

# IT HAPPENED ON LONG ISLAND

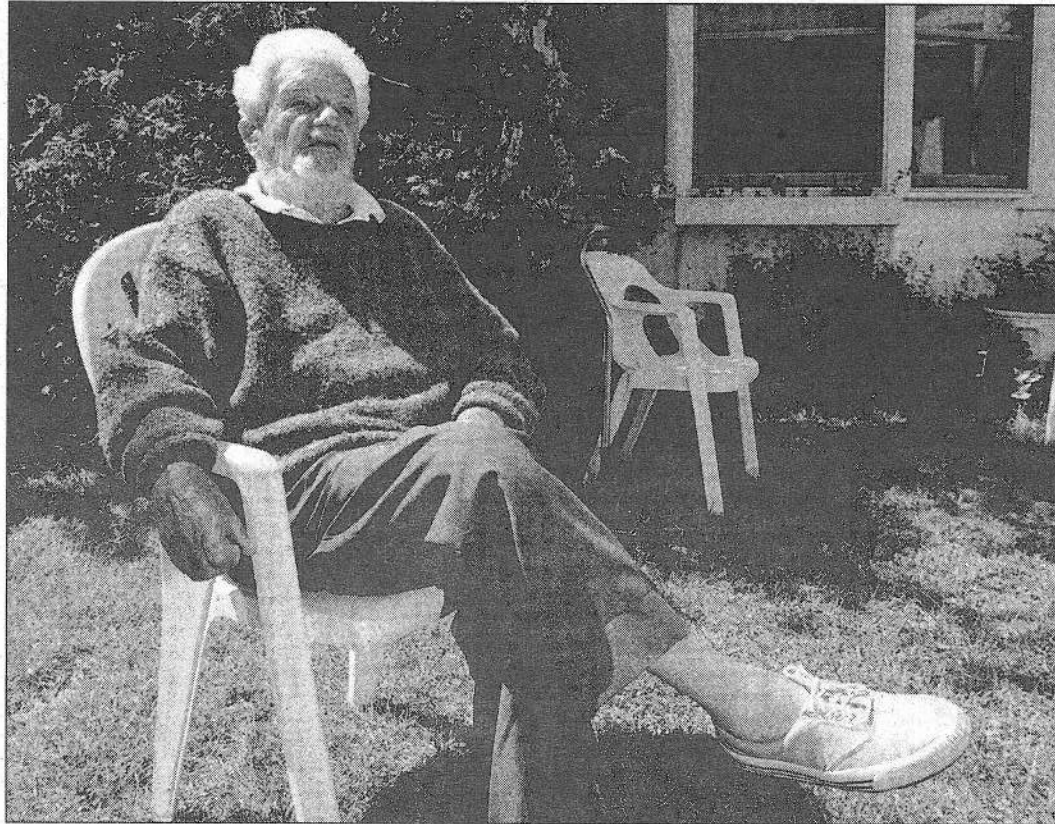


PHOTO: NEWSDAY

## 1967: Environmental Defense Fund Founded on Long Island

In the mid-1960s, Patchogue resident Carol Yannacone and her husband, attorney Victor J. Yannacone, sued Suffolk County over the use of the dangerous pesticide DDT. Rachel Carson had written about the dangers of DDT in her famous book, "Silent Spring." The lawsuit ultimately led to the ban of DDT in Suffolk County and eventually the entire nation. On October 10, 1967, a group of Long Island scientists who had testified in court about DDT's dangers incorporated an organization called the Environmental Defense Fund, with naturalist Dennis Puleston serving as founding chair. In 1977, it moved its headquarters from Setauket to Manhattan. Today, with 400,000 members, EDF is one of the nation's leading environmental advocacy group and works to find practical solutions to urgent environmental problems. Its accomplishments include putting hunted whales onto the U.S. endangered species list in 1970 and helping phase lead out of gasoline in 1985. Dennis Puleston is shown here in a 1998 photo. — Cynthia Blair

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