

# Rache Carson Seen Spark Pesticides Controversy

By **BERNARD GAVZER**  
**NEW YORK (AP)**—It is a furious argument. Yet it is not one people talk about all the time. Not in the way they were in the last Thanksgiving in 1959 about polio, U.S. or a rabid ferret. Or about thalidomide last year. It concerns the killer chemicals.

Stripped of side issues and quibbling over minor points, it comes down to this: Is the poison used in pesticides causing irreparable harm to the insignificant percentage of the great benefits it brings? There is hardly any argument that every American has some DDT or other related poison on his body. These are the wonder chemicals—all born in the last 20 years—used to kill the pests that compete with man for food and there and carry plagues that have killed millions.

## DEBATE WIDENS

Once, not long ago, the use of these pesticides was a question that fretted special groups. Now it is a question being argued with vigor in legislatures, societies of civic groups, councils of great industries, precincts of scientific forums, in special-interest journals and newspaper columns.

Why? Rachel Carson. She is the trained biologist who was a fairly obscure editor with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until she wrote *The Sea Around Us* in 1951 and vaulted to international prominence. It was followed by another highly praised work, *The Edge of the Sea*. She received awards and honors. Critics applauded her talent for writing and her science with great beauty and precision.

To some people she is Joan of Arc incarnate, called to battle with government agencies grown cynical with authority and industry hucksters whose only reverence is for the almighty dollar.

To others, she is an ambitious, sensation-seeking, scientifically unqualified muckraker spreading fear and ignorance in a bid for power and riches.

## BOOK CAUSES FUROR

But Rachel Carson alone has turned the use of pesticides into a major issue. She did it with her book *Silent Spring*, a work which Justice William O. Douglas of the U.S. Supreme Court has described as "the most important chronicle of this century for the human race."

It begins with the description of an imaginary town. It portrays the town at a season such as we have now—a burgeoning spring—that is eerily silent because of the poisons which have killed off birds and animals.

Then it makes an indictment, naming the major culprits as the basic agricultural chemicals industry and the U.S. department of agriculture.

This is an era, Miss Carson writes, "dominated by industry, in which the right to make a dollar at whatever cost is seldom challenged."

"The decision (to use poisons) is that of the authoritarian temporarily entrusted with power; he has made it during a moment of inattention by millions to whom reality and the ordered world of nature still have a meaning that is deep and imperative."

## ALTERNATIVE WORSE

The answers from the industry and government agencies have taken many forms but there is one theme that is drummed home in each case: Without pesticides there would be pestilence.

Miss Carson, this is no answer. She insists her indictment stands.

There are five major counts in Miss Carson's indictment: (1) The poisons threaten the future of man; (2) Wildlife is wantonly being destroyed; (3) We are using poisons about

## EAST BALTIC

Leith Robertson, Red Point is spending some time with friends in Saint John.

John McKie, Howe Bay has been ill at his home for some time, and was recently taken to the P.E.I. Hospital by ambulance. The latest report is that he is now making a good recovery.

Mrs. Elizabeth Robertson, Sours spent a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Robertson, Kingsboro.

Mr. and Mrs. L.G. Robertson and two children, Kingsboro spent a recent weekend with Mrs. Robertson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. Toombs, Rustico.

Mr. and Mrs. Preston Bryerton who were recently married in Boston, Mass. are taking up residence in Red Point. Mrs. Bryerton who is the former Mrs. Mabel Bruce, Red Point and Mr. Bryerton will Bay received a cordial welcome in this district.

Mrs. Reggie Rose is not enjoying good health at the present time.

Lester Robertson, young son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Robertson, Kingsboro, has re-entered the Charlottetown Hospital, for further treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Kidson, Red Point were Sunday visitors to Howe Bay.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Young and family were recent visitors to Montague.

George Bruce returned to his home in Red Point having been on business to Toronto, Ont.

Quitting and mail hooking seems to be in order of the day around here this winter, and several beautiful quilts and mats have been completed by the ladies who gather at the homes for an evening of fun and get-together.

which we need to know much more; (4) The chemicals have been promoted with prime regard for profit; and (5) The U.S. agriculture department has acted cavalierly in some insect control programs, with poor regard for the rights of individuals.

## DDT STARTED IT

Perhaps none of the charges would have been made except for the discovery by a Swiss chemist in 1939 that dichloro-diphenyl-trichloro-ethane was a fantastic insect killer. It was colorless, odorless, and extremely small amounts of it could last a long time and kill many different kinds of insects. It was soon known the world over as DDT.

Until it appeared for wide spread use in 1942, there were six primary chemicals used in pesticides.

Now there are at least 211 primary killer chemicals. They are to be found in at least 45,000 different pesticide preparations.

"Pesticide" describes the whole family of lethal chemicals aimed at erasing all sorts of pests—insects (of which 10,000 of the 82,000 different kinds are harmful to man), enemy plants

and weeds, fungi, bacteria, rodents, viruses, fungi, bacteria. **PUBLIC TAKES RISKS**

Miss Carson says they have been used too freely—in everything from household bug bombs to crop dusting from aircraft—without any deep understanding of the threat to life and the future of man.

"There is still very limited awareness of the real nature of the threat," she says in explaining why she wrote *Silent Spring*.

"It is the public that is being asked to assume the risks that the insect controllers calculate. The public must decide whether it wishes to continue on the present road and if it can do so only when in full possession of the facts."

## TOOK THEIR FANCY

America's wild horses were used by Indians and cowboys alike. Cowpokes preferred "cow-ole dun" but the Indians liked greys and pinos.

Mr. Castonguay hopes he has the problem licked in at least 24 polling places this time. At his request, Canadian Penitentiaries Industries, agents for the workshops in Canadian penitentiaries, built him 24 polling booths modelled of those in use in Australian general elections.

F. L. Ley, Australia's chief electoral officer with whom Mr. Castonguay swaps ideas, sent Mr. Castonguay three photographs of the standard urban polling booth used in Australia. The prisoners took it from there.

The result was a five-foot high plywood voting L, hinged at the angle so it folds to a thickness of about three inches, with a fold-down desk at elbow height.

It can be rapidly set up with two easy motions and is easily stored.

## SCREENED - OFF AREA

They have manufactured 24 new polling booths which chief electoral officer Nelson Castonguay wants to test for a possible recommendation to Parliament that they be made standard across Canada.

The law requires a polling place be equipped with a screened-off area where the voter can mark his ballot in secrecy and fold it before handing it to the returning officer to be dropped into the ballot box. These screened-off areas in the thousands of polling places have been anything from a closet to a couple of shower curtains strung on a string in the corner of a room.

They have given Mr. Castonguay many headaches in the form of complaints that are quite secret but have not been maintained at the polling places—all requiring investigation.

# 24 New Voting Booths Set For Monday Test

By **KEN KELLY**  
**OTTAWA (CP)**—Prisoners have no vote in federal elections but those at Kingston, Ont., and St. Vincent de Paul, Que., penitentiaries will participate in a unique way in next Monday's voting.

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16 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Thurs., Apr. 1961

"Vote Angus and Heath, and win with Dieff"

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<b>Irish Stew</b> 4 FOR	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>Picnics</b>	<b>1.39</b>
<b>CHUM</b>	15 OZ. TIN	<b>YORK ASS'TED MEAT</b>	3 OZ. TIN
<b>Dog Food</b> 5 FOR	<b>49c</b>	<b>Spreads</b> 4 FOR	<b>59c</b>
<b>LUNCHEON MEAT</b>	12 OZ. TIN	<b>YORK WHOLE</b>	52 OZ. TIN
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