



Photo: Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

Ruth Chin

Muncie, Delaware County

May 10 –

Born May 10, 1924, in Chicago, Ruth Chin grew up in Muncie, Indiana, where her parents owned the only Chinese restaurant in town. She began taking pictures at age 8 when her dad loaned her his camera for a Girl Scout project.

Bilingual from birth, Chin majored in art and minored in English at MacMurray College for Women in Jackson, Illinois. Though art was her first love, Chin became a pioneering Chinese-American photojournalist whose career began in 1946 at her hometown newspaper, Muncie Star, at a time when few newspapers had female staff photographers. She also became the first female photographer to cover the Indiana High School State Basketball Championship in Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. In 1951, she was the first female photographer to win the Bushemi Award, Indiana's top news photography award, given by *The Associated Press of Indiana*. In 1954, after seven years at the newspaper, she decided to open her own studio, Ruth Chin Photography, in downtown Muncie, which is now in her home. She continued writing a weekly column called "Positives and Negatives" for the *Muncie Star* for more than 30 years.

In the 1960s, Ruth was singled out by the U.S. State Department for a feature in an agency magazine circulated in China depicting the lifestyle of a successful Chinese-American. In 1996, she was profiled for an article in *The Indianapolis Star* by reporter Janet Schneider, and interviewed on a segment of "Across Indiana" on public television station WFYI-20. In 2001, she was included in a calendar of Indiana's Trailblazing Women, endorsed by the Indiana Secretary of State.

In 2014, Ruth Chin was inducted in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

- For more information about Ruth Chin, go to: <http://mediaschool.indiana.edu/ijhf/chin-ruth>.
- For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

Additional and more detailed references available at the end of Women's History Month

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