

Rachel Louise Carson

Biography



Photo courtesy of Brooks Studio, 1950

Born: May 27, 1907, Springdale, PA¹

Died: April 14, 1964, in Silver Spring, Maryland from breast cancer

Family: Youngest of three siblings, never married, survived by an adopted son, Roger Christie²

Education:

- 1929: PA College for Women (now Chatham College), Pittsburgh
- 1932: Masters, Zoology, Johns Hopkins University

Career:

- 1936: First woman to take & pass the civil service test. Hired by U.S. Bureau of Fisheries to write radio scripts. Supplemented her income by writing articles on natural history for the Baltimore Sun.²
- 1949: Editor-in-Chief, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- 1952: Resigned from government service to write full-time.
- 1963: Testified before Congress – called for new policies to protect human health & the environment.

Bibliography: Rachel Carson wrote four books, all still in print.

- *Silent Spring* (1962): Her most well-known book, challenges the practices of agricultural scientists & the government. Its findings inspired an environmental consciousness movement, influenced the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970, & resulted in the banning of DDT as an insecticide in the U.S. & many other countries.³
- Additionally, she wrote *Under the Sea Wind* (1941), *The Sea Around Us* (1951), *The Edge of the Sea* (1955), & *The Sense of Wonder* (published after her death, 1965).⁴

Visit Rachel Carson's childhood home! For directions & more information, explore: www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org.

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Photo Credit: Laura McElwee



University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute

Center for Environmental Oncology

www.preventingcancernow.org

References:

1. www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org
2. Lear, Linda. 1996-2007, www.rachelcarson.org
3. www.chatham.edu/RCI/aboutrc.html
4. www.sjsu.edu/depts/Museum/cars.html