

Legacy Circle
April 7, 2016



Ralph MacMullan 1918-1972

Ralph MacMullan became the Conservation Director of the State in 1964,(later the DNR). This apparent easy going man had begun a quiet fight against the pesticide problem. Those that knew him, knew a different man. MacMullan was not afraid to speak out for what he thought was right, even at the risk of offending others or losing his job. As a friend once said he %Can be plenty tough when he needs to be.+

The Environmental Defense Fund got the support of MacMullan and the EDF filed a lawsuit to stop some local governmentsqin West Michigan to halt the spraying of DDT. While the lower court dismissed it, they took it to the Supreme Court. By this time it was too late to spray. Public pressure then caused the spraying of DDT to halt.

MacMullan fought hard to eliminate hard pesticides, even going against the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Using his bully pulpit, armed with the credibility earned by scientific training and experience, and unafraid of risking his job, MacMullan brought decisive clout to the anti-DDT battle.