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# Interior Trim Plant Fisher Body Opens Up To Public

By FRED DeLANO

An opportunity to see how thousands of yards of soft goods are converted daily into automotive interior trim components for General Motors cars will be given the public Wednesday, May 16 when Fisher Body Division's Livonia plant hosts a public open house.

Behind this announcement from Plant Manager Harger Green lies a pride of craftsmanship as apparent among the 3,500 employees as in Green's own belief that

"people like to be recognized for the job they're doing."

"We're proud of the plant and want people to see it," said Green as he told of the open house plans and at the same time looked back with satisfaction over his own career with Fisher Body which dates from 1940.

"The biggest thing I've liked about it all these years has been working together with people," reflected the 55-year-old executive. "Relations with our employees are the best they've ever been. Communications, creating a mutual understanding, was our biggest job, but I think there is still great pride in craftsmanship."

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 --GM's Harger Green



ing, ne at one time was advancement chairman for the Sunset District of the Boy Scouts and is now the district's counselor on citizenship. It is a role which puts him close to boys working on citizenship merit badges.

The busy executive also is past chairman of the board of the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth, where he is still active in internal affairs, and he plays a key role in the Plymouth Lions Club.

When he joined the latter organization in the '50s, it

was a fledgling group just getting under way, with fewer than a dozen members. Now it is a thriving club of more than 50 members, and Green has been both club president and deputy district governor. Currently he is chairman of the organization's eye bank committee.

With this many irons in the fire, Green scoffs at the suggestion that retirement may be approaching. The pride that is his hallmark tells him there still are too many things to do to go to the sidelines now.

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"When this plant was built in 1954 it was the first interior trim plant in the entire automotive industry. It still is the biggest fabricating plant in the Fisher system, but there now are 26 plants in all."

The million-square-foot facility at 28400 Plymouth Road will open its doors to the public May 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 to 8 p.m.

This unusual public relations gesture is an expansion on the plant's policy of offering a guided 60-minute tour at 1 p.m. every Thursday, and of hosting numerous youth groups at other times.

In preparation, there has been emphasis for months on making the plant ship-shape, and in the words of Steve Petrolus, UAW plant chairman, "It looks less like a factory."

During open house, the expected 4,000 or more guests will see new fabrics and vinyl materials cut to precise patterns. In use will be some

1,200 sewing machines busily stitching, and dielectric presses embossing these materials to form such automotive trim components as head restraints, door trim pads, vinyl roof tops and covers for seats.

Green said that in this manufacturing process, the Livonia plant uses approximately 100,000 yards of soft goods daily. This is enough to turn out full trim sets for 8,000 automobiles, with most of this production earmarked for Buick, Oldsmobile and Pontiac.

Green said open house visitors also will be able to see a car equipped with a demonstration version of GM's air cushion restraint system - the "air bag."

Guests will be permitted to sit in the car and be mildly buffeted by the air cushion as it is slowly inflated to show the operation of this Fisher Body-designed automotive safety device.

Regimens and souvenirs will be distributed, and

parking will be available at the plant.

The pride Green reflects in talking of his Fisher Body career in general and the Livonia plant in particular is mirrored in his frequent, friendly exchanges with employees on a walk-through of the enormous structure.

"He does try to work with us, to work with the people," said Petrolus, the UAW's spokesman. "He also tries to impress upon his colleagues to work with the people in the plant."

Petrolus made special mention of the stress upon in-plant environment, also praising Les Cavell, assistant superintendent for maintenance, for the approach of "making this look-less like a factory."

Working with his staff and plant personnel to make open house a success is but one of the highlights in Green's service with Fisher Body in a career which has seen him serve with distinction in civic as well as corporate affairs.

A native of Pontiac, Green began his career with Fisher Body in the Pontiac assembly plant in 1940 after graduating from Albion College. It was interrupted by nearly five years as a captain in the U.S. Army during World War II and was resumed in 1946 when Green returned to Fisher Body as a payroll auditor at Flint.

In 1948 he transferred to the labor standards department and was made supervisor of labor standards at Flint in 1951. A year later he was assigned to Livonia in the same capacity and now has logged 19 years in this plant.

Promotion to superintendent in the trim fabrication department came in 1963 and he became production manager in 1965. He was named manager of the plant Feb. 1, 1967.

His leadership has been recognized by appointment to two prominent corporate roles - first as chairman of the Livonia City Committee for General Motors and most recently as president of the General Motors Detroit Management Club.

Function of the City Committee is to determine General Motors' participation in Livonia civic projects. The committee represents the four plants in Livonia (Fisher Body, Cadillac, Chevrolet and GM, Parts Dept) and operates cooperatively with the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall and other community agencies.

The GM Detroit Management Club presidency is an enviable corporate plum, for this is a closed top strata organization of 200 GM area executives dealing with such issues as emission, energy, and other corporate topics.

Working in Livonia and living with his family in Plymouth since that 1954 transfer, Green has found several outlets for his interests in civic and human betterment in both communities.

Among these has been his activity to bring about the Livonia Family "Y", on whose advisory board he still serves.

Being interested in scout-



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