

**Obituary: Staten Island Advance, Wednesday, 31 Oct 1973:**

**Miss Mabel Abbott, 99,  
pioneer woman journalist**

Miss Mabel Abbott -- the former Staten Island resident who reported on the first presidential campaign in which women had the vote -- died last Wednesday in the Joseph Priestly House, a Unitarian residence in Germantown, Pa., after an illness of several weeks. She was 99.

Miss Abbott became the first woman to cover a national election when she barnstormed with James M. Cox, the Democrat who lost to Warren G. Harding in 1920. That was the first year women had the vote.

Another first for Miss Abbott came several years later when she became the first woman to talk officially on the two-way wireless to England. She recalled years afterward that an Associated Press reporter had chivalrously allowed her to speak before him when the line was opened.

Miss Abbott was already a well known newspaperwoman when she settled in New Dorp in 1925. She worked for the New York Morning World until it folded in 1929.

Then she became a free-lance magazine writer, using stories she remembered from her newspaper days as the basis for detective fiction.

A new career opened for Miss Abbott in 1946, when she became librarian and curator for the Staten Island Museum, St. George. Even after she retired in 1958 -- at the age of 84 -- she continued to write articles for the museum's bulletin.

Miss Abbott was born in Iowa and took her first newspaper job in Seattle in 1913 as one of the pioneer women journalists. Covering every beat from sob stories to labor unions, she worked for the Tacoma Times, Chicago Herald, Chicago Daily News, Detroit News and Wichita Beacon.

She covered the 1920 presidential race for the Newspaper Enterprise Association -- a syndicate serving 400 papers in the United States and Canada. She later covered three presidential nominating conventions.

Miss Abbott worked for the Morning World when she talked over the wireless hookup to England -- and, as she recalled later, discussed the impact of Prohibition on American society.

After the World ceased publication, she worked for several years for a genealogy firm in Manhattan.

Miss Abbott was also a music lover who had played the piano since the age of 11 and had a special fondness for the music of Bach. She kept a baby grand piano in her New Dorp home.

She also found time to participate in the St. Cecilia, the Belles Lettres Society, the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences and the Unitarian Church, New Brighton.

When she worked for the museum, her combined office and library was the high-ceilinged room in the Davis House on Stuyvesant Pl., St. George. Her old friend and the subject of her biography -- William T. Davis -- lived in the house until his death in 1945.

Her own home was decorated with furniture which she remodeled and rugs which she made. She resided at the Germantown home since leaving the Island in 1965.

Miss Abbott had been bed-ridden since she injured her hip in a fall several years ago.

There are no survivors.