

The Courier

NOVEMBER 2006

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Celebrate History for the Holidays

If you miss the chance to partake in the gala third-annual Festival of Wreaths on December 1, don't despair! The Historical Society is stocked and ready for the holidays with a number of new and fun gift ideas that commemorate Manchester's past and present.

Inspired by the recent success of the local cookbook *Manchester Cooks!*, the Society has now produced a sequel, *Manchester Cooks for Special Occasions*, which showcases recipes from appetizers to desserts, all created by local culinary aficionados. (See related story.)

Speaking of good eats, the Society also has available a new, Holiday 2006 Edition of *Forest Street Goodies*, featuring many new recipes by Town Historian Vivian Ferguson.

If text-messaging is ruining your eyes, then consider the old-fashioned art of handwritten notes in the Society's new set of notecards, which feature photographs of downtown Manchester from the 1960s.

Throw out those plastic shopping bags and stock up on the Society's sturdy canvas totes, in fashionable black with the Society's logo in proud display. The totes are suitable for quick trips to the market or lugging books.

Make your morning java extra special with the Society's coffee mugs emblazoned with scenes from the town's historic North End and other scenes.

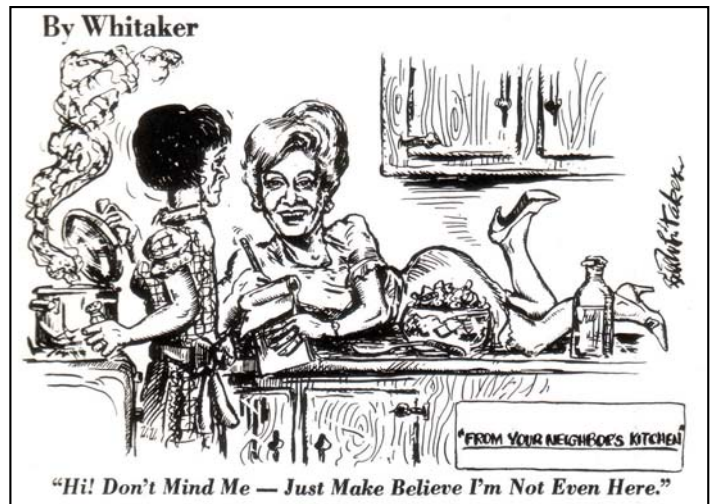
Also pay a visit to the Gift Boutique, which includes numerous fine collectibles.

Many other items are available for both the kids and adults. Visit the museum shop at the Manchester History Center at 175 Pine Street.

(See page 5 for more information.)

What's Cooking?

By Whitaker



A 1960s caricature of Vivian Ferguson from the *Manchester Herald* series "From Your Neighbor's Kitchen."

On Sunday, December 3, Town Historian Vivian Ferguson will help launch the publication of *Manchester Cooks for Special Occasions* with a talk that will recall her experiences as the former editor of the *Manchester Herald*'s "From Your Neighbor's Kitchen" series of cookbooks. The talk will take place at 1 p.m. at the History Center. The cost is \$1 for Society members and \$3 for non-members.

Director's Notes

By Mary Dunne, Executive Director

For the past three years, thanks mainly to the efforts of Board Director Susan Barlow, we have dramatically increased both the scope and frequency of our walking tours. Once limited to a yearly tour of the Cheney Brothers National Historic Landmark District, we are now out and about on a monthly basis, covering

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a broad geographic and chronological range including the North End's Union Village, the East Side, and further south to the historic Lakeview neighborhood. We've explored neighborhoods dating from the 1700s to the 1960s. We have also implemented "history hikes" for people who like to get a little more rigorous exercise with their heritage education.

Until the beginning of this fiscal year (which started October 1), we offered these tours free of charge to our members and for a \$2 charge to non-members. However, we recently made the decision to ask for \$1 from our members and \$3 from non-members. Why so little? Certainly not because we think we are not worthy of more. We are

proud of the variety of topics and the professional scholarship reflected by our programs. And when you consider the research and development that goes into producing a lecture or tour, the mailing and printing costs, plus the added cost of turning on the heat and lights and providing refreshments at lectures, we'd have to charge significantly more just to break even. But the purpose of our programs isn't to make money. It's our mission to educate the public about the history of Manchester.

We are asking for this modest bit of financial support to help us keep our commitment to bringing you quality lectures and walking tours and other programs while maintaining affordable membership dues. The Board regularly grapples with the issue of raising our membership rates, but we are committed to keeping them stable for the foreseeable future. We still charge well below what other organizations of similar size and scope charge. We rely on the generosity of our members who contribute to the annual fund, our grantors, and fundraising events to help fund operations and programs. We hope you will find the experience of attending one of our programs—whether you're exploring a new neighborhood, or learning something new about Manchester's past at a lecture—not only well worth the \$1, but also something for which you will gladly give a buck to ensure that we can keep doing our job.

Admission to our museum on Cedar Street and the History Center on Pine Street remains free for members, and we recently opened two exhibits. At the Old Manchester Museum we have installed an exhibit on the veterans of World War II. This has been an ongoing, interactive experience as many of Manchester's residents have loaned items and photographs to the exhibit and stopped in to

share stories of their experience during this era. This exhibit will be on display through May of 2007. At the History Center on Pine Street, we have installed an eight-panel exhibit on the history of the Manchester Road Race, including a focus on women runners and a tribute to Charley Robbins, a national champion who ran 50 consecutive Road Races, but who was probably best known for running the race barefoot. I hope to see as many members as possible at a lecture, tour or exhibit this year.

*

We welcome visitors at the History Center during office hours, so stop in to let us know what's on your mind. During the past year, we were involved in discussions to preserve a group of buildings on School Street, which included the former Hose Company No. 4 Firehouse at 19 School Street, the Boiler Plant at 39 School Street, and the former Trade School, known as the Cheney Building, at 41 School Street. While we sometimes felt we were lone voices in the wilderness, and in fact took more than a little heat from people who opposed our views, we were gratified by remarks after the fact from so many of our members who were glad the buildings were saved. These remarks offer us great encouragement as we move forward with our mission to advocate the preservation of Manchester's significant historic resources; however, our efforts in that regard carry a lot more weight when we are backed up by town residents who support our position during the process. So if you feel strongly about a particular building or neighborhood, please call us, stop in, let us know! A letter to our town directors or a few short words at a town meeting will go a long way to help our town leaders make decisions based on the desires of their constituents.

The Courier

*A newsletter of the
Manchester Historical Society*

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Progress Report on Restoring the History Center

By Robert Dunne

The Historical Society is making progress in restoring the Manchester History Center at 175 Pine Street into a multi-functional museum, rental space, and its permanent headquarters. The contents of the Old Manchester Museum, on Cedar Street, will be relocated to the History Center within the next few years, and the Society intends the History Center to be a major cultural hub for the town and the region. In the meantime, the Society is restoring the building to accommodate these needs. Here are some stories reporting on the building's restoration.

That's Not Vandalism Society Plans First Phase of Window Restoration in the History Center

Those who have driven or walked by the History Center at 175 Pine Street recently must have noticed that two windows by the entrance are boarded up. This is not due to vandalism but to preliminary efforts by Society President John Dormer and other volunteers to research how the many windows at the History Center may be best restored. The two windows will be reinstalled next month.



A lot of windows: Some of the 44 windows on the History Center that will be restored (above); one of the windows slated for restoration (right).

This recent work kicks off the Society's goal to restore 44 windows next year. The Board has decided, and Executive Director Mary Dunne is spearheading, an effort to restore the original windows, or in some cases, replace them with appropriate materials to preserve the historic integrity of the building.

To assist in the restoration, the Society has applied for a \$140,000 grant from the Historic Restoration Fund of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. If awarded the grant, the Society will have to match the Commission's funding. This will entail tapping into savings and—more importantly—generating donations from members and other sources. The restoration of the windows will certainly enhance the building's appearance; but it will also serve the very practical function of better insulating the building. It costs a lot to heat 40,000 square feet of space!

Keeping a Roof Over Our Heads

Spurred on by a \$200,000 Save America's Treasures federal grant, the Society is matching the grant with its own funds and through generous donations, with the goal of replacing the roof of the History Center next year. The current roof, over 30 years old, frequently leaks in bad weather, which has impeded the relocation of the Old Manchester Museum's holdings. Architectural specifications are due this month, and work should begin by spring of 2007.



Kitchen Comforts

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the H. Louise Ruddell Foundation, the Society has begun the process of installing a caterer's kitchen in the History Center. The total estimated cost is \$12,000. Having a professional kitchen will allow the Society to better host events and attract other organizations to hold their events at the History Center—both of which activities would either save or generate funds for the organization.

(See PROGRESS, page 4)

Let's Eat!

Manchester Cooks for Special Occasions, a sequel to the popular *Manchester Cooks!*, is now available at the History Center gift shop. With dozens of recipes by Manchester cooks for such traditional occasions as Thanksgiving, Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and Independence Day, the cookbook also encompasses dishes from finger foods to desserts for birthdays, the Manchester Road Race, and even Superbowl Sunday. Accompanying the recipes are photos and stories that accentuate the "special occasion" of each meal. This is a unique cookbook that will please meat-eaters as well as vegetarians. It not only includes delicious recipes but also situates them in the town of Manchester.

Highland Park History Hike

In a new version of a popular hike, we will examine the geology and pre-history of the Case Mountain area, as well as the story of Highland Springs, the water bottling plant, and the paper mills. The hike will be held on Saturday, December 2 at 1 p.m., starting at the corner of Glen Road and Spring Street, near exit 4 off Route 384. Guest speakers will include geology professor Christine Witkowski and tree expert Ed Richardson. Participants should wear sturdy shoes for this rugged 1.5-hour hike, which will be held rain or shine. The cost is \$1 for members, and \$3 for non-members. For more information, call 860-647-9983.

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Fàilte!



Society Executive Director Mary Dunne with Tommy Glenney and his book *A Glimpse of the Past*.

Society member Joan Kelsey was visited recently by her cousin Tommy Glenney and his wife Iona from Northern Ireland. Tommy has written a family history of the Glenney family of Northern Ireland and its ties to the U.S., covering a period from 1825 to 2005. The Society has a copy on reserve in its library; if you are interested in obtaining a copy, we can make inquiries.

Welcome, New Members!

The Society welcomes new members who joined between September 1 and November 15.

FROM MANCHESTER

Susan Allely
Evelyn Bannig
Melinda Carlson
Keith Carriere
Margaret Newton Chadburn
Matt Cieslowski
Nick Cucca
Raymond Daigle
Dr. Joseph Danyliw
Steve and Gail Dunnrowicz
Candace Eissa
Leigh Ferguson
David and Barbara Furst
Jill Gannicott
Marilyn Joslin
Cathy Kapa
John and Jean Kellogg
Krista Kennedy
Dennis and Mary Kerin
Marilyn Landon
Pauline Lautenbach
Nancy Lister
Julie McAuley
David Michl
Theresa Morris, Tim Woods and family
Cathy Phelps
Waunita Price
Kim Reegan
Claire Rossetto
Cinde Smith
Beatrice Snyder
Jane Walsh
Janice Wentman
Diane Snarski

FROM ELSEWHERE

Barbara Fry (South Windsor, CT)
Christa Sywenkyj (Wethersfield, CT)
Sara Robinson (Ormond by the Sea, FL)
Jane Darico (Bolton, CT)
MaryAnn Satryb (Tarpon Springs, FL)
Helen Hyland (Newington, CT)
Graham Clark (Queensland, Australia)
June and Roger Cottle (South Windsor, CT)

Give the Gift of History for the Holidays



We are pleased to offer several new items in our museum store, as well as old favorites. For your convenience, please make your selection on this order form and return it along with a check made out to the Manchester Historical Society (We also accept Visa and MasterCard). We will ship your order immediately. Let us know if you would like to save Postage and Handling by picking up your order. Call 860-647-9983 with any questions.

ITEM	PRICE	P/H
TOTE BAG Black with Historical Society logo	15.00	3.50
1960s NOTE CARDS 4 images, 8 cards and envelopes Featuring scenes from Main Street, Manchester in the 1960s	10.00	3.50
NEW: Manchester Cooks for Special Occasions Recipes for life's celebrations contributed by our friends and members	10.00	3.50
NEW: Forest Street Goodies Holiday 2006 Edition With additional recipes by Vivian F. Ferguson	15.00	3.50
Mugs: (includes box)		
North End	10.00	4.50
Old Manchester Museum	10.00	4.50
Cheney Homestead	10.00	4.50
Manchester, CT (featuring the dancing bear fountain)	10.00	4.50
NEW: Five Minutes to Curtain By Society member Fred Blish	16.95	3.50
NEW: Vet Haven and Related Tales Featuring Ted Cummings and Family. A fascinating history of Vet Haven, a unique community of houses created for Manchester's returning World War II veterans	3.00	1.00

Item	QTY	Amount	P/H
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Check enclosed _____

Charge my Visa MasterCard

Name _____ Card # _____

Address _____ Expiration Date _____

Mail your order to: Manchester Historical Society, 106 Hartford Rd., Manchester, CT 06040



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WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, admission to all lectures and walking tours is \$1 for Manchester Historical Society members and \$3 for non-members. Lectures are held at the Manchester History Center, 175 Pine Street.

December 1 Friday 6–8 p.m.	Third Annual Festival of Wreaths gala and silent auction Manchester History Center \$25 per person
December 2 Saturday 1 p.m.	Highland Park History Hike <i>(see related story, Pg. 4)</i> Led by Susan Barlow. Rain date Sunday, Dec. 3. Meet at Spring Street trailhead, off of Glen Street parking lot.
December 3 Sunday 1 p.m.	“Manchester Cooks for Special Occasions” <i>(see related story, Pg. 1)</i> Lecture by Vivian Ferguson
December 10 Sunday 1–4 p.m. FREE	Holiday Open House Cheney Homestead, 106 Hartford Road, decorated by Manchester Garden Old Manchester Museum, 126 Cedar Street, “A New England Christmas” Manchester History Center, refreshments, musical entertainment, & decorations.
January 1 Monday 1 p.m.	Hackmatack Street Walking Tour Led by Tanyss Ludescher. Meet at corner of Hackmatack and Prospect Streets
January 21 Monday 1 p.m.	Panel Discussion on the World War II experience Moderated by Susan Barlow with local veterans including Mike Nimirowski, John Robotto, Dorothy Olcott and Richard Witham
February 16 Friday	80th Anniversary of Garden Club Exhibit Opening reception Details to Follow
February 18 Sunday 1 p.m.	Lecture on Cheney Gardens With Mark Sutcliffe and Joan Kelsey We are actively seeking photos of Cheney gardens to borrow for this lecture.

We Will Miss...

The Society regrets the recent passing of several of its valued members.

Anna (Marcuccilli) Viscogliosi passed away in September. A Vernon resident, Anna was a generous supporter of the Society and an active defender of preserving Manchester’s architectural treasures.

Life-long Manchester resident **Edward Hachadourian** passed away in September. An Air Force veteran and former Town Director, Ed made valuable contributions to improving the town’s quality of life. His wife, Judy, remains an active volunteer for the Society.

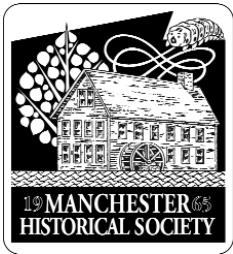
A Manchester resident since 1941, **Norma A. Dupuis** passed away in October. The Society will

fondly remember Norma as a dedicated volunteer ready to help at a moment’s notice.

A Charter member of the Society, **Catherine (Fraher) Fogarty** passed away in October at the age of 96. Catherine was active in many town civic organizations, including the Society.

Manchester native **George Marlow** passed away in October at the age of 92. Harvard educated and a decorated Army veteran of World War II, George was best known for his family business, Marlow’s Department Store, which was a landmark business on Main Street for over 75 years. He kept the store in operation until his retirement, in 2002. His wife, Lillian, remains a generous member of the Society.

The Historical Society as well as the town will miss these special individuals.



The Manchester Historical Society
 106 Hartford Road
 Manchester, Connecticut 06040

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- Family (\$25) Contributing Family (\$75)
- Life (\$250) Life Couple (\$400)
- Student (\$5) (age 18 and under)

Make checks payable to: *Manchester Historical Society*

Mail to: *Manchester Historical Society*
 106 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040

Hail Volunteers!



Executive Director Mary Dunne and President John Dormer flank Volunteer of the Year Monica Katkavich (left) and new Honorary Member Florence Johnson, at last month's annual meeting. Also honored, as Ambassador of the Year, was Board Director Susan Barlow. Congratulations!