

## **Fitchburg's Finnish Photographer Film Featured February 4, 2017, Saima Park**

*Fitchburg, Massachusetts – January 14, 2017* - **George Bergroth:Fitchburg Finnish Photographer** is an hour long television documentary focusing on the life and portraits of George Bergroth. This program was produced, directed, and edited by Judith Lindstedt of Fitchburg, Massachusetts through a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant provided by the Fitchburg Cultural Council.

The film showcases the dynamic talents and inspirational photography of Fitchburg photographer George Bergroth starting with his familial home background in Tampere, Finland and through war footage of the Winter War taken by Bergroth on one of his many visits to the homeland. One year in the making, the production also spotlights vintage footage of the culture of the Finnish people through his films and portraits. Bergroth was instrumental in documenting activities of Saima Park as well as filming comprehensive footage of The Raivaaja (The Pioneer) newspaper offices and the importance of cooperatives. The film is further enhanced by footage of the 1938 hurricane and the building of his home on Ashby State Road.

The Amateur Cinema League (ACL) was founded in New York City in 1926. The national organization offered Bergroth the opportunity to connect and share his work and he did much to promote the art of home-made films. The same year at the age of 34 he opened his own business, Bergroth Studio, on Main Street in Fitchburg becoming the class photographer for the "Red & Gray" high school yearbook. It was an important event to visit the Bergroth Studio. He knew families from births, marriages, reunions, and events throughout the life cycle. After 40 years of photographing lives in Fitchburg's community, he retired to Florida and at the age of 93 died in West Palm Beach. He is buried with his wife Mandi and his three children at Forest Hill Cemetery. He was greatly beloved in the Finnish community for all his fine, personal and professional work.

Producer/Director/Editor Judith Lindstedt is an independent producer of a weekly magazine type program called "An Uncommon View" for local television. Executive Director Carl Piermarini and Archive Preservationist Jack Celli of Leominster.tv Center for Archival Media Preservation provided transfer of original footage.

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