PFAFFMANN, Dr. Carl

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL-BULLETIN
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1994

Providence

DR. CARL PFAFFMANN, a physiological psychologist who explored the senses of smell and taste and their pathways in the brain, died Saturday at the Wadsworth Glen in Middletown, Conn. He was 80 and lived in Middletown.

The cause was complications from a stroke, said a spokesman for Rockefeller University, where he served as its first Vincent and Brooke Astor Professor.

Pfaffmann investigated how past experience, diet and hormonal conditions influence humans and animals in their preferences or aversions in odors and taste.

His findings advanced the understanding of brain mechanisms and the biological basis of behavior.

Carl Pfaffmann was born in Manhattan and graduated from Brown University in 1933. He studied at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar and earned a Ph.D. in physiology as a research student at Cambridge University.

He returned to Brown in 1940 to join the psychology faculty and remained until 1965, except for four years in the U.S. Navy.

Commissioned an officer in World War II, he served as an aviation psychologist and was discharged as a commander.

Brown appointed him professor of psychology in 1952. In 1960, he was named Florence Pirce Grant University Professor of Psychology and was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. He held the endowed chair until his move to Rockefeller five years later.