

OLD FORGE HARDWARE STOCKS IT ALL FROM SOUP TO NUTS

January 27, 1998

The idea for this column started with a finial nut. What is a finial nut you ask? That was the question I posed to Eric Mynter as he was expressing his concern in the difficulty of locating some.

I learned that they are the nuts that secure the lampshade to the top of the lamp yoke. Eric, owner-operator of ELM Woodworking in Remsen, occasionally makes rustic lamps and thus has need for them. He found that the difficulty in locating them has prompted their theft from display lamps.

Well, I learned long ago from my Main Squeeze that if you have difficulty finding items that are unique, odd, or in limited demand, look no further than the Old Forge Hardware. Eric was skeptical and I was in rare bragging mood at the time and promised to prove my point on the morrow by checking personally.

Hieing myself uptown first thing the following morning, my convictions were quickly substantiated. I was immediately greeted by one of the Hardware's courteous staff in the person of none other than the manager's wife, Miriam Kashiwa, who answered my inquiry in the affirmative and directed me to a display of some exquisite examples not 10 feet from where we stood. As I stood there smug in the knowledge that I had once again called the shot, Himself appeared like magic from the throng of shoppers.

Henry Kashiwa has managed the Hardware for many years. The Kashiwa family had been residents of the community for eight years when the Allens arrived in 1958. Henry quickly reinforced my new-found knowledge of the elusive nuts with their extensive inventory in the lamp hardware display at the front counter.

The Old Forge Hardware has been aptly titled, "The Adirondacks Most General Store". Present owner A. Richard Cohen's father, Moses, founded it at the turn of the century. Its early operation catered to the businesses that opened up and developed the raw region that existed at the time. The railroads, steamboats, loggers, guides, trappers and locals that expanded the region and gradually brought the area to its present culmination as a recreation driven economy where its first customers.

Few, if any, of the mega stores in vogue today can equal the diversity and quality of the merchandise offered there today.

As the needs and demands of the area have changed, the Hardware has also. It's a browser's delight that offers something of interest for all ages and genders. The establishment and its equally excellent local counterparts are an asset that would e sorely missed where they to vanish from the upstate scene.

Unfortunately, they are all threatened by the proliferation of mega corporations in our urban areas. Most benefits area residents derive from them are certain to e offset by inconvenience and commuting costs.

To make a long story short, let's all think about and do what we can to support our local economy.