

Key for Opening Voorhis Soap Dispenser

Gift of Jack Lewis, March 21, 2006

Stamped Steel Key, 2" x 1", stamping designed with V T for Voorhis-Tiebout.

Keys were made by the Smithers Tool & Machine Products in Rhinebeck for the Soap Factory in Red Hook. As a young man, Jack Lewis worked for Smithers and ran the punch press that stamped out the keys, c_____ (date).

May 2, 2006

Mr. Jack Lewis
527 Route 199
Red Hook, New York 12571

Dear Jack

I'm embarrassed that it has taken so long to acknowledge your gift of the most interesting key to the Voorhis soap dispenser. I've enclosed the information you gave me about its manufacture which I want to file with the key in the box with our dispenser but its been too many weeks since you told me about it so please review the text and make any changes and return the corrections with the usual Deed of Gift, also enclosed.

Thanks so much for once again enriching our collection, and our knowledge of "how things were".

Best Regards

Barbara W. Bielenberg

Hudson River Sampler - Sept 1997

The Old Soap Factory Has A Scented Secret

by Bill Lundquest

The property at 73 South Broadway probably has lots of secrets. It used to be where the High School was before a fire destroyed it. Then a soap factory was built on the ruins. That successful business ran from the 1930s to the late 80s. Then, like everything, time overtook it.

The building sat empty until John McIlravy started to renovate it in 1994. John remembers that it was empty and wide open inside. He also remembers how helpful the Village planning and zoning boards were and how Sam Harkins explained things and worked with him to get the building to where it is today.

paint colors by hand, experience and eyesight.

Mr. McIlravy's colorful world started as a scratch business. His plan was to build a user-friendly business that has a large variety of high quality products. He is a Devoe paint dealer, which is America's first paint company. He also stocks Martin Senour, noted for colonial colors, and Fuller O'Brien. The wallcovering emporium has samples from Imperial, Waverly, Laura Ashley, Kingsley and York to mention a few.

Of course he has all the painting hardware accessories needed. The other really valuable thing John, Lisa, Mary and Mark provide is friendly software. They are happy to look at tiny paint specks, water stained wood and refinishing projects. They give good advice that is easy to understand and sometimes they throw in a little humor when needed.



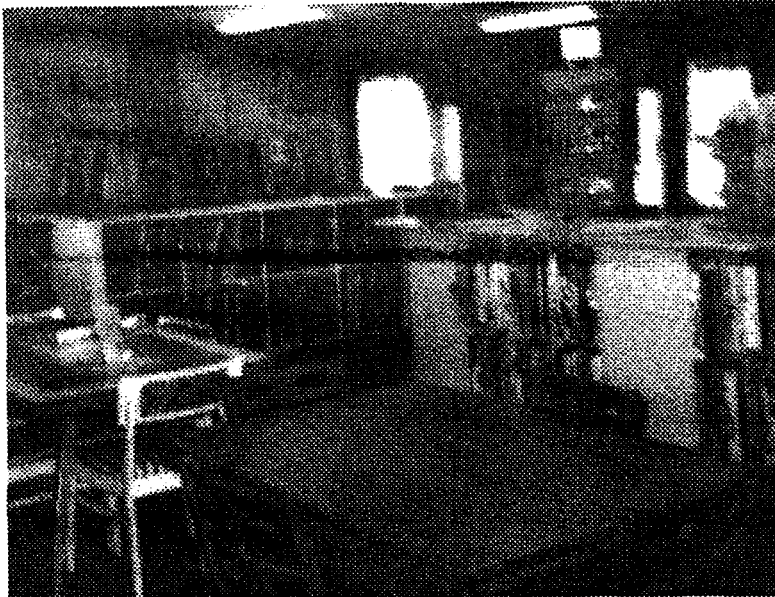
John McIlvry, of The Old Soap Factory, is checking inventory in the front part of his gift shop. The gift shop encompasses a section of his paint and wallcovering store.

Today the building houses a full line paint and wallcovering store and a gift shop, on the main floor.

The gift shop's scented candles, from Colonial Heritage Candle Company in Clinton Corners, adds to the building's light and cheery atmosphere. The shop has investment collectable bears, clocks, wooden roosters, dolls, baskets, artistic wind chimes, towels, throw rugs, artist-designed lamps, hand-turned wine corks and more nice quality things.

John states he gets a great satisfaction from the business. A can of paint is usually a can of happiness. It is a inexpensive way to make a nice change in your life. People usually feel good when they paint and redecorate.

We could not finish this article without telling you about the lower level of the old soap factory. John is presently working on the 1800 sq. foot area. The space has huge stone walls, a separate entrance and a



Selection, selection, selection is what can be found in the wallcovering room of The Old Soap Factory.

Mr. McIlvry's formal training in the paint business began in the early 70s. He was an apprentice under Johnny Debiase, who some people might remember as the "singing cowboy". Mr. Debiase loved the painting business, singing, and teaching his trade. Back in those days, we mixed

certain ambiance. He states he is not sure what direction to take the lower level. I am not in a hurry to make a mistake, he muses. Perhaps it's just another secret!

"Honesty is something you can't wear out."

Waylon Jennings