

## Vivian Berthe (Firato) Ferguson (1925-2017)

We will miss Vivian Ferguson, founding member, officer, director, and life member of the Historical Society. Vivian cared deeply about Manchester and about preserving its history and charm. She worked to protect endangered properties and land, including the Great Lawn, Center Memorial Park, and the former Educational Square, now Bennet Academy. She served as Town Historian for many years. She was a gracious, elegant, statuesque, and generous person.

Column in the October 9, 1968  
*Manchester Evening Herald.*

### From Your Neighbor's Kitchen

When this column makes its usual Thursday appearance in tomorrow's Herald, it will have a new author, Mrs. Vivian F. Ferguson, 78 Forest St.

In the nine years it has been a feature in The Herald, the column has supplied its readers with keys to new adventures in eating, found in the kitchens of Manchester-area homemakers.

There have been two previous authors of the column. Marge Flynn was the first when the column appeared initially on Nov. 4, 1959; and Doris Belding, now Mrs. Rudolph Gorsch, whose closing recipe by her mother, Mrs. Charles Hastings, was in last Thursday's Herald.

Mrs. Ferguson is the wife of The Herald co-publisher, Thomas F. Ferguson, and is the mother of two daughters and a son. She has been active in many town civic affairs, and now is chairman of the Gift Shop at Manchester Memorial Hospital run by its Women's Auxiliary.

If you have a recipe you would like to share, Mrs. Ferguson invites you to send it to her at The Herald. It should include your name, address, and telephone number. Not all can be accepted, and none can be returned.

"We shall be looking for male chefs, teen-agers, and husband-wife teams," she said. "It doesn't have to be a complicated dish.



Vivian F. Ferguson

"Maybe you have included canned or frozen foods. What do you do with left-overs? Perhaps you have an exceptional punch or drink recipe. Do you make certain dishes for holidays, or for other special occasions?"

"With current emphasis on weight-watching, dietetic recipes should be of interest. We very much want family recipes that one does not ordinarily find in a cookbook, or a recipe you have changed to suit your own taste.

"Please share your recipes with your neighbors," Mrs. Ferguson said.

Horace Bushnell Cheney house, where Vivian and her husband raised their three children.



Horace Bushnell Cheney mansion, circa 1900.

*Manchester Evening Herald* cookbooks, compilations of the columns that appeared in the newspaper:



Available for sale at the History Center, 175 Pine St., Manchester, CT. 860-647-9983.

For Historical Society reprints, including an index of the "Neighbor's Kitchen" recipes, stories about *The Manchester Evening Herald*, see the [Reprints](#) web page of [www.manchesterhistory.org](http://www.manchesterhistory.org). Sample of some Herald articles:

<http://www.manchesterhistory.org/reprints/Herald6.28.1991.pdf>  
*Manchester Evening Herald* ceases publication on June 28, 1991.

<http://www.manchesterhistory.org/reprints/Newspapers1880s90s3.22.1967.pdf>  
Newspaper customs and clippings from the Manchester Herald and Hartford Courant in the 1880s and 1890s.

For upcoming events, vintage photos, and history tidbits, check out our Facebook page:  
Manchester Historical Society.

