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Showing postings 1 - 44 of 44 in the thread: Joe's Keyway.

Posting: Joe's Keyway Poster: William Brainard Date: 6 August 2006 7:20 PM	Posting 1
What a shame he went out of business. When I first got my drivers license I locked myself out of my VW Bug at Barkers and he came to my rescue. Mind you, Professional Lock is good but I miss the old place downtown.	
Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Poster: r d Date: 7 August 2006 9:55 AM	Posting 2
Was Joe's Keyway at one time located near/next to the Strand theater and he also sold model airplane kits? Or was that someone else?	
Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Poster: Mick Seretny Date: 7 August 2006 11:36 AM	Posting 3
The Joe's Keyway that I remember was located on Main St., next to the YMCA, and next door to Les Fosters' office. Joe and his wife both always seemed to be there everytime I went in there, when I was a kid. I used to buy HO scale model train kits from them, and also Model Railroader Magazine. They had a lot of hobby stuff there. I also seem to remember that they lived out on Rt 6 in Hampton and had the old Willimantic Savings Institute in their front yard.	
Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Poster: Larry Haines Date: 7 August 2006 12:37 AM	Posting 4
Yes, the original Joe's Keyway was located by the Strand Theater.	
Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Poster: Ada Kerachsky Albright Date: 7 August 2006 1:50 PM	Posting 5
Wasn't his business once on Union Street in the location next to Morris Hardware that later was Rob Roy's Jewelers?	
Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Poster: chas barrett Date: 7 August 2006 11:45 PM	Posting 6
I used to go to Joe's when it was next to Strand Theatre (Broad St?) near Union St. -- and buy those plastic model cars kits -- like the 1914 Stutz Bearcat and the 1910 Pierce Arrow. Hi Ada...it has been a while since we emailed...any news on Class of 1958 /WHS??? Charlie Barrett	
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Charlie Barrett

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 9
 Poster: r d
 Date: 8 August 2006 8:59 AM

Thanks Larry & Chas for letting me know that my mind has not completely gone! I remember buying balsa wood model airplanes. They also had the stick models that once you completed the assembly of the fuselage, wings and tail, it was covered with a very thin paper. I think these models were more to scale and you had to have a place to build these where the work would not be interrupted.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 10
 Poster: Ada Kerachsky Albright
 Date: 8 August 2006 12:08 AM

Hi Charlie!

I can't picture where on Broad St. Joe's Keyway would have been. Broad St. was only a block long, and there were houses between the Strand and Union St. I remember the Checkerboard Feed Store on the opposite side of the street, on the corner of Broad and Valley Streets.

I don't know much news re WHS'58 except for noticing sadly the passing of some parents.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 11
 Poster: jim connell
 Date: 8 August 2006 12:23 AM

As I rember Joes Keyway was located on Temple St. were the hair school was located. Jim C

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 12
 Poster: r d
 Date: 8 August 2006 12:48 AM

Ada--my recollection of Joe's Keyway was to the right of the Strand almost next door if you were facing the theater.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 13
 Poster: Larry Haines
 Date: 8 August 2006 1:01 PM

Yes, it was to the right of the Strand and if my memory serves me well, it was set back from the sidewalk. It was almost like there was another building in frony of it at one time.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 14
 Poster: Larry Haines
 Date: 8 August 2006 1:01 PM

Yes, it was to the right of the Strand and if my memory serves me well, it was set back from the sidewalk. It was almost like there was another building in front of it at one time.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 15
 Poster: chas barrett
 Date: 8 August 2006 11:10 PM

Hi:

You are all correct !...here's the sequence for Joe's Key Way:

1. Joe KW was on Broad St., next to The Strand Theatre, or "Scratch House" (a name I feel was unfair to place.... i never got bit..remember the manager who was short and bald with a mustache and held a raffle for free dishes for the ladies, or kids took home a dish to mom they won from the saturday matinee giveaways?)
2. New home of JKW's ..moved over to Temple St...1950s
3. To Main Street, near Hydes..last home.

Mrs Key Way had a raspy voice and was dark...sweet lady...Joe wore thick glasses and had a mop of greying hair

Charlie Barrett

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 16
 Poster: chas barrett
 Date: 8 August 2006 11:11 PM

Mike Seretny:

Are you any relation to Joe Seretny and Virginia Seretny??

Charlie Barrett
 California

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 17

Poster: chas barrett
Date: 8 August 2006 11:11 PM

Mike Seretny:

Are you any relation to Joe Seretny and Virginia Seretny??

Charlie Barrett
California

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 18
Poster: William Brainard
Date: 9 August 2006 12:10 AM

Joe was wonderful at opening safes without combos. He got the money and left as soon as he had accomplished his work. He had a policy of not knowing WHAT might have been in there. He didn't want to know and as long as he got his fee he was happy. A darned good locksmith! Reminds me of Lucy and Ricky when they got the hand-cuffs of Fred Mertz locked together; they were supposed to be old trick vaudeville ones; sure but they had been made during the Civil War and in typical Lucy/Desi fashion they were undone but only after Ricky had a very important singing act at his nightclub. Lucy's hand held the microphone and mopped Ricky's sweaty brow.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 19
Poster: Mick Seretny
Date: 9 August 2006 4:56 AM

Hi Charlie:
Yes, and thanks for asking. Joe & Virginia were my mom & dad.
Joe died 12/18/95
And my mom passed away on 05/06/00.
btw..where do you live in Ca.?

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 20
Poster: William Brainard
Date: 9 August 2006 7:25 PM

Wasn't your mother on the radio?

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 21
Poster: r d
Date: 10 August 2006 8:33 AM

You are right William. If my memory serves me Virginia Seretny also owned a package store on Main St next to the Finast parking lot across from the Capital theater. Also, she hosted a radio program on Sunday mornings with all Polish music.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 22
Poster: Mick Seretny
Date: 10 August 2006 8:56 AM

Yes..my mom Virginia Seretny was a DJ for WILI from 1961 until she passed away in May 2000. Theres a tribute page for her in the WILI website.
My Dad, Joe, owned a liqour store which was located at 945 Main St. It was next to Max Hellers Law office, and old Joe Mazzola's Market..directly across from the Lonergan building.
Next to Max Hellers office was LaMorte News, owned by Lucy & Patsy Lamorte. Then there was the little Norwich Bulletin branch office for "Red" Currier.
That whole area is now a parking lot for the Post Office restaurant.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 23
Poster: William Brainard
Date: 10 August 2006 9:22 AM

Our cows always gave more milk when we had her on the radio Sunday mornings; they always calmed down with her voice. Brings to mind Sunday morning goodies from Mario's-- egg bread and their famous crumb cake. YUM! Virginia was a Willimantic gem!

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 24
Poster: Francis Sellars
Date: 10 August 2006 4:51 PM

Mick Seretny,
Your mother if I remember right collected fines from parking meter violators,at the Willimantic police Dept. Your father was a star basketball for Windham high # 8 was his number. The starting five for Windham in 1941 was John Petrus,Joe Serenty,Matt Dusza,Russ Barbero & Captain Bob Scranton. I have a good photo of the 1941 team under coach Tom Callaghan. Oh yes your MOM was on WILI every sunday morning with all her favorite polkas

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 25
Poster: Mick Seretny
Date: 10 August 2006 9:23 PM

Yes you're correct, Francis. My mom worked for the "Cop Shop", as she called it for many years. I don't remember how many. My dad graduated from WHS in 1942 and was an excellent basketball player in his day.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway
 Poster: Francis Sellars
 Date: 10 August 2006 9:53 PM

Posting 26

Mick,
 I believe there is only one player in Willimantic, left of that 1941 team. His name is Matt Dusza he lives at 117 Chestnut St. I think he is going to be 84 in Sept.
 They played all of their home games in the armory on pleasant St. That team won the state championship in 1941, beating Bristol 25 to 24 Johnny Petrus sank a foul shot with 15 seconds to play. In the new england tournament up in new hampshire bristol beat windham 37 to 34. The 1941 basketball team is the last and the only one that ever won a state title for Windham High.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway
 Poster: Mick Seretny
 Date: 12 August 2006 6:52 AM

Posting 27

If I remember correctly, Matt Duza was a postman in Willimantic. I seem to recall him coming into my dads store first thing in the morning before he started his route, and downing a bottle of Coke in one slug!
 Unbelievable!

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway
 Poster: Francis Sellars
 Date: 12 August 2006 8:51 PM

Posting 28

Mick,
 Matt Dusza was not a mailman it was his brother Walt I believe. Matt worked at the Willi water dept. for many years.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway
 Poster: chas barrett
 Date: 12 August 2006 11:30 PM

Posting 29

Mike Seretny:

Yes, I am in Los Angeles, retired from NBC TV Network now since 1992, but working as a consultant for CBS right now.

Mike, I knew your dad very well when I was a reporter in Willimantic from 1964-1966 for The Hartford Times. Almost everyday I would stop in to see your pop at his spiritis shop...he was a marvelous source of news tips for me...he an selectmen pals Al Noel, etc., Bill Parent, and of course Demo Town Comittee Chairman Doc Blake etc. ...all good guys. I knew your mom too...a terrific lady.

My dad, Russ Barrett, ran The Capitol from 1943-1960. I grew up in Willimantic. Left there 40 years ago to seek "my fortune" down the road

Your dad was was one terrific person ...I shall always remember him and the help he gave me as a young 'cub' reporter.

Charlie " Skipper" Barrett

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway
 Poster: Mick Seretny
 Date: 19 August 2006 4:50 AM

Posting 30

Thanks for those kind words about my dad, Charlie.
 I was only 10 or 11 when my dad owned the store, but I do recall the cast of characters that used to come in; many with great nicknames.

Johnny "Peek & Duck"
 Nick "The Stick"
 Louie "The Count"
 Messuer Morin
 Dana Potter
 Eddie "The Weasel" Dunham
 "Red" Currier
 "Slim" Gale
 Roger "The Dodger" Baker from WILI
 Jim "Ace" Duffy
 Pete "The Cowboy" Pekarovic
 Johnny "Down In The Hole"

Thats all I can remember right now, though I'm sure theres at LEAST a dozen more I can't recall.

I also remember Steve Rechner(sp?) a photographer from the Courant and Liz Callahan. And Charlie Francis from the Social Security office in the Lonergan Building. And I well remember "old" Joe Mazzola who owned the market next door. He used to let me and my brothers have a peach or 2 if we brought some of the old fruit boxes out back and stacked them. Also Mary Mazzola (his daughter?) worked there and Mike ran an appliance shop next to the market. Very nice people..all of them.

I remember the blue popsicles they had for 5¢ !!

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 31
 Poster: William Brainard
 Date: 20 August 2006 11:23 AM

Does anyone remember Willimantic's oldest hippie, Phil Sykes? What a character; he worked for my mom at the farm back in the '50s and rented a room in the summer-kitchen of the house. We weren't to go into Mr. Sykes room and he was not a social creature. I know he developed an allergy to iodine and chlorine used to treat the cows udders prior to milking. So he whined he couldn't milk cows. Mother decided the best way to rid herself of Phil was to insult him and she did and he moved on. Forward to about 1963 and Phil rolls into the drive with a '46 Plymouth pedalling shoes. My dad told him to hit the road. I last saw poor Phil in the late '80s bumming around Main Street. Speaking of characters, who was the beanpole drink of water who used to wear a cowboy hat and lived at the Columbia Motel? He was a great walker and hung out at the coffee shops around the city. When I had my silver '73 Coupe DeVille, he'd often bow his cowboy hat to me when I passed him. He was around town for years and has since died I suppose. He also had a lazy eye and couldn't quite focus on you. He was a big man and lean at least six feet five. Also the old guy at Barkers who collected for Salvation Army and the gentleman who walked to New Wmtc. Cemetery daily to put flowers on his wife's grave. He was always dressed in his Sunday best from the 1940s.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 32
 Poster: John Boudreau
 Date: 20 August 2006 8:14 PM

Hey Mick ,

< Louie "The Count">

Louis Osso was an " acquaintance " of my Dad's ...He used to call our home sometimes ...Creepy guy ...Scarey looking dude too ...walking the Willi streets with a racing form in his back pocket and cigar in mouth .

"Jim "Ace" Duffy"

Was this the James Duffy who worked at WILI for a time ? He lived next door to us on Jackson Street . I remember my first year of Little League , there was a playoff game between my team Elks and the Medical Pharmacy for the second half championship of the southern division , and I pitched . Many of my best friends played for Medical , inc. Teddy Dumas . Well , Jamie (James Duffy) had a beautiful new bat that he said he would give to either Ted or I , depending on who won the game . Well , I threw a one hit shut out (and got a big write up in the Chronicle , the clipping of which I still have) and not only won the championship but also the bat . If roly poly Peter Juras had been able to field that ground ball to firstoh well ...

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 33
 Poster: Mick Seretny
 Date: 21 August 2006 6:47 AM

Yes, John, I believe Jim Duffy did live near you on Jackson St.
 Pete Juras..wow..I haven't heard that name in years. He had an older brother also. They lived over on Hayden St., and I think Pete's dad was a concrete form setter, or finisher..dont remember..
 I was just telling one of my nephews this past weekend that when we were in Little League, that Legion Field had a green, wooden fence around it and dugouts that were "real" dugouts.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 34
 Poster: John Boudreau
 Date: 21 August 2006 6:49 PM

Mick ,

A green fence with matching dugouts if memory serves . And that nice , big scoreboard in center field with the American flag flying from the top . Very nice concession stand as well with Hosmer Mountain soda , too . Ahhh , the memories

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 35
 Poster: chas barrett
 Date: 21 August 2006 11:29 PM

mike seretny & folks:

i knew jim duffy too...he was at WILI when i was a reporter in wmtc.for hartford times, 1964-66. jim worked for jim peterson, news director.

lasy i heard, jim was a lobbyist in working the state capitol in hartford.

chas

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 36
 Poster: John Boudreau
 Date: 22 August 2006 8:37 AM

I heard that about Jim being a lobbyist ...He had an older brother named Brian . Jim's (he was known as Jamie in my

neighborhood) father had a small market right next to our house at 195/197 Jackson that went out of business around 1960 . I recall his Dad inviting the local kids over there the last day of business . He gave us a bunch of free stuff like small containers of chocolate milk , candy , etc... We felt like we won the lottery ! Hehe ... I believe his Dad then went to work at that big hardware (?) store that was across from the A&P on the corner of Valley and Church (?) .

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 37
 Poster: r d
 Date: 22 August 2006 8:44 AM

That hardware store was the Willimantic Lumber & Coal Co. if I remember right.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 38
 Poster: Ernie Gesner
 Date: 22 August 2006 12:34 AM

RD Your mentioning the Willimantic Lumber and Coal Co. brings back memories. They sponsored me in the Soap Box Derby in about 1947. They bought me a new set of wheels and axles and all the lumber I would need to build the race car. I moved shortly after and never got to build it. I kept the wheels and axles for many years and gave them to my son out here in California when he was about 10 years old. He finally finished it but never entered a race with it.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 39
 Poster: r d
 Date: 22 August 2006 1:51 PM

Ernie--if you remember that on the opposite corners were the A&P store and Jack Roan's home appliances. When did you leave Willi and what took you to Calif--if that's not being too nosey?

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 40
 Poster: William Brainard
 Date: 22 August 2006 3:26 PM

Jack Roan's also sold tires at one time. We found an old slip that my grandmother had when she got retreads for her '32 Packard twin six. It was gunbarrel gray and nicknamed "Queen Mary". She drove that old Packard for almost 20 years selling it for \$300 in 1953 when she bought her last car, a '49 Caddy convertible.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 41
 Poster: Francis Sellars
 Date: 22 August 2006 4:23 PM

If I remember right,joe's keyway was in the old Ct. state motor vehicle dept. office. It was next to Lamort's news stand. The hartford courant office was upstairs in them days. I got my driver's license out od that office when I was sixteen.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 42
 Poster: Ernie Gesner
 Date: 22 August 2006 8:35 PM

RD, I was in class of 54 at Windham High School and left after my 2nd year I was in the CT State Guard under age at 15. Entered the USAF in 53 and got my GED. Ending up spending 3 1/2 years at Westover AFB in Chicopee Falls, MA. I didn't feel that there were that many opportunities in New England,so my wife and I came to southern California and have been here ever since.

Worked as a wholesale salesman of Bread,Wine, and Liquor for the next 11 years, Entered the Insurance business for the next 31 years, 6 years as an Agent and 25 years as a District Mgr. Along the way I was president of a Construction company and we built 3 tracts of 42 large prestigious homes here in Upland, CA. I am a private pilot and have made numerous flights back to Windham Airport. We also breed, raise, and race Harness and thoroughbred race horses from my trainers ranch in Northern California. I now manage our properties in CA and AZ.

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 43
 Poster: r d
 Date: 23 August 2006 8:45 AM

Wow Ernie!! Just proves that the US is the land of opportunity!

Posting: Re: Joe's Keyway Posting 44
 Poster: William Brainard
 Date: 23 August 2006 7:30 PM

Did you know the ex-mayor of Willimantic, Florence MacFarland? She flew across the country in 1954 and was a member of Amelia Earhart's "99 Club". Last I heard Florence was alive and well, chatting on the internet with her sister Caroline who is a young 90! Their sister Evelyn had the dancing school. Florence has to be close to 100 now. I saw Caroline at Big Y last year and she said Florence was doing fine except that her legs were bothering a bit. She still has the '62 Thunderbird she bought almost new in her garage but gave up driving several years ago.