He said yes, so I went. He stays on the East Side where Better Maid Potato Chips at, okay and he'll come way on Henry Ruff and Wayne to wear the crazy house Elloise is at right there. He had come all the way out there, picked me up and take me to church you know. This is different to me you know. I was loving it. You know what I'm saying, I always wanted to live this life, but I never met no one to this and stuff. So, he did it, he came. So, I went with him this one minister was speaking so I had... My feet hadn't healed up so I had to go buy me shoes so I can you now go to church. So the alter called to be baptized so I went on down there. For me it was like let go on and get this over with you know so... So I went on and got baptized and it felt different the water and everything was different. So I went on and he started coming over and stuff and we was talking. It was a new thing, it was new. So, it was, you know, I wasn't eating enough, all I was doing was drinking, I didn't have time to eat, I couldn't taste it. But he would go buy food, and I would fix it like steak or something and we would be eating, pleasant. Everything was different, pleasant, you know like a person suppose to be like you know. So he asked where my daughter at? I said oh she over my mom's house. He said don't you think you ought to bring her home you know. I said yea,

but she goes to school over there. He said well you just... You get money, why don't you just make arrangements with a cab, just bring her on home, make arrangements with a cab, and send her to school from there you know every day and you pay cab, you know. He opened that to me to bring her own, she should be with you. I said yea, you know, sounds good, makes sense. So, I said well, I think so. She was at home so he was still coming over and stuff you know. It was like a god, you know, it just straightened up everything you know. So, um, we stayed...

Q Like the better part of you coming out?

A Yes, it was always a good part, but it was B.J. hanging out there and stuff so uh, he was still coming over. My daughter didn't like him, she seen that this was a man you know. Her feet gonna be you know... She was like ten or eleven, it was like she could go over mom's house, she could go over my twin's and stuff. She was in between running you know what I'm saying. Which her mom wasn't settled. So she was really growing in her good time. Now, I am glad it happened 'cause now days these girls are a whip you know. So we ah got together and everything. I didn't have no living furniture, so um, I had to go back into the hospital to get this foot, see I'm still playing this medical role you know. So, um, everyone, my sister and them... My sister got tired of family coming over her house for preaching and stuff you know. My father is paralyzed in his right back. So we bring him home every holiday and stuff you know. So my sister got tired, she said you ought to have, 'cause she seen I was back home and stable, she said you ought to have it at your house. I said I don't have any furniture and

stuff. I said I don't know I'll see. So I went to the hospital and had foot surgery on this. Okay... He didn't know me. He didn't know I was a man or a woman, all this time we went to... He was just talking good to me you know. I told him, I said wow, I said I would sure like to have my parents over for Christmas, but I don't have no furniture you know to sit on. He said oh yea? I said yea, so he said how much you need? I said, um, I don't know. I had a couple hundred. I said I don't know, I don't know, about five-hundred? I said I'm gonna speak with the fella I used to stay with. I said I'm gonna see if he'll lend it to me so I can get it and stuff you know. So the fella stay here with, like he didn't trust me you know. So, I said he wouldn't lend it to me so I don't what I'm gonna do. He said well, I'll tell you what, I'm gonna call you back. I'm gonna see what I can do for you, you know, so ah, ah, I'll call you back tomorrow. So... Ah, he called me back, no matter of fact, he called me back, he called me back and he said he could do it for me. I said what? I said you mean to tell me you gonna lend me five-hundred dollars and you don't if a man or a woman you know, you want to lend me this money? I believe that was the way the lord was getting me to come in, because here this man is gonna lend me some money, money like this. I said shoot I better... I was thinking shoot I better stay with him, 'cause ain't no telling what else he gonna offer me, you know I was looking at the fact that he shared, but this is... I believe this is the way the lord was drawin' me in you know and stuff. So, it was... I got out it was the day before Christmas Eve, okay, Christmas Eve I still didn't get the furniture. I had the money, he dropped it off, I had... I always had

someone over to my house 'cause this little young boy I always believed in helping people. This little young boy dirty, he was like sixteen, he liked to paint houses and stuff. And, like I say I was fixing my house up, and so, he would come in and he would do... He was my little handy little man you know, doin' a little work for me. So, I would leave there and stuff you know, while I go and take care of my business. So, ah, he ah, he was there I told him, he said well I got the cash for you. I said okay well... Leave it there with Daryl you know. So he gave Daryl the envelope you know, I trusted Daryl 'cause he stay across the street. So, ah, I came home. Daryl said oh a man came by he left something. I said oh yea and there was five-hundred and fifty dollars I said wow! This man! You know he was nice you know. So, um, he said, but the lord told him to do that you know. He said if it was him, he wouldn't of did it you know. So I said oh, I called him back, I said you now I will pay you, I will pay you some how. I was getting my medical check every week. I said I will pay you so much, I will pay this week a note. You pay me what you think you can you know. So I figured out, I said can pay you twenty-five dollars you know to pay it back to you. So, uh, that Christmas Eve, I didn't know how... I didn't know whether I was gonna get some couch and chair or something. So I was looking out the door. So I seen this fellow and I hollered. I called him, I said would you take me to the furniture place so I can get a couch and chair. He said sure. Everything was set up beautifully you know what I'm saying? So he said sure. All the furniture stores was closed except Tri-State. So I went in there I told this man I said all I got is five-hundred dollars

and like to have me a sofa a couch you know something nice. So he looked around, so he gave me these two. These two right here you know. So, um, he said well here.

Q A couch and a loveseat?

A Uh huh. So he said take these two right here and give me five, I had five, five twenty-five, 'cause I gave the fella twenty-five for helping me and stuff you know. So, he gave to me and we loaded up in his van, and then, um, I put in the house. It seemed the like the house just lit up you know. Here I got a living room you know. I always had my stereo in there, but here I am I got living room. I said wow you know. This thing is chocolate you know. So my parents you know, my parents came over and I invited him over. So he came over and, and well I always my little liquor tables and stuff you know. Christmas you have your little liquor tables and stuff. So he didn't drink, he was just sitting up there listening to my sister and brother and all of them and that. So they got in the car and said she got the lord and stuff you know. So, um, everybody ate, they had fun. It was a nice time. So everybody left me, I'm still crippled and everybody left me with all the food on the table. I had to... I said I'm not cleaning up this. I said come on I said let's go back to your house and spend some time. I just wanted to get away, he said sure. So I went out to his apartment you know and did nothing, he let me have his room and he slept in the other room. This went on for a month you know. So, okay, so I went back to work and everything. I got laid off again. They was like bouncing me off and on and stuff you know. So um we started getting tight hanging, getting tight and everything and so. He called

me one day, he said Billie Jean, I said yea. He said, ah, I through paying child support. I said oh yea? He said yep, I looking for another family. I said what? I couldn't believe that he said that, I said what? He said I'm looking for another family. I said wow you know, so he asked me to marry him. I said yea, you know I didn't take him seriously, I said yea please say on my birthday and I'll do it you know so. So, uh, I had drawn my... Well, then I had gone off medical and I was drawing unemployment and so you know. So I had drawn my last, he was taking me, I was so sad 'cause I didn't know what to do, then he asked me to marry him. I said yea okay I'll marry you know. So... So we just started kicking it around and stuff...

Q Are you just getting married?

A So um he asked me again and I said okay, do something on my birthday. I was waiting, I was putting all of it off. So um, the year came um, January so this fellow who do his income tax. By him making so much money he said he had to do something with his money. He would have to buy a house or something. So he told me, he said B.J. I had to... We have to go look for a house. I said what? Here this man is he done gave me money for the furniture and he gonna take me out of the projects you know, buy a home for me. I said wow what is this you know. So I said okay. So we went look.... I said I don't want to stay in Detroit you know 'cause I'm always in Inkster, I'm in the suburbs not Detroit. I don't want to stay in Detroit, I don't like Detroit people. He like Detroit. He well I like it. I said well we got find to somewhere where we can meet half-way you know. So I called this Real Estate Century 21. Come to find out that he was a christian

man too you know. So, he said well I got three listings you probably like you know. One in Redford, and two over here. This house and the house across the street you know. So I said okay, so um, we made appointment, we met him at the Century 21 on Telegraph and Schoolcraft, I mean, ah, 96 you know. He took us to the house in Redford, we looked at it, they wasn't at home so we just looked at it. So, he brought us over here and he took us inside the house across the street you know the house across. And, ah, it was too small like for the money they was asking for it you know. So they brought us over here you know. We walked in there and it was like we felt this was our home you know and stuff. And then, the price wasn't too bad you know.

Q What did they charge for it?

A They was asking for thrity-five. Well we talked 'em down to thrity-one. We got four bedrooms.

Q It's a big house?

A Yea, see um, three here and we got an addition. That's our master bedroom in the back and stuff you know. So that only had three bedrooms and they was asking for like forty thousand. So we was looking at all this you know. I said they probably asked if it comes with the brick you know. You know you pay the difference for the brick and whatever. But, it was small like you know. If you walked over here they had the house cleaned, it was clean and we were walking around and looked you know. Everything was nice you know. Basement was half-way finished had a bathroom, bar, and all that stuff you know. So, um, we went back and we told me we had seen what the asking price, so we had him working between us how much down you know how much

you could mortgage and stuff. So they agreed to thrity-one. So, um...

Q When were you saved?

A Okay here I am, I'm thinking. So when we seen this the man said we could move in his house and um he was moving in his in July. No, we could move in in September. Okay, so uh, I still wasn't married. We still didn't get married. Okay so he said well, he said well, he said B.J. I guess we gotta go on the bed we were fornicating I mean we was committing you know fornicating and stuff you know. We might as well go on and get married 'cause we wasn't gonna stop, I said okay. So we over to Ohio and we got married and stuff. Still wasn't saved tho'. So, um, we, um, came back so we stayed in... We had two places, so he told me to put my furniture in stock and just move down there with and stuff. Okay I'm married so I'm his wife, I had to go with him and stuff you know. So, um, I said okay. So I moved my stuff in stock you know, I mean storage. So, um, still was saved or nothin' you know. So they wanted so much... Okay, they wanted six-thousand dollars down. I was going with him and stuff he didn't have too much money in the bank and like I was giving him my money to bank for me 'cause I new I would spend it you know. I think we accumulated five-hundred dollars together. So the man asked us how much we had we said, we started laughing at each other. We said five-hundred dollars. He said that's good, it's a start you know. So, we gave it to him so he kept in touch with us and told us we gotta have two-thousand, uh, today. I think it was two-thousand for the... No, we had to have four. Four-thousand, four-thousand, five-hundred, all together we paid him five-thousand to get moved in. So we didn't know where we was gonna get this money,

so. So, how the lord was working things out, he had credit okay. And then, he was trying to more and they wouldn't let us have it. And then, he went back where he had got the TV from and they was coming through a change in stuff so um, he um, he was going through... He was wondering why they wouldn't let him have no money. So, um, I still wasn't saved yet you know. So, um, one day I said to him, I said well you can hang around, I gotta go upstairs. I said you just leave him alone and stuff you know. We had went to church Sunday, and our pastor preached about the world, who is in the world, who in this would will kill you.

Q What?

A The people in the... The world, or the world would kill you, you know. Like shoot you know you in the world doin' different things and stuff you know in reality drinking this and that. So he preached that Sunday so my mind was totally blank I was thinking about that sermon and stuff. So he was still how come his money wasn't coming in and stuff you know. He told me, he said come here Billie Jean you know. I said you know I said how have you been. He said come here, you coming to bed with me. I know this man ain't wanting no sex 'cause we talking about money and stuff. He said come here, so I came. He said get on your knees and I said... You know I got on my knees and stuff. He just told me he said tell the lord thank you, you know so I did. So the other tongues started coming in then and that's the gift of the holy ghost that the evidence when you speak in tongues you're saved you know so. So I did it and then I got saved, okay. When I got saved the lord told him go back to that place; get the money. So, they came him

twelve-hundred dollars and eighty-two dollars. He brought it back to me gave the eight-two dollars for getting saved and um, and then this other financier kicked him out a check, then they didn't even know how they did it, you know what I'm saying? This money just coming in.

Q Just getting it?

A Yea, then the credit union lent him some money. I mean we had this money before we moved in and could it 'em. Okay, so I guess that's why it was waiting on me, you know. Here I'm thinking on the other side. I get this house I'm gonna party you know this and that. But god wouldn't let me come in her until...

Q Until you cleaned up?

A Until I cleaned up and saved like him. Both of us has to be the same way. So, uh, after I did it and everything. So I got saved so we moved in here it was August when I got saved. When we moved in in September, September the 16th. So when I moved in and everything was a whole house I was saved you know. So everything was together. So this was... So I lived this when I got saved and stuff this is a different life. I love it. 'Cause no gettin' high, no partyin', just clean you know just a good life.

Q How did your daughter relate to this great change?

A Oh! She was glad because she wanted a atmosphere you know what I'm saying. At first she didn't like my husband and stuff. But he wouldn't, he wouldn't kiss her butt to get along with her you know what I'm saying. She had to come a long way for him not to be her father you know, a long way. So, um,.she noticed a change when we started goin' to church and all that stuff you know. So, um, she got kicked

out of school. She was over here.

Q In Inkster? Or does she go to school on the East Side?

A No. But we was here then, okay. It was hard gettin' adjusted to school. There's a school right around the corner. It was hard for her to get adjusted to school out here and she just left Inkster where all the kids, you know the kids she grew up with. So here thing was fights. She would just fight, you know just fight.

Q How old is she now?

A She be sixteen this month, you know. Her thing was fightin'. I guess kids you know she had to get used to them. So, um, she got kicked... The teacher called and they put her out of school for a day.

Q What high school?

A No. It's not a high school it's a elementary school right around the corner. So her teacher called us and they put her out for fightin'. Yea I told her what! You know she called. I said naw, ain't no child of mine getting thrown out of school, and you just in elementary? You not even in high school and you get thrown out. I said uh... I was furious, I whooped her you know. You know because me and my husband told her about fightin' you know. Tell somebody or something you know. So I whooped her and I you know.... We been after her... Well we been telling her about the holy ghost too you know. So this holy ghost hits you right here, it carves you... Like if anything happen it's like a carve right. Everything don't bother you really. 'Cause you know you gotta... You look to the lord you know, god is you know. We just rest our assurances in him, you know what I'm saying? So we told her about it and stuff you know. I said your attitude is bad and stuff...

You know I whooped her 'cause she got kicked out of school, and I said you need to get the holy ghost. So, it really worked on her so... When me and him was gone, I called back she was there. She said mom guess what? She said I got the holy ghost... You know what does she see about this. You know, she got the holy spirit you know. I said beautiful, the lord blessed with it. So now we all, three of us, we come from the same wave. What they call it equal yoke? You know...

Q What is it?

A Equally yoke (?) Everybody be just on the same level. You know.

Q How do you spell that?

A Equally yoke. You know it's a saying like, um, if I wasn't saved and he was saved we wouldn't be equal yoke. You know so the house is on it.

Q How has this affected your relationship to the plant?

A My relationship... I see things better you know understanding. I don't worry about nothing. I just see love you know. I love people better.

Q Do people relate to you differently in the plant since you changed?

A Since I changed? Yea, they want to know what's happenin' you know. 'Cause they used to know the old B.J. you know. People still there from 77 all that. They used know how I used to hang out you know, be high and stuff, party and stuff, party with Scotty and stuff you know. And um, they want to know what is happening you know. I tell 'em you know, but people you know they have to go through their thing to find out themselves you know. Just 'cause I found out you know and stuff you know. So um, so, so they respect me because, okay like um, my husband. They call me the devil at the Wayne Assembly Plant 'cause I

was always in there you know, and they called him the preacher. So they say the preacher and devil together and stuff. So, um, they look at me and him know, because we both... It was like um, it's like a T.V. series you know what I'm saying? Like um, he walking around okay, then he met me and you know I'm gettin' high you know. Everybody know I'm getting high smoking reefer and stuff. And here we is, married now, and we's together, and they look. Wow! You know, they don't know what's happening, but they know it's a change you know and stuff.

Q Where were you born and raised?

A Okay, I was born in Ypsi, () Hospital and I raised in Inkster. Okay...

Q What kind of work did your dad and mom do?

A My dad was a construction worker, okay and he was a veteran. He had twenty years as a veteran. My mom, she was a housekeeper. She did housekeeping.

Q So your all northern family? Do your grandparents live down south? Do you visit that much? What part of the south?

A Yea, ah, Mississippi. Ah, two in Alabama, () Mississippi that's where they from you know.

Q Do you go down there much?

A Yea, ah, I went, I took... My father had a stroke when we was...

Q How old were you?

A My twin sister and I was in the 6th grade, okay, I was twelve, no eleven years old. My father had a stroke. He had a blood clot in his head about this big, and um, his right side was paralyzed. So it took him I say seventeen years to get everything back together. He was in a

convalescent home and stuff you know. So, um, when my father... Well, my mom used to take us there... Remeber when Wayne County had this convalescent home it was back in the back called the "D" Building... Well it was the "D" Building... It was Wayne County Convalescent Home, for long term.

Q It was a hospital?

A Yea, it was a hospital. It was nasty you know. People you know it was nasty you know. So my mom, ah, well, that's when he first had it so then they had to put him somewhere you. And she used to get us ready every Sunday to take us there to go see our daddy. We used to wash him up you know. He let us feed him and everything you know we was there for him. So my mom moved him out of there and moved into this () Health Center right there on Michigan Avenue and Harrison in this building right there. So she moved him there so he spent the remainder of his years there so. So it was just three years ago, okay, well I got saved, I met my husband, I got saved. My family seen a great change in me okay. So, ah, I probably gettin' off the conversation. But my family seen a great change in me so all my sisters and brothers and my mother and them seen it too. So the family was one big beautiful family with the spritual love and everything you know. so my father was in a convalescent home so everybody think they saved like me except for mom she been saved for about two years now. But my sister is going on three. So we seen that if my father, he had, they had nursed him back, they could get a wheelchair. My father always been a strong a mind. He can get... He always had a smoke. Had his own T.V. and stuff you know. He had convalesced himself back and he communicate

with this side. He always did his thing. He was independent you know. Like only times he needed help was getting in the bed, get out the bed and get out the bed. That's why he was in a convalescent home. So um, by father being sick seventeen years. It was a long time... His sister came up and she went back. His mother was like... He got like six brothers and sisters you know. So no one didn't come and see him and stuff. So, like I was working and my twin sister work at Ford's too. And so um...

Q Which plant?

A Wayne Assembly. She got like um 79 seniority so um I don't know. So ah, I was just thinking, I said, I told my twin we never argue or nothin' we always on the same level. I told her I said you know what? If daddy can do this or do that you know, all he need some help out the bed, got a wheelchair and wheel himself around, smoke, talk, and all of that. I said he can go down south. So me and my twin we looked. And we thought about it. So his birthday was coming up and Father's Day. His birthday and Father's Day is in the same month. So I went up to him one day and I said daddy you want to go down south? You want to go back home? He said... You know he realized, he said yea girl! I said I'm thinking about you going back home to see your people. He said yea he was geeked up from it. So I checked it out, my girlfriend she got me a ticket; she got me and him a ticket you know. She worked it out some kind a way she got us a round-trip ticket. So I said I'm gonna take my dad down south. It was a package thing. It was like a you stay so many days, you can't come back or something off this ticket. So, um, I called my uncle, his brother. I told him, I said I think I'm

gonna bring daddy you know back home. He thought maybe I was talking about sending there and leaving him there you know. So he got the wrong impression and stuff. He said well we ain't got blah, blah. I said what you talking about? I said me and my daddy is coming out there to visit we not staying, we just visiting you know. So he said, ah, this is before I got saved and stuff, before I got married and stuff. So um, he said oh okay, okay, okay, so I got my dad's clothes packed and everything, got him packed and stuff. So ah, we went to the airport you know. I can get to the airport easily and everything I was just tipping, I was just giving money and stuff you know. We had first priority. They put him on the plane first, you know. It was beautiful you know. So we got down there he was glad... My father liked it. That's when I went down south the first time. Because I never been...

Q That was your first time down south?

A Yea. I never been on... I never seen my daddy's side of the people and stuff you know. So when we got down there, his brother met us at the airport you know. See my daddy... See my daddy I talks to him like... I makes him independent you know. Right now today, I go... Okay, I'm the only one that got a decent car in the family. Right now today, I go over there to take him out to breakfast you know and to the hospital and stuff you know. And see, we wheel him out to the car... Well you know he'll wheel out to the car and pull sideways and break and he'll work with his left hand. He'll pull himself up. He'll work and get in the car and stuff you know, we help him. You know he got his own way of doing it you know, and we talk to him and motivate him. We not doing nothin' for you, you gotta do for yourself. So, um, we went down

there and this was brand new to me 'cause I ain't never seen none of my daddy's people on his side. My father brother look just like him and um he took us out to his place. He had built a... He got a nice home out in the country you know that where his home is. And, my auntie and them they have a trailer house around him and stuff you know around the brother and so... So uh they seen this car comin', there was like a road you know. We was coming into his to his house. And you could see Uncle George's car and us comin' in you know the car. So everybody... So everybody on down this road is kin to us. It's Wallace you know it's like a territory of nothin' but Wallaces. This is somethin' I never seen it was new on my. Okay so they seen us comin' in and everybody was comin' down to see 'em 'cause they know he been sick a long time. And they never dreamed that he would be the first one to come down and see them paralyzed and stuff you know. So they all come down. I seen a cousin my age I was like twenty-three or twenty-four a cousin my age and them having babies and stuff. Pregnant with twins. Twins run in my daddy's family you know. Twins and seen my three cousins pregnant and I said whoa! I said let me get back home all you all pregnant and stuff you know that's all they believe in you know. Out there in the country having babies and all that. So it was like a brought a reunion you know. It was daddy...

Q What year was this?

A This was in 19 um, um, let me think, um, it's in between 19... My daddy remember good... I think it was in... 'Cause we had to go back down there in 82 uh is brother died. I think it was in 1981, yea. It was in 1981.

Q So you weren't saved, but you still took care of business?

A So I took 'em down there and he met his brother, 'cause we had to go back down there in 82 'cause he died and stuff. But, it was beautiful because I brought the whole family together and got a chance to meet his brother and all of that before he died. So, um, so we had a nice time. It was like I was the nurse, I was his nurse like, you know.

Q Your mom passed away or is she still living?

A No my mom's still living, no she's still living and stuff you know. My father stay in a convalescent home and she stayed in the projects with my baby sister and she had a two-bedroom apartment and stuff you know. So, um, that was the first time went down south. We was talking about down south and stuff. So um my cousin and them they took me around where my mom was raised up and grewed up. I seen this old shabby... It's somethin' when you see your parents come from you know. So they took me and showed me where my mom... My mom got ten brother and sisters and they had a two-bedroom house you know. It was like sittin' out in a field it was shabby like you know? My mom's baby sister was still there and she had like a mind, a mental problem like you know. But she was still there and I went to visit her 'cause she was in the house was like broke down and stuff. So uh... So I went around and visit everybody and stuff. So we went back and stuff. My uncle from California and got my mom's baby sister and now she's staying in California doing great and everything. So uh my uncle died. We came back... I told 'em what a nice time we had. We took pictures and stuff. Oh and I ended up meeting two of my half-brothers my dad had down there, yea. I was shocked! I was stunned, I said what?

Q Did they look like you?

A Yea, they look like us you know. But they got different moms and stuff you know. I was shocked you know. I said what? So uh... I went back and told my sister it was adventure you know. So I went back and told them and stuff you know. So um, that next year my uncle died so my twin sister who had just some work, she was working at Wayne Assembly, my twin sister, it was in 83 I think. Um, yea two year, it was in 83 my mom said um Uncle Ebow(?) dying. We had just got our check and my twin sister say, since I handled him before she said take this check and just take dad with it you take your's you know and go on ahead. So I said okay so we packed up and we went down there. I was suppose to be strong for my daddy I said seen all my other cousins and stuff. 'Cause he had five girls too you know. They was just crying and hollerin'. I'm hollerin' I'm laying on my daddy and he patting me and stuff you know. But, um, it was the second time we went down there. Okay, so the third time we went down there for a family reunion. This happened in 1984. We all... My family, my husband and I, my mom, my sister and all of us we went in a van. Okay my dad went too you know. But we said hey if he can do it he can do anything. So we rented a van so we went down there for a family reunion in 84 in Mississippi. So that's the third time. So, um...

Q So you were getting a flavor of the past?

Q Yea, so finally... And then I came back with my dad the first time it was like everybody was so happy. I think I was going Al Green you know I told you I was staying with him out here an stuff. Everybody was so happy they was amazed you know why I did somethin'. I took daddy down

south, he hadn't seen his people in seventeen years. My cousin kept saying you know what? God gonna bless you because you did something beautiful and I'm still looking for that blessing and then I look at... It is a blessing, I met my husband and gots my life together you know and stuff. So um, so that's about down south you know.

Q Would you like to live in the south?

A Uhm, I like the country, I like everything fresh bloom, my uncle had pigs and stuff, my baby she liked it she could pick a peach or something you know. I liked it, but I don't think so no.

Q Your twin sister works at Fords... how many other brother and sisters?

A Okay I just have twin sister she worked at Fords, she haven't been called back. Uhm, I got two more sisters and two brothers. I got a brother whose a Captain in the Air Force and I got a brother he stays in Grand Rapids, he goes to school for law. I have ah another sister under me and my twin, she's a beautician. And my baby sister, she still with my mom. She went to school she graduated and she went to computer. She's just spoiled, she just a baby. It's hard for her to get weaned away from her momma and stuff you know. But, yea...

Q You have one daughter?

A Yea, I have one daughter. My twin have two and my sister the beautician have one. So my mom got four grand kids you know.

Q When you were coming up, what did you dream about, who were your heroes?

A Who was my heroes?

Q Yea. You are thirty-two so that means you were born in 1954? What did you dream about when you were coming up, who were your heroes?

A Uhm, really, I didn't have a hero you know. I was just living you know I was trying to make it better for me, comfortable for me. Because ever since I was like uh ten years old, ten or eleven years old I always had me a little job. I always babysitting or I took time like we stayed in the projects and they had senior citizen part and I would go over there and help them clean up and make me a couple of dollars and something like. I was always you know offering to me you know, trying to find me you know and stuff. I didn't have no heroes.

Q Did you think you would work in an auto plant?

A No. I never dreamed that. What happened about the auto plant. This is in um my girlfriend... Well my cousin had a baby by my girlfriend so we say we cousin and stuff. We they started hiring the womens in she got hired you know. She was the type she didn't want to work, she wanted to ease her way around. So she met Larry Pool...

Q Are you talking about Martha?

A Marth... Uh...

Q Sylvia?

A What is his name? Larry Pool cousin. Okay he got a cousin who work up in production Maurice. She met him...

Q He is a special guy...

A Oh beautiful! Check this out. So I don't know I think him and her they had a little thing or something 'cause she was nice looking and stuff and see she liked to ease her way out 'cause she was cleaning up upstairs. And see, I had a house, I had me a place 'cause I was staying common law with somebody else. And so, she decided they was gonna take a ride and come over my house you know. And I'm always this

tight with people here. I like to host. She knows, and that's why she brought him over and stuff. You know, can I fix you a drink or whatever and stuff you know. I wasn't working then. I like to host you know I love company. So she brought him over and stuff and I fixed them lunch you know and everything. So uh, I said hey I want to get in the plant. I said Pat I would like to get in the plant. She started laughing. She said girl you don't want to... I said yes I do. Maurice Pool he laughed too. I said you think you can get me in there? He said I don't know you know. So uh he said I see what I can do for you know. I said okay. So he brought the application back to me. He said B.J. he said I doing this for you. I said... He said don't mess me up. I said oh I don't want to mess you up. I said I would not mess you up, you know. I said I really want to work. I told him I really want to work. So within that week or two they called me in the plant in 77, in March, 77. So uh right now today Maurice see me he smile.

Q He is a precious guy.

A Yes he is, yes. He comes over and talk to you. He asked me how I'm staying and all of that. And um I tell him I said see I told you I wasn't gonna mess you up you know and stuff. He just laughed, you know. So that's how I got into the plant.

Q What other things do you have a chance to do besides your family and church and work? What kind of entertainment, what kind of movies do you watch on the V.C.R.?

A Let's see what we watch? Um, Wildcats with Goldie Hawn about the football player. My husband enjoyed that. Um, Raw Deal uh... The first week we was off, my daughter went to Inkster to be with my mom so

it was just me and husband. And we had fun enjoying being at home looking at movies you know the V.C.R. and stuff. And um, I got another movie about Vice you know Miami Vice we like that too you know so. So, uhm...

Q Do you go to the show much?

A Yea. Uh well, I take my daughter you know she want to see a movie. He used to like a treat he'll take to me to a show or something. But he don't hardly to much go now himself. But like me and daughter like on a Tuesday, dollar, you know. It will be me and her and her daughter and my daughter you know we'll go to the show. So now really since I got the video we kinda like slacking off. So and um other activities uh bowl uh my husband love football. I had to learn football with him to look at football with him. He got a cousin who play on the Dallas team. Timmy Newsome, and got a cousin who play on the Chicago Browns uh Bears, uh Ozzie Newsome... I think it's Cleveland Browns yea Ozzie Newsome. So you know he off into that we look at that and um basketball games the Pistons. We go out there and he don't... He say he might take me. He don't like to sit way up there, you know, he want to be right there in it so when he look at T.V. they can rerun it you know back and forth. And um, boxing. We look forward to go see um Hearn's um Sugar Ray Leonard and Hagler fight you know. So a lot of activities he goes out to um gatherings, church gatherings like in the church I'm a usher.

Q What does that mean?

A Okay um, usher is like um you know a usher for like people come in you usher them to seats. You make them feel at home you know and stuff.

Q Make sure everybody has a bulletin?

A Yea and have a seat. Take care of 'em you know. My husband and I we on the hospitality committee. That's when we greet people come in to visit our church you know. Show 'em around the church and this an that. Um, yea hospitality. Just greet 'em you know and everything make they stay pleasant. And we have gatherings we host dinner. Talking about down at the Renaissance or something you know we get dressed up to go down there.

Q Do you have a favorite restaurant?

A Yea I did... I like the Red Lobster you know. 'Cause the main my husband and I go get is steak and lobster. But now, now it's a thing... Since I don't party no more. Since I don't party or nothing now, all my sisters we don't party. My thing now is eating. I think now we search for a good restaurant. We spend the money, but serve us good you know. Like my twin sister and me our birthday is December 7 we went to the Summitt now at the Hyatt Regency you know that.

Q The one that goes around?

A Yea. We went around. We looks for that you know. Uh we'll pay the money, but just serve us you know. We like that. And um, I like a good restuarant. I like to go to the best restaurants you know what I'm saying. I figure I work too hard I want someone to wait on me.

Q So you're not hanging out at Burger King?

A Yea, yea, yea, so when I'm off from work, it's just like I got a housekeeper now, you know. Hey it's just fantastic you know. So...

Q If you told some of the white guys you had a housekeeper, what would they say?

A I told Smitty. They shocked they in shock really. Just like they say B.J. you don't..

Q Her name is?

A Shandella.

Q Shandella?

A Yea, Shandella.

Q How do you spell that?

A Shandella. Yea. Uhm I was telling no... I was talking to Scotty and them um he was telling me he was saying somethin'... No! About area cleaning up or somethin' you know. And they say B.J. do keep your house like this? I don't be at home... I don't be at home long enough even to see how my house it. And I said plus, I got a housekeeper. They looked and say you essing me. I said no I'm for real. You know and then I told Scotty. I said oh I got to go call... She go to my church, this is a sister who go to my church. I said oh I got to go call my housekeeper 'cause I got to tell to blah, blah. Scotty say what! I said yea! He looked at me all funny. I say, I said look I said I work in here I can't do the things that uh to keep my house up you know. My daughter helps me alot and then she helps me you know what I'm saying. And then see that keeps me together because when your house is out of order you know by being a woman they are the ones. You know they got to have they house together. You know, well me I want my house up to a certain so I can live in it you know and stuff. So ah Smitty came by there he was saying B.J. you keep your area like this. I said naw, I said I gotta housekeeper. He say ain't that a B. I looked at him and he said you essing me. I said no I'm not you know.

They think it's crazy, but you know ain't nothing. My husband and I agree I work and he works. And we agree that we going in half to pay for one to come in and help me clean up you know.

Q Why does someone like Smitty think it's so...

A Because um...

Q How do you react to it?

A How do I react to it. It blew his mind. You know, somebody working in here got a housekeeper someone to help her. It blew his mind 'cause I don't believe he have one. You know what I'm saying. That's why it blew his mind, especially me, B.J. you know.

Q A young black woman?

A Yea. B.J. a black woman? You know it's not normal you know. You know the white people do; they have 'em you know. It's not normal. When I was laid off and I was drawing my unemployment I went out there and I was housekeeping. That's mostly I worked. I worked it for Jews. You know this Jew lady name Ms. Silver and me and her is like this you know even today. 'Cause I love her and she loves me and she stayed in Bloomfield Hills. Beautiful home, her husband is a doctor in Detroit Medical Center. And um, right now today I'll call her and wish her happy Hanukkah and she call me and send me cards and stuff you know. You know so um, not nothing wrong with that so I got experience of housekeeping so it's not nothin' wrong with it.

Q It's a respectful relationship.

A Right, right, right, so it shocked 'em. A black woman has somebody else you know and stuff you know. It ain't bother me. Like she um she um keeps my kitchen clean and my floor. She irons me and my husbands

work clothes. That's a whole lot there too you know what I'm saying. It helps me a whole lot. You know working ten hours. See when I come home I got to fix him dinner you know he hollers at me he want to eat you know what I'm saying. I got to fix... She know she cooked us smelt on Friday. Me and him be at each other throat. You said you all tired. You all tired you know.

Q You work ten hours a day, he works ten hours a day, you go home and you got to make the dinner?

A Yea! I got to make the dinner and put in on the table.

Q How come you don't share making the dinner?

A He don't cook.

Q So you wouldn't eat too much...

A No. I wouldn't eat you know what I'm saying? I wouldn't eat.

Q We started going out to dinner on Friday nights...

A You go to dinner on Friday nights? Well, we go to Bible class on Friday nights and um, I pick up somethin' on Friday. Friday and Saturday is my day. Everybody go for theirself. But Monday through Thursday, I got to have that man somethin' to eat. She know it! 'Cause when we come in on Friday, we be barking at each other throat. She be saying, y'all tired, y'all tired y'all just upset. And I'm like this, I don't let it go, you know. He be quiet. He say Billie Jean, and I be all up in his face and he get scared or something. But I know he wouldn't do nothin' so. But um, I comes in... Well first of all, my husband ask me, when they called me back to work I was doing the housekeeping. I had to get away. My twin and I we got our own little thing now you know what I'm saying. The people trusted us you know

when I was working for these other people. When I had got called back, just recently to come back to work, I let my twin sister take care of. And see now we got a lady working for us you know what I'm saying? We got, we forming some kind of little business. Yea a janitor and maid service. See because I got this trust with these people you know and so, by they trust me you know we can move a rate. Because my sister she works out in Bloomfield Hills and I gave her a lady who stay in Franklin I used to do. I had my thing set up. I would like work for Ms. Silver for three days a week and then on Tuesdays and Thursday, I would go to this other lady's house. I would get through and come on back home that was my money. I was making like um let me see... I made \$108 from Ms. Silver and \$35.00 from Ms. Landoff, this is tax-free.

Q Under the table?

A Yea five a days a week and it was good you know because I wasn't gettin' unemployment or nothin' you know. So it was good. So I didn't want to let it go so I turned it over to my twin. So she got it like in control. But, we trying to get somethin'. We trying to get a building or something. I'm looking for something besides the factory. 'Cause the factory might fall. You know, you can't depend on that. I'm going by what my talent is, what I can do. Factory is all right. Factory is security and everything you know. So, I went back to work, my husband asked me, he said um, you sure you can handle it? You know, um, I wasn't working when me and him was married. I was working a little bit and laid off and stuff, and he asked me he see how much work was around here. He liked what I was doing you know. I said oh yea... I was geeked up. You know I wanted to go back and make this money so

I'm geeked you know. I said yea I'll handle it you know. But I wasn't thinking the part about taking care of your husband too. I was thinking about making money you know. I'm thinking about I'm making the same thing he making you know. Me and him is you know we in there making it together. So uh, I wasn't thinking about a wife duty taking care of my husband. It was like the first couple of months it was like I wasn't taking care of no duties with him you know what I'm saying. He was understanding. He said I understand 'cause you gotta get used to it you know and stuff you know. And ah, it was like the time when we try something I fall asleep you know what I'm saying. Just miss out totally of wife life you know. So I got my thing together.

Q But you had the paycheck?

A Yea, I had the paycheck, and my hands was swollen you know. Getting back into it. My hands was swollen and everything. I said look at my hands they don't even look like women's hands no more. He said well look you got the money you know. I said yea, you know, I keep thinking dollar signs you know with this work you know. So um, things got calmed down I got adjusted to the job where I'm gonna be at and stuff you know. 'Cause in the plant you mentally and physically tired you know.

Q What do you think the hardest part about working in the plant for you?

A Hardest part. Getting up in the morning.

Q What time to you get up?

A I get up at 4:20, ah 4:35, and um, I leave here, it takes me twenty-five minutes 'cause I done and took my shower and everything. Just wash up probably drink me a cup of coffee. Okay and put my

clothes on. I leave here at 5:00. I get to work 5:30. You know it's my hardest time... Getting up. Getting up, and if I don't have the proper rest and sleep, it be really hard for me.

Q What time do you go to sleep?

A I go to sleep around 9:30. I be... If I'm not asleep, I'm in the bed you know.

Q How do you pass the time of day at work? What do you think about?

A Uh. I think about everything in general. I think about like at home.

Q Do you read the Bible?

A Yea, I read the Bible on my break. Um you know sometimes, when I read the Bible it comes... You know like everybody comes over and mess with you, you now what I'm saying? So on my break you see me go upstairs in lady's lounge you know. I sit there and read it. Then sometimes I come up if I have a little time I read you know, I read a couple versus or something you know then. But, I think about the lord you know. It's not really nothin' to think about. See my mind just bland, clear you know whatever come up I just think about it. Like if I'm working or something, I think about little material things you now, like what I'm gonna get like how I'm fixing my house up for my husband you know. Getting our house together and stuff. Little things in my family life. My husband you know, grandbaby you know. Little things you know you just...

Q What did you get your grandbaby for Christmas?

A Well, we didn't get her nothing yet because she's way over in Morocco, she's not here.

Q Hard to figure out what to send?

A Yea, you know. So she... The momma brought us pictures and stuff and showed us and she's one. We just waitin' for her to come and we gonna make all that up to her.

Q Is she gonna come visit?

A He...

Q Oh she's still stationed there?

A No. He's here that's him.

Q Yes, I know he's here.

A Yea, okay he's stationed in New York. His wife just came okay she had to leave the papers wasn't right. Okay yea you know that's sad for all of us you know. So um he going back sometime this year to get her. So when she come we gonna make it up you know.

Q Do you think that you'll stay at the truck plant, do you think you laid off, do you think you work another few years, what do you think will happen?

A I think, well I have ten years in March the 12th so I think, I feel um, in January business have a tendency of going down with sales and whatever. It might change the mix, I went they might change the two rockers in F job and put back the regular thing you know. I'm looking for this you know and I think I might get laid off. I don't know it all depends on how the sales is you know.

Q Are you optimistic or pessimistic or don't you care?

A I don't care you know because I got good news anything that Michigan um transmission plant may soon build another part onto the back and they gonna hire in four-hundred people. They gonna make a new transmission. So um, it they lay me off, I'm pretty.... I should go

over to the transmission.

Q Having about ten years seniority you'll be in there?

A Yea, I'll be there. In a way I will be happy if the transmission plant to call me. Because I figure if I work at the truck plant I can work anywhere you know.

Q Why do you say that?

A The jobs I doin', the jobs I doing it though. And, I heard the transmission plant is a heaven plant you know. You sit down, you work hard buttons and stuff you know.

Q What do you think the truck plant will look like in ten years?

A The truck plant to me is like behind all the other plants you know what I'm saying? They slower doing they thing you know. The truck plant in ten years they might be there, they might not I don't know they might, I don't know. If we keep the quality up we might be there and have a second shift you know, since they said we making the best truck you know. So um it's hard to say you know. 'Cause they seem to be doing numbers all this. We building good trucks and we the only factory building those big Bronchos and stuff you know. So I don't know it might there and it might have a second shift.

Q What is your biggest concern for your daughter?

A Going to get her education. Get her a... Right now she undecided what she wants. But, she wants to work in the computer science you know. Work on computers and stuff. So um, my biggest concern for her is getting her education 'cause me... My husband and I tell her factory ain't nothing you know. You get you a job to work at your pace or something you know. Factory, we got to work when the man you know.

Q Do you regret it, or are you ashamed of it?

A Am I ashamed of the factory? Yep.

Q Do you regret working there?

A Yea, because...

Q But you want something different for your daughter?

A I want something different for her. I don't want her, okay, Ford, Ford I'm glad to work at Ford because my husband and I we say that Ford is not prejudice. They just the people who for Ford is prejudice you know. Ford don't care who works what you know as long as he get his stuff together you know. But it's the people inside of there. They prejudice and everything. So Ford is good to their people. Ford is not like G.M.

Q Why do you say they're good to them, than G.M.?

A Just like um, our profit sharing, Ford could of did the same thing G.M. did you know. But my husband and I we look at... We say Ford is blessed 'cause he helps everybody else you know what I'm saying. So Ford give into it, he gives and then he puts in. He gives to help people and stuff you know. Just like um we use an example like um Ford how he came and how he helped Mayor Young you know.

Q How did he do that?

A They built that Renaissance and we just...

Q You say Ford is blessed?

A Yea, we look at it as a blessing you know. Ford is blessed because Ford he's not discrimination he helps everybody else you know what I'm saying. Ford gives to people to and stuff you know. So I figure when

you give, you get blessed in return and stuff you know. And just like Mayor Young you know. When Detroit was having like a falling down part how Ford came in and him and Mayor Young they got together built that Renaissance. And ah do you remember um the Ford employees they could of ripped of ruined they had this special and stuff you know 'cause Ford had them do it, it was New Years they had package or something for Ford employees, all Ford employees and stuff you know. So, Ford help Detroit a whole lot to me you know. Even though his factory line he helps in his way and stuff you know. And just like profit sharing, Ford didn't have to you know give us that you know. He give us our share just like G.M. G.M. they tricked those people. They didn't give those people they money like was suppose to had gave them. And you see what happened, they crooked and they doin' things not right. They not treating the people who making the stuff for them. They not treating them right. Where Ford giving us a fair... Ford is good to us and stuff you understand what I'm saying?

Q What's your biggest concern about Detroit. Do you see Detroit as being a Renaissance city or a come-back city. What do you think of Mayor Young?

A Mayor Young he's strong, I like 'em. He's not a pushover and he take of business in his way. A whole lot of people don't understand you know. A whole lot of people left Detroit for dead and well here this man is he comes, build Detroit up, now they don't like 'em you know. 'Cause they say he prejudice you know what I'm saying. Most of the white people say he prejudice this and that you know and stuff. And

um, and by Detroit... There's a whole lot of everythings happening in these suburbs, they don't say nothing about it. See Detroit is a big city and they always trying to find something bad you know on Mayor Young to make him look like um silly you know, make him look like he about nothing and stuff. It's a whole lot of things in Livonia, Inkster, Westland, and all of that, but Detroit is a big city, that is naturally it's a bunch of stuff happen' here.

Q Do think the Mayor has made the city better for the people in the community. Or, has he made it better for... He built the Pole Town Plant and now they are talking about closing the Pole Town Plant; half the Pole Town Plant is going to get laid off. He built it Downtown, how is that affected most of the poor people in the city?

A The poor people in the city?

Q That's not something you're thinking about when you say Mayor Young has done a good job?

A What I'm saying is Mayor Young did a good job. He uplift Detroit, he made it look better, you know what I'm saying? You know.

Q So you're proud of him as a Mayor?

A Yea, because he stands for the, you know, he's helping... He's working a way to help, you know what I'm saying, 'cause like I said they left for dead you know. The companies moving out you know and everything and stuff you know, just left Detroit you know for what it is and stuff you know. So he always figuring out some kind way to unbind us like the Grand Prix you know, he brought that in you know to bring money back in Detroit you know and stuff. And for a bind, I think he doin' a pretty good job you know. I feel like um, the poor, the people in

Detroit got a chance. If they lazy or something they not gonna do it. If they want to just depend on the aid or welfare or something that's they lifestyle.

Q Do you think that there are a lot of people in Detroit that are on aid because they want to be?

A I think there's a lot people, yea, some on 'em they use it. I see some healthy men you know getting food stamps and stuff you know. They can get a job you know. They can get a job, but they depend on the welfare you know they food stamps. I know a particular one person, I don't that, this is a man here, and then, like the drugs is in so that just totally make them, you know, they don't want nothin' you know?

Q Is this neighborhood black and white, fifty-fifty?

A Yea, fifty-fifty.

Q Does everybody get along. How is it like?

A Beautiful. See everybody works.

Q It's a working area?

A Yea, everybody works, and mostly everybody who stay over here works for the City. Police Officers, um, you know city, you know they work for the City like office jobs, and then factory workers like the man right here next door, he works for the city; Chrysler, Ford, Chrysler, he's a retired fireman.

Q This is sort of the east side of Detroit used be, everybody used to work for the City and work for the Big Three and do well? Do you have a lot of crime here?

A No. See 'cause everybody wants something. Everybody works, they don't

have time and then um, different crowds you know. I'm pretty sure these people got these homes, the homeowners they not gonna have no one you know. They want to be around good people you know what I'm saying. So good people bring good people. Bad people bring bad people. Just like we if we get someone moving in, like if someone move out and they rent they house, our community we will get together and if this house holding a whole lot of crowd or company or whatever and stuff, you know we will discuss and see what the problem is and everything. We try to get that out of here you know what I'm saying.

Q Has that happened?

A Well. Once, this man here he rent his out and it's this lady she had two kids. They like to have company, it's right behind us. They like to have a lot of company and stuff. But, it seems like they slowed up you know and they don't have to much company. You know they play their music loud and so... But, they see nobody else don't do it, so that kind of like convince them they keep it down though and tell people you know, you know stuff like that. So, um, this neighborhood is very nice, very nice. My husband and I plan on giving it up when he retires and um moving to Texas, back to Texas.

Q That's another ten years right?

A Yea.

Q What do you think of Ronald Reagan?

A Oh, I never did, I never did. Like my twin sister said Ronald Reagan like he talking to the Soviet Union he selling us you know. He's slick you know he's running uh, he's running this world like a movie you know what I'm saying. He's doing his thing. I don't understand people who

are in the plant with me making the same income. I remember when he was getting elected you know.

Q What do you mean?

A When he was getting reelected.

Q In 84?

A Yea, in 84. This girl name Cheryl, I was at the truck plant, and we was talking and we was talking about the election...

Q Cheryl Jackson?

A Yea. So we was talking and everything you know. We got along real good, we still do and stuff. So um I said wow, who you gonna vote for you know? She said oh I think I'm gonna revote for Reagan, Reagan he's pretty good. That blew my mind you know. Because these peoples don't realize Reagan, just because working ten hours you making overtime you making money, that don't mean nothing, that don't mean nothing you know what I'm saying. So they look at that like they working, they look at it 'cause they working they doing okay and stuff you know. So, yea he's okay, I said no I always been a Democrat because a Republican can never do nothing. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer you know. So um, I said wow, I told my husband I was kinda of hurt. We making the same money, the same company.

Q Well she just came off of welfare...

A She did?. Are you talking about the Cheryl I am?

Q She works over in the lock job?

A No not black, she's white. Her name is... She was working with me in 84.

Q She's a white woman?

A Yea. No I was talking about Shirley um um. So I was grieved, I told my husband I said I don't understand these people work at the factory and they like Reagan. I said you know well maybe they Republican, you know that way. So I said don't nothing where Reagan is doing anything. He's taking more from us you know. Like this space stuff and all this stuff you know. You taking more from us. So my husband said well you know, people looking at it just 'cause they working overtime. They working, they got a job.

Q Did a lot of whites vote for Reagan, did some blacks votes for Reagan, do you know?

A I don't think no blacks vote for Reagan. The majority of 'em. Just like Lucas, ran for uh, just like it was a trick like to you know. It's a whole lot of people felt because he was the first, he'd be the first black man for governor and all... But look at it, he was a Democrat at first, and then, he switched over into Republican. And you see most of these black people, poor people they Democrats you know what I'm saying. Only the people helping is Democrat people 'cause they... I say they more like to they level. Republican they thinks money you know what I'm saying. Money makes money you know. With them they don't think about the little people like... So uh, just like Lucas uh, it was a few votes for 'em 'cause they was looking at black you know 'cause he was black.

Q Did you?

A No. I voted for Democrat, Blanch, you know here Blanch is he did, he

brought Michigan out of broke stage you know what I'm saying? No, because um, Lucas come to my church you know we go to Grace of Shaefer and Seven Mile, he come there all the time. Last year he bought a seat at our church and stuff you know. And um, he come there to speak because he had no votes there. He Democrat he know he had 'em. So this last time he came, he and my pastor they real good friends because my bishop he's a commissioner of the Detroit Policeman you know he work like that. So, um, he came the last time that's when he was beginning to switch over and he was telling us he was bringing some kind of special out talking about when these two men was in jail, this one had to be out to get freedom. He let us know that he had come out to get it for us so he could make... You know me and my husband looked at each other, we knew what was gonna happen you know. I said uh oh, here it is you know.

Q He used a scripture to justify becoming a Republican?

A Everybody looked at him you know, we knew what was happenin'. And then, after he got through he you know his head was down and he sit down you know. We knew what was happen. So that's just like I said for example. Lucas turned Republican, Blanch a Democrat. Still went for Democrat. White man, black man. We both a Democrat we vote for Democrat. Lucas, I believe to me in my back of head, I feel like uh, Lucas and Reagan are setting us up like you know. It's like you know I want you to run for this you know, this man. And then, he offered him a better job, and see get this he come up to the White House you see what I'm saying. Anyway it go, see Lucas looking for his self you know.

Q What do think is the biggest concern for the country? What's your biggest fear for the United States right now?

A This man is just overpowering his self.

Q Reagan?

A Yea, man is just overpowering his self...

Q Man in general, not Reagan?

A I'm talking about Reagan he's a man you know. Man's own power trying to have control over the this and that you know. And man gonna end up tearing this world up. Well, my concern is I don't worry about because like I told uh Ray Jones, I'm gonna be called up, I'll be gone you know, you know, they can do what they want to do, because I'm gonna be with my maker you know.

Q Because you're saved?

A Yea. I'll be called up you know, and I'll say... It don't scare me it, don't bother, it don't bother me and my husand, it don't bother us. Because we rest in assurance our security into the lord you know. Man gonna just destroy itself you know.

Q If you could make the plant a better place to work, what would you do?

A A better place to work? First of all get the atmosphere better you know. And then, I make sure...

Q What do you mean atmosphere?

A Well, you know the, you know, like a love thing, you know, get everyone a better atmosphere you know what I'm saying? I believe... I really believe that prejudice is still there you know what I'm saying because um, they work with you and stuff, but when it's time to home, they gone way. You know they stay way out in the country and stuff you know

But uh, the reason why they work with you is because they have to work with you and stuff. I just want to get rid of the prejudice and everybody just be as one. And then, don't overload the jobs, everyone work the job at they pace and stuff you know. 'Cause like Ford's be trying... Well see Ford be trying to save money too and stuff, so he have those people out there to try to cut more jobs and this and that and stuff you know.

Q Do you think the place would better or worse if we didn't have a union?

A I think it would be worsen. 'Cause at least you have a chance you know with the union. If you didn't have a union, you wouldn't have chance you know.

Q What chances do the union give you?

A If somethin' happens um, they can talk for you, they can get you back you know. So like I got fired you know. They work for you. They give you a chance you know.

Q You don't mind paying the union dues?

A No. I don't mind as long as they do they job.

Q Do they do their job?

A Yea. I give 'em they credit 'cause I'm like this. If Brian don't do the job for me, I go to Archie Kinney, if he don't do it I go to Jeff you know.

Q He'll take care of business?

A Yea. He'll take care of business. All I looking for, if you taking my money, all I'm looking for is my business being taken care of you know. And everybody else too you know, well naturally. I feel like they try and knock the union out. Like they got they employee

involvement and stuff you know. They trying to say they don't have to have the union if they got that.

Q Who is saying that?

A No. That's how I'm looking at it. They can get the employee and the foreman and stuff to have a relationship, they don't need no union you know.

Q Does that bother you?

A Um um.

Q If they can make it happen, if they can get the employees and the company...

A Yea it bother me 'cause I want he union.

Q You think it's needed even if you have a better atmosphere?

Q Yea. The union still should be there.

Q No matter what?

A Yea, no matter what.

Q You need that sort of safety?

A Yea, safety. That's right. See the union is like... I look at the union as like a lawyer for you you know. It's defending your best you know, your thing you know. So I think unions still should be in there. And since Jeff been in the president he's doing a good job too to me you know.

Q How has he done a good and, secondly, the next project coming up in September, what would you like to see in it?

A Well, what I like see in the next contract is job security you know. Don't let them do like G.M. doing you know what I'm saying. Just take

off and close up plants, and try to get cheaper work somewhere else you know and leave all these people messed up know. I like to see job security and get a contact with something in there what G.M. did you know, which they probably will you know. And, um how to adjust... I don't know they just... The union better, he spend the money uh, just like the picnic. I went to the picnic, it was nice, it was beautiful, you know. He looks out for us, he says hi baby how you doin'. He looks out for his people, he looks out. 'Cause Jeff work in the same style he know the people want you know. He knows the people...

Q Do you think that Jeff is doing a good job because you have had a chance to work with him? Is it because he's black? Is it because he does a good job?

A I think Jeff is doing a good job. I think he's doing a good job because he's Jeff. He's down to earth. See Jeff is a good friend of mine too you know. He wants to see his people happy and comfortable you know what I'm saying. 'Cause like his father works downtown, he knows... Jeff knows what is happen', his fathr... You know what I'm saying? But, I really think Jeff is fighting for the people working in the plant you know and stuff you know. He's good, he's good... And um, a whole lot of people they try to... Anything they say about Jeff I takes up for Jeff because he is good, and then, um, if you want something you ask Jeff, he gets to it you know what I'm saying?

Q Do people not like Jeff in the plant?

A Some of them turn down, you know. You listen to a whole lot of aggravation in the plant you know. Different, different opinions...

Q Do you hear much racial stuff, he's the first black president we've

had? No he's not Jim Coleman was...

A Well, I tell um...

Q Guys, we hear different things.

A Yea, that's true you know. I tell you, Jeff um, a whole lot of people I don't know. It's just different strokes for different people you know. Just like over in the truck plant like Archie Kinney. He's the plank chairman, okay, I don't feel like he working as hard as Charlie Hoskins is you know what I'm saying? Charlie Hoskins was good he was concerned more and stuff. You know you don't hardly see Archie Kinney, you just probably see him like at election you know what I'm saying, you know. I think he have a big front to me. He's not like Charlie Hoskins. Charlie Hoskins was more down, and he would take care of things, but Archie Kinney he's not the man for it you know what I'm saying.

Q Do you want to say anything else?

A Amen.