



Rodney Traylor – Retirement Interview

Plant Manger, Engines

7/23/1976 – 4/9/2021



- *Was it a tough decision to retire?* Yes, this is all I have ever done. I love my job, so it was very tough.
- *How did you get this job?* I came out of the military at 19 years old after serving 2 years. Fred Jones was the first place I applied, and I got the job. Started at tearing down water pumps with hot oil dripping on my head - the press used to drip all day. Tore down heads, then I was head painter, lathe operator and crank grinder, lead person in cranks, supervisor on 2nd floor downtown for brake shoe and window lifts, left there and went to transmissions as a supervisor, then supervisor at engines and have been plant manager for a long time.
- *What was your happiest experience at this company?* A lot of good times in the earlier years, picnics – getting to hang out with the employees.
- *What was your starting pay in 1976?* \$1.65
- *Describe some of your earliest memories from when you started:* All of the company picnics, cafeteria where you could buy breakfast and hang out with the employees.
- *What things have changed the most since you started?* Cleaning processes, types of chemicals.
- *What things have changed the least since you started?* The people. We have always had great people.
- *What was your epic moment in this organization?* Working my way up, starting off on the floor, supervisor and then plant manager.
- *Is there a colleague from work that has inspired you in your life?* Some of my managers, Bill Berry, Sean Tate, Debra Shumar, Cathy Walker.
- *What do you regret most in your tenure?* Missing out on some of the events and stuff that the family had because I was dedicated to work.
- *Who and what will you miss most in this organization?* The people. All the people that you work with for all the years. I will miss folks giving me a hard time about being 100 years old.
- *What was your most embarrassing moment at the workplace?* Showing up to work without my computer and having to drive back to Arcadia.
- *What is the most valuable lesson you have learned from your co-workers?* Never take people for granted. Treat everybody the same. From the bigwigs, to housekeeping. Treat them all the same.
- *Do you believe you have motivated employees in this organization?* I do.
- *What is the first thing you are going to do when you retire?* I have farm equipment to work on. Main thing is to start on projects that I have not done over the years because it is dark when I leave and dark when I get home.
- *Who do you admire the most and why?* BJ Ahhaitty – his work ethic. The boy never quits.
- *Is there something that you have always wanted to do but have not?* Spend more time with my grandkids.
- *What is the wisest thing you have done?* My wife would say marry her. Accepting the Lord and Savior.
- *What is the funniest thing you have heard about yourself?* When I start to get angry my voice goes up. When it gets to that really high pitch, they know to leave me alone.
- *What are your hobbies and how did you get into them?* Too much work to do for hobbies. I do like to ride my 4 wheelers.
- *What was the last TV show you binge-watched?* Equalizer
- *What song always gets you on the dance floor?* Does not take much to get me out there.

- *What is your most favorite prized possession and why?* My F250 – I have always wanted one and never could afford it. Finally got one.
- *Is there any product that you cannot live without?* Bologna – if nobody is cooking I will just go make a sandwich.
- *What is your favorite part of the workday?* Time out on the production floor with the people. I like being out there better than sitting in the office.
- *What career advice would you give to your younger self?* Never give up. Keep going forward. Times it looks like you are not getting nowhere. Keep going. Do not give up.
- *When you started your current job, what most surprised you?* How much paperwork there is.
- *If you could time travel, when and where would you go?* When life was simple. Maybe back in the western days just to see how I would survive the wild, wild west.
- *What would be the title of your memoir?* He always gave 100%.
- *What was the first thing you wanted to be when you grew up?* A pilot.
- *What chore do you absolutely hate doing?* Back in the day it was breaking ice for the livestock. I am not a cold weather person.
- *If you could choose to stay a certain age forever, what age would it be?* 35 – 40. You are old enough to not be stupid anymore, but you are not too old to not get stuff done.
- *Are you usually early or late?* Always early. If I am late, I am not coming.
- *What job would you be terrible at?* Cabot would say plant manager. Accounting.
- *Where is the most interesting place you have been?* Probably one of the cruises somewhere.
- *What job do you think you would be really good at?* HR, I am a people person.
- *Do you have any pets?* Just my wife (chuckles).
- *What could you give a 40-minute presentation on with absolutely no preparation?* Old school music. Different groups from the 70's.
- *What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?* Take a cruise. Get you out in the middle of nowhere with no phones, no interruptions. You meet a ton of new people.
- *What are some of your personal rules that you never break?* Do not be late. Do not lie. Do not steal. Do not cheat.
- *What do you want to be remembered for?* Honesty and humor.
- *Where did you grow up?* On a farm in Arcadia with 10 brothers and sisters.
- *What job outside of ATC would you not be good at?* MMA fighter. I am a lover not a fighter.
- *What was the most meaningful gift you have received?* Children. Two sons and 4 grandkids.
- *What was your favorite subject in high school?* Recess/lunch (with much laughter).
- *What is your most used emoji?* I do not use emojis. I prefer using a telephone instead of texting.
- *For what are you most grateful for today?* The opportunity to retire.
- *Describe yourself:* Hardworking, loveable, happy go lucky, not too serious, but serious enough to get the job done. People lover.