

Bernie Fitchett, Woman of the Year 1975

Honored at the 50th Anniversary of AAUW in 1975

From the program of the celebration of this anniversary:

Mrs. Fitchett has a BA degree in Home Economics from Cornell University, and served a one-year apprenticeship with the National Restaurant Association. She has been actively involved in promoting the role of homemaker and the art of homemaking since she married Ed Fitchett and moved to Poughkeepsie.

Mrs. Fitchett has published a book, Bernie Fitchett's Hudson Valley Recipe Book and Regional Commentary. Soon to be released is her new book on Bicentennial cooking.

Her husband is President of Fitchett Bros. Dairy and they have 3 sons.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. -- Bernice Henry Fitchett, 86, died at Vassar Brothers Medical Center on Dec. 31, 2007.

She was born Aug. 18, 1921, to Walter D. and Hilda Agle Henry in Eden, N.Y. She attended Hamburg High School, graduated from Cornell University Class of 1943, and the National Apprenticeship at Greenfield Restaurants in Detroit. She was a dietitian there and later served as an agent for the Buffalo City Extension service until she married Edwin E. Fitchett on Oct. 11, 1947.

Following her marriage she worked in public relations for Fitchett Bros. Dairy by publishing recipes in the Poughkeepsie Journal incorporating dairy products. These recipes became known as "Bernie Fitchett Suggests É"

In 1975 she served on the Colonial Lifestyle Committee for the Dutchess County Bicentennial representing Colonial cooking. She authored several cookbooks including "The Bernie Fitchett Hudson Valley Recipe Book", "Recipes of '76", "The Children's Home Cookbook" as well as personal family cookbooks.

Earlier she was a den mother for Cub Scout Troop 18 at Violet Avenue School and served several years on the PTA. She was a member of the Fairview Home Bureau for a number of years. She also organized many dinners at the First Baptist Church and helped give leadership to numerous Christmas pageants. Later she was on the executive committee for the Dutchess County Genealogical Society. She was also involved with the Antique Study Club and was very interested in gardening.

Mrs. Fitchett served for nine years on the board of directors for the Children's Home in Poughkeepsie including three years as president. She also served as vice president in charge of buildings and grounds,

chairman of publicity, and had responsibilities for staff and food service.

She will be remembered for her cheerful disposition, her devotion to her family, generosity of spirit and interest in all people, as well as her love of cooking and her amazing flower gardens.