

ity products, the long-standing hallmark of the Marion GM plant. Coils of steels are first taken to blank and shear machines, which create the size of the part they are looking to create. Then, they are moved to the presses, where they are cut, shaped, and produced in a variety of steps. Then, once they are finished, they are loaded on trucks and shipped out to various destinations around the United States, particularly the Midwest.

“Here at Marion, we are a center of expertise for things stamping,” Hanly said. “We have people in this plant that have spent their entire career as craftsmen supporting what we do here. These are highly skilled people. I’m proud of what they do, and we count on them each and every day to do the best that they can to build the highest quality materials, and do it safely, at the best cost possible so we can stay competitive and help General Motors be successful.”

While the quality of the parts produced has resulted in the viability of the Marion GM plant over the course of the last 65 years, it is ultimately the employees who have played the most crucial role in the plant’s success.

There are many long days and working in the manufacturing business is no easy task, but the employees of the plant, many of whom have been employed there for decades, are dedicated to their craft, and consequently, to ensuring a better future for themselves, their families, and future generations.

“I have had the pleasure of supporting Marion for 11 years,” Communications Director Stephanie Mack said. “There is a commitment by everybody at the Marion site to work together to secure a future. That’s what the mission



26-year GM employee  
Christian Perry

statement is on the side of the building, and I have seen it demonstrated over and over again. There is a great sense of pride in working for General Motors.”

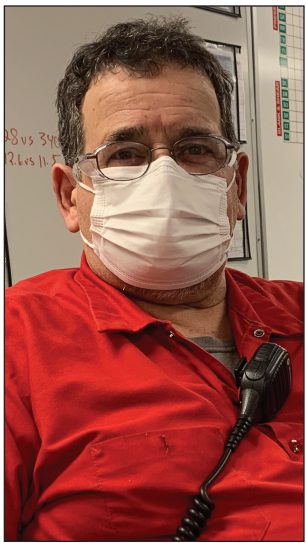
Jeff Hovermale has worked at the Marion GM plant for 39 years, and the plant has been a major part of his life. His father was one of the first employees, hiring on in 1957, and he worked there for 35 years.

Hovermale followed in his fathers’ footsteps, coming in as a tool maker apprentice in 1982, and after 39 years and different job titles, he has settled in as a tool and die maker.

Though the work can be strenuous, Hovermale has loved his time at the Marion GM plant, praising its family-like atmosphere and the opportunities that it has provided for him and his family.

“I enjoy the people I work with and I enjoy what I do,” Hovermale said. “That’s why I am still here. It’s a family here. I’ve learned a lot, I’ve met a lot of people. It’s been quite a journey. General Motors has given me a good livelihood to raise my family and to educate myself. It has been a very big part of my life.”

Christian Perry has worked at GM for 26 years, hiring in at just 20 years old. His father worked at



39-year GM employee  
Jeff Hovermale

the plant from 1971-1996, his stepmother worked from 1976-2006, and his uncle worked there for a short time as well.

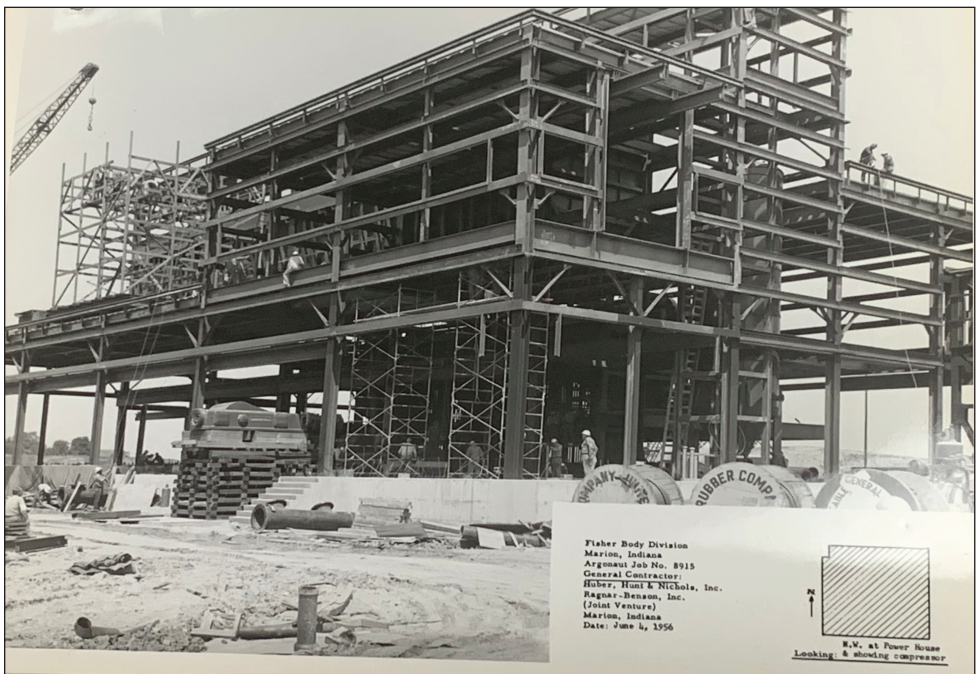
Perry started in production before becoming a die apprentice in 1998. He has also driven fork trucks and has made dies in his time at GM as well, but now he works on the quality-assurance side of the operation, making sure all parts made in the plant are up to GM’s standards.

For Perry, like Hovermale, even on the bad days, or the ones that are busier than others, it is the people that he cherishes the most.

“It’s definitely been the people I’ve worked with,” Perry said. “It’s the relationships you build with people. It’s a family inside here. It’s a family outside of your family. It makes the time go by better, and it makes you want to come to work.”

In many areas throughout the Midwest, many plants similar to the Marion GM plant have closed due to the ever-changing landscape of the manufacturing world. However, despite these changes, the Marion GM plant has withstood the test of time, continuing to thrive through a dedication to excellence and a strong and stable connection to the Marion community.

“The community greatly embraces General Motors,”



The Marion GM Plant under construction in 1956. Photo provided

Hanley said. “We have interactions with a number of different organizations here. It’s a fine city. I have met some wonderful people, and quite honestly, there is a very positive and good relationship that we have with them. It’s a win-win for the community, and for us being here.”

As the automotive industry moves into the next

stage of vehicular development, the Marion GM plant will continue to operate as it has over the last 65 years to fashion modern solutions—innovatively and precisely.

“Ultimately, the success of the company is the designing and building of [our] products,” Doug said. “It’s also the vision that the company has set forward,

not just now, but along the journey of the last 65 years, that brings us to where we are at now. There’s a core business that we are excellent at. It’s really about creating the opportunity, and part of it is being brilliant...so that we capture the eyes of leadership so when they think about Marion, good things come to mind.”

## Indiana Department of Education names family friendly schools

Oak Hill Elementary School was among more than 30 Indiana schools have been designated as 2021-2022 Family Friendly Schools by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE).

These schools — which span across the state, and include public and nonpublic schools — are demonstrating excellence in engaging families in their children’s education.

“We know that educating a

child is a team effort that involves all of us, with families at the core,” said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. “These schools have jumped in to evaluate their practices and engage a variety of stakeholders, ensuring students receive the well-rounded support they need at school, at home, and throughout the community.”

Launched in 2015, the Family Friendly Schools designation focuses on address-

ing the academic, physical, emotional, and social needs of students, while providing the needed resources and fostering the active involvement of their families through schools and the community. The program recognizes and honors schools that welcome all families into the school community, communicate effectively, support student success, speak up for every child, share power and collaborate with the community.



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