

In Legal Fight On Pollution

By FRANK MOONEY

In a battle that has him pitted against the nation's largest manufacturers of pesticides and insecticides, a 36-year-old Patchogue attorney is engaged in a David-and-Goliath encounter in which he is depending on only one stone—Blackstone.

He is Victor J. Yannacone Jr., whose interest in the legal aspects of ecology predates by one year the publication of Rachel Carson's action-provoking "Silent Spring."

Yannacone is now defending Huntington Township's ban on certain pesticides and insecti-



The late Rachel Carson in 1963 is urging a curb on sales of chemical pesticides.

cides, an ordinance that he authored, but it was in 1961 that he launched himself along ecological lines with a force that has catapulted him into the position of one of the nation's authorities on environmental law.

Marine Laboratory

The 1961 venture was an action that led to the defeat of a build-

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mosquito agency to bar it from 1966, Yannacone obtained a temporary injunction, halting use of further using DDT. In August 1966 Yannacone obtained a temporary injunction, halting use of the chemical.

The case dragged on for more than a year. Finally, the court decided it was a legislative problem. Five months later, the Board of Supervisors voted in favor of the DDT ban, the first such decision in the nation.

1,400-Page Book

Since then, Yannacone has been active in many states of the nation, fighting DDT and other pesticides. He and a Virginia attorney, Bernard S. Cohen, recently completed a 1,400-page book, "Environmental Rights and Remedies," said to be the first of its kind in the world, and soon to go into its second printing in said.

He led the fight that stopped 2,000-page form, Yannacone the cross-Florida barge canal project.

The phrase, "environmental law," he explained, "was created in the Riverhead courtroom of Supreme Court Justice Jack Stanislaw, before whom the 1966 DDT case was tried."

The county attorney who fought Yannacone told the court he could find no references in the legal indexes relating to such an action, whereupon Stanislaw replied, "Look, I'm going out for a few minutes for coffee, why don't you look it up under 'environmental law'?"

Obscene Phone Calls

"Incidentally, during the course of that case," Yannacone declared, "not only did my family suffer considerable ridicule and even obscene phone calls, but I was opposed in court by the Mosquito Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and three state agencies, the Health Department, the Agriculture & Markets Department and the Agricultural

