

JIM STEPHENS

J.S

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING HERE?

I moved in here since 1975.

WE'RE GOING TO TEST IT AND THEN I'LL TELL YOU ALL THAT WE'RE DOING...

SO, AND YOU HAVE THREE CHILDREN?

Yeah. I got three kids: Jimmy, Tracy, and Ashley.

YOUR WIFE'S NAME?

Sue.

WHO'S HOUSE WERE WE AT WHEN WE PLAYED CARDS? A LONG TIME AGO. REMEMBER?

REMEMBER WE WERE PLAYING POKER ONE NIGHT? I THINK YOU WERE THERE. A

LONG TIME AGO.

Fred's?

WHO IS FRED?

The guy that used to be an inspector.

NO, IT WASN'T HIS. YOU, ME, REED, A LONG TIME AGO. I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THAT. THAT WAS SOMETHING I WAS WONDERING ABOUT. WHAT DO YOU DO AT THE PLANT?

Spray painter.

WHAT DOES A SPRAY PAINTER DO?

Paints the trucks.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT COLOR TO PAINT?

Well, they've got a code written on the front of them that tells you.

AND HOW MANY...YOU PAINT ONE PART OF THE TRUCK? YOU PAINT THE WHOLE TRUCK?

Everybody's got a different section to paint. My job is to paint the finish around the door, the door jambs, and back of the tailgate and put a coat on the outside of the box.

DO YOU HAVE A LOT OF EXTRA TIME ON YOUR JOB?

No.

DO YOU LIKE PAINTING?

Well, its a job. I'm not really thrilled about it. It's ok, I guess.

BEING A FINISH PAINTER YOU HAVE MORE RESPONSIBILITY THAN THE GUYS THAT PUT THE FIRST COAT ON?

Well, actually, no, not really. Everybody's got a responsibility. Everybody's got a job to do. It's not like it's up to us. If we see a job that's (sag) or something like that we'll let the next guy know about it. So, you know, that way he'll take care of it and it'll go out looking half-way decent.

HOW MANY FOLKS IN THE PAINT BOOTH NOW?

I'm in the two-tone booth.

OK, THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE MAIN LINE.

I'm painting the colors after the main line. The main line puts the first coat on it. They wrap it up, mask it off, and we finish it off.

DID YOU HIRE IN AS A PAINTER?

No, I went to the Body Shop when I first hired in. Oh, man, I didn't think I was going to make it. In fact, I lasted about three days over there.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT DID THEY HAVE YOU DO?

Well, I was drilling holes in the tailgates, you know, how they got it all automated over there. Before, you know, it was, you had to get drill bits, drill holes in it, life the tailgates up on this plaque and then put them on and all of this and that. And the foreman...I lasted about three days when they told me I just didn't weigh enough - didn't have enough muscle to do the job.

WHAT DID YOU WEIGH?

I weighed about 120 pounds.

SOAKIN' WET?

Yeah. That was it.

AND THEY PUT YOU IN THE BODY SHOP?

Yeah, they put me in the body shop. But I was ready to go anywhere. I was down South, in fact I was down South when I heard about this plant here.

TELL ME ABOUT THAT. HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT IT?

Well, I was up here living with my father-in-law for a while trying to get on at Rawsonville Plant and I worked for a Daylight Savings Service - that's like a Janitorial Service. I went in offices, emptied garbage cans, things like that. Well, they just wasn't paying me enough money. You know, I'd get paid every two weeks, I'd make about \$200, no, it wasn't even that I don't think. I forgot how much it was. So, I wasn't making enough. So, I quit there and went back down South and my wife's cousin came down there and he asked me about Michigan and how I liked it and everything like that. And I told him, well, I couldn't find work up here and he said you know, have you ever been to Wayne, Michigan? I told him, no. I didn't even know where it was at. So, he said I'll guarantee you'll get a job if you go to Michigan Truck.

WHAT YEAR WAS THIS?

This was about the end of 1970. So, you know, I started thinking about it. I wasn't doing anything down South. Working at a little restaurant down there making \$52 a week and I was married.

YOU WERE MARRIED ALREADY?

Yeah. But I didn't have any kids then. And, so, I thought about it and my wife wanted to come up anyway because her mom and dad are up here.

THEY HAD MOVED UP HERE BEFORE?

Yeah. They moved up here before. And so, packed up my stuff and moved up here and lived with my father-in-law again, and I was with my brother-in-law one time. We went out to get a pop, you know, at the store, and Fords called. They told me to come on in to work. I wasn't there. My mother-in-law answered the phone. And so, she told me as soon as I got home. And so I went ahead and called up. Woody Clark, you know, he told me, I'm sorry. The job's already filled. I said, well, if you got anything else open, you'll let me know, I don't care what it is, you know, anything. You know, so, the next day he called me back and told me to bring work boots and lunch and stuff and come into work. This was in 1971. August 1971.

I HIRED IN DECEMBER.

I spent quite a bit of time up here without a job, you know.

WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

It's not like my father-in-law, or that, wasn't mean to me, because they were really nice to me, but I just felt like I was, you know, like, how can I put it? Not taking advantage really...but, like he was supporting me. You know? I don't like that.

AND YOUR WIFE WAS STILL DOWN....

Yeah....Yeah she's still living down there now. Well, I met her at a bar, you see, and we got together and everything and started dating, she was living up here because she graduated up here in the last six months of her school years.

HER PARENTS HAD MOVED UP HERE WHEN SHE WAS STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL?

Right.

WHERE?

Down the street a little ways.

WHAT IS IT, BELLEVILLE HIGH?

Lincoln. This is Rawsonville Road here, this is Textile. People over here go to Lincoln. People on the other side go to Belleville.

DOES YOUR FATHER-IN-LAW WORK IN A PLANT?

Yeah, he's retired. He retired in ...he retired last week.

CONGRATULATIONS....

I think he had almost 18-19 years in. So, he had enough to get out. He had a -/one of his friends died not too long ago and he says he wants to get out before it happens to him. So, hell, he's 63, somewhere around there. Now he's moving down South, he's got his house for sale and everything.

YOU WANT TO BUY HIS HOUSE?

No.

ALL RIGHT. LET'S TAKE A TEP BACK. YOU'VE GROWN UP IN THE SOUTH, TENNESSEE, RIGHT?

No, Kentucky. Ashland, Kentucky. Northeastern part.

HOW BIG A TOWN?

Well, let's see. It had a few people in it. It wasn't a really big town. But it wasn't very small either. About the size of Ypsilanti,

WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOUR DAD DO? YOUR MOM?

My dad - he worked at a brick yard.

ARE THEY STILL ALIVE, YOUR FOLKS?

No, my dad, he died in 1972 I believe.

YOU WERE ABOUT 20, 21?

Yeah.

AND YOUR MOM?

She's still living.

IN KENTUCKY?

Yeah. And I got three younger brothers and one sister. My sister, she's not doing anything right now. She went to school and she got a degree in welding and all that and she got a Certified Welder...but she can't get no job down there. She's still looking around. And my brother, he's working at Firestone. He's working full-time but they're only paying him for part-time.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

Well, he's down there, he's working full-time work, but they're only paying him a dollar less than he should be making. It's really not a new contract. The Unions do something about it...evidently they're not. He's been there for a couple of years I guess. But he belongs to the Union.

THEY MUST HAVE A LOT OF CONCESSIONS, I GUESS?

The thing of it is, this guy's on medical, he's been on medical for a real long time, and I guess they expect him to come back or...but they should still make him full-time.

OH, I SEE. THEY TREAT HIM LIKE THEY USED TO TREAT THE WEEKEND WORKERS IN OUR PLANT.

Yeah.

AND YOUR OTHER BROTHER?

My other brother, Tim, he's working at a car wash. He's not making too much money. I think he makes, like they pay him....like if it rains, he don't work. He's not making too much and my other brother, my younger brother, he's not doing anything. He's staying home and taking care of mom.

NONE OF THEM MARRIED? YOU THE ONLY ONE MARRIED?

Yeah.

AND DID YOU EVER THINK YOU'D MOVE UP NORTH? THAT WAS A DREAM A LONG TIME AGO. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE COMING UP.

No.

YOU THOUGHT YOU'D STAY DOWN THERE?

Yeah.

WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU THINK YOU'D DO WHEN YOU WERE DOWN THERE?

I don't know. They've got just a couple of industries. They've got three. But the main plant that runs the whole town in _____ Steel Mill. If you don't get into one of those three places then you just might as well forget it.

SO, ALOT OF PEOPLE LAID OFF DOWN THERE?

In fact, I heard from my uncle, he retired from there a long time ago, and he said that town might be doing a lot better if the Steel might have gone down. They were talking about shutting it down and things like that. They won't let any other industry into town. They can control that.

SO YOU CAME UP HERE. YOU WERE 18, 19?

I was 19.

MARRIED ALREADY?

Yeah. I got married when I was 19.

AND STARTED WORKING AT THE PLANT? WORKED THREE DAYS AT THE BODY SHOP? AND THEY CAME UP TO YOU AND SAID, YOU CAN'T DO THE JOB, WHAT DID THEY DO WITH YOU?

Then they put me in the Trim. Dale Lakush, Indian Dale, so, he put me in on this job that was putting in a heater hose, hook up the choke, then you know, the interior there, you hook up the choke, and putting the rail knobs on, tightening them down and that was about it on the job and I worked there and this guy named Smitty, he was from down South too, and I worked there for a couple of days and he was breaking me in and damn, I couldn't do that job either. I mean, I had never worked in a factory before and I didn't know what the hell to expect. I was trying to do it. I kept getting in the hole

all the time. I couldn't figure it out. I had blisters on my thumb trying to press them things together...heater hoses and things. I was really trying to do it. I really needed the job. He says, boy, come with me.

GENERAL FOREMAN?

Yeah, I guess. So, he says, boy. I ain't never seen a hillbilly that couldn't do a job on this and that, cut me down, you know. I said - I don't know what to say, mna, I've never been on a job I couldn't do. And so he took me up there and he talked to me and Bailey, plant manager, and he talked to me for a while and he says...what's the problem? I says, I don't know. I says I worked at other jobs and stuff like that and I ain't never had a job I couldn't do like this. He says, well, maybe if I can put you somewhere else. And U said that would be all right with me. So, they took me down there to the Paint Department and I was a sander down there. And every once in a while I'd go down to trim and talk to this guy down there... the guy that kind of broke me in down there. And this guy he could do the job and sit down and smoke and drink coffee, you know, and he wouldn't even get inthe hole, you know.

WHAT DID YOU DO AS A SANDER?

Well, you know, get sags out and stuff like that. We had about four sanders in there. They had two up on top that took care of the roof and then they had like a drop-off. Two other sanders took care of the sides, you know, for sealer and dirt and stuff like that - sags. Well, I was doing ok in there but Paul, you know how Paul is, you worked with him? He's a hillbilly too. But he don't have no favorites with anybody. He's a prick with everybody I think. So, I was leaving like no bigger than a pinhead - pieces of dirt on it and he got on my case a couple of times...and then he got on it really, really hard. I mean this day I had my 90 days in almost.

Almost - but I just couldn't take it anymore. He was constantly...and I finally told him, man, why don't you just get off my back and let me try to do the damn job, you know. And, ok, you getting smart and this and that. And he says, you know I've fired guys in here that had 89 days in. I says, oh yeah, I don't know what to tell you, I'm trying to do my best and that's it. I didn't want to get too smart with him, because you know, and he says, you know what...go back in there and do your job. He says - if you don't do the job better tomorrow, within four hours I'm going to have to let you go. So, he called a committee man in there and we talked. He said just do the best you can. I did. And finally made it. I got my 90 days in. And then I wanted to be spray painter...and like, you get four breaks. And I kept asking Paul about it after I got a little bit of seniority and he always put somebody else in there and he didn't put me in there. So, finally he gave me a try. Took me up to prime. And I didn't even know the first thing about painting. So I was slower at it and everything like that but I didn't want to mess it up or anything like that. So, he says, damn, maybe you can paint. He says - all right, so he lets me paint a little bit. And he says, all right, come down here with me, we went down the main line and we stood there - and he says...now you watch these guys a little bit. And he says, all right, I want you to try it. And he told this other guy, I forget who in the heck it was, anyway, he just gave me the gun. He says, all right, go ahead.

THEY'RE ELECTROSTATIC GUNS RIGHT?

No, this here was up on rails. The rest of them they had electrostatic guns. So, I took the gun and I just watched the guy across from me - everybody calls him "Puke" - drove a green Mustang and got it stolen and everything? Anyway,

I just watched him and did what he did. And then I was in there for a long time and kept painting and everything and learned all the jobs. There's.... at that time - there was....they had about ten painters up there.

NOW THEY HAVE LESS PAINTERS?

Oh yeah.

SO, YOU'VE BEEN PAINTING EVER SINCE. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PAINTING...

13, 14 YEARS?

Yeah, about 14.

AND WHAT DO YOU LIKE BETTER ABOUT PAINTING THAN THE OTHER JOBS YOU DID?

Well, it's easier, there's no physical things like lifting, or, you know, anything like that. There's really nothing hard about it.

IT'S NOT HARD ON YOUR ARM USING THAT GUN ALL DAY?

At first it was. At first it was really rough. I'd come home and it felt like it was going to fall off....but after a while I got used to it. And then - Paul used to take me down in the hole and let me use the electrostatic gun and then it would really hurt alot.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AIR GUNS AND THE ELECTROSTATIC GUNS?

Electrostatic guns is bigger, longer and heavier.

AND THAT'S WHAT THEY USE NOW?

In some parts of the booth they will. Soo, they took most of them out.

I think there are electrostatic guns in first position and in the hole, and I think that's it.

HOW COME YOU USE DIFFERENT KINDS OF GUNS, DO YOU KNOW?

Well, electrostatic guns...it draws the paint to the metal and its in the cracks, you know, around the doors, its just...it goes on better. It covers up.

SO THEY USE IT FOR THE FIRST COATS?

Yeah.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT. I SEALED FOR 10 YEARS AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS SEALING. I DIDN'T KNOW WHY I WAS DOING WHAT I WAS DOING. I'M FINDING OUT ALL OF THESE THINGS ABOUT THE PLANT THAT THEY'RE ASSUMING THAT WE KNOW, AND SO, ONCE YOU GOT SETTLED IN THE PLANT AND YOU'RE WORKING (MAIN) ENAMEL, WHAT WAS IT LIKE? WHO WAS IN THERE WITH YOU?

It was a lot of good guys in there, a hell of a lot of good guys in there. Everybody got along real good.

AFTERNOON SHIFT, RIGHT?

Yeah. The afternoon shift. And everybody got along real good and...we did our job. We cut up a little bit, you know, like painting our boots and everything like that. Things like that. We got along pretty good. Everybody did, you know.

ARE THE GUYS STILL THERE?

No, they're gone, most of them. A couple of guys from Tennessee, they've been there for a while, and they take off back South. A lot got laid off. They came in, you know, at one time they had a high turnover, guys come in, they paint a couple of trucks, go on break, and don't ever come back. I guess they just didn't want to work, I guess.

HOW DO YOU PASS THE TIME OF DAY IN THE PAINT BOOTH?

Oh, everybody just talks about what they did today. What they're going to do on the weekend. Stuff like that.

WE DIDN'T HAVE VERY MANY WEEKENDS. WE WORKED EVERY SATURDAY.

You know....

WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER YOU GOT OFF?

Well, at first, I came on home, you know. Then I got to know Doug Keck and Gary Ford and his cousin, and Ron Martin, remember him? Anf them guys - we'd usually go out and get some beer and at the end of the shift i started drinking with them.

YOU DIDN'T DRINK MUCH BEFORE THAT?

I didn't drink hardly any before that. In fact, I'd get sick on four beers. I remember getting sick.

HOW MUCH DID THE OTHER GUYS DRINK?

Oh, God, they could drink. Well, them guys could drink a case. They'd party all day. Wait till the bars opened up...you know.

AND YOU'D STAY UP FROM 4 O'CLOCK TILL THE BARS OPENED UP? AND THAT WAS WHAT 8 O'CLOCK?

Yeah.

DID YOU STAY IN THE PARKING LOT?

Well at that time, I didn't. It took me a little while, but you know, eh, but when you come out of the plant, you know, you come home, take a shower, hit the bed. Kind of boring and then before you know it, it's time to go to work again. What kind of life is that? No fun. So, you know, I started hanging around with them guys. Then shit, four beers got to five and six and so on and so on. I could drink with the best of them. So, I started going out in the parking lot and we'd talk about things and stuff like work and that. And when the bars opened up we'd go and shoot some pool and afterward come on home, shower, get a couple hours sleep and go back to work.

BEFORE WE ALL HAD KIDS?

Yeah.

WHAT DID YOUR WIFE THINK ABOUT ALL THIS?

She didn't like it too well, but she didn't say too much then. She thought well, at the beginning, that I was working and that was good enough, I guess, but she didn't want me out there like that. But I did it anyway, you know. What can I say?

HOW'S IT CHANGED IN THE PAINT BOOTH SINCE?

Well, they added different colors and they extended it and at one time they were supposed to make it better by raising the roof on the enamel... on the main line and instead of doing that they made it worse. Because when you raise the roof, see, this overspray ususally, you know, when you're spraying a job, the overspray will go down and now they got the roof raised up and it don't go down as quick. But to them, that was supposed to have made it better, it didn't make it any better at all.

IS IT HARD BREATING IN THE BOOTH?

Well, you see, I'm working in Two-Tone now, I don't know. It's been since '80 since I've been in a paint booth...but to me, it's worse than what it was. You know, they give you this little ol' respirator and they expect you to wear that. Everybody had a meeting onthat. About the health hazzard. And they talked to us - that we in Paint are subject to a lot of - like thinner soaking through your skin could cause this growth on you, you know, like tumors and you know, various things. And I couldn't figure it out. I said, damn, that's ahell of a time to tell us after 15 years of working in there. And the thinner is on our hands and soaking through our skin.

WHAT DO YOU USE THE THINNER FOR?

To wash our hands. We get paint on our hands and stuff. So, at the end of the shift we take thinner and wash it off. It comes off real easy with that. And then we had that hand soap that you wash with.

AND THEY NEVER TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT THAT THE THINNER WOULD BE DANGEROUS?

No.

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST STARTED IN 1971 I WAS PAINTING IN...AND YOU KNOW, ALOT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY GRIEVANCES OVER THERE AND WALKOUTS OVER THE OVER-SPRAY. REMEMBER THE INCIDENTS WHEN PEOPLE WALKED OUT? IF YOU CAN PAINT A PICTURE, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY? WHAT LED UP TO IT? Well, I don't exactly know what led up to it. I know we was having problems in the Paint Department...in the spray booths about all the over-spray. We had the Union coming down checking it out and everything and they were talking to us about it. They can't tell us to walk out, we got to make our own stand and we did. We walked out. And I remember as we were walking out, and everybody on the chassis line is going - Eh, All Right...Because we shut the plant down when we walk out.

WHY'S THAT?

'Cuz it goes over to Paint and then it's got to go over to Trim and then it's got to go over to Chassis. Well, if they don't have no jobs for Trim, they're not going to have any for Chassis, and so on.

THEY JUST COULDN'T GET PEOPLE TO DO YOUR JOBS?

No, well, at that time we all stuck togethr, man. I mean, like we walked out and we went to the Union Hall, I mean, everybody. The word got around that everybody wanted to get together and do something about this. All the painters did. So, we all got together and everything like that and they told us to come on in and we came in everyday, you know, and kept on walking out. I think about three times. And the day shift done the same thing, because they were supporting us because we'd done it first, see. They were supporting

us by doing the same. And so, we got International down there.

LIZ JACKSON WAS HER NAME. I JUST FLASHED ON IT.

I don't remember all their names at that time. They came down there and as far as I'm concerned, they sold us out.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THEY SOLD YOU OUT?

They didn't do anything about it. They knew it was over-spray. Charlie (?) he was the committee man, damn good committee man.

WHAT MADE HIM A GOOD COMMITTEE MAN?

Well, I mean, he got things done. What I mean is as far as I'm concerned... he did.

GOT A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES YOU CAN GIVE ME?

Well, you know, if I got problems or something like that - he'd help me out. He'd write up grievances for me, you know. And if you've got a problem, if the heat goes off or something, he was down there. He made sure the heat was on before everybody went back into the booths. You know, things like that. And well, I guess International said everything was ok, so we went back and then the Company decided what they were going to do about us walking out. Every one of us had a hearing, and some of us got different discipline than others. Like, there was a guy named Reed. Reed got fired over it. He's still at Main now. They said that he was the leader. The instigator of it all. Well, he got fired and then they started getting guys one at a time, like...

END SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

So, some guys got three days.

WHAT DID YOU GET?

I got a week off without pay. No, a week to serve off, but three weeks on paper. That's a month right there.

I REMEMBER THEY FIRED THREE PEOPLE REED AND PETER...

Reed and Peterson. And I can't remember who the other one was. I think it might have been Doug Keck. I don't remember. Well, they finally got the guys back.

WE'LL GET BACK TO WHAT IT'S LIKE NOW A LITTLE LATER ON, BUT WHEN YOU HIRED IN, COMING FROM ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, WAS IT MOSTLY WHITE AND SOME BLACK OR WAS IT AN ALL WHITE TOWN?

There were some black people there.

SO, WAS IT MUCH OF AN ADJUSTMENT?

No, not really.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET ALONG, BLACK AND WHITE?

When I hired in? I'm going to try to be as honest as I can. I'm trying to remember back, you know. Some guys would be calling each other names and stuff like that, you know, all in fun. Nobody got mad or anything like that about it. You'd just tell jokes about races and stuff like that. Never got pissed off.

DID THE FOREMAN, AKERS, WAS HE DOWN ON ANY PARTICULAR GROUP OF FOLKS?

No, to me he was against everybody. He didn't really care, White, Black, Purple, or wat. He got it anyway because that's the way he was....

SO, YOU'VE BEEN PAINTING FOR ALL OF THESE YEARS. HAS IT CHANGED MUCH?

DO YOU FIND IT EASIER? ARE THE FOREMEN DIFFERENT NOW?

Well, I got a different foreman now, Joe Sesniak.

HE'S A POLISH GUY?

Yeah. Joe, you know when I first went over there I didn't know how the hell to take him. I don't know, he's got kind of a funny turn to him. He can be bitchin' at you one minute and then have kind of a grin on his face

when he's bitchin' at you, you know. So, you don't know really, if he's kidding around or what. But, me and Joe get along fine. Pretty good now. We have our ups and downs and fallouts and stuff like that, you know.

BEING IN TWO-TONE IS ONE OF THE...THAT'S MORE SKILL AS A PAINTER...THAN MAIN LINE. YOU GET MORE BREAKS AND YOU GET SKIPS IN LINE?

Well, no. You get some breaks.

YOU GET TEN MINUTES PER HOUR?

Yeah, like I work for two hours and a half and get a half-hour break.

DO YOU HAVE SKIPS IN THE LINE LIKE THEY USED TO?

No, you used to in the old days. You used to have big skips in the line. But now we get very few. I mean, if we do have skips it's because it's coming from Main Line. If something breaks down or something.

BUT YOU'RE DOING STEADY OPERATION NOW?

Yeah. Unless they cut back on two-tones. And then, you know, we get quite a few skips. They hardly ever do.

PEOPLE BUYING THE FANCIER CARS. AND WITH THE SPEED UP IN THE LINE, THEY RUN 48 JOBS AN HOUR. WHEN WE HIRED IN THEY WERE RUNNING 32 OR SOMETHING BACK THEN. DOES IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE DOING A LOT MORE WORK THAN BEFORE?

Well, it's more faster. Like they say, we're going to givr this guy a little bit more, they kind of spread it around, you know what I mean?

Like Scotty, he paints for me, now that guy, I don't see how he keeps up.

That guy's got a lot of work on his hands. Them first two positions do, they got a lot of work. They got more than I got.

IS THAT WHY YOU STAY SO SKINNY?

Yeah, don't have room to do it in.

THE SAME SIZE BOOTH AS ITS ALWAYS BEEN?

He just doesn't have the room for the work that he's supposed to be doing.

WHAT DO YOU WEIGH NOW?

135. Ain't that much. I go up maybe 5 pounds.

AND HOW'S THE UNION NOW?

Well, in my opinion, it got worse.

IN WHAT WAY?

It seems like they don't care anymore. It seems like everytime the Union tries to do something the company says we're either going to do this or shut it down...or this or that.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "SHUT IT DOWN?"

Just like they're telling us we've got to have better quality on the jobs and everything like that. We're in competition, you know. If we don't make the unit really good quality, we're going to have to shut the doors down. You know. They're always saying that. But they haven't shut it down yet. In fact, those suckers, you know, sellin' like crazy and the Union, they just, they just act like they can't do anything about it.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CHANGE WAS?

Well, I think the change of it came when they started laying all of them people off. The whole entire second shift and then alot of people worrying about their jobs and everything.

DO YOU THINK THE QUALITY'S GOTTEN BETTER SINCE THEY LAID OFF THE SECOND SHIFT?

Well...

FROM WHERE YOU WORK? DO GUYS CARE MORE?

I think they're putting in more effort than what they did because they're afraid of losing their jobs.

DO YOU THINK THE EFFORT'S CREATING BETTER QUALITY? OR DOES IT JUST LOOK LIKE WE'RE PUTTING IN MORE EFFORT?

Well, I think the quality standard has gone up. We've been doing a hell of a job.

DO YOU THINK THE EI PROGRAM IS PRETTY GOOD?

No, I don't. Well, it's more for the Company than it is for the people. They try to tell the people that they got in there now, that it's for their benefit too. I, myself, have seen no benefit for it. In fact, I've heard of guys who have gone in there and they've said - well, this job can be better done by this and that....and then the next time you go by there and the guy's gone. You know, I don't have anything to do with EI.

YOU DON'T GO TO THE MEETINGS?

No.

DO MOST OF THE GUYS IN YOUR DEPARTMENT GO?

Well, like Scotty, he goes in there but - he says, he just goes in there and sits. I don't know. That's what he says. He says he goes for the money. I say what the hell is an extra hour going to help that much? I said, hell, there's people that go in there and get involved in that crap and the next thing you know, you're going to be involved in it too. Without even realizing that you're getting involved. But he goes anyway. I don't think we have an EI in Paint. We did, but he got out.

WHO WAS THAT?

Rob was. But then he quit EI. Right in Paint, we don't have any.

ANY TALK THERE IN THE PAINT BOOTH ABOUT AUTOMATING?

Yeah. They said they were going to automate the _____. You know, put new spray booths in and everything like that...but they haven't yet.

DOES IT SCARE YOU WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT OR NOT?

Yeah, 'cuz I think, well, here's the way I figure it...like, we're supposed to (gonna) this year, but they haven't done it yet. But they say they're gonna next year. Well, they're gonna have to do something because the EPA is on their ass.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

Yeah, they're in violation of it right now.

AND YOU GUYS ARE WORKING UNDER POLLUTION?

Yeah. The only thing that I think is...maybe they're paying them off or something. You know, that's the only way I can figure it...because they - Ford Motor Company, that's what I heard, Ford Motor Company, if they don't get that fixed up right and everything like that...they can shut the plant down.

THE UNION DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT. I HEARD THAT ONCE. THAT IF IT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A BIG DEAL.

Yeah, I know. So, you know, when they do that I'm sure they're going to put robots and that in there. Automatic sprayers and what have you.

THINK YOU'LL LOSE YOUR JOB?

Well, I don't think I'm going to see another five years in that plant.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE DOING THEN?

Well, I don't know. It's hard to say. You know, I hope I'm wrong. They say like, we've got a contract now - that if you've got fifteen years...that if you lose your job on account of automation, that they will put you in another department or another plant. Now, how far that goes, I don't know. You know, it might last a couple of years and then it might be out of the contract. I don't know.

SO, DO YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE GOING TO RETIRE?

No, I don't think so. I don't think I'm going to be able to see it.

UM, WHAT, SO, AS YOU LOOK DOWN THE LINE... 10, 20 YEARS. WHERE DO YOU THINK THE AUTO INDISTRY IS GOING TO BE? WHERE FO YOU THINK THE TRUCK PLANT IS GOING TO BE?

The Michigan Truck Plant itself? Well, I think they're going to automate the whole plant and like maybe 10, 15 years from now, they ain't gonna have anybody working there. I mean, if they're still building trucks, whatever. it's going to be all machines. It's gonna be like General Motors got a plant now - its all automated. They only got one guy comin' in to turn the light on. This is what I heard. I don't know. I've seen it on TV where they've got a big "stock chaser" to get stock for these machines....

THIS GUY WAS TELLING ME TODAY THEY'VE GOT AN AUTOMATIC SOMETHING THAT TAKES THE CARPET FROM THE CARPET STOCK AND PUTS IT ON THE LINE AT OUR PLANT AND I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS THERE. NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THE CARPET AREA LIKE THERE USED TO BE. SO, YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO MOVE BACK DOWN SOUTH?

Yeah, probably. Unless I get transferred somewhere else maybe, or soemthing like that. Because I don't think I'm going to live up here if I lose my job.

IS THERE MUCH STEALING IN THE PLANT ANYMORE?

I haven't heard too much about it.

HOW'S THE DRINKING? INDIVIDUALLY OR IN THE PLANT?

Drinking in the plant and all...Well, there's some guys who go out at lunch time, you know, and have a beer.

NO GOOD STORIES?

Well, no, not really. We sit out there and we talk. Things like that.

Things goin' on in our plant. You know, about what happened to them today.

I REMEMEBR WHEN I HIRED IN...THE FIRST CHRISTMAS. CAHRLEY BATTLE WAS PAINTING

UNDER BODY AND THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS THE FOREMAN COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHY THE JOBS WEREN'T GETTING PAINTED UNDER BODY AND HE LOOKED AND THERE CHARLEY WAS...SORT OF DECKED OUT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE LINE. HE JUST COLLAPSED. THAT'S THE LAST I REMEMBER OF TIMES OF FOLKS HAVING SERIOUS DRINKING PROBLEMS. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE PLANT DO YOU THINK HAS A DRINKING PROBLEM?

Oh, shit, I don't really...I'd say 70%. I could be wrong. It's just a guess.

YOU HAVE A SENSE. THEY DON'T FIRE FOLKS FOR DRINKING TOO MUCH ANYMORE.

No, 'cuz a lot of guys, you know, just wait until they get off work. Like, I go out in the parking lot every once in a while. I used to go out all of the time, but...I go out every once in a while, you know, have a beer or something.

YOU DON'T STAY AFTER OWRK NOW AND DRINK TILL ALL THE....

No, I go to the bar.

HOW MANY DAYS A WEEK DO YOU GO?

Maybe about once a week. Then, maybe if I'm really depressed or something like that, you know, maybe I'll go again.

WHAT WOULD DEPRESS YOU?

Well, they get on your ass alot about sags and things like that and you try to tell the foreman that you didn't do it and...that you did it and stuff like that.

WHEN...LET'S SHIFT FOR A LITTLE WHILE TO OTHER PARTS OF LIFE. SO, YOU HAVE THREE BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN, I'M SURE, HOW OLD?

Jimmy's 12, he'll be 13 in August, that's the day before my birthday, too.

We call him James Arthur. James is after me and Arthur is after her dad.

And then we got Tracy Myrtle - she's 9. I named her Tracy and Sue named her

Myrtle for her mother.

SHE GETS THE MIDDLE NAMES, YOU GET THE FIRST NAMES?

Well, she got Jimmy and I got Tracy. I heard that name and I liked it. And then we got Ashley. She named her - Ashley Susan. And...

YOU'VE BEEN LIVING HERE SINCE 1975?

Since '75.

WHAT DO MOST FOLKS WHO LIVE AROUND HERE DO? SOME OF YOUR NEIGHBORS? IS IT....

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WHERE YOU LIVE?

It's just a trailer park. A bunch of trailers in it. You got some double lots 14 x 70, which isn't what this is...and then you got some around 65 which is smaller and then you got double wides which is in the back. And everybody is well, like, one block's got a lake and you go down and you got another lake, then they got, down at the clubhouse - they got a swimming pool down there. And they got Boy Scouts here which my son's involved in... and I was involved in.

YOU WERE A CUB SCOUT LEADER?

Yeah.

DID YOU LIKE THAT?

Yeah, it was ok. You know, little kids, he was a Weeblo, and I was a Weeblo leader and then he got into Boy Scouts and I kind of slacked off a little bit.

WHAT ARE MOST OF THE FOLKS AUTO WORKERS AROUND HERE?

This woman just alongside of us works at...what is it Saline? No, not Saline, Sheldon Plant.. And this guy over here he works for Cadillac. And well...that's the only two I know that works in factories.

AND OTHER FOLKS FROM ASHLAND?

Right next door. She was born, everything, right in the hospital I was.

YOU KNEW EACH OTHER GROWING UP?

No, we didn't know each other till she moved aside of us.

BUT ALOT OF FOLKS ARE FROM THE BACK HOME AREA?

Not too many. I don't get out too much, you know. I pretty well keep to myself.

ARE YOU PLEASED WITH RAISING YOUR KIDS HERE? FROM ASHLAND....

It's a nice area. Have no trouble out here. But, like I say, now I got three kids, I've got to find something a little bit bigger.

AND WHAT DO YOU PAY FOR THIS?

Well, I didn't buy it brand new. I just kind of took over payments. And when I did that it cost about \$16,000. Well, we got new carpeting in, you know, about three years ago, put new carpeting in and she done put a mirror on the side of the wall.

IS YOUR WIFE WORKING OUTSIDE OF THE HOME?

No. She was at K-Mart. She worked there for quite a while. And then Ashley came and she quit all together.

UM...SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TODAY AFTER THE INTERVIEW?

Probably just sit around the house. It looks like it's going to rain. Probably sit around and watch tv or listen to the stereo.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LIKE?

I like Country music and I like Rock and Roll.

THEY DON'T HAVE THE MUSIC SYSTEM IN THE PAINT BOOTH, IN TWO-TONE DO THEY?

This guy, like Joe Romano, he's the EI leader over there, but he's outside the booth, nut he's talking like the old-timer, like, and Walt, they told them that we don't want the stereo system in there because there'd probably be a lot of fighting over what channels you wanted to listen to, and things like that, which I was really disappointed. I would like to have some music while I'm working. I think about other things while I'm working.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT?

I think about what I;ve got to do when I get home. Like, I've got to cut the grass, wash the car, or maybe take my boy and we'd go fishing.

WHERE DO YOU FISH?

Well, they've got like a gravel put over there and fish sometimes...

EVER CATCH ANYTHING?

Yeah, Jimmy, he goes in the back all of the time...

AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TOMORROW?

It depends on the weather. If it's nice out, I'll probably go out and cut the grass, wash the car.

GET READY FOR MONDAY. CHURCH - DO YOU GO TO CHURCH?

No.

DOES YOUR WIFE GO?

No.

SO, YOUR IN-LAWS STILL LIVE HERE, BUT THEY'LL BE MOVING?

As soon as they sell their house. They've got their house up for sale. They live right up down the road.

SO, HAS THAT BEEN GOOD HAVING YOUR IN-LAWS CLOSE?

Yeah.

GOOD FOR BABYSITTING?

Well, they don't babysit too much, you know, because they're getting up there. Theypre about something...about 60 something. They're in their 60's, But she goes with my wife alot. Places. Shopiing, things like that. We're really gonna miss her when she's gone.

THEY'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING BACK HOME?

Yeah.

Yeah.

WHAT...DO YOU GO TO THE SHOW, YOU AND YOUR WIFE?

No, not really. We don't go anywhere too much. You know, she goes alot, shopping and things like that - K-Mart. Her and her mother mostly. I don't go anywhere.

DO YOU HANG OUT WITH THE GUYS FROM WORK, OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Yeah, I mean....

AFTER WORK SORT OF THING...NOT FAMILIES GETTING TOGETHER....

No, none of that. Like Bob, he's not married. My wife don't like my friends.

WHY NOT?

Because we drink alot together.

SHE THINKS THEY'RE A BAD INFLUENCE ON YOU?

Yeah. But she knows, you know, what I do is what I do. It's all my fault.

Well, you know, we're starting to go out together. Like last weekend we went out to Irish Hills and they got those cart races. Went out there to the lake.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ON VACATION?

Goin' down South.

THAT'S WHERE YOU USUSALLY GO, RIGHT? WHAT DO YOU DO DOWN THERE?

Well, I see my mom. I stay over at my mom's and she stays over at her sister's. She bitches alot about it too. But I stay around the house alot down there. I guess this vacation here I'll be going to help my father-in-law out alot because he's gonna build a house down there. Supposed to go down about Tuesday and build him a garage, you know, and put all of his stuff in the garage and then build him a house.

SO. BOUGHT LAND OUT THERE?

Yeah.

WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP WHAT DID YOU DO FOR CHRISTMAS WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE?

I remember before my brothers came, oh God, I got anything I wanted. The trucks, cannons ...you put things in it and it shoots these big ol' shells, you know. Army guys, it was great. It was great. Then my brothers came and it meant a little bit less for me. Then my dad retired, hell, he was 78 when he died.

78. YOU'RE THE OLDEST?

No, I have a sister who's three years older and then I got three younger brothers.

SO YOUR MOM'S PRETTY WELL UP THERE IN AGE?

She's about 50 something. There's a big age difference. When he retired - things got kind of rough there, you know.

YOU WEREN'T IN THE SERVICE?

No, I wasn't, I don't know. They came out with that lottery, when I was 18 I went down and signed up, like anybody else did, figuring, hell, if i get drafted, I get drafted. But, they went by that lottery and I never did get called. I always had a real high number and everything. A lot of my friends got called in.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOUR SON GETS DRAFTED? WOULD YOU HAVE CONCERS ABOUT THAT OR FEARS?

Well, I haven't thought too much of that. My main concern is trying to get him a good education. Get him through college and get him in something that's going on ... like technology stuff so he can provide for his family when he gets older.

DO YOU THINK THAT...HOW, UM, LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT A LITTLE. HE'S YOUR FIRST CHILD. SO, HE'S 12 NOW, 13?

He'll be 13 next month, August.

THE...SO, HE'S IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NOW. KNOWING THAT THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE JOBS WORKING IN THE AUTO PLANTS, HOW DO YOU TRY TO GET HIM TO BE INTERESTED IN SCHOOL? TO GET THE SKILL OR THE TRADE THAT'S PROVIDED?

Well, he watches tv with me sometimes. We'll be watching the news and they show these automatic things - robots and things and I tell him, see there son, one of these days daddy won't have a job on account of that. He thinks about that and then he hates it. I says, you know, when I was growing up things weren't as hard as they are now. But it was pretty rough and at one time it got a little bit easier. And then it got rough again. And I told him things like that are going to take over, you know, alot of jobs, and you're going to have to have an education and the know-how to get a job that is available to you. And I try to stress it to him. Keep going to school. Get the best grades you can, you know, and get into something that is really happening. You know, by the time he graduates it might be a little bit different.

DOES HE WORK WITH A COMPUTER?

Yeah, there's a computer.

WHAT KIND DID HE GET?

Adam. Yeah, it's an Adam.

AND IT PLAYS THE GAMES, I'M SURE.

Yeah.

DOES HE USE IT FOR OTHER THINGS?

Yeah. He messes around with it. But really he don't know how to work it.

And I really don't know how to work it.

HOW COME YOU GOT IT FOR HIM?

I got it for him figuring he'd probably get interested in it. But, like I say, I don't know how to work it, my wife really don't know, so, I'm just hoping that - like we've got a cousin down South that knows about it. She's supposed to come up here. She could probably teach him alot on it.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF TAKING THE COMPUTER CLASSES AT THE PLANT?

Yeah. I signed up for that but I never got - they took so many people...

I DIDN'T GET IT EITHER AND I GOT LESS SENIORITY THAN YOU...

I signed up for that and I signed up for that other thing too....

aprenticeship. I signed up for that.

DID YOU GET THAT?

They said - they're supposed to prepare you for the test...and then they said they're supposed to get about 30 or 40 poeple. Then I heard that about 30% of the people - that about 30% of the people they're going to get are going to be women anyway.

THERE'S NOT THAT MANY WOMEN IN THE PLANT NOW ANYWAY.

No, there's not. Well, you know, its no guarantee that anything's going to happen. I;ll take a shot at it another....another thing I got against me is because I don't have a high school education.

OH, YOU HAVE TO HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION?

That's what the guy that I talked to over there - on the things it says there - that you have to have completed at least an 8th grade education. Well, I've got that but I don't have a high school one. He told me - he's talking about GED and all of that. So, I figure, maybe I'll go over there and take the test. I'll go sign up for classes.

DO YOU SOMETIMES FEEL BAD THAT YOU DIDN'T FINISH HIGH SCHOOL? TOO MUCH OF A HASSLE TO GO BACK AND FINISH IT?

Well, started going out there and then me and the wife had troubles and everything and I was doing real good out there - making good grades and everything. But, anyway, I gave it up and never did go back and then they started talking about...

END TAPE TWO

TAPE THREE

THE HASSLE OR THE DIFFICULT TIMES THAT YOU AND YOUR WIFE HAVE GONE THROUGH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE RELATED TO?

Alot to do with drinking. You know and I got into a lot of trouble over it.
You know, I got busted four times.

BUSTED FOUR TIMES AT WORK?

No, no. On the road.

AND HOW DID YOU GET OUT OF IT?

Well, first time, it was under the old law, like in '76...that was the first time, then I got busted again the next year. And then I got busted twice in '83 and the third time I went to jail for 30 days.

IT'S A BUMMER. WHERE DID YOU GO DEHOCO?

Well, Washtenaw County.

IT'S NOT A NICE WAY TO SPEND 30 DAYS.

No, it's not. You know, sometimes ... the times that they busted me...I wasn't really drunk, but a couple of times I was. You know, I deserved it.

AND PLENTY OF TIMES THEY DIDN'T CATCH YOU.

That's true too.

SO DO YOU HAVE THAT UNDER CONTROL NOW?

No, not really.

ARE YOU WORKING ON IT?

I'm working on it. Like you know, I want a house. I want a house more than anything right now. More room. It would take some of the pressure off everybody being on top of each other. Plus it would give me some things to do, like around the house, you know.

DO YOU LIKE TO DO STUFF AROUND THE HOUSE?

I'm not a very good handyman. But I like to learn about stuff. You don't know if you're going to do it unless you try it yourself.

THAT'S A TOUGH THING TO GO THROUGH WITH THE DRINKING AND THAT. IT'S A BIG HASSLE. DID...HOW DID THE DRINKING AFFECT YOUR JOB AND YOUR ATTENDANCE AT WORK?

I missed a lot of days on account of it.

THEY NEVER FIRED YOU?

They did one time. You know for missing so much work and things. The Union got me back. I mean you go in there and work 10 hours a day, shit, you never look forward to anything because your day is shot. You know, what are you going to do? You're going to come back home, you're going to take a shower, if you gotta cut the grass or whatever, you're going to do it. And that's about it. And that becomes a hassle. There's no going out to talk to other people. I found a long time ago that I can go to a bar and sit, you know, have a good time with people, talk, talk about work, home...

AND YOU CAN'T DO THAT IN THE...THE NEIGHBORS HERE...JUST HANG OUT AND TALK WITH THEM?

Like, they're like to themselves...it's like...Hi, how are you doing? You know.

IS THAT DIFFERENT FROM WHEN YOU WERE BEING RAISED?

Well, you know, I grew up with those people down there. And I didn't even drink, or think about drinking. Nobody drank down there. Well, maybe grownups did and stuff like that. Shoot, I guess, I'd just loaf around with

guys that were older than I was. A couple of years older and that, but after I got in my teens, you know, still messed around Bluegrass, went to the restaurant, driving cars, but there was no drinking or stuff like that. In fact, I never started drinking till I came up here.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT BEING A FATHER?

Oh, I don't know. I don't really know.

WHAT GIVES YOU THE BIGGEST SMILE WHEN YOU'RE ON THE LINE?

The things that they do. Like Ashley, the baby, she tickles me sometimes, she just does funny things like little kids do. And Jimmy sometimes he gets mad and crazy and stuff like that, and he'll get mad at Tracy and he'll get mad at his mom and stuff like that. And after a while he'll make up with them, like, mom, I'm sorry. And all this and that. And sometimes I think of that when we go fishing and stuff like that. It gets - like he'll get the line hung up and he thinks he's got a big one, a snag, little things like that.

THAT'S WHAT LIFE REALLY IS, A WHOLE LOT OF LITTLE THINGS. NOW WEHN YOU GET TO LOOKING AT SOME OF THE BIGGER THINGS, DO YOU THINK ABOUT IT MUCH, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE WORLD SCENE? NATIONAL POLITICS? GOVERNMENTS? DO YOU HAVE ANY BIG CONCERNS? RONNIE REAGAN, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE BIG QUESTIONS ARE FACING MICHIGAN, OR THE COUNTRY?

Well, as far as this country's concerned, I mean, technology and stuff like that, everybody's getting laid off, jobs are getting scarce. I think there's going to be a revolution in this country. Something's going to happen. Well, you can't have all these people that are laid off work, you have more thefts and murders, stuff like that, and I think that one of these days if things like that...that all the people are going to get together and they're just going to be against the government. It's like the government is supposed

to be for the people and everything like that, but...I don't think they're doing it like that. They're... there's too many people that really don't get involved in it. Like something comes up in the legislature and things like that...and they - people are supposed to write to their congressman and tell them what they want and things like that. Pass a bill or something like that. I think the people just say, well, just pass it. I guess. The people that don't vote - that counts as a "yes" vote. And the people that do vote don't really know what the hell they're voting.

SO, DO YOU GET INVOLVED?

I have been.

IN WHAT KIND OF WAYS?

I voted the first time for the Presidency. Really don't have too many to choose from...you know. And Sue, she gets a letter from the Congressman.

DO THE KIDS TALK ABOUT NUCLEAR WAR AT ALL?

Not too much. They did that one time when that thing came on tv about...they ask me questions like, why do people make bombs? Stuff like that, I say, well, you get scientists together and stuff like that and they come up with something and then another country's got to come up with something and then it gets worse and worse. And I don't think the world's going to last too much longer. Anyway, because of the way the things are happening...I don't know if you read the Bible or anything ...

YOU BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE?

Yeah.

WHEN YOU SAY ... WHY DID YOU BRING THE BIBLE UP NOW?

Because there are things in there that the Bible refers to that are going to happen. Like getting all these new diseases now - herpes, and AIDS, stuff like that, and they're messing around with the Middle East now, oil embargo

and all that bullshit and the Russians are doing their thing.

WHEN I ASKED YOU BEFORE YOU SAID YOU DON'T GO TO CHURCH, BUT YOU'RE A STRONG BELIEVER IN THE BIBLE, DOES THAT MEAN YOU STUDY IT OR...

No, my father believed in it alot. When I was a kid I used to go to Sunday school, Church, you know. I'd like to get back into that. Like my wife says, you start going and maybe I'll start going.

NEVER KNOW?

Once I get there, you know, just seems funny walking in.

NOBODY'S GOING TO CARRY YOU IN...THEY MIGHT CARRY YOU...

When I went to Church, up here...when we got married...the Church and they and it's like they pass the plate around, right? You give what you can give and that should be it. They passed it around two or three times. They kept passing it around and I said, hey, I don't need this. Then they keep pushing...get saved, why don't you go ahead and get saved? I just quit going down there.

SO, YOU'RE NOT SAVED?

Right.

WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE AND YOU WENT TO CHURCH, WHAT CHURCH WAS IT?

Baptist.

NAD THAT'S WHERE YOU WOULD GO IF YOU STARTED GOING UP HERE AGAIN? SO, DOES THAT MEAN YOU LIKE JERRY FALWELL AND PAT ROBERTSON, ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THEM?

No, I watch them guys on tv every once in a while, but I don't know who they are,

THAT'S ABOUT IT, MY FRIEND. LAST QUESTION. IF YOU WERE TO...ASHLEY'S TWO YEARLS OLD - SHE'LL BE 18 IN THE YEAR 2004-2005. WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR HER AND WHAT DO YOU WANT HER TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOU?

Well, of course, I want the best for her. I want her to be independent, like all my kids. And I guess I just want her to remember me as - I worked hard, and that I tried to give them all that they needed and make sure they have nice clothes and everything and...and knows that I loved her and all this and a halfway decent father...

WHAT'S BEEN THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING IN THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY?

Well, that I'm able to give my kids a good education, nice clothes on their backs, and...the basics.

WERE YOUR FOLKS ABLE TO DO THAT FOR YOU?

Yeah, to a certain extent. Until my dad, until he retired, three younger brothers there at home and things got a little bit tight.

WHAT'S BEEN THE HARDEST THING ABOUT WORKING?

Well, the hours for one thing. And I think that's about it. Just being there so damn long - and it's a boring job. That's about it.

END