



# Rachel Carson: Chronology of Events Leading to the Writing of Silent Spring

## Author(s)

Caroline Whitbeck

## Description

The chronology of events leading up to the writing of 'Silent Spring' by Rachel Carson.

## Body

### 1945

- July 15 -- Wrote letter to *Reader's Digest* proposing an article about DDT's effects on nature. Letter rejected.

### 1957

- Adopted her grandnephew, Roger Christie, after the death of his mother.

### May 1957

- Long Island case in which counties were suing to stop the government from spraying their land.

### 1958

- January -- Olga Huckins wrote a letter to Carson describing the detrimental effects of pesticides on her bird sanctuary.
- Stopped *Reader's Digest* from publishing pesticide article about beneficial aerial spraying.
- February 7 -- E.B. White suggested she write the magazine article about the Long Island case.
- February -- Decided to write a magazine article, possibly a brief book.
- December -- Mother died.

## 1959

- Hired Jeanne Davis as an assistant.

## 1960

- Spring -- Learned she had malignant cancer.

## 1962

- June 16 -- *New Yorker* publishes first of series of excerpts from *Silent Spring*.
- Fall -- *Silent Spring* published.

## Rights

Use of Materials on the OEC

## Resource Type

Case Study / Scenario