



# Reminiscing Labor Life on the Muncie Southside



The perspectives of two residents and the Muncie Chevrolet Plant.

## Jean W. Delk

Muncie Resident of 62 Years

After moving to the neighborhood in the 1950s, Jean found a job in house-keeping at Ball Memorial Hospital, and noted that it was much smaller back then. Her husband, Lindsey, worked for the Chevy plant on the south side of Muncie, where a typical day consisted of fighting traffic along the road the plant sat, working (sometimes through lunch), and coming home in the early evenings. The factory looked really big compared to other buildings in the area. There used to be a lot of houses along the opposite side of the street, but most are not there anymore. Many guys would go to the Workman's bar after work for a drink.



Lindsey's retirement party at the Chevy plant in 1977

## Bill Bernard

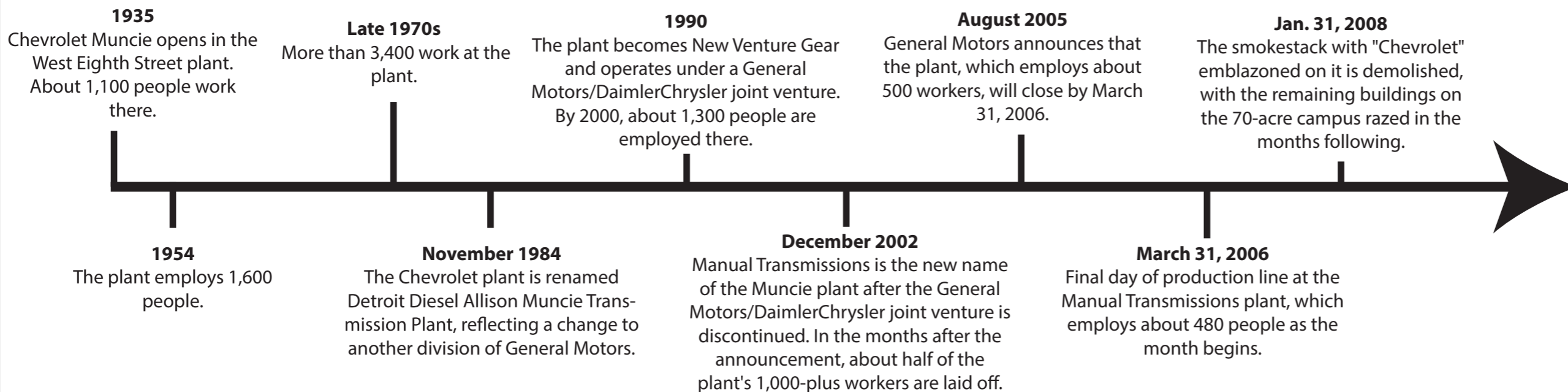
Muncie Resident of 58 Years

Bill Bernard worked as a barber on South Madison Street for five years and eventually moved on to work at Westinghouse for 31 years. Bill has met many different people and experienced the shifts that the communities of Muncie experienced. Bill spoke quite a lot about Madison Street, according to him Madison was the McGalliard of Muncie. People from Bluntsville, New Castle, Cowan, Ball State, and the nearby neighborhoods all converged here to work and patronize the area. But, when the Muncie Bypass was built in 1973, Madison, the major artery of Muncie, was severed. People stopped coming and businesses started leaving. This is what really started to hurt the communities on the Southside of Muncie

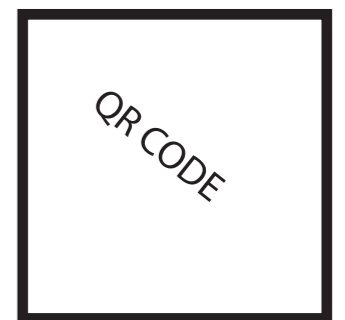


Chevrolet Plant 9 (1974)  
Muncie, IN

## Rise and Decline of the Muncie Chevrolet Plant



What potential resides in the Muncie Southside?



URL ADDRESS