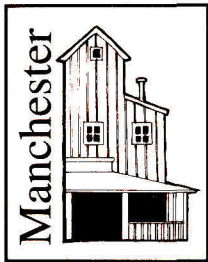


Soapy Candle Lady gets space

Homemade scents at Manchester Mill



When customers pick up Elizabeth Quigley's business card and see the name—**Soapy Candle Lady**—and the logo, an elegant

woman surrounded by bubbles in a claw-foot bathtub, they usually ask whether she makes candles out of soap. Nope, says Quigley. "If I could come up with a product like that, I'd make a fortune," she laughs.

Instead, Quigley makes soaps and candles separately, and she does both the old-fashioned way. Her scented bar and mold-ed soaps are made with lye, essential oils, and herbs like lavender, rosemary, thyme, and marjoram, which she grows herself. The candles are made of paraffin and soy wax and come in 110 different scents.

Quigley also makes her own bath salts, lip balm, and bubble bath. She's been selling all of it at trade shows since she retired from a career as a prison nurse. But starting this summer, she'll also be selling from a tiny office space at the top of the stairs inside the Manchester Mill. After the summer trade shows are over, she may

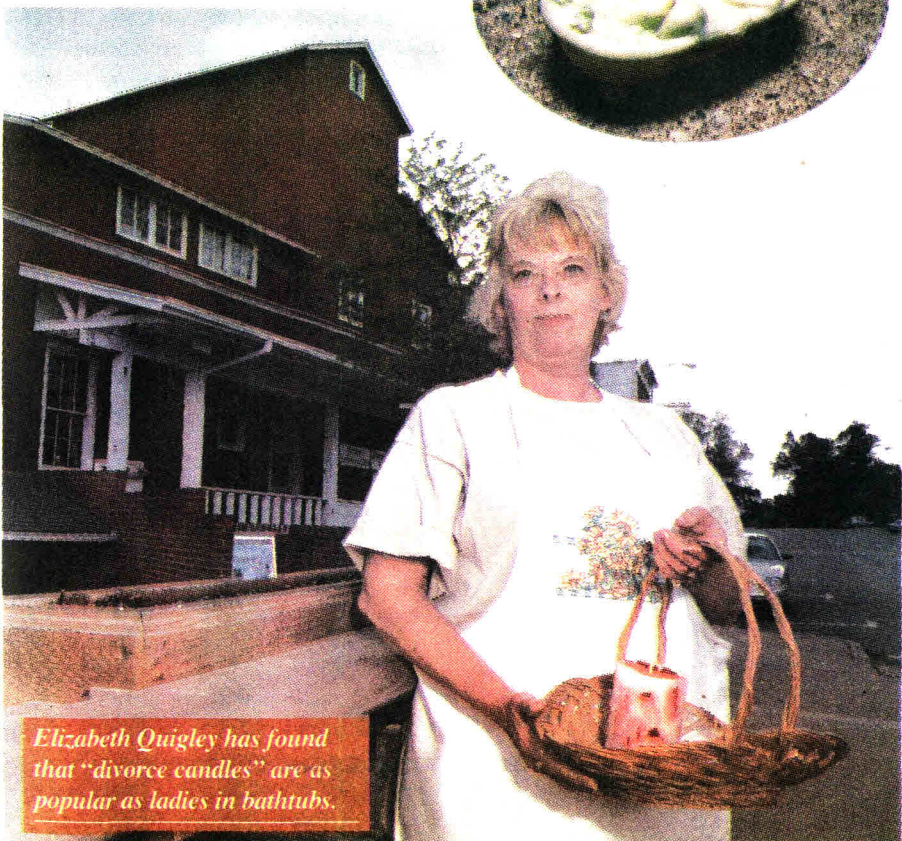
take over a larger, more accessible space at the front of the mill, where Suzanne's used to be.

Watching Quigley don a mask and rubber gloves to make lye soap in her lab is a little scary, but she says the soap itself is safe—and better for your skin than most commercial soaps in supermarkets. "The higher the pH, the more drying soap is to your skin," she explains. "My soap is around nine. Your commercial soaps out there are ten."

Quigley uses a number of handsome molds to form custom shapes and images. "I sell soap in New York, and I even send soap to Europe via a millionaire friend of mine that's been graciously giving me orders," she says proudly.

The candles are available in three-ounce votives and novelty shapes with scents, like cinnamon "buns" and coconut cream and lemon meringue "tarts." She also sells specially sized commemorative candles for births, weddings, anniversaries, and even divorces. "People bring me the original invitation or divorce decree or whatever, and they tell me the color and scent they want," Quigley says, noting that many of her recently divorced customers seem to favor a scent she calls "leather." "Those divorce candles are really popular with people who just aren't over it," she says. "They burn it down an inch a year."

Soapy Candle Lady, Manchester Mill, Suite 2A, Manchester, phone unavailable at press time. Probable hours: Fri.–Sun. 1–5 p.m., closed Mon.–Thurs.



Elizabeth Quigley has found that "divorce candles" are as popular as ladies in bathtubs.