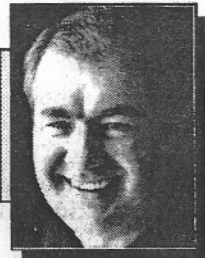


History

Company treats workers to a lavish Christmas party



Tom
Beardsley

Isadore Rosenstein was a foreman in the narrow fabric trade on the lower east side of New York City in the years after World War I, and in 1921 he formed his own business manufacturing braids and ribbons in a typical Manhattan loft workshop on Bleeker Street, employing around 30 people. The company relocated to Willimantic in 1935, because of the increasing rents in Manhattan.

Rosentstein's company, the Roselin Manufacturing Co., set up shop in an old factory on Milk Street, once occupied by the Willimantic Machine Co. The business boomed and soon Rosentstein was employing 90

workers.

On Dec. 14, 1939, Rosentstein treated his workers to a lavish Christmas party at the Shell Chateau Restaurant. The banquet table was festooned with traditional Yule logs. A turkey dinner was served at seven o'clock. After the meal, Santa Claus made an appearance, and presented each of Rosentstein's workers with a present. The workers then presented Isadore and his wife with a sterling silver console set of three pieces in honor of their 34th wedding anniversary on Dec. 24, 1939. Entertainment was provided by George Hinkle of South Coventry who sang many favorite old time songs.

Afterwards, everyone posed for this picture, donated to the Windham Textile and History Museum by Claire Krause of Lebanon. Now, how many people can you recognize from this December evening, 60 years ago? E-mail me at tom@thread-city.com



Workers at the Roselin Manufacturing Co. were treated to a lavish Christmas party on Dec. 14, 1939.

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