



LABOR PAINS:

Experiences at Trenton's Horsman Factory

Presented by Karl J. Flesch

April 14, 2024



Regal Judy Girl c1930s

Regal Doll Manufacturing Company

The German American Doll Company in NYC is renamed Regal Doll Manufacturing Company in 1918.

In late 1930, the Regal Doll company purchased the Taubel hosiery mill in Trenton bounded by Adeline, Elm, Grand Streets and Chestnut Avenue.

Trenton architect Louis S. Kaplan was hired to plan an addition to connect the two large structures, which would be used as a shipping room.

The World's Largest
DOLL HOUSE



... comes to
TRENTON

HERE'S a business built upon the solid rock of human Nature, for it caters to an inborn trait that cannot be denied . . . the trait that makes every child supremely happy, playing in that magic Land of Make-believe.

Above we reproduce but one of the almost countless life-like dolls that owe their birth to the Regal Doll Company, whose recent establishment in Trenton brings us not only a new industry but a new honor, for in the Regal Doll Company we have here the largest manufacturers of Dolls in the World.

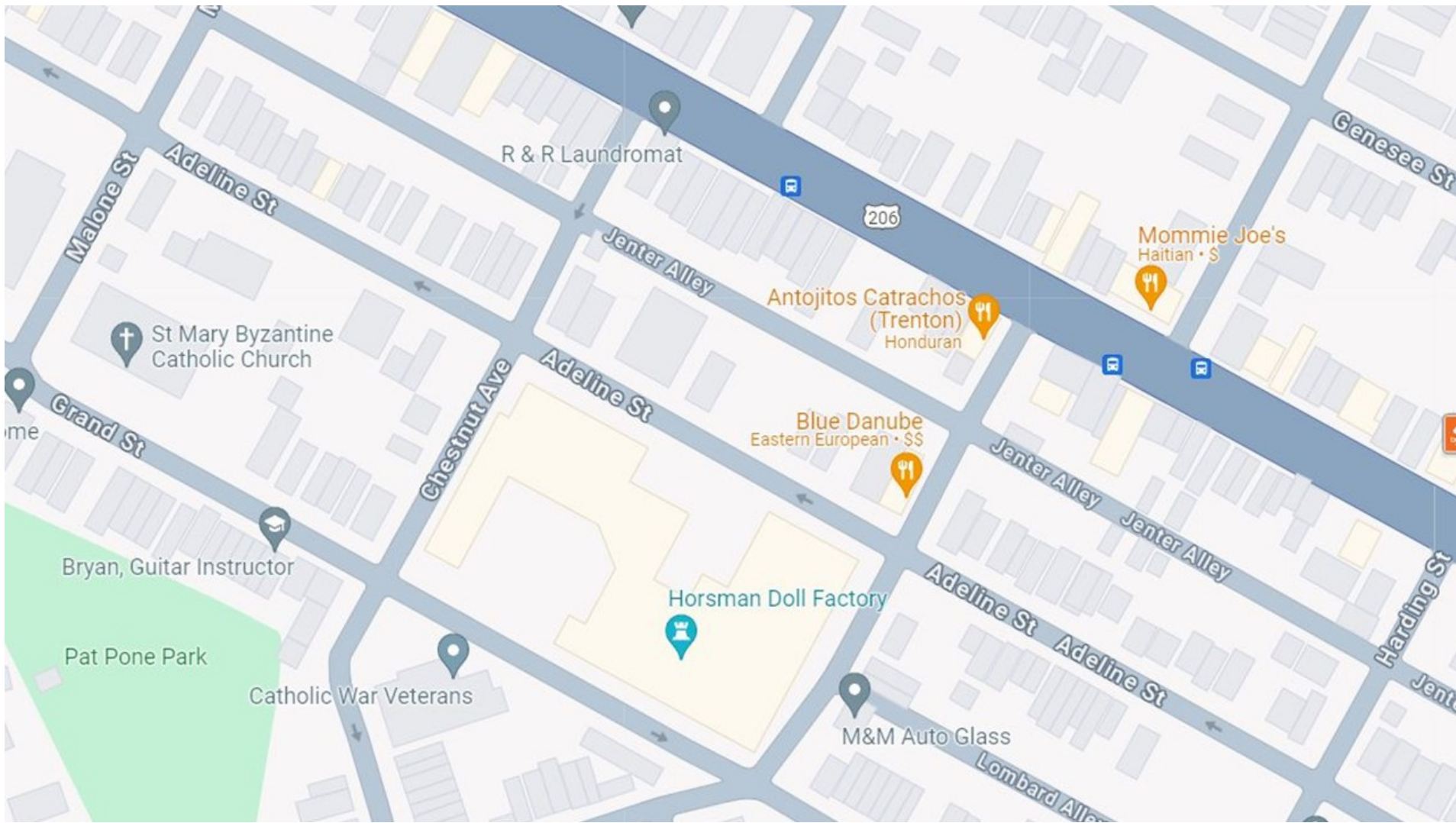
Briefly, here are some of the reasons why this concern chose Trenton for its complete manufacturing activities. 1st—Ideal Labor conditions; second to none. 2nd—All sources of supply within 24 hour delivery. 3rd—Shipping facilities equal if not superior to New York. 4th—Climatic conditions favorable. 5th—More factory space for less cost than other cities with equal facilities.

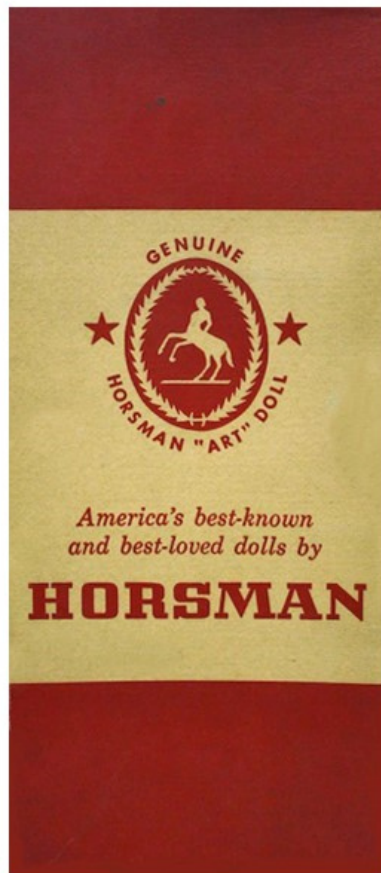
These advantages, voiced by Regal officials themselves indicate their satisfaction in the establishment of their business here. Anything that we, as business neighbors, can supply, will be an extra help to their full success. In this respect, the First-Mechanics offers not only every financial service but extends the friendly grip of Welcome.

The **FIRST-MECHANICS NATIONAL BANK**

ESTABLISHED 1824  *"On the Corner Historic"*

DEDICATED TO THE PROGRESS OF TRENTON





HORSMAN DOLL COMPANY

The Horsman company started in 1865, manufacturing and selling games and home amusements, particularly sporting goods.

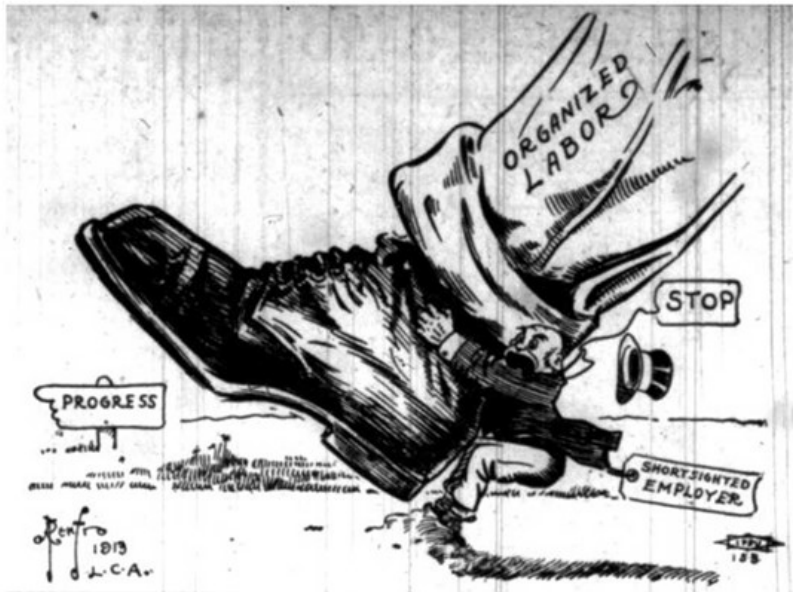
In the early 1890s, stuffed cloth playthings were manufactured to Horsman's specifications by outside suppliers.

About 1910, Horsman began phasing out all except dolls.

Horsman was successful producing dolls until the start of the Great Depression, when the company was virtually bankrupt.

In October 1933 the Regal Doll Manufacturing Company acquired the Horsman Doll Company and continued to produce dolls under each trade name of Regal and Horsman.

UNIONS IN AMERICA



Political cartoon showing organized labor marching towards progress, while a shortsighted employer tries to stop labor (1913)

Unions began forming in the mid-19th century in response to the social and economic impact of the Industrial Revolution.

National labor unions began to form in the post-Civil War Era.

American labor unions benefited greatly from the New Deal policies of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1930s.

Unions from this point developed increasingly closer ties to the Democratic Party and are considered a backbone element of the New Deal Coalition.

Benefits of unions were higher wages, better benefits, increased job stability, safer workplaces



Men working on an assembly line of car bodies at the Ford Motor Plant in Detroit, Michigan 1927

HOURS OF WORK

In 1890, the US government began tracking workers' hours. The average workweek for full-time manufacturing employees was a whopping 100 hours.

In 1926 the Ford Motor Plant in Detroit adopted the 40-hour, 5-day work week.

In 1938 the Fair Labor Standards Act (part of FDR's New Deal) limited the work week to 44 hours.

In 1940 the Fair Labor Standards Act was modified to limit the work week to 40 hours.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA

- Communist activists took a strong interest in American trade unions from the 1920s through the 1950s in an attempt to overthrow Capitalism and played an important role in shaping the nature of the American union movement.
- Communist activists helped build the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) and bring industrial unionism to previously unorganized workers.
- Left-led unions proved to be more democratically run and focused on racial and gender equality than many of those without communist influence.
- The Cold War years witnessed CIO purges of Left-led unions and federal investigations and arrests of communist trade unionists.
- This ultimately ended communist trade unionists' widespread influence on American trade unions.



1932

The **Trenton Doll Workers' Industrial Union** is formed

- Wages increased in each department from 15 to 20 per cent and as high as 25 per cent in some departments.
- A working week of 50, 51 and 52 hours.
- Time and half time for Sunday work.
- Time and quarter time for overtime work on weekday.
- Minimum wages, particularly for female employees.
- Prohibition of forced overtime.





1933

- The **Trenton Doll Workers' Industrial Union** was reputed to be Communist-led, with leaders belonging to the Young Communist League of Trenton.
- Demonstrations were staged in May 1933 with 13 arrested for alleged disturbances.
- Three-quarters of the employees would demand that their union sever connections with the "Red" leaders of the union.
- in June 1933, supporters had a representation vote to the new **Doll Workers Union No. 18247, American Federation of Labor**.



1936

In October 1936 the plant strikes for 10 days with 40-hour work week maintained and pay raises

Employees voted for affiliation with C. I. O. and the union would be call **the Novelty, Paper and Doll Workers, Local 225 CIO.**

The change in affiliation did not affect the existing contract but would offer an opportunity for participation in the national organization of the doll and toy industry.



THE WAR YEARS 1941 - 1945

- Shortages of materials for making dolls
 - Metal was used for the doll's eyes
 - Cloth and fibers for wigs
 - Kapok, once used to stuff doll bodies had a more important wartime use, filling lifejackets used by navy pilots
- But Horsman's Trenton factory continued to turn out dolls for the home-front market
- During the war, some Horsman technicians would experience molding prostheses for military amputees. They realized that the same elastic Vinylite used for lifelike artificial hands for veterans also could make amazing realistic dolls.
- In late 1947, one to three years before its competitors, Horsman had a doll with vinyl arms and legs ready to sell.

DECEMBER 1947 – APRIL 1948

Three men were charged and sentenced for stealing 77 dozen dolls worth \$1,400 from Horsman Dolls, Inc.



Michael T. Kovacs

Morris Malmignati

Edward S. Krzywulak

Michael Kovacs, an employee working as an eye setter for 17 years and **Morris Malmignati**, business agent of novelty workers union, formed a novelty company and arranged to buy dolls from the Horsman company.

Edward Krzywulsk, a shipping clerk, padded the orders going out to the novelty company and received a kick-back.

They were given suspended sentences of 4½ to 6 years in State Prison. The Horsman company had interceded in the men's behalf, especially in view of the prospect of jail terms.

The court directed each of the three men to make restitution of 1/3 of the goods stolen and they were put on probation for 5 years.

ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPER-TYPIST — 5-day week with short hours, salary \$34. Apply Horsman Dolls, Grand & Elm Sts.

ASSISTANT SHIPPING CLERKS—Over 16. Permanent employment. Not just a job for the duration. Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm Sts.

BOYS—For plastic department. Must be over 18. Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand and Elm Sts.

BOYS to work 2 to 3 hours per day after school. Good pay. Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm St.

BOYS—18 or over, for general help. Apply Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand & Elm Sts.

BOYS—18 or over for light factory work. Apply Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand & Elm Sts.

CHIEF INSPECTOR — For final inspection. Permanent. Vacation with pay and all employee benefits. Good opportunity for right person. Apply Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand and Elm Sts.

**Part Time
CLERICAL WORKER**
Evenings 6 to 10 Monday to
Friday
TO WORK ON PRODUCTION FIGURES.

**HORSMAN DOLLS
GRAND & ELM STREETS**

CLERK—For production office, age 30-35,

good at figures and keeping records.

APPLY HORSMAN DOLLS INC.
GRAND AND ELM STS.
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

CLERK-TYPIST — For billing department. Must be good typist. Benefits, etc. Call OW 5-1461. Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand & Elm Sts.

CLOTH CUTTER — Experienced on small patterns. Apply Horsman Dolls, Grand & Elm Sts.

COLORED BOYS — 16-18 years. for light factory work; good pay. Horsman Dolls, Trenton.

COLORED GIRLS — For general factory work. Opportunity for advancement for ambitious girls. Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm Sts.

COLORED GIRLS—Light factory work. Good pay. Horsman Dolls, Inc., Graham and Elm Sts., Trenton, N. J.

COLORED GIRLS—Under 25. for light factory work. Apply Horsman Dolls, Grand and Elm Sts.

COLORED HELP—To learn factory jobs, that will lead to steady, well paid employment. Horsman Dolls, Inc., Elm St.

CONTRACTORS—Experienced in sewing doll dresses. Must be equipped with some special machines. Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm Sts.

CUTTER AND MARKER — Experienced. part time. to cut dolls' dresses. Opportunity to make extra pay to person without giving up present job. Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm St.

CUTTERS AND SPREADERS — Part time. Apply Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm Sts., no phone calls.

DOLL PAINTERS—Experienced. Good salary, paid vacation and holidays. Full or part time. Horsman Doll, Grand & Elm Sts.

DOLL DRESSERS — Experienced. Piece work wage. Paid holidays and vacations. Apply Horsman Dolls, Grand & Elm Sts.

ELECTRICIAN — Steady employment for reliable man, good wages. Paid holidays, vacation, and all employee benefits. Apply Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand & Elm Streets.

EMBROIDERERS—To do simple work at attractive pay rates. Apply Mr. Ross, Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm Sts.

EMBROIDERS AND HANDSEWERS—To do simple work at attractive pay rates. Apply Mr. Ross, Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand and Elm Sts.

EXPERIENCED — Responsible man for general maintenance work. Must have some knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, masonry and painting. Apply between 9:30 A. M. & 3 P. M. Horsman Dolls, Grand and Elm Sts.

FACTORY WORK—General, good chances for quick advancement. Paid holidays and vacations. Apply Horsman Dolls, Grand & Elm Sts.

FIRST CLASS MACHINIST — Minimum 5 years experience. Must be capable of independent work. Thoroughly experienced with layout & all machine shop operations. Horsman Dolls, Grand & Elm Sts. See Mr. Forrest.

FORELADY — Experienced. In inspection department for packing dolls. 5-day week, vacation and holidays. Apply Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand & Elm Sts.

GIRLS

Prefer those with some beauty parlor experience. Excellent working conditions. Good pay, steady work. Apply

HORSMAN DOLLS, INC.
GRAND & ELM STS.

GIRLS—For dressing dolls. Good pay to beginners. Apply Horsman Dolls, Inc., Graham and Elm Sts.

GIRLS—Over 18, for packing and dressing dolls. Apply Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand & Elm Streets.

HOUSEKEEPER

GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

For payroll work and clerical, with knowledge of shorthand for production office. Excellent working conditions, paid vacation. 5-day week. 7½ hours per day.

HORSMAN DOLLS INC.

GRAND AND ELM STS.

GIRLS WANTED—Painters for doll heads. Prefer anyone experienced in ceramic painting. Good wages and working conditions. Apply Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand & Elm Sts.

GIRLS WANTED

TRAIN AS INSPECTORS

Some inspection experience is desirable but not necessary. Opportunity for advancement. Good pay. Apply immediately.

HORSMAN DOLLS

GRAND & ELM STREETS

HOME WORKERS—Experienced operators to sew doll dresses. Can earn 50 cents per hour and up. Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm Sts.

INDUSTRIAL NURSE — Registered nurse preferred, to perform normal functions as factory nurse with an established 90-year-old company. 5 days per week. Hours: 7:30 A. M. - 4:15 P. M. Some additional personnel activities required. Pleasant facilities, air-conditioned offices; vacations, profit sharing and pension plan, hospitalization, etc. Call or write F. Forrest, Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand & Elm Streets, OW 5-1401.

INSPECTORS

SEVERAL. 3:30 TO 11:30 SHIFT. GOOD WAGES. STEADY WORK. EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY. ALL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS.

APPLY HORSMAN DOLLS INC.

GRAND AND ELM STREETS
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

LADY — Executive type for final supervision. Permanent position, paid vacation and all other employee benefits. Apply Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand and Elm Streets.

LADY FOREMAN

Supervising in wig department. General supervision and beauty parlor experience desirable. Good pay, excellent working conditions, interesting work. Opportunity for advancement.

HORSMAN DOLLS

GRAND & ELM STS.

MACHINIST—Steady employment for reliable party. Job offers good wages, paid holidays and vacation, all employee benefits. Apply Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm Streets.

MACHINIST

Experienced with tools, fixtures, etc. Good opportunity and steady employment for reliable party. Excellent working conditions, wages and all employe benefits.

HORSMAN DOLLS

Grand & Elm Streets

MACHINIST—Lathe hand, operate lathe, do general machine shop work, relative to machinery maintenance. Apply in person 9 to 11 A. M. Horsman Dolls, Grand & Elm Sts.

MAINTENANCE MACHINIST

To assist plant engineer. Good future, all benefits, steady work.

HORSMAN DOLLS, INC.

Grand and Elm Sts.
PHONE 4-5121

MAINTENANCE MAN

Experienced, good opportunity and steady employment for reliable party. Paid vacation and all employe benefits.

APPLY

HORSMAN DOLLS, INC.
GRAND & ELM STS.

MAN — For manual labor in plastic department. Hours from 7:30 to 4:15. Apply Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand & Elm Sts., Trenton, N. J.

MARKER—Experienced on piece goods, pleasant environment, good wages, paid holidays and vacation. Apply Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm Sts.

MECHANIC

ON

Power Sewing Machine

Steady work, good wages, vacation and paid holidays. All employe benefits.

APPLY

HORSMAN DOLLS
GRAND AND ELM

MEN—Between 18 and 30, on plastic machines, piece work, averaging good pay. Vacation and holidays. Apply Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand & Elm Sts.

MEN

18-50 years, no experience necessary. Good working condition. Apply ready to work.

Horsman Dolls
GRAND & ELM STS.

MEN AND BOYS

Needed for desirable openings in various departments. All jobs offer good wages, 7 paid holidays, vacations with pay, job security and sick benefits.

Apply

HORSMAN DOLLS, INC.
GRAND & ELM STS.

MEN AND BOYS

For Molding Vinyl Dolls

SHORT LEARNING PERIOD, ADVANCING TO PIECE WORK, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN FROM \$75.00 TO \$80.00 WEEKLY. HOSPITALIZATION. VACATION WITH PAY.

APPLY HORSMAN DOLLS INC.
GRAND AND ELM STREETS
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

**MEN AND WOMEN
NEEDED FOR**

Molders Vinyl Dolls
Factory Power Machine
Operators
Girls For Curling Wigs
Stuffers
Inspectors
Stock Boy
General Help

APPLY
HORSMAN DOLLS
GRAND & ELM STS.

**MEN WANTED
MOLDING DEPARTMENT**

EXCELLENT PAY
SWING SHIFT
OPPORTUNITY PIECE WORK
ALL BENEFITS
VACATIONS
HOSPITALIZATION
PAID HOLIDAYS

HORSMAN DOLLS
Grand and Elm Sts.

Experienced Molders

Vinyl Dolls

\$75 TO \$80 WEEKLY
HOSPITALIZATION, LIFE INSURANCE
7 PAID HOLIDAYS, VACATION WITH PAY

APPLY **HORSMAN DOLLS INC.**
GRAND AND ELM STREETS
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

NIGHT WATCHMAN

Must be licensed fireman. 40 hours
weekly, paid vacation and holidays.

Apply
HORSMAN DOLLS INC.
GRAND & ELM STS.

OPERATORS—Experienced on power sewing
machines. Good wages with paid va-
cation and holidays, all employee bene-
fits. Apply Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand
& Elm Streets.

OPERATORS—Experienced sewing light
fabrics on Singer power machines.
Steady work. Horsman Dolls, Inc.,
Grand and Adeline.

OPERATORS—On Singer power sewing ma-
chines. Full or part time. Can earn from
\$35 to \$50 weekly. Horsman Dolls, Inc.,
Trenton.

PAINTERS—Needed for doll heads,
pleasant work and good wages. Apply
Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm
Sts., Trenton, N. J.

Part Time
CLERICAL WORKER
Evenings 6 to 10 Monday to
Friday
TO WORK ON PRODUCTION FIGURES.

HORSMAN DOLLS
GRAND & ELM STREETS

PART TIME—Work and Summer vaca-
tion jobs for boys over 16. Good pay.
Horsman Dolls, Grand and Elm Sts.

PAYROLL CLERK—Experienced, good
at figures and handling rates, etc. Write
to Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand & Elm
Streets, giving experience and salary
expected.

PERSONNEL CLERK—Experienced. Main-
tain records and interviews. Excellent of-
fice conditions. Attractive working hours.
Apply Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand and
Elm Sts.

PLASTICS

Men for plastic department. Good wages.
7 paid holidays, paid vacations and all
employee benefits. Apply Horsman Dolls
Inc., Grand and Elm Sts., Trenton, N. J.

SECRETARY—Good stenographer and
typist. Write giving age, salary and
qualifications to Horsman Dolls, Inc.,
Grand & Elm Sts.

SEVERAL OPENINGS—For young girls,
clean pleasant work, all employee bene-
fits. Apply Horsman Dolls, Grand and
Elm Sts.

SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS—With
experience on Singer Machines. There
are a few openings for learners. Apply
Mr. Ross, Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand
and Elm Sts.

SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS — Ex-
PERIENCED ON SINGER MACHINES.
GOOD PAY AND ADVANCEMENT. AP-
PLY HORSMAN DOLLS INC., GRAND
AND ELM STREET.

SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS

Our sewing machine operators are
averaging \$50 weekly.

WE NEED

25 ADDITIONAL GIRLS

APPLY M. A. ROSS
HORSMAN DOLLS INC.
Grand and Elm Sts.

SEWING MACHINE
REPAIRMAN

Experience on Puritan preferred but not
essential.

Good paying job, steady. All benefits.

HORSMAN DOLLS

GRAND & ELM STS.

SHIPPING CLERK—Experienced, starting
salary \$50 with chance for advance-
ment. References required. Horsman
Dolls, Grand & Elm Sts.

SPRAYERS — On doll parts. Experienced,
steady work. Good pay and advance-
ment. Paid holidays and vacation. Apply
Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm
Streets.

SPREADER

Experienced in cutting department.

Good benefits. Apply Horsman Dolls,
Inc., Grand & Elm Sts., Trenton.

STENOGRAPHER — Experienced with
knowledge of general office work. Apply
Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand & Elm Sts.,
Trenton, N. J.

STENOGRAPHER — In production control
office. Good at arithmetic. Keep records
and some payroll. Good future. Apply in
person immediately.
HORSMAN DOLLS, INC.
Grand and Elm Sts.

STENOGRAPHER - LEGAL—Experienced,
salary \$200 per month, 40 hour week.
Law office. Permanent. State experience,
training, present salary, age, etc. Address
Box B-505 Times Office.

STENOGRAPHER—Secretary to executive.
Permanent position, 5-day week with
time and a half for overtime, vacation
with full pay and holidays. Varied work
in pleasant surroundings. Write stating
qualifications and references to Horsman
Dolls, Inc., Grand & Elm Sts.

TIME STUDY ANALYST

Experienced preferred in sewing opera-
tions, but not necessary. Full time and
permanent position with a real future.
90 year old company. Full benefits. Ap-
ply in person, Horsman Dolls Inc., Grand
and Elm Streets.

WATCHMAN—Steady job to continue after
war. Not just a temporary war job.
Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand and Elm
Streets.

WIG MAKERS

Splendid opportunity to secure good paying pleasant position making doll wigs. Anyone with ordinary hairdressing ability can quickly earn \$60 to \$70 per week plus 7 paid holidays and 2 weeks vacation with pay.

HORSMAN DOLLS, INC.
GRAND & ELM STS.

WOMEN

Packers and dressers. Day shift, good working conditions, piece work. All benefits.

HORSMAN DOLLS
GRAND & ELM STS.
TRENTON, N. J.

WOMEN

Wig department. Good pay, piece work, day shift and afternoon shift. Machine operation experience preferred.

HORSMAN DOLLS
GRAND & ELM STS.
TRENTON, N. J.

WOMEN

18 to 35 years.

2d shift.

Part time 3:30 P. M. to 7:30 P. M. or 7:30 P. M. to midnight. Making wigs. Piece work experience or machines required. Easy to learn. Good pay, steady work, apply in person. Horsman Dolls. Grand and Elm Sts., Trenton.

YOUNG COLORED GIRLS—For general factory work. Opportunities for advancement. Horsman Dolls, Inc., Grand & Elm Sts.

YOUNG LADY — Telephone operator and general office work. Apply Horsman Dolls, Grand and Elm Streets.

YOUNG LADY

For production work. 40-hour week. No Saturdays. Paid vacation.

Apply
HORSMAN DOLLS, INC.
GRAND & ELM STS.

YOUNG MEN WANTED

SHIPPING DEPT. — Apply ready for work. Good pay commensurate with experience. See Mr. Forrest, Horsman Doll Inc., Grand & Elm Sts.

18 TO 45

NO EXPERIENCE

GOOD STARTING SALARY

Apply Immediately

HORSMAN DOLLS

Grand & Elm Sts.

1950

NOT A GOOD NEIGHBOR

City Sanitary inspectors reported that Adeline Street residents have a justifiable complaint against operations at the Horsman Doll factory:

- Operation of a blowing room duct collector: fluffy, Cotton-like stuffings are carelessly permitted to escape from the plant
- The incinerator adjoining the boiler room gives off excessive smoke & odors
- The exhaust pipe from the paint spraying department creates a humming noise from 8am to 4pm
- Employees on the night shift annoy neighbors by their whistling, shouting and generally disorderly behavior
- Waste city water used for machine cooling is discharged into street gutters
- Dust from soft coal pile and dust from truck loading of refuse is permitted to blow over sidewalks on Adeline Street
- Cars of doll factory employees are parked day and night in front of private homes so that the occupants cannot park near their own homes



14 Top Reds Held Guilty, File Appeal

Face 5-Year Sentence
For Plot — Trial
Lasted 6 Months

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Found guilty of plotting to advocate violent overthrow of the government, 14 California Communist leaders go back to court today in an effort to reverse their conviction.

They were convicted on a federal indictment yesterday after a six-month trial, longest in local Federal Court history. Trial and conviction of 11 Communists on similar charges in New York City in 1949 required nine months.

Defense lawyers said they would appeal.

As a means of protecting the four men and eight women jurors, A. S. Judge William C. Mathes decreed that no one may communicate with them about the case and that no photographs may be taken. He discharged them from the case but retained them indefinitely as jurors under the protection of the court.

Frank Carlson Convicted

*Trenton Evening Times, August 6,
1952*

Convicted were Mrs. Oleta O'Connor Yates, 43, San Francisco, Northern California party secretary; William Schneiderman, 56, San Francisco, former state party chairman; Philip M. Connelly, 48; Dorothy Rosenblum Healey, 37, Connelly's wife; Henry Steinberg, 30; Mrs. Rose Chernin Kunitz, 49; Frank Carlson, 40; Frank E. Spector, 56, and Ben Dobbs, 41, all of Los Angeles; Mrs. Loretta Starvus Stack, 40; Al Richmond, 39; Ernest Otto Fox, 47; Carl Rude Lambert, 55, all of San Francisco; and Albert Jason Lima, 45, Oakland.

Judge Mathes delayed sentencing until after he hears arguments on defense motions for a directed verdict of acquittal.

Maximum sentence is five years' imprisonment and \$10,000 fine.

Another defendant, Mary Bernadette Doyle, one-time candidate for state superintendent of public instruction, was granted a severance of trial early in the case because she was suffering from a heart ailment. She may be tried later.

Defense Atty. Alexander Schullman asked that the defendants be allowed to remain at liberty on the present bail, ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 pending sentencing. The plea was denied and the 14 were ordered to jail.

DECEMBER 1952 – MARCH 1953

- Horsman Dolls Closed on December 20, 1952 with plans to liquidate the business and the plant is place on market for sale.
- Some 1,200 Out of Work
- Horsman spent several hundred thousand dollars to conveyorized and modernize its operations.
- Lowering of piece work rates were not permitted by the union.
- Many workers' wages increased as much as 100 to 200 percent.
- For 1952, Horsman operated at a substantial loss and was unable to meet competing prices in New York.
- To save the plant, the union agrees to returning to 1951 pay level and would reconsider
 - Vacations
 - Seniority terms
 - Differentials for working the 2nd and 3rd shift
 - 57 ½ cent cost-of-living allowance to piece work rates



1954

- Members of Local 225, CIO Novelty Workers Union voted to affiliate with the CIO International Union of Electrical Workers.
- The new name would be **Local 422, Amalgamated Metal Machines and Novelty Workers, CIO-IUE.**
- The new connection was necessary to better working and living conditions and the IUE is better qualified to help the local union maintain and advance the interest of the workers.



New Officers And Leaders Of Union



May 1954

- Pay increases ranging from five to 10 cents an hour for production workers. The \$2 weekly insurance and health reserve for each employee was increased 50 cents and an additional paid holiday.
- The new contract would take affect July 1, 1954 and it would extend until July 1, 1957.

October 1955

- Horsman reported a 22 percent rise in sales. The company's business in eight months in 1955 equaled the entire 1954 sales.

March 1957

- Botany Mills, Inc. buys Horsman Dolls, Inc. for over \$4,000,000. Botany, primarily an apparel and woolens maker. Botany was expanding into other fields.
- There were to be no changes of policy or personnel at Horsman.



MARCH 1960 – JULY 1960

- Horsman will close by July 1
- Average wage rates in the Trenton area increased since steel production and other heavy industry operations began expansion.
- Company was to move to a new plant under construction in Caycee (near Columbia), South Carolina.
- The new plant would be union free.
- In June the union employees voted to become bargainers to buy their company to save jobs and become worker-owners.
- Employees' pledges, \$270,000 from the union welfare fund and a bank credit in a month's effort reached \$1,900,000 but Botany was unwilling to sell for less than \$2,300,000.

JULY 1960

- July 1 about 40 employees greeted the end of their job with picketing outside the shuttered plant.
- The collapse of their ambitious plan to buy the plant and become stockholder-workers produced the final fling of bitterness.
- Within days tractor trailers were at the plant as the mass moving job of all equipment and machinery began.
- A small crowd gathered outside the plant entrance, silently hoping for a last-minute miracle, but it soon disappeared.

Puerto Ricans are finding jobs in many Trenton industries. At the Horsman Doll factory are (L to R) Mrs. Francis Rosario, Mrs. Gerturidio Alicca and Mrs. Joseph Saurez. The two men looking on are Stephen Garcia, a 2nd generation Puerto Rican who is cutter of doll clothing and Russel Bizzini, superintendent of the sewing room. *Trenton Evening Times, May 3, 1960*



***To All Employers
In The Greater Trenton Area:***

As a result of the removal of our manufacturing facilities from Trenton, our work force of some 500 efficient employes is available for reemployment by others. We have always been proud of their loyalty and ability and recommend them highly. Because we are interested in their reemployment, our Personnel Office will be happy to furnish you with any information you desire. Their termination of employment with our firm resulted solely from circumstances beyond their control .

We have complete and current information on these skilled and semi-skilled workers, many of whom were employed by us for many years.

Their job titles were:

Sewing Machine Operators	Decorators
Assemblers	Shippers
Packers	Office Clerks
Molders	Related Positions

Should you now have need for employes in these categories, please write for further information to: Personnel Director, Horsman Dolls, Inc., P.O. Box 1890, Trenton 10, New Jersey.

Horsman Dolls, Inc.

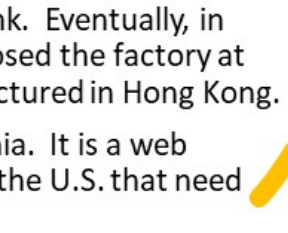
OCTOBER 1962

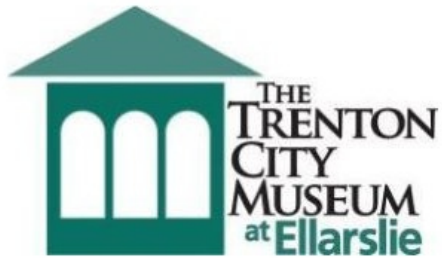
- 350 former Trenton Horsman employees started receiving severance pay for the closing of the plant.
- Botany management agreed to pay them 2.5 percent of future annual profits through 1963. The first checks were rather small due to Horsman's moving costs.





1960 - PRESENT

- For much of the next quarter-century, Horsman would enjoy a resurgence of profitability, employing more than 600 workers, who turned out millions of high-quality vinyl dolls in hundreds of styles.
 - By the 1980s virtually all U.S. doll manufacturing had ended, with production shifted to the Orient with its cheaper labor costs. Horsman remained one of the last and largest American doll company still manufacturing in the United States. Stubbornly, the company resisted extensive TV advertising and refused to shift its production from South Carolina to overseas.
 - Horsman stuck to its longtime formula, manufacturing a limited range of moderately priced basic but well-made children's dolls. Horsman did not change, but unfortunately the toy market did and what Children were asking for.
 - Horsman Dolls, Inc. which had gone through several changes in ownership, saw its sales, production and workforce shrink. Eventually, in 1986, it had laid off its remaining 150 employees and closed the factory at Cayce, South Carolina. Horsman dolls would be manufactured in Hong Kong.
 - Today Horsman LTD is based in Redwood City, California. It is a web company as well as an agent company for companies in the U.S. that need overseas production sourcing.
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LABOR PAINS:

Experiences at Trenton's Horsman Factory

Presented by Karl J. Flesch
April 14, 2024