

Retired Clergyman Offers Advice on 106th Birthday

By GERALD S. SNYDER
New York—(UPI)—His hand was trembling slightly and his legs were a bit unsteady. But his voice was firm. The Rev. Dr. Arthur Judson Brown, on the eve of his 106th birthday anniversary, said he had a Thanksgiving Day message.

The retired clergyman and author settled into an old high-backed chair in his Victorian style apartment on New York's Park avenue.

"I am a daily spectator of the television," he said slowly. "And I follow its descriptions of current events with mingled eagerness, anxiety and regret."

"Superficially, our country doesn't seem to have much to be thankful for in this time of international and national tumult and tragedy."

Was Appalled

"But I have often thought that when I was a boy in school, I was appalled by what my teachers told me of the huge beasts that once dominated the Earth, 25 or 30 tons, 40 feet in length."

"Later, I learned that they had disappeared and I wondered what other beasts had been called to exterminate them."

"I was told that no stronger beasts had appeared but that the climate had changed and they died."

"So it will be today."

Dr. Brown, a broad-shouldered man with bushy eyebrows and trim white beard, paused to collect his thoughts. "People often ask me about my longevity," he said, "and I can only reply that the only way I know to live is not to die."

No Second Trip

"For those who ask if I would like to live my life over again, I reply 'no.' When I recall my many narrow mistakes I wouldn't dare risk a second trip."

Dr. Brown, a Presbyterian, was born on Dec. 3, 1856, in Holliston, Mass. He was taught that if he wanted anything he could not afford, he should go without it; if he wanted the "good things of life" he should work for them; if he imagined the world owed him anything he would have trouble collecting, and that he should help others instead of expecting them to help him.

Dr. Brown's wife, Jennie, died when she was 86.

Three weeks ago, Dr. Brown signed up for a new private basic health and medical insurance plan.

On the question of medical care for the aged, Dr. Brown said: "Clearly, something should be done."

Essentials Increased

"This period of high cost of living is naturally hard on most elderly people. Their incomes were fixed on their retirement at 65 or more. But the price of food and other essentials have greatly increased while income remains static."

But Dr. Brown said he did not "feel competent" to discuss the relative merit of private plans or government programs, such as President Kennedy's proposals to link medical care for the elderly to social security.

Turning to his diet, he said "For some reason, the subject of what I eat is often raised by those who wonder how I keep going."

"Well, I have carefully heeded the advice of St. Paul to his friends in Corinth: 'Eat what is set before you and ask no questions,'" he said.

Heavy Fare

He quickly added that he's always been partial to new England corned beef, vegetables and mince pie. He acknowledged this may be heavy fare for a man his age. "But I am here and the dieticians are all dead," he said. "I was born before germs were discovered."

All things considered, said Dr. Brown, the world hasn't changed much in character. "Just because you can go



106TH ANNIVERSARY—The Rev. Arthur Judson Brown is shown in his New York apartment on eve of his 106th birthday anniversary. The retired clergyman was born in Holliston, Mass., Dec. 3, 1856. (UPI)

Oregon Supreme Court Decisions

Salem—(UPI)—The Oregon Supreme Court has unanimously affirmed the second degree murder conviction of Margaret Arnell Fischer, Oregon City, who shot her husband and got nine years in prison.

Her husband was shot in their home during a drinking spree. He threatened her with a gun, and she wrestled it from him.

In her appeal, Mrs. Fischer challenged proof of the corpus delicti as the basis for her conviction.

Said Right Inference

The decision, written by Justice Alfred T. Goodwin, said the evidence was such that the jury rightfully drew the inference that death was

not accidental or suicide. Clackamas county circuit Judge Ralph M. Holman was affirmed.

Other decisions: State vs. Eddie Coleman, appellant, appeal from Multnomah County; opinion by Justice William Perry; Judge J. J. Murchison affirmed; Coleman's conviction of assault with intent to kill in Portland affirmed.

Pearl L. Beard, appellant vs. Alfred J. Beard, cross-appellant; appeal from Umatilla County; opinion by Justice Goodwin; Judge William W. Wells affirmed; Degree granting the wife a settlement in a divorce action affirmed, including \$400 a month alimony and \$200 a month child support.

Oregon Willamette Lumber Corp., appellant vs. Lincoln County; appeal from Lincoln County; opinion by Justice Pro Tem Arno H. DeNecke; Judge Earl P. Conrad reversed; action to recover for the value of materials for repair of the county courthouse, new trial ordered.

Judge Affirmed.

Robert A. Heintz vs. Henry A. Sinner and Lydia Sinner, appellants; appeal from Multnomah County; opinion by Justice Pro Tem Arno H. DeNecke; Judge Virgil H. Langtry affirmed; suit for rescission of a timber sale contract and damages for breach of it, degree dismissing the suit affirmed.

BESTS TIGHT SITUATION

Nottingham, England—(UPI)—Dr. Ronald Springer, chief medical officer for Nottingham schools, said one teenage boy told him he wore his skin-tight jeans to bed at night. He said it was too much of a struggle to get them off.

FAKERS GET FINE

Glasgow, Scotland—(UPI)—Mrs. Margaret Lyon and Mrs. Pearl Hill were convicted Wednesday of collecting money for fake charities. They were sentenced to contribute \$2.80 each a week for three years to legitimate polio funds.

Miss Eleanor Brown, one of five children, smiled as she showed us out.

"I think he's a wonderful man," she said.

Part Played by Shrubby Plant To Be Studied at OSU

Corvallis—The part played by the shrubby plant, Ceanothus, in providing "growth supplement" help for Douglas fir and other trees will be studied by Oregon State university scientists during the next three years.

Ceanothus, though it is not a leguminous plant, has the same unique ability to "fix" atmospheric nitrogen in its root nodules as do leguminous plants—clover, alfalfa and soybeans.

The nitrogen fixation, in turn, speeds the growth of trees around the Ceanothus, Dr. C. T. Youngberg, forest soils scientist and project leader, explained.

Four or five species of Ceanothus are found growing in various sections of the state, particularly in the Cascade Mountain forests and in Central and Eastern Oregon.

Has Special Value

The shrub has special value in cut-over forests, according to Youngberg. The heat from slash burning causes Ceanothus seed to break dormancy and to grow. The small trees that are either planted or come from natural regeneration then benefit from the Ceanothus nitrogen fixation in the soil.

As the forest stand develops and the canopy closes, Ceanothus growth falls off, Youngberg said.

The new OSU study, supported by a \$15,000 grant from National Science Foundation, will include evaluation of Ceanothus fertility factors and identification of the organisms that take the nitrogen from the air and fix it in the Ceanothus root nodules.

Working with Youngberg on the project are Arthur G. Wollum, graduate assistant in forest soils, Dr. C. M. Gilmore and Dr. W. B. Bollen, department of microbiology will serve as advisers to the project. Bollen is heading up a project started last winter on red alder nitrogen fixation in the soil.

Panel Will Discuss Mental Health Topic

Dr. A. E. Merkel, Jackson county health officer, will be a member of a panel discussing "mental health services in your community" at a meeting sponsored by the Jackson County Mental Health association at 8 o'clock tonight at Rogue Valley hospital.

Also attending the meeting will be Charles F. Felke, Portland, executive director of the Mental Health Association of Oregon, according to Dewey Wilson, chairman of the local association.

Other panel members will include James M. Main, circuit court judge; Miss Ethel Shumway, of the family counseling and child guidance agency; the Rev. Fred Evans, First Christian church; and Don McLarrin, special education director, Ashland.

Panel members, as well as Felke, will be available for questions, Wilson said.

The discussion will include such matters as where local families can turn for help with problems of mental and emotional illness, what facilities are available, new trends in care and the broadening role of local communities.



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TRANSITION DISCUSSED—Outgoing state superintendent of public instruction Roy Simpson, left, greets incoming superintendent Max Rafferty as they meet in the capitol at Sacramento, Calif. Rafferty visited the capitol to discuss his transition into the post. (UPI)



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