

Photography pioneer is celebrated in film

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Berenice Abbott never decided to be a photographer.

She once said she just happened to fall into it. Abbott, born in Springfield in 1898, had a prolific photographic career.

The Heritage Center of Clark County, 117 S. Fountain Ave., will show a film about the life and times of Berenice Abbott at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The film, "Creative Muses - Women in the Arts," will be screened in the Crabill Discovery Hall.

Abbott embarked on her 60-year career at a time when photography was not considered a serious art form and women were not regarded as serious artists, said **Virginia Weygandt**, senior curator of collections for the Clark County Historical Society.

Biographical information provided by **Weygandt** states that Abbott authored several books, invented photographic equipment, such as the distortion easel and the telescopic lighting pole, and received several honorary degrees.

She established a successful portrait studio in Paris in the 1920s and spent 10 years completing a photo documentation of New York City in the 1930s.

In the 1940s and 1950s, she focused her work on science to show scientists that photography was "the medium preeminently qualified to unite art with science ..."

Another large project was a photo essay of U.S. Route 1 from Maine to Florida, resulting in more than 2,500 negatives.

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