

Personal Interview with Mark Munger

Why was DDT so popular?

DDT was considered a savior for many people. It killed a lot of different diseases. It put a lot more food on the table than before. It was very powerful and it worked it killed a lot bad things. We later learned it killed a lot of good things too.

Can you tell me about the public's reaction.

The public's reaction was a very divided from what I understood. I take this from my family's reaction. Many people stayed with the status quo that this was really bad. Then there was a group of people who saw the detrimental effects. It was my first encounter with a divisive environmental issue.

Tell me about your own reaction to "Silent Spring"

For me it was the first time I witnessed someone. I was about junior high age and it was my first awareness of environmental issues. I think Rachel Carson really got the ball moving on the environmental movement. My father worked for the pesticide industry. He attacked carson and her book. He was a trained scientist and often question the science behind the book. At the time I didn't feel that there was a clear cut answer. I can distinctly remember him making the comments that we wouldn't be able to feed the world without pesticides and to some extent he was right. He even pointed to our own dinner table and said we wouldn't have this food because A. I wouldn't have a job. B. There wouldn't be enough for us all with out pesticides.

How do you feel about Carson's book "Silent Spring."

I'm very thankful for rachel Carson's work. She really got the ball rolling for the environmental movement. She made people question the information they were receiving. I believe her work is more relevant than ever today.