

Roche, Joe

Q How long have you been living here?

A I've been living here for almost eight years.

Q That's a good looking uh...is that a regular TV or what?

A That is a stereo Zenith TV. I'll have stereo TV pretty soon. My TV went down on me last year and I had to replace it so I figured I might as well get something stereo.

Q What did the whole set up cost?

A The TV is \$700 and the rest of the stuff is just stuff I collected over time, buying this and buying that.

Q What kind of music do you like?

A Mostly rock and roll, but nothing brand new or nothing.

Q Bernie got me extra tickets for the Dilan concert.

A Really that would be great. I wanted to get tickets for that, but I didn't get them. There might be some still for sell.

Q So what has been great doing this is I get to hang with folks such as us.

A Yeah it is always nice to get out and socialize especially since you're at the plant you don't really get any time to do anything.

Q I guess also we just don't take the time. We used to when we were younger. When we didn't have families and stuff we seem to spend more time with the guys at the plant after work and hang out. Let me share with you...

A I think if you know anybody, if you can just get a connection and see if you can talk to somebody. I got friends that worked at our plant and worked at Wayne and now they're working at Livonia. Talk to somebody like that and they could tell give you a wide perspective of what it is like working at a

different place in the same type of business and how they are affected by it. Then there is other people that work at GM too. You could just talk to one or two just to get an idea of what the difference is because we could just be in a secluded type operation. It is a lot different at Wayne Assembly, I can tell you that right off.

Q What's different?

A Well, it's the people's attitudes. They are completely different than they are at our plant. They don't agree with us at all. Most of their ideas is just basically nonunion. It is basically like they just do whatever they are told and that's the way it is done over there.

Q At the Assembly Plant?

A Right.

Q That is a more modern plant too, right? There is more automation.

A They got more automation and stuff, but they are still way back there. They do a lot of work. Some of those jobs are just as bad or worse jobs than we got. Because they got a job there you put the install an air conditioner or heater the line is built up like that line right there where they hook those chains where you used to work there. You stand up on that platform and the line is like. You got to throw that heater in there and get down on the floor. Sit down right on the metal floor of the car and put it up there and install it while you're up on that platform. Instead of like being lower where you could just like lean in there like we do at our trim line. Sit down and just put it in there. Them guys have got to stay right up on platform and they got

sit all the way down to the floor of the car, put that in and get back out and do another. They are doing almost eighty an hour there. They put me on that job and I wouldn't even do it. I told them that. So they took me off.

Q I'll tell you I haven't figured that out whether to do other .....

A It would be an idea if you want to get a perspective of a couple different....you know you don't have to go into depth with them because it would take too much time. You know I'd round up a whole bunch of people, but if you had a couple references because a lot of people know people that work at GM and Chrysler. That's what I mean you could just a couple of their input and see what they think you know.

Q Let me write that down. That is a possibility. Maybe I'll do like a few group interviews of like three folks from GM and three folks from Chrysler.

A That would be a good idea. Just to get an idea of the range. You might not be talking about the same thing, you know. I know a lot of their concerns might be the same and a lot might be different too. You know just from the different exposures in a plant of what they do and how they treat them. The way I understand it is it is pretty much the same all over from the way people talk, but there are some places people work and they seem to have a different attitude like at Pole town or something. A lot of people who just went out there are pretty happy with their jobs over there. Probably it is just the idea of security that they got. They are pretty sure they'll have a job for a while, with a brand new plant there. Something like we got you know it is an everyday thing where you

don't know if you are going to have a job tomorrow or not. They can just come in one day and say that's it.

Q Do you worry about that much? Do you think about it?

A Not no more I don't, but I used to. That was my main concern at one time was will I have a job there because that was the way it was put to me like. Every time I got laid off a lot of times they'd say you won't even be back. Other times they would say you'll be back in a couple months you know or something like that. Sometimes they'd say you'll be back in a couple of months and you're not back for a year. Other times they'll say you won't be coming back and you'll be back in a couple months. I'm never sure if I'll ever be back. The next time I get laid off I might not come back.

Q Slow down a second so I can get a picture here. You were hired when?

A 1976.

Q So you got ten years seniority?

A Right.

Q You've been laid off...give me a little history.

A I hired in 1976 at the truck plant in the body shop. I worked in the body shop right up until about March, 1980 and they gave me a pink card that said your employment has been terminated.

Q How do you feel about that?

A Well I thought that was it. I'm out you know. I knew they shut down one shift and I figured that was it. They don't need nobody else. At that time I didn't think Wayne would ever be calling me or anything. So I just figured I was out right now. I was out until about August, 1980 and I

was called over to Wayne and put to work. When I was put there they acted like oh you're here for good and stuff. I worked there for about a year and got laid off. After that I got laid off off and on quite a few times. I've been working in every department in Wayne Assembly because I've been laid off and put back to work that many times. One time I got laid off and I was off for eleven months and had run out of unemployment for about three months. I went back to work and started working again. Worked there and then I got laid off for about this last year I got laid off in January and called back to the truck plant in April. So that was the last time I got laid off. I've been there since April, 1985.

Q So it's been a year that you have been working pretty steady?

A Right. I've been working all the time steady. There is no risk of lay off right now, but there is always that possibility. They could always just decide to cut back and you know how they are they don't care they just whenever they want to cut back they just cut back, as far as they want to go. They are not too concerned about the way the plant runs because I don't think whoever gives the order probably don't even work there. He is probably somebody somewhere else and just says cut them back this far. There is nobody there to represent the people who work at the plant because I'm sure management at the plant they like the man power just to have it there so they can run and make their number. That's what their main concern is making their number. It is not their idea to lay us off it is just when they get an order to cut back they have to cut back. They just cut back.

Q I haven't had that experience. I was laid off in 1981 for a while off and on, but nothing...for us it was a vacation. Never even had that deep concern because I had fifteen years seniority.

A That makes a lot of difference.

Q Yes that seems to be the cutting point. I am low seniority on those that have maintained employment for the last fifteen years. Why do you stay at the plant?

A Just because I've got that much time invested in it already. That's the main reason. If anything I'd just like to stay... I'm not afraid no more if I get laid off I don't care because I know I can get other work. There is no problem with that. It is just the idea that now that I've got this much time invested I might as well try to get as much as I can out of it. Stay as long as I can. If I get laid off for good well then I'll have over ten years and I'll be able to collect whatever they got coming to me. See before I had ten years I was always worried that I wouldn't get my ten years. All that time would have been wasted then, because it would be like not toward my retirement. Now that I got it and stuff I feel a lot more secure. I really don't care if they lay me off. It is just a period I went through before where I just didn't know what was going to happen. I had all that time invested already, over six years, it is hard to walk away from that. You got something coming to you and you don't want to leave it. You just don't want to say well I just want to cruise. It is good money. It ain't the best money you can make but it is good money. It is a lot of work, but it pays the bills. That is your main concern taking care of your

family and stuff. That has got to be done.

Q What kind of other work do you think....?

A Well I'm a certified master mechanic. I taught body shop at a school. I was a body shop instructor at Wayne Western Schools. At the vocational center there I was an instructor. I was doing that part time at night when I was working at the plant. Then like I was getting laid off like that and it messed me up because they'd be putting me on nights at Wayne and I had to give my job up over there and stuff.

Q I heard that a lot from guys going to school or doing some other kind of work and then the schedule keeps getting messed up.

A As far as like getting a job I could get a job right a way when I get laid off, working as a auto mechanic, body man or whatever. I have had job offers right away making \$400 a week running a body shop. To manage it and stuff. I know a lot of people involved in businesses. I could do that, but the idea is right now I've got all this time invested and I might as well stick that out and get what I can out of it.

Q I think that is one of the benefits in our union plant that we have there is the benefits.

A But the sad thing about it is the people who work there they all forgot about the struggle that was taken to get them there benefits. Like they are just handing them back to the company. Every time we get a contract we get less and less. We lose a certain amount of medical freedom to go wherever you want to go and stuff like that. Pretty soon they are just going to tell you you have got to come here for medical benefits and that's it. That's the way they want it really. The ultimate

is just to get you to go to the plant doctor with your family and everything. That is their goal man. If your kid is sick just bring him to the plant doctor and stuff. We are paying for it. That's just the way they look at. I'm not sure, but I think some of them down south like the coal miners and stuff like that, that's just about how they work down there because a lot of them people are illiterate and stuff and they just tell them you bring your kids down here and we'll take care of them. That's your medical benefits.

Q But down there it was the opposite actually. They were set up by the unions. The unions set up out of a struggle set up hospitals and clinics right in the town and therefore it wasn't being paid by the company. It was the opposite. We are going to end up with what looks like the same thing coming from the company forcing it down our throat and not having the same kind of care like you're talking about. I think that is how it would appear. I have a friend who's father was a doctor in one of the mining towns and she was very proud that her father was that kind of doctor. Which is different than a company doctor. You got a lot of experience with the company doctor you just got hurt. What happened? How did you get hurt?

A Well a steel roller fell on my head. They go out on an iron rail. They got them rails like that. They hang stuff on them. They got like a four wheels, two on each side of the rail and they go up and down a rail like. They hang stuff on there. Like they'll hang a welding gun on there in the body shop or they'll hang guns on there like hoist or some-



thing in a frame line or whatever you know like that and it didn't have a nut or a **cotter** pin on it and it fell off and hit me in the head. It knocked me out.

Q You were knocked to the ground?

A Knocked to the ground and knocked out. I come to a little while later sitting at the table all trembling. I didn't even know what happened to me. I woke up and they took me to the hospital. I had a concussion. So I'm on a restriction now. I don't know when I'll go back. They probably try to get me to go back tomorrow.

Q How long was your restriction for? Just a week?

A No I have been on a restriction since it happened in March. It happened March 26th. Almost over a month.

Q Did you have any problems with the company doctor or the hospital?

A When it first happened they sent me to a specialist and he told me I can't work at all. The one they sent me to. So I come back to work and gave...it was not the plant doctor but her husband works there when she's not in and sits there for her and he just took that note I got from that doctor and he just checked me over and said you are able to work and sent me back to regular work and said no restrictions. So I took it to the union. The union called him up and he didn't want to give that note back that said I was unable to work. He had it all put away. I just had that thing. So we went down and seen labor relations and they went over there and got that note for us. The lady who runs workmens compensation she went over there and told the doctor he can't over rule a third party doctor. So they changed it back to my restriction.

So that is about the whole story in a nut shell. The plant doctor we got now, Kluka, she has been alright about it. She really hasn't given me any trouble or nothing. She knows a head injury is dangerous. They sent me to another one Friday and he said the same thing. He goes sometimes you'll have headaches for a long time afterwards. He'll just keep me on restriction. I'm sure that is what he is going to recommend to her because he already told me that he was definitely going to recommend a couple more tests done. I got hurt before in the plant, but they didn't really care. We had that other doctor, Dr. Shaw and he didn't really care. Even if you got hurt he would just say go back to work. That was his job really to put you back so that's what he did.

Q How did you get hurt the last time?

A A welding gun struck me and I fell down. The cable or something broke and it just come down and hit me in the back and knocked me down.

Q They just had a thing in the plant on a letter from management that there has been more accidents in the last three months than in the entire year before.

A Yes I've seen that. That is just the way they are doing it. When they gave out that letter safety is your job...they try to make it like it is your job, but it is their fault. They are cutting back on all the maintenance people to where they can't handle it. If they can't handle it with that amount of people and people are getting hurt it is their problem not ours. They are trying to make it like when you get hurt it is your fault. It's not it is their fault. Just like when I come back and that doctors' husband was in there

he goes so where did you bump your head? He asked me where I bumped my head. I said I didn't bump my head man a big piece of steel fell on it. Not bump me or nothing. Even a guy like that Roland dude, that's health and safety engineer, he said you're lucky to be alive after seeing that thing that hit me in the head. You know he knows. The plant doctor knows too. She knows that something like that crack you in the head it could kill you man. I'm just lucky I guess.

Q Are there a lot of guys getting hurt in your department that you know of?

A There are a lot of guys that are working on restriction. I met a lot of guys that are on restriction right now because of injuries in the plant. As a matter of fact, about two weeks later they told me, Sam Caincross, our committee man told me that they had another roller that was falling off and almost hit somebody. One of those things that fell off and hit me. When it fell off and hit me they told me, the company even said, they found no nut or **cotter** pin. So the thing was just up there and it wasn't even secured or nothing. It wasn't even serving a purpose. It was just sitting there. They were using it for like the hoist that I work on a merry go round and they got that hoist that lifts the front end up and sets it in there. Well I work on the inside there and they had that roller sitting up there as a stop for a hoist so it would just run into that and stop instead of going to far and pushing that thing way on the inside. Well they had that roller thing sitting up there and it didn't have no nut or **cotter** pin on it. Another guy

that was working there he said that they worked on that about in 1981 or 1982 to try and get that thing off and they couldn't get it off so they just left it up there. That's what happened eventually, it just fell off. The hoist always banging into it and the front end on her just... probably knocked a nut off a long time ago. The nut had probably had been off a while. When they tried to take it off they probably pulled the cotter pin out and never put it back in or they probably said it will be alright and tighten it up real good and leave it there. You know how they are they don't care.

Q Was your wife concerned?

A She still is concerned because I still don't feel right. You never know about head injury on how it is going to affect you later. You could get a tumor in your brain or anything.

Q Did you file workman compensation?

A Yes.

Q Do you think the work has changed much, now that you're back in the same plant after being moved around from one place to another. Has your work changed much in ten years?

A No it is pretty much the same thing as when I started. It's no better, but it is no worse. It is still the same stuff. I think that type of work is degrading for anybody to do. The repetition, the boredom and then you get the management that don't understand people. All they know is they have to get that number. That is their main concern. You can't blame them because they are getting paid to do that. They are not getting blamed to be human relation people so you have to

understand that is what you are doing. That is what you chose to do as a career. You're making money there and you are just going to have to put up with that stuff that comes with it. That's the way I look at it. I used to have a real bad attitude towards it. Like they should do something like this or that, but it is a big operation and they are not that concerned about how you feel. Really they are not concerned at all. They just got a number to put out and once that number is out they are happy.

Q Why do you think you changed?

A I really don't know why I changed. Over the years I just took a different point of view. I still feel there should be better human relations. They should take people into more consideration, but I just think that you pretty much accept it now. I pretty much accept it because I've been there so long and like you said before why didn't I get out. That's my own personal thing. I've been there and I've been putting up with it this long I might as well just put up with it. It is part of the job. That's the way it is there. It has always been that way and I don't see no way they are going to change it. If they start changing at Wayne and stuff you know...over at Wayne they don't yell at you and stuff never. They don't never raise their voice to you. It is childish really to raise your voice to somebody when you are working with them and all you got to do is talk to them. There is no reason to yell and rant and rave, but they still do at the truck plant. They think they are giving you reprimand and like they are your father or something. They don't got no right to yell at you. I always tell them if you want to yell

at me just take it out of the office man it is kinda stupid sitting here yelling at me. You just make a fool out of yourself.

Q What do they yell about?

A You know. If you mess something up or something like that. Let something go. Whatever they can, you know.

Q It has been 2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$  years after the E.I. program and all the money they are putting in and paying people to come in on Saturdays hasn't it changed the relationship between supervision and the workers?

A I think it has, but I don't think E.I. is nothing for us. It's not like made for people to help them out or nothing. The whole idea is to make the plant better for better efficiency. That's what they want. They didn't tell me this, but they told this guy that worked with me next door he said that he wouldn't get involved with E.I. at Wayne Assembly and he says they told me right out if a guys right in E.I. he goes what will it do you know if this thing eliminates jobs and stuff. Well you know, it's no big deal if that's what it does. It does. That was their attitude. The idea is just to get more efficient. If you have to eliminate more jobs do it. They look at as that's the way it has got to be done. They got a plant manager at Wayne Assembly, the Latiny dude, when he says lay off he'll tell you right to your face well you're going to get laid off so don't make a big idea like you're going to be here for a while. They look down on you. I think management as a whole thinks they are better than anyone else. I think they think they have a better position and they think they are better than you or something the way they act. They

act like they are better than you. Really your boss is just there to see the job gets down. He ain't suppose to reprimand you or nothing, when it comes right down to it because he is not experienced in human relations. There is no reason that he should even deal with you. Just take your name and number and if he got to send you to the office, he could send you down there and they could take care of it down there. Over at Wayne they give you a big psychology thing like, they try to talk to you and act like they are your friend and stuff. It is just like where we work. They are the same way. Behind your back they talk about you like you're a dog. Over at Wayne I was sitting in the production office one time and this one guy goes, I could hear him in the next room, I just got called back off lay off you know and I was sitting in production and they got like a block house at Wayne Assembly where everybody, they got different rooms where the different departments they take you to and just sit you right in these rooms and you can hear all the managers and stuff in the next room talking. Well this guy is back to work. He's just come off medical. Well where should I put him? He told him the guys name and stuff. Put him back where he come from. He goes yeah, but he had a heart attack on that job. The dude goes so put him back there anyways maybe he'll die and we won't have to worry about him. They were laughing all these dudes. The guy that they were talking about was an old man. He was like about 55 or something like that. Some old dude. They think that is a big joke. Put him back where he had the heart attack and maybe he'll die and we won't have to worry about him no more. That right there I just stop, that's the way

you look at it. They don't care. You're just a number to them. You're not nobody.

Q Sure. What kind of changes have taken place in the union during the ten years you have been there? Has it meant anything to you?

A I've always been a union person. I have always thought through people we could be strong. We could be somebody and and do something for ourself. The only thing with our union, which is the only thing I got experience with, ain't too good. They don't do much no more like they used to. They used to do everything for our people, whatever you wanted. Now it is like if you can find them. They don't want to nothing.

Q What do you mean if you could find them?

A Well usually you call a committee man now and he don't come down that day. He come the next day and the problem is either already resolved or you already are put on a job you don't want to do. You call the union and by time they get there you are already doing it.

Q What do you think caused the union to be so usefess?

A Because they are detached from the line. They get off that line and that is their main concern. Once they get off there they forget about what they talked about and what their beliefs and stuff. Because it is not their concern no more. You know they are like it's cool now I'm off the line so I'm all happy.

Q You were raised in Dearborn?

A No I lived in Detroit.

Q West side?

A Yes over on Greenfield and Schoolcraft area. In 1971 we moved out to Westland.

Q



Q What did your folks do? What kind of work?

A My dad is an auto worker. He works in a transmission plant.

Q So you have long union...?

A Oh yeah I've always been a union man myself. Ever since I can remember. As soon as I realized what it was.

Q What did your dad talk about when he talked about the union? How long has he been working? He must be getting up there?

A He has a lot of years at Ford's.

Q Is it Ford transmission out in Livonia?

A Yes. He is into the union, but he is not like I am or nothing. He is pretty much happy to have a job.

Q How many years does he got?

A Almost 30 years now.

Q Is he going to retire when he gets 30?

A Yeah I think he will.

Q He works on the line, the transmission line?

A No he works somewhere around machines somewhere. He gets done early and comes home at 9:30 and goes back and punches out at 12:30 or something. So he's got a pretty good job.

Q I bet it took a while to get there.

A He's always had pretty good jobs.

Q Is he a skilled tradesman?

A No. He was, but he got knocked down when they cut back so he has been working that line job. He figures he'll just work that until....he don't even want to go back to skilled trades. He figures he'll just work there until he retires. My father-in-law works at Design and Engineering in Dearborn. He's a Ford worker. He's a hourly metal model maker. He don't like his job. He's got 35 years in, but his job is easy, but it

is just the boredom of being there so long that many years and he don't like it. He just bought a house a few years ago so he has got to stay. Take care of that first. My mom works at Farmer Jack's. She is a cashier. She is in the union, AFL\_CIO.

Q They just had big concessions.

A Yeah. They tore that industry up. Their main goal is profit. Everybody's goal is that. If they got to step on people to get it that's what they're going to do, the big companies.

Q You know all that and I know that is when we first met when we were first talking back then in 1977 I guess. What do you do with knowing all that and hearing the story of this older guy in the production office when they were talking about people like that and when you see the abuses on the line?

A I just feel bad about it. There is nothing I can do. I'd like to run for committee or something, but I even figured if you're up in committee like you get up there, say I get a job in the committee and stuff they'll black ball you out as soon as you start trying to do something. The rest of the union people won't stick with you. I mean I already have seen it happen next door. You know Mike Justice don't you? The guy who works at Wayne Assembly. He was a committee man and they black balled him right out of the union. They messed him up real bad.

Q Really.

A They just took him one day and he had more seniority than a couple guys that were on the committee and they are suppose to go by seniority I guess, everything in the plant, but little Jeff says I'll have a hearing on him and we'll take

a vote. Everybody said all right we'll take a vote. Everybody come down that wanted him, a whole bunch of people showed up and try to vote for Mike to keep him in committee so they got to go by seniority the way they are suppose to. So we go and have the vote...everybody votes and we were winning and the committee is so crooked and little J<sup>e</sup>ff says come on all these guys from the truck plant sitting in the back room and he goes come on this side they can vote. I started bitching and I said they are from W<sup>a</sup>yne Assembly. They don't got nothing to do with it. He goes they belong to this local too and they got a right to vote. So they got all their buddies to go on their side to get rid of this one guy. And they got rid of him man. I said this union sucks. I said that right out. So a committee man comes up like he is going to beat me up and he goes you watch your mouth. I said heh man I pay union dues here too. Because he was the guy who was going to go if Mike Justice stayed. So he was all hot. That's the way they are. It is a big clan. They all stick together so there is nothing you can do against them guys.

Q Do you think it would be better without a union?

A No. I think that what we need is more like GM's got at some of their plants where a union steward works right on the line with you. You don't lose touch with what is happening. He knows what is going on. Just like E.I., if they want E.I. to work better don't just appoint somebody to E.I. get everybody involved. Let everybody get a chance to be an E.I. leader or something like that. I'm not saying E.I.. I'm not for it at all, but that is the concept. Like even a union too get everybody a chance to be the committee man. Like give every-

body a chance once a month or one whole month let everybody be a committee man. You'll get bad ones and you'll get good ones. You'll get your stuff taken care of. You know what I mean? Instead of letting some guy just...after all they know. They are chummy chummy with the people in the office right off. All of them committee guys. They are all joking around and stuff. Archie with the head guy from that seal guy, they're all real good buddies. When they are in that office they are chums man. Them guys can do no wrong. Them committee men come and go as they please.

Q What do you mean they come and go as they please?

A They can leave the plant whenever they want. Come back when they want. They work when they want. When they don't want they go somewhere and stay out there. They are hardly ever in the plant. They never all in there at the same time. Everyone of them leaves whenever he feels like it. I know just from that experience working in the office just how tight they are with the company.

Q What do you think the union meant fifty years ago when it started?

A I think it was real important back then, everybody that worked there. I think it was a lot more like everybody was involved in it. Because like we needed it real bad. We need it now, but they are so far detached from us.

Q Why do you think the guys and women in the plant let that happen?

A Because it is not effecting them right at the time. Some of them are happy with their jobs and they don't care about what

happens to somebody else. They don't care about that. As long as it ain't bothering them at that moment they are not concerned. When it's their ass and they are the ones getting messed with boy they are right out there. I need a committee man. Otherwise they are not concerned about it if someone else is having troubles. It is not their concerns. It's like it is not bothering me I don't care.

Q What do you think is going to happen to the union in about ten years from now?

A Well eventually it is just giving away. Giving away like it is now until they give everything away. Right now it is just symbolic. They don't do that much. Like the company says oh we work good with the union. They like the union. The union will cooperate with them.

Q It seems what the union is doing now is providing programs, education programs.

A That's a great idea. I'm all for that. Anything they can do for the worker, but they are not doing anything for your welfare in the plant. I don't think they are doing anything to better your life in the plant. Like CM has got some kind of quality life involvement thing or something at the plant. I heard somebody talk about it that works at GM and it is a different system than what we got. It is the quality of work life within your plant. They try to improve your quality of work life or whatever and they work with the company. I don't know. There is a lot of stuff in our plant that could be done better safety wise, job wise, everything you know. They are not concerned as long as the job is getting done. The union is not that concerned either.

Q Let's move away from the union for a little while. I know you get along with folks pretty well. Do you think folks get along with each other? How are the women treated in the assembly plant?

A They treat women like dogs at both the plants. They are treated bad. They get good jobs at Wayne, don't get me wrong. They treat them as sexual objects by most of them. I know this girl who used to work at Wayne and I was talking to her one time and she said that this guy told her to get on her knees and shit you know. I said that ain't too cool for somebody in management to do that.

Q A management person did that?

A Yeah. A superintendent or something.

Q Have you heard many stories about bribing women for good jobs?

A I've heard them. I have never seen it happen but I'm sure it does. I'm sure it happens all the time. I'm sure that women are put through a lot of abuse at the plant. I know they are. I haven't seen it but I just know they are. I just know the way the business is and I know the way those guys talk. It is just their nature. Something like that they should leave at home. They don't take that stuff to work because you've got to work with these people every day. They got no concern for the people that they work with is what it boils down to. They are just there to do their job and anything they feel is part of their job they'll do.

Q Do you ever say anything to some of the guys about the way they talk to women?

A I never had nobody say anything to me about it so I really never did say anything, but if I had anybody that said any-

thing in front of me I'd say something to them you know. They never did. I just talked to that one woman. After work I talked to her and drink a couple of beers or something because she worked with me right on the line, just as a friend you know, she always mentioned she did get a lot of abuse. I never thought it was right. I hated the idea of it because it is bogue you're coworker getting put through a bunch of hassles like that you know. Somebody you work with every day and you know it has to be on their minds just being bugged like that all the time. It is not right to have to work like that under those conditions, but it is a widespread thing. It is just about in every industry. I worked at Farmer Jack's before I worked at Ford's and it was like that way too there.

Q What do you think drives the guys to act like that?

A If they are management they think they are superior. They think they have the right to it.

Q What about the guys who are on the line?

A Well the guys on the line they don't got no respect for nobody. They got respect a lot of them, but a lot of them just don't care. They are trying to amuse each other a lot of times. That is just an amusement thing for them. Something to break the monotony of the day. I don't hold it against them if they are just saying stuff, but I'm talking about management where they actually try to do something. Like I'll take care of you or something like that. That is not too cool. If a guy says something and she has a gripe take him in the office or tell the committee to talk to him or stuff because he don't got no right saying nothing to her. As far as he

can't make her do anything for him for a job. If he says stuff he is just trying to be amusing to his friends. He is a little immature if he does stuff like that. Really there is nothing you can do about it.

Q What about relations between whites and blacks? How do you see that in the plant?

A I see a pretty good relation between them, but I don't see no problem. Really.

Q What about between black foremen and white workers or white foremen and black workers?

A I've always had no problem. Never had any problem with any foremen or anything against me. I've had more problems with white foremen against me than blacks.

Q What about other guys in the plant? Do you hear much?

A You hear people talk, but they just talk regular same shit all the time. You know how it is. It is just all bullshit.

Q You don't take it seriously?

A I don't think they take it seriously either. I mean a lot of them don't like blacks. A lot of black people don't like whites, but that's the way the whole world is. Nobody is going to be happy. Everybody don't like somebody. That's what it all boils down to. You can't criticize somebody for what they think. A lot of them don't think it, they just say it because they don't know no better. That's what it is it all boils down to they don't know no better. A lot of them guys don't care. A lot of them guys that work in that plant they have just been there a long time and they have lost touch with reality. All they know is the plant. They just don't know what is going on. When you work that many



hours and stuff you fall behind with human relations.

Q Say a little more. What do you mean?

A Well I think a lot of guys are just so far away from regular people sitting in the plant they just get them attitudes like fuck it man. You know at the plant that is the attitude everybody has got. It is like that. The whole plant.

Q It is hard for you to work in that situation come home and try to maintain some human relations?

A No not for me, because before I worked there I was into human relations. I've always liked people and talked to them and was concerned about their concerns. So it really hasn't effected me that much. When I first started working there it was rough on me. I didn't like it. I didn't like working there at all because it was down grading to work on production job. After a while you get used to it. You know your life goes on. You are still going to be the same person you were. So you just pretty much carry on the way you were.

Q Did you always think that working on the line would be degrading? What High school did you go to?

A Wayne High in Westland.

Q So when you went to Wayne High what did you think you would do when you got out?

A I really didn't know. I raced motorcycles when I was in high school and I thought that's what I was going to do. I was doing real good at it.

Q Like Evel Knievel? That's the only one I know.

A Circle track type of racing. That's what I thought I would do. I got injuries and stuff like that so I had to pretty much get responsibilities where I had to get a regular job.

It costs a lot of money to race motorcycles.

Q Does it?

A Oh yeah it cost me tons. Everything I made went to it. So after a while I figured I'd get a good job and went to work at Farmer Jack's and I was still racing. When I started at Ford's I was still racing bikes and eventually I just quit.

Q When did you start racing and started working on cars?

A I started working on cars when I was about 8 or 9 years old. I started doing tune ups. My dad's brother used to own a business and I used to work with him.

Q In Detroit?

A Yeah in Detroit. He always raced cars. It costs a lot of money to do that kind of thing. I've always been interested in cars ever since I was a little kid. I don't know why I just have.

Q It was in your blood.

A Yeah it was in my blood.

Q So you race now or do you work on cars?

A I work on cars all the time.

Q So I should bring my car here then.

A She is going to one of those tanning booths to get a tan. She is going to Arizona and she is real light skinned and she wants to get a tan before she goes so she doesn't get all burned up.

Q Where does she go? What is it? I never heard of it.

A A tanning spa where you get a tan. She is just going there to get a start on her tan so she doesn't burn up when she goes to Arizona.

Q Why is she going to Arizona? Vacation?

A Her dad lives out there and one of her sisters is graduating

from high school and she wants to be out there for the graduation.

Q Will she fly out?

A Yes.

Q How long have you been married?

A About eight years. Nine years I think. It'll be nine years this month.

Q What has been the hardest thing about being married?

A I really don't know. Nothing is really hard about it. I've liked it really. I'm satisfied being married.

Q You met when you were at Farmer Jack's?

A No I met her in high school. She lived next door to me. We were next door neighbors.

Q Oh my goodness that must have been a trip.

A We were next door neighbors when I moved to Westland and we didn't start going out until I was about nineteen or twenty. She is two years younger than me.

Q She still works at Farmer Jack's?

A My wife. She doesn't work at Farmer Jack's.

Q Oh she works at the school. Why did I think she worked at Farmer Jack's?

A I mentioned my mom worked there.

Q Your mom did, I'm sorry. She worked at the school district. So with two of you working it works out financially?

A We are not hurting financially. When I get laid off we don't really hurt so I don't mind it. It is good, but now I don't care anymore. When I get laid off, I'm glad to get laid off and just not call back right now because I got my ten years. I don't care anymore. Before it was

just a concern of getting that ten years for retirement. I got to get me something you know. So that's what my main concern was.

Q What do you think has caused the auto crisis? What do you think is going to happen fifteen years from now in the auto industry? That's a big question.

A I think what happened was there was a combination of things that went wrong with it. First of all there are too many imports and too many products from other countries and it's all our own fault. It's big business that brings those things in here. I mean who ever owns them companies in them other countries they're bringing that stuff in our country for a cheaper rate. Like Ford's will bring in foreign cars. They got their hands in all them companies. You know they are big. Like Ford's and GM they're big companies. They are world wide. Whatever comes in this country comes in here because they want it here. If GM and Ford didn't want no imports there wouldn't be no imports. I garauntee it.

Q So why don't the guys in the plant get upset with Ford's rather than the Japanese?

A Because they don't know any better. They don't know that is what is happening.

Q They don't know. It is in solidarity isn't it. It is in solidarity every month.

A What I think personally a lot of guys don't read that stuff. A lot of guys they don't read solidarity or nothing. They just see what they see at the plant and that's what they think about work, you know, the whole wrld. They think it is like that at the whole world. They do. A lot of guys do.

That is their idea of what is going on. They see what is happening at the plant and oh it's like this all over and this and that. That's why I said it would be good to get a couple different views.

Q I think I'll have to work on that. I want to make sure I get enough women.

A Oh you definitely want to get a lot of women.

Q Because there is not that many in the plant, our plant.

A You should go over to Wayne. There is a lot of people who worked at our plant who are at Wayne now.

Q I'll have to go over there. That is a good idea. Keep going with what you were saying.

A Like I said it's a combination of things. All them imports coming in. I think that's another thing too. Our government doesn't stick for it's people like it should. Like I'm not against people bring their products here at a fair price and stuff. Well like people in them other countries building them cars are exploited worse than we are. Like they say in Mexico guys are getting under a \$1.00 an hour to produce the same job we are. It is like Ford's paying them that, but I mean there should be a law in our country that say that if they are exploited and stuff we don't want to buy this stuff here.

Q That would be like a declaration of independence of our constitution.

A Sacred and profound.

Q I think that is a great concept.

A I'm just saying like everything that is brought into this country the people that build it should be up to our stand-

ards of work to bring it into this country. Not an equal parody, but like a parody as far as our economy and their economy goes and how they live and how we live. They should get the same type of thing we get in their country. Like they say the Japanese cars are cheaper well the Japanese auto workers make good money in them factories. They make almost as much as we do, but the people that build the parts that come to that plant they don't make money at all. Like I see on TV a special, there is people working on them little boats and stuff building parts for cars with their whole family. They got their kids doing something. Did you ever see that? It is true man. Like little assembly parts like something that would go on there you know.

Q They got the whole family working?

A They got the whole family working man.

Q I used to joke that some of the jobs we used to bend so low I imagined having a little kid do the job. They wouldn't have to bend so far. You tell me that is what is going on there.

A It is. I seen a special on TV. It was on 56 or something. It didn't involve the auto industry. It was talking about a guy that made shoes on a boat. His whole family had to do something to make shoes to sell. He got dirt money for them, but some big company bought them and sold them for big money. They are giving this guy like a penny a shoe or whatever they are giving them and none of his family could get no education. They probably couldn't even afford the pair of shoes that they make. That's just the way it was. That's the way it is over there. There government is exploiting the people over there.

Just like our government exploits people in other countries. It is the whole thing you know. Like in Mexico when Ford's says we'll build a plant down in Mexico. It probably wasn't Ford's idea. It probably was the governments. We'll give you ten million or so many dollars to go over to Mexico and put some people to work over there is the deal we got with their government. We go over there and start a factory and we'll knock that off your taxes or something like that.

Q What do you think is going to happen if things continue to on this way? To the American auto worker?

A It is going to be a dead business man. There is just nothing you can do. It's going to go off. Here's what they tell you at Wayne. They go stock holders at Ford Motor Company could just decide one day and come in and say well it's not profitable to build cars in North America no more. We are just going to stop building them and they could do that very easily. They could build them somewhere else cheaper. What I want to know is would the American public still buy Ford products if Ford just pulled out and said we are building them anymore here.

Q What do you think?

A I don't know. I know of a lot of people who worked at Ford's who wouldn't buy them.

Q There wouldn't be anybody with money either.

A I know, but that's what I mean. I don't know what they would do. I would hope they would stick with the American worker and say we don't want it man. Take them over there. Build them over there and just keep them there. Sell them there. This is where the market is for cars right here. No where

else in the world buys cars like this country does.

Q So it sounds like Ford has become anti American?

A They are anti labor is what it is. If we would work for that penny wage they would be happy. They'd be all that's great.

Q Do you think the auto worker will accept more concessions the next contract?

A I think there is a lot of people that will. I know me personally I don't want no concessions and most people we talk to will say no they don't. Behind your back they'll say oh we got to do it just to keep a job. Like next door when the first round to cut concessions you know they're going oh you got to take concessions give up that give up this. I told this dude at work he's like in the PTL club or something, he's all religious and stuff, and he goes my wife and stuff and we were talking and she goes oh you guys owe it to the company give them concessions. I goes do you think if we had a gripe with the union sign a contract and we had a gripe and we said we want to open a contract to change this. The company would laugh right at the union and they'd go your crazy man. You got a written and signed contract. That's the way it is. That's just what they would tell you man. Like as far as lay offs and stuff it don't effect lay offs. If they need that many people to build a car they are going to have to have that many people regardless whatever they do. People are just happy to be working now a days I guess. To where they just feel like give it back if they want it. I don't got that attitude. I feel we deserve what we got right now. We deserve more really, than what we are getting right now because we make the money



for the company. Like in England their businesses are all dead because everybody there believes that they deserve part of that what is coming in and I agree the same way. Our government let them big businesses close them down.

Q Your not in the body shop now, but you used to be.

A I've seen automation and I think it is eliminating jobs. I know that for a fact. There is nothing you can do about that. The union probably could do something about that, but I don't think they are really concerned that concerned about it. They are not that sincere about being concerned about it. The union right now I think is going through a big transitional thing where they are trying to get other industries involved in the UAW rather than just that one so they don't have all their eggs in one basket. If anything happens they can just oh well you know.

Q It is like GM.

A It is the same way. The same concept. Their idea of doing it is they are going to milk us for every penny they can get out of us and soon as the union is done when the company says we don't want it no more well then they'll move on to another thing whatever they can make money. The union used to be non-profit. I think it is a money making organization now. That is their whole goal to make money. They are not out to help us. They are out to make money. Just like they say that sterling vision thing that guy whoever owned it or something lived next door to some big shot, the guy who owned sterling vision, either the union or Ford's and they gave him the contract. That's how they work. It's all like how the government works. It is the same thing. They just do what

they want to do. They take care of their friends and stuff.

Q So in 1986 who speaks for the working people?

A The working man himself will have to eventually get fed up and do something about it. That's what is going to happen. He is going to have to take a stand somewhere. If they keep pushing down our throat, everybody gets affected, after everybody gets affected it'll start getting, it's got to get worse before it gets better the way I look at it. It's got to get to the point where everybody is affected. They are messing with everybody's job at the same time and then everybody is pissed off, you know all them old men and stuff, they got good jobs. Once everybody gets fed up with it then they start doing something about it. Otherwise they are not involved in it until it actually affects their life. When they start getting these old men and putting them on the line and stuff that's when they start going I don't know about this shit you know. They don't like it. It's a rough place to work right off. You hate to see anybody that is real old having to do a real hard job. I feel for them.

Q Yeah I know what you mean.

A That's what I mean. It's got to get worse before it gets better. It's got to get to the point where people are fed up with it and then they'll do something. Otherwise they are going to sit around and take it easy. You watch and see if they took all them committee off and put them on the line they'd be screaming like a bunch of babies. There would be something done then because they know everybody and they could organize something then. If they did something to them guys they right away you know oh this ain't right. Like

if they fired a committee man or something you know. They would be right away like we got to get people support for this and take care of this, but if it is you or me they are not concerned about it. It is not effecting them. They are like oh well we'll get his job back maybe next year or something. You know it's no big deal. That is they way they look at it. They are not concerned about you or me. They got a good job and they are happy with it. Can't blame them most of those guys it probably is their goal to get a good job. They don't care that their suppose to do this or that. They don't care. Just by that guy telling me you better not say anything about this union. Heh I've worked here I pay union dues, I'll say what I want man. You don't got no right telling me and as far as a committee man threatening you that is ridiculous. You're paying them money. You should be able to go right to international and say this guy shouldn't be a committee man he threatens people that are in the union. He should be threatening the foremen or something instead of union. The committee mans job he should walk around and ask you if you want to write grievance. As soon as he comes up what's the bitch today? Instead of trying to avoid you like they do. They try to walk around you. If they know you gotra bitch they won't even see you and they'll walk by. That's the way they are. Their job is just to walk out and see what the problem is and take care of it. It don't matter if they are unpopular with the company that's what they should be. They shouldn't be buddy buddy with nobody. When the committee man comes down he should see you not your foreman. What's the deal? In a couple years from

there won't be a union. I guarantee it. If there is, like I said, it'll just be symbolic.

Q What do you think it is going to mean to the country when the union....?

A It is going to be a terrible blow. It is going to be a terrible to the country. It is going to be like a recession. It is going to be like the civil war really. That is what it is going to be like. The country is just going to fall right apart. There is going to be a fall out between the middle class and the rich people. The middle class will be poor. Just about everything in this country revolves around auto workers. When the auto industry is doing bad the whole country is doing bad. Everybody is doing bad. We were doing bad over here and they were doing bad out in California too. Nobody got money to buy nothing. You got to figure almost everything revolves around the automobile industry. Your petroleum business, plastics, electronics. Everything revolves in it. It is big business. It is our business. The country's business. It should be like our top priority business for everybody is concerned about it because that is where everybody is employed. It is a bad thing to be involved around, but that's just the way our country is. Involved around the automobile and that is what brought our country close together they way it is is the automobile. That freedom of transportation to go where ever you want to go. Independently, that's what made our country what it is today. Everybody can go wherever they want to and they can be what they want to be. When it was horse and buggy you couldn't go very far. Everybody lived

right where they were born. They were raised there and they pretty much finished there. People went places, across the country, but generally you would see the major population would pretty much stay where they were born and raised and that's the way it was. Automobile changed this whole country and it is just going to get to a point where it's just going to stay here. There will always be automobiles, but they may be made somewhere else. If our people in this country let it go that way well then they are just as much to blame as anybody else. I'm not against Japanese people because if we want to buy it here buy it. It's just the loss in this country of the nationalism feeling of people feeling like for this country everybody like I think buy American because you'll keep somebody working man. Not that you hate somebody else in another country, but heh we got to make our own and they should make their own too. It's up to their government to help them people. Our government helps them, but maybe not in the right way. In the wrong way a lot of times, but I'm just saying if they had their stuff together they could get money from our country and improve their country if that's what they really meant to do.

Q Who?

A Like Mexico and places like that. Mexico is right in our own continent. It's terrible man. Conditions to live down there. I couldn't see being a Mexican. I know why they all come up here because there ain't nothing down there for them. Hell, when they come up here and make minimum wage they are making big money compared to making any money down there. They want to do anything. They don't make no money down there

for Ford's.

Q And those are the good jobs.

A Yeah those are the good jobs.

Q You are living in Dearborn Heights, Wayne County, Michigan what are some of the other issues or concerns you see that are significant as changing the auto industry? That effect you or your wife, your father-in-law and your mom. What are some of the other things that you are concerned about?

A I don't really know. Like utilities and things like that going up. The cost of living is one of your main concerns. You don't know what is going to happen up or down. That's about the only thing I'd say really concerns me right now. Like world crises and stuff I always try to watch and see what is going on world wide. There is nothing I can do about that at all. I just pretty much see what is going on. A lot of stuff I don't like.

Q What are the things that get you angry that you don't like? That you see?

A I don't like people in other countries getting oppressed like I said like working for under a union wage.

Q Where did you get these values from Joe? Most guys in the plant won't agree with you.

A I know it. They'd say what is wrong with you? They are making good money. They love it there. Well they have never been there so I don't care what they think really.

Q Where do you get your values?

A Just from the way I feel. What I see and what I hear. I don't know. I don't know no Japanese auto workers, but my idea of a perfect society is like everybody that builds cars

world wide should be in the same union and they all get the same amount of money so it don't matter if they bring their car to our country or not. It'll all be on the fair scale. They'll get an equal wage, good money and if people want to buy there it is fine. I'm all for it. Otherwise if their country is going to let them get exploited I don't want it. I don't want to buy it. If they got to live in substandard conditions and they do the same job I'm doing I don't want to have nothing to do with putting them people down like that.

Q Is this how your parents talked to you when you were kids?

A No my parents are not concerned world wide anything. They're are just pretty much...they come from that age where they are happy with what they got and they are just happy to have what they have.

Q When was the first time you started thinking like this?

A Probably in grade school.

Q Really.

A I've always been strong humanistic you know. Humanities type person. If anyway I could improve people's life in a major way I'd like to help. That's the way I've always been. I've always been concerned about other people's welfares. Lot of people don't like it. A lot of people don't care about other people. That is part of the problem we got in this country. That's why I said when it comes right down to people buying foreign products, like if you go to California everybody out there buys Japanese cars because they don't know no auto worker. They don't know nobody that works at Ford's who is going to be out of work. You can't blame them, but they lost that

nationalistic feeling where you know do it in this country and keep everybody working here. If our country was working and everybody had a good job making good money we could help a lot of countries out with more money even. Taxes are a burden right now, but that tax money that we pay is good money and they just waste it. They just give it to unworthy causes or they just waste it away. If they give aid to Mexico, just for a figure say one million dollars, by the time it gets down to the people it's down to \$100,000 is what they are going to get because everybody dips their hand in it. This can go over here and this can go over there.

Q Do you have a chance to talk about some of these things with fellow workers?

A No. A lot of people are not concerned about it. I talk to my sister-in-law about stuff sometimes when she is over and we always get bullshitting and she is always like one thing you don't talk about is religion and politics. That's what she says and that's the most important thing in your life, really, to most people and that is what you should talk about. Some people don't even like to talk about it. Why not? It is important. An important part of your life. You are picking a guy who is going to run your country or do this or do that. There is no reason not to talk about it man.

Q Are you religious?

A No I am not. I went to a Catholic school, all through grade school.

Q You went through Catholic school in Detroit?

A Yes.

Q What school did you go to?

A Mother Our Savior. It was on Greenfield just south of



Schoolcraft.

Q What is your background?

A Polish.

Q I just learn so much in both the way and what you are talking about. What everybody is talking about.

A Yeah you pick up stuff all the time. That is the best thing about talking to people. Even if you don't agree with them you get a different point of view look at something and you might get a different light on some subject. I always do. I always try to hear what people have got to say. It is important.

Q What do most guys talk about at the plant?

A Just garbage. Nothing important. Just chit chat. Nice weather. What's it going to be like this weekend. You know they don't know how to talk to you on what level or anything because they don't know what you want to talk about really. Like I said they are not experienced in human relations a lot of people. So they just don't know how to talk to somebody. A lot of people just aren't concerned about what other people feel. They just pretty much care about what they care about and that's all. You can't blame them. You only got so much time to do what you want to do and that's it.

Q What do you on weekends?

A Work on cars and stuff. It is a hobby of mine that I like doing and I make more money at it so I just do it. My brothers' car in the yard there he bought that for \$500 and we are going to fix it and sell it for \$2,000. We'll make a couple bucks on that.

Q What kind of things do you and your wife do?

A We go to family things. We don't go bowling or nothing like that. We go out to dinner. We do whatever she wants to do. We go on vacation together. We'll go out to California or L.A. or Vegas or something.

Q What are you going to do this upcoming vacation?

A We are going to New York to see my wife's relatives.

Q Where do they live?

A Syracuse.

Q I'll be driving that way too. We stop in Syracuse on the way to Massachusetts.

A Do you? Oh it's nice out in Massachusetts. It is real nice.

Q Is your wife from there?

A She was born there, but her mother moved here right after she was born.

Q Do you ever go down to Detroit much? Hamtramck to get some Polish food?

A No. I never go to Detroit. Once in a while if I'm out that way I'll go there. I don't usually go there very much. If there is something going on there downtown I want to see I'll go down there. Otherwise I don't got nothing to do down there. When I was younger and used to live in Detroit I used to go downtown all the time. Since I moved out I don't even bother, unless there is something I want to see.

Q Do you think you will retire from the plant?

A I doubt it. I doubt if I'll make it that long to retire. The plant will probably be closed before I retire. I guarantee that.

Q I don't know if you have chosen not to have children or are

you not able to have children?

A No we chose not to. We plan on having some maybe in a couple more years. Three or four more years. My wife she wants to be a courtroom reporter and she has been going to school for it right now so she is almost done with it. When she switches careers and gets situated then we'll probably have a kid or two or so.

Q I just started that part of life.

A That's good.

Q Sure is a change. He gets up at 5 o'clock in the morning whether I'm going to work or not. When you sit back and think about having a child knowing that this is the generation that won't work in the auto plant.

A I'm really glad that nobody else will have to put up with it. It is a terrible business.

Q What do you think young kids are going to do? Coming up in the Detroit area particularly? That was for so long the way to make a decent living.

A They are going to have to be smart and get into a trade of some sort. Like servicing automobiles. Anything that will make some money for them. They are definitely going to have to go to college.

Q Is everybody going to be able to go to college?

A Anybody who has got any brains should go to college. If you got parents that can afford it and if they can't afford it you probably can get aid to go. A lot of people aren't smart enough to go to college we'll then they should go to a trade school or something. I'd hate to be out of high school right now because it is rough getting a job now. If

your unskilled and need money you're messed up. You are not going to get a job. My brother gets jobs though.

Q You got a kid brother?

A All my brothers are younger than me. I got four brothers.

Q What are they doing?

A Well two of them are in the service. One of them works at Farmer Jack's and the other one works at a small factory in Livonia. He started at \$5.00 an hour and is making \$7.00 an hour right now. He's just been there six months. If there's work out there to make you know but it's not like what we make, no money or nothing. For a young kid out of high school it's good money to get started with.

Q When you got out of high school you made uh...

A Oh yeah I got a good job right away, but I mean times have changed. It's not like that no more. There's nothing. You can't just walk out and get a job no more. There is, but they are few and far between.

Q Do you think the high tech computer jobs is going to replace the auto industry?

A No. I think the high tech computer jobs is a big farce. I think them jobs right there they got them computers to where anybody can fix them. You can just put something in there like a tape or something. Put it right in that computer and it will tell you what is wrong with it and give you a diagram of how to fix it and everything. Anybody can do it. You or me could just walk in there and throw it in there and fix it.

Q For someone who is real mechanical and really knows how to use his hands and knows how to make things work, I know

about that stuff, do you think that the fact that up and coming generations aren't going to have that skill...

A It's going to have adversity affect our country yet if nobody has got the skills to do that. I mean the younger generation isn't even interested in it really. A lot of the younger kids aren't even interested in it at all. Just by seeing my brother, knowing him, and he's just happen to be one of them. None of his friends are mechanically inclined.

Q Most of your friends were?

A When I was younger. Not all of them, but a lot of them were. A lot of people I hung around with were. Maybe it was just the group I hung around with.

Q It seems like everybody I run into who were born and raised in Detroit had that same group of friends. You got two brothers in the service?

A Yes.

Q You weren't in the service?

A No.

Q How did you stay out?

A I didn't want to go. I didn't like the service. I got a job at Farmer Jack's when I got out of high school right away and I just had a job.

Q You didn't get drafted?

A No. I got drafted, but when I got drafted I was still in high school with a little bit to go. I had like four months so I got a deferment. When I went back there they told me the war was deescalating and they were not calling anymore people.

Q You got out of high school in what year?

A 1974.

Q Where are your brothers stationed?

A One is right here in Michigan at that Air Force base by West Branch. I don't remember the name of it out there.

Q So he hasn't been overseas?

A No. I got a sister in the service too, as a matter of fact. She is in California.

Q You got three brothers...

A Two brothers and one sister in the service. I got two other brothers besides that that are just working here.

Q So it's four brothers and a sister. Four boys and a girl in your family.

A Five boys and a girl.

Q Are you concerned about the ones that are in the service?

A I'm always concerned about them, but that's what they chose to go in the service.

Q Why did they choose to go in the service?

A They just felt like they couldn't get a job a nowhere else I guess. I don't know why they went in. Most of them are pretty straight arrow and they felt like pretty much to go in the service I guess. I don't know why. My parents never told me to go in the service or nothing. I don't know what the deal was why they went, but I guess they just decided to go. Once the one went in he was happy because he got a good job and he was right up in Michigan here, everybody else thought it was pretty cool to go in. I don't know if he is going to learn anything there because he is a MP. He don't do nothing. So I don't know what he is

going to do when he gets out. I don't know if he is going to get a job or do anything from it. A lot of guys that went in the service they get out and they can't find a job. I just hope he does. He's almost done. He's almost pulled his hitch so he'll be out pretty soon.

Q Are you concerned with his safety at this point with some of the bombings going on, car bombings?

A It's always a remote possibility, but I'm not really that concerned about it because I know that stuff is around, but it's really not happening around here yet. It will be I imagine, but by the time it does he probably will be out. I think he'll be out this year some time. My sister is out in California. She is an air traffic controller for the Air Force or Navy. One of them, I'm not sure, one of those two.

Q So she'll be able to get a job.

A She should be able to. My other brother he is just going in the service. He goes next month. My youngest brother.

Q Oh he is just going in for the first time?

A Right, but he is already signed up and he's all ready to go.

Q Do you think he decided to go in because of no job, wanting the freedom to get away, travel, like Rambo? What do you think?

A None of them are like Rambo. They're pretty passive. My whole family is. They went in I guess because they looked at it like an opportunity to get an education for free. My mom and dad would be willing to pay for it because they sent my sister to college, but she just didn't like it and she got out and went in the service I guess.

Q That's it I can't think of anything else. Do you want to say anything else? Do you want to share anything else?

A I don't really know anything. I can't think of anything.

Q What are you going to do today? Sunday.

A Work on a car.

Q You love it huh?

A I don't love it, but it's got to be done and I might as well do it. My brother is like my apprentice you know. The one who works in the factory. I've been teaching him the trade to work on cars and he really likes it and he is really into it. Any time I can help him I'm always glad to. I was an instructor like I said and I really enjoyed working with kids. That is really important to me.

Q Could you get a job now teaching?

A I probably could, yes. I already had an offer to go to Arizona and teach, but my wife wants to finish her schooling and stuff. Her parents live in Arizona so when she gets out we'll probably move there. I like to.

Q I remember now you talking about that. You were out there a couple times.

A I go out west all the time. I got a whole bunch of relatives in California and my wife has got all her relatives in Arizona. They were all in New York and then moved to Arizona. All my wifes' relatives.