

Stories from New Britain Manufacturing  
Connecticut Humanities CT at Work Project  
CCSU Students Molly Ensero and Patricia Ladd  
Interview Subject: Lance Coulter  
Factory Subject Worked at: New Britain Machine  
Date of Interview: February 11, 2014  
Location: NBIM

It's 1982 and you cannot contain your excitement. Your parents just bought a brand new Chrysler K Car. Every piece of the car looks sleek and shiny, like it has never been touched by human hands. Alas, it has! It took many factory workers many hours to assemble each and every part of that beautiful new ride, but even before that it took some extremely brilliant people to invent the parts that bring together those parts. Mr. Lance Coulter of New Britain, Connecticut is one of those highly intelligent individuals. Mr. Coulter began his career at New Britain Machine as a draftsman, spending most of his time working on the main factory floor. With his dedication to detail, Lance soon worked his way up to a position as a Senior Tool Maker at the company. He finally got his own office away from the smoky, loud factory floor.

Lance was proud to discuss his work on the Chrysler K Car. As the Senior Tool Maker, he was approached to create a very important piece for the car. Of his work, Mr. Coulter said, "Remember Chrysler K-Cars? They came out with the first front wheel drive car. We did the trans-axels. They had no idea how they were going to do it. My boss said, "Go ahead and tool it." See what they say. So I tooled it and programmed it, and they never changed a thing!" The trans-axels created by Mr. Coulter were used for as long as the K-Cars were produced.

Besides working in the factory, Lance enjoyed socializing with his fellow co-workers. They would go out to eat and spend their nights out on the town. He loved to take his wife to the cinema, and go bowling with his friends.

Mr. Coulter likes to reminisce on the days when most things were made in America. He said, "Everything is overseas now!" It was this fantastic country, state, and even the town of New Britain that gave Lance his chance to be a part of history forever.

