

Old Age Theorizing Bad, Doctor Tells Conclave

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor
NEW YORK (UPI) — Science must stop being theoretical about the problems of old people and start being aware there is something fundamentally wrong in society's attitude toward the aged, a psychiatrist who has explored many old minds told a scientific meeting.

"True, we don't kill them any more as do some primitive tribes although it would be an act of mercy in some cases," said Dr. Jost A. M. Meerloo. "Neither do they have to obey the law of suicide as in other tribes."

"What are we doing in our society? We have a fetish which dominates our thinking — the glamor of youth. We hate the ap-

pearance of gray hair and wrinkles. A culture of glamor and success tolerates only rising success.

"That is why every suggestion of decline becomes so traumatic. This is true not only for old age but whenever no chance of a return to success is possible. Retirement for many is symbolic of the message, 'now you must die.' And many obey the verdict rather than die."

"Those who make the compulsive rules of retirement have forgotten that work is not only a means of earning a living but that it is part of a value system that keeps up man's self-esteem. It symbolizes man's value in the eyes of others, especially the sex partner. No work, no libido."

Meerloo has worked with the aged for years, first in Rotterdam, now in New York. He works with their minds and emotions, using the tools of psychotherapy, which include those of psychoanalysis. His patients are both private and clients of New York's Vanderbilt Clinic.

His oldest regular patients are 72, 73, 82 and 86. A medical student asked him "why we so ardently try to treat those aged patients who had no future," he said.

"I answered him that we do so because psychotherapy gives them back their past. For many a patient it is a stimulating experience to discover that his own past can be explored in the light of today's self-understanding and possibilities for new adjustment."

Science is piling up a vast literature on the problems of aging and the aged, but there's hardly anything in it about what doctors can do about them in a curative way, he said. Doctors are reluctant to work with the aged, he said, and usually this is because of their own unresolved relationships with their own parents and the general fear of growing old.

Yet psychotherapy can be successful in 50 per cent of senile cases, in his opinion, even when there is definite body damage due to aging, such as hardened arteries in the brain. The big trouble is that science prescribes the wrong geriatric rules which are followed up by social workers only. Science must be thoroughly realistic about the problems, since 25 per cent of the population now is over 50.

"It is no fun to grow old and to witness the breakdown of many of the body instruments and powers we have trained and built up during a life time," Meerloo said. "In an aggressive, competitive society, old age is looked on as a handicap. It is no fun to find oneself rejected and depressed and to be subjected to the same emotional traumatic difficulties we had to overcome in our infancy."

Meerloo's lecture is being circulated among its members by the Medical Society of the state of New York.

SCOUT NEWS

TROOP NEWS
WEED—Number 181 was assigned to the new Brownie troop under the leadership of Mrs. Claire Mulvany. Brownie pins were presented each member and were pinned upside down. On completion of a good deed at home the pins were to have been righted.

Patrol No. 3 of Girl Scout Troop 69 entertained patrols No. 1 and No. 2 with a spaghetti dinner at the home of Gail Tonkin. Mrs. Glenn Tonkin was hostess for the spaghetti dish and the patrol members furnished potluck salad as their achievement for a badge award. Members of patrol No. 3 include Sharon Beggs, Gail Tonkin, Becky Downey, Betty Lou Smith, Kathy Jackson and Lida Acquistapace.

Twenty three girls attended the birthday party of Troop 37 held at the Court Club. Barbara Hughes was a guest for the evening. A skit was presented as entertainment by each of the four patrols. Mrs. Vera Hays is the leader for this group of seventh grade Girl Scouts.

Two new girls were invested as members of Troop 102 at the one-year birthday party. They were Kathy Fornea and Mary Lou Lewis. One-year pins were presented to the remaining 15 troop members.

The new troop of third grade Brownies, not yet assigned a number, also invested two new members, Susan Tosi and Shirley Brunello. Twelve girls received one-year pins.

The two groups held a joint party - meeting and entertained with a dance by Troop 102 and a song by the other. Mrs. David Dawson is leader of Troop 102 and Mrs. Leonard Hines is leader of the new troop.

Refreshments were served from tables decorated with Girl Scout emblems and paper flowers. The Troop Committee, Mrs. Rose Guerra, Mrs. Margaret Glenn and Mrs. Joyce Alves, were hostesses for the afternoon event.

Fifteen members of Troop 44 Girl Scouts received two-year pins at a recent meeting and welcomed two new members, Judy Toms and Linda Arnold, with investiture ceremonies. Games were enjoyed following the afternoon ceremony.

The visiting mothers and troop members were served refreshments by the Troop Committee with Mrs. B. Moore, chairman, assisted by Mrs. Ercelle Mazzoni, Mrs. Dorothy Duch, and Mrs. Flora VanNatta. Mrs. Alice Mazzoni is leader of the troop with Mrs. Phyllis Catalano as assistant.

Brownies of Troop 82 made candied apples at their meeting before the Thanksgiving holiday and each took their Thanksgiving gift home following the session. Plans to begin their Christmas project were discussed. Mrs. Gino Sottano is leader of Troop 82.

NOT SO JOYFUL JOY-RIDE
BILOXI, Miss. (UPI) — Mrs. Anna B. Crapps of Seminole, Texas, is seeking \$25,000 damages from a bus company, claiming she suffered a nervous breakdown when the bus in which she was riding was taken on a joy-ride by an off-duty driver.

Byzantium, an ancient Greek city, occupied the most easterly of the Seven Hills of modern Istanbul.

SCOUT NEWS

Falcon Favors Frozen Foods
CAMPBELL, Calif. (AP) — Getting two large steaks from the refrigerator, Mrs. Robert D. Norton laid them on the kitchen counter as she prepared dinner Friday evening at her home.

As she turned away from the table the two-by-four foot window behind her was shattered.

A full-grown falcon stood with one claw embedded in a steak, tearing at it with his beak.

Mrs. Norton screamed. Her son, Don, 14, answered the call and tossed a blanket over the falcon (and the steak).

They took the bird to an animal shelter where an attendant discovered a metal band on its leg, indicating it was someone's hunting bird.

Nixon Top GOP Candidate, Says Ex-California Solon
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senate GOP leader William F. Knowland said Saturday he can't see how Vice President Richard M. Nixon can miss being California's choice for the GOP presidential nomination in 1960.

Busy packing for a return to private life, Knowland took time out for a farewell interview which produced these highlights:

—He should not be counted in any "stop-Nixon" movement.

—He thinks the rebuild-the-GOP plan spelled out by Nixon and 15 California Republican leaders Monday is a good program.

—California Republicans have a "great opportunity to rebuild from the grassroots" in the coming months because they have no statewide election contests in 1960 and can concentrate on legislative and congressional races. This year the GOP was shattered by its split over the gubernatorial and senatorial nominations.

—The absence of such a contest increases the likelihood of harmony in the state's presidential convention delegation.

—President Eisenhower, with whom he conferred Thursday, has long understood that Knowland has no interest in an appointive job and therefore has offered none.

The husky, 50-year-old legislator — defeated for California's governorship by Democrat Edmund G. Brown — was tanned and relaxed after a 16-day ocean voyage from California. He grinningly made it plain he has no plans other than to retackle his job as assistant publisher of the Oakland Tribune, the family owned newspaper.

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DISNEYLAND ADDITIONS
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Walt Disney plans a monorail system, submarines sailing under polar ice and bobsled rides down the Matterhorn as additions to Disneyland. The master of make-believe announced a five-million-dollar expansion program to be completed by next June.

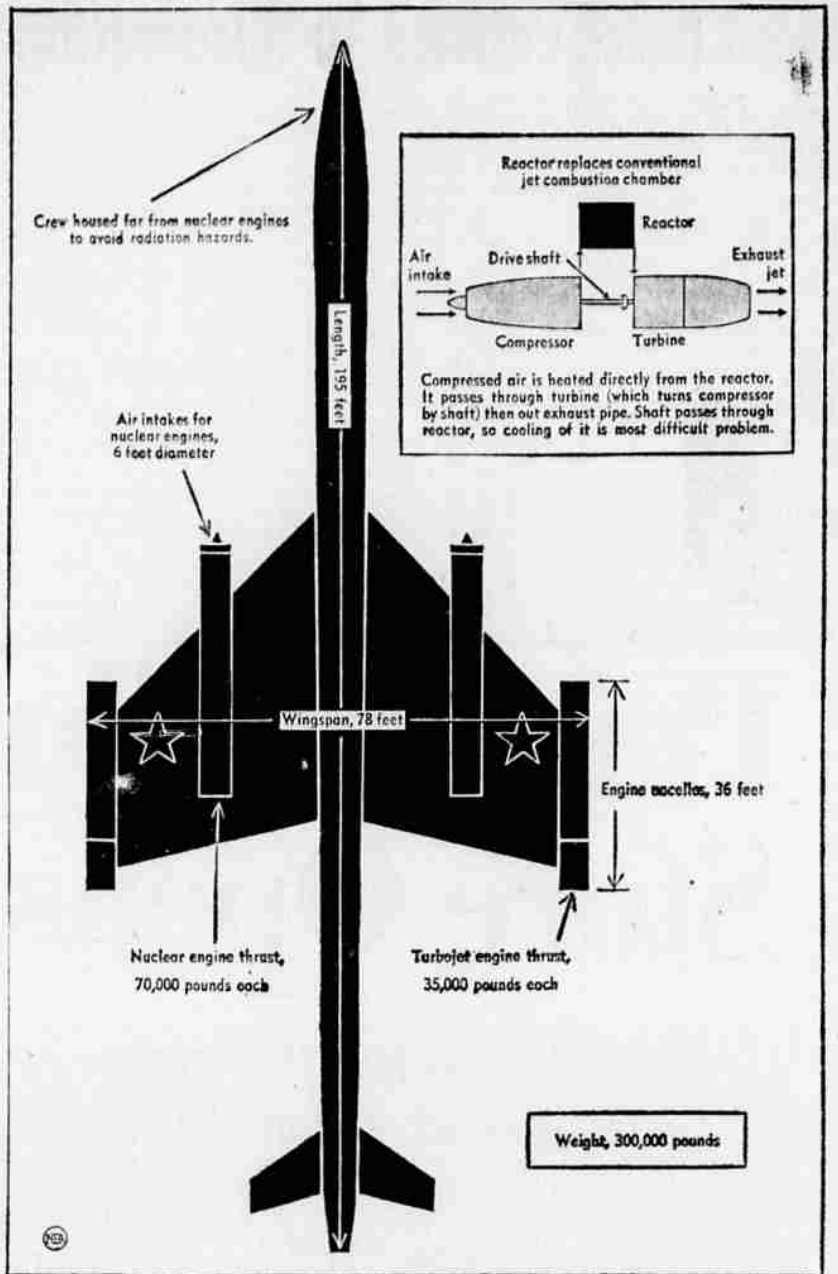
HISTORIC AREA
CHARLOTTETOWN, Canada (AP) — The Prince Edward Island Historical Society wants to turn Fort Amherst, overlooking the harbor here, into a national historic park. The old fort was settled by the French early in the 18th Century.

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A RED NUCLEAR BOMBER has been reported in Aviation Week magazine. The report states that the Russians have had a monster nuclear bomber in the air for the past two months. Diagram above gives pertinent dimensions of the plane which is reported to be almost 40 feet longer than the largest U.S. jet bomber, the B-52. There are two nuclear engines inboard, two conventional jet motors at the wingtips. The latter for safety only during the experimental flight stage. The magazine said that while the plane still is in early test stages, it could be developed into a fully operational military bomber capable of firing ballistic missiles at U.S. cities within two years. Insert shows probable type of nuclear engines used.

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Siskiyou County Leaders Must Name Welfare Chief

YREKA—With the threat of a cutoff of State Welfare funds, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors must make the appointment of a permanent county welfare director by January 7.

Acting welfare director Caroline Nixon, who does not have the required state rating to hold the job permanently, was named on an emergency basis until a replacement could be found by the board.

The appointment must be made by the supervisors from five persons listed by the state: Leland F. Seid, San Francisco; Wilbur M.

VainOver, Jackson; David C. Echols, Madera; David F. Smith, Concord; and Mrs. Dolores W. Doltz, Santa Cruz.

The supervisors would prefer to keep Mrs. Nixon, Supervisor W. C. (Bill) Ealy suggested that a member of the board make a trip to Sacramento to make an effort to keep Mrs. Nixon on permanently.

Other action taken at last week's meeting of the supervisors was the appointment of Supervisor Earl Ager as a Siskiyou County representative on the board of directors of Nine Northern Counties Supervisors Association.

Ex-Baseballer Now Starring As TV Hero

By BOB THOMAS
AP Movie-TV Writer
HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — "Don't do it, Chuck. Westerns are going to be glut on the market. You'd be crazy to do your own TV Western."

This earnest advice was given to ex-baseballer Chuck Connors early this year, and he studiously ignored it. Good thing too. His show has turned up a winner.

The Rifleman is one of the few new shows of the season to break into the golden circle of top-rated programs. In just a few weeks, it has mounted to the top 10 in many of the ratings and shows signs of staying power.

Chuck is just as amazed as anyone.

"We are opposite stars like George Burns, Garry Moore and Arthur Godfrey in different parts of the country," he said. "These performers are real pros, yet we are beating them on the ratings."

"What's the answer? I think we have a high-quality show, but it isn't as good as all that. The answer must be that the audience really likes Westerns, no matter how many of them are on the air."

Lanky, self-assured Connors admitted that he took a chance in accepting the series. He had been averaging \$35,000 a year in film and TV work and had just finished the best role of his career in "The Big Country." When the producers came to him with the Rifleman deal, he old what his terms would be. They were high.

"The most I ever made for the Cubs was \$8,500 one season," he said. "Baseball's highest - paid player is Ted Williams, who earns maybe \$150,000 a year in salary and his outside interests. I should be able to make more than that with the series over a three-year period."

And he could last longer too.

A feature of the population of 211,000 now in Alaska is its relative youth. Currently more than one-half the total population is in the age range of 20 to 44 years.

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