STATE HIST SOC

# Member of Original **O'Neill Colony Dies**



'Sam' Thompson . . timer: (Story at right.)

## **Ex-ARC** Executive Dies in California Harry Gribble, 60,

Reared in Holt

Harry Gribble, 60, a former resident of the Chambers community, died Friday, February 26, in Fontana, Calif., where he had been an automobile dealer since the end of World War II. Mr. Gribble had been ill about Survivors include: Widow — Ella; son—Elwin W. of O'Neill, daughter—Mavis H. of O'Neill; nephew—William Wolfe of O'two weeks.

Funeral services were con-ducted Monday at Fontana and burial was made there. The late Mr. Gribble was born

at Dakota City, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Gribble, who resided for many years east of Chambrs.

. He participated in World War I and at the outbreak of World War II he was temporarily located in North Ireland. Mr. Gribble went to London, England, and proffered his services to the American Red Cross, becoming one of the first troop welfare workers for the ARC in the United King-

For two years he was manag- Top 20 Bassett ing the Columbia club, the largest ARC canteen operation in the world. The club occupied 32 buildings (six of which were of registered Hereford bulls avbomb damaged), and accommo- eraged \$379 per head in Saturdated 2,500 American troops in a 24-hour period, providing food by the North-Central Nebraska and shelter.

The lone remaining member of the original colony of settlers in the O'Neill vicinity, Samuel L. Thompson, 85, died about 3 a.m., Friday, February 26, at his home here. He had been ill about two weeks,

Mr. Thompson came to Holt county from Wisconsin at the

Samuel Lesley Thompson was born July 31, 1868, in Sauk county, Wisc., coming to Holt county in 1872. Other families came in 1873 and Gen. John C. O'Neill brought the first Irish immigrants to O'Neill in 1874.

On September 20, 1911, the late Mr. Thompson married Ella Mae Ritts at O'Neill. They became the parents of two children. He clerked in several different stores and for a number of years operated a restaurant

ent site of O'Neill.

restaurant.

Strong.

Neill; three nieces.

At the time of O'Neill's dia-

mond jubilee celebration in 1949 Mr. Thompson was hon-orary king in the parade.

Among out-of-towners

for the funeral were

- Wed. - Sat 9:45 A.M. - 780 k.c.

Volume 73.—Number 44. age of 4 with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Eli H. Thomp-son, who together with four other families comprised the first settlement east of the pres-

"Voice of The Frontier"



Featured in All-Day Session Here

To millions of rural Americans the name of Everett Mitchell, Funeral services were con-ducted at 10:30 a.m., Monday, March 1, from the Methodist church with Rev. W. B. Smitn, church pastor, officiating. Bur-NBC's veteran farm commenta-tor, is synonymous with the broadcasting industry's long record of service to agriculture Mr. Mitchell will be the chief ial was in Prospect Hill ceme-tery under the direction of Bigattraction at the annual com-bination meeting of the Holt

Pallbearers were Floyd Ritts, Lloyd Ritts, Al Gaskill, Earl C. Hunt, K. Kirkpatrick and Lester county soil conservation district and the county extension service.

The event will be held on Tuesday. March 9, at the American Legion auditorium in O'Neill, starting at 10 a.m.

It was more than a quarter century ago that Mitchell stepped before a microphone in Chicago for his first farm radio broadcast. He's truly a pioneer in agricultural radio, as is NBC's Nation Farm and Home Hour, the

here program with which he has been Bert associated for so many years, and Thompson of Omaha, Mr. and which celebrated its 25th anni-Mrs. Walter Thompson of Oma- versary last year. Mrs. Walter Thompson of Onla-ha, Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Simms of Fremont, Mr. and Mrs. Al beister of Fremont, Mr. and Mrs. N. K. LaPage of Lincoln and Herb Bitney of Atkinson.

In 1926 Mitchell went on the air with his Farmer's Exchange, and four years later he joined the NBC Chicago staff and inheri-

ted the job of emcee on the then three-year-old National Farm and Home Hour, on which his famed "It's a beautiful day in Chi-**Bulls Average \$550** cago!" was first heard. He has been heard on other NBC farm BASSETI- Forty-eight head

### SOIL GROUP ON AIR

The Holt county soil conservation district inaugurated



North-Central Nebraska's BIG Newspaper

O'Neill, Nebraska, Thursday, March 4, 1954.

Seven Cents

Injuries

TWELVE

PAGES

This Issue



public speaking contest held Saturday at Plainview. Duane's speech centered around the large amount of waste meat as a result of crowding, trampling and bruising of animals enroute to market.

Bennett DeVall won a white ribbon for the FFA creed. Dway-ne DeVall took the examination to qualify for state farmer work. A total of 16 schools participated in the competition. Five purebred Yorkshire gilts recently were purchased by members of the O'Neill chapter.

# Supervisors Adopt Redistricting Plan 24,

#### O'Neill City Makes **One District**

The Holt county board of supervisors in session Tuesday of-ficially adopted a redistricting plan which will be submitted as

court. The new districts:

District three: Saratoga, Cole-man, Rock Falls, Belle (formerly one-half of Rock Falls), Pleasant View, Shields, Emmet, Grattan.

District four: Verdigris, Gold-en, Ewing, Deloit (unchanged

Francis.

District seven: Dustin, Sand Creek, Atkinson, Sheridan, Fair Meanwhile, the Holt County Rural Road Improvement association which brought the maniamus action, met last Thurslay evening at the American Legion auditorium. One hundred

pital. He was injured in a col-lision involving the Kurtz' auto-housetrailer and a truck on Wednesday afternoon, February Mrs. Kurtz also was hurt and is being treated in the Rieck hospital.

O'Neill Farmer, 71,

Expires in Oklahoma

Hospital; Wife Hurt

A 71-year-old O'Neill semi-retired farmer, R. M. ("Ray") Kurtz, died early Saturday, Feb-

ruary 27, in a Rieck, Okla., hos-

spent the past three winters.

Funeral services were con-Wednesday, ducted at 2 p.m., March 3, from the Assembly of an answer to a mandamus action on file in Holt county district God church with Rev. Chester Anderson of Butte, officiating.

District one: O'Neill city. District two: Inman, Iowa, Antelope, Willcwdale, Paddock, Scott, Steel Creek.

en, Ewing, Deloit (unchanged from its original composition). District five: Swan, Josie, Wy-oming, Conley, Chambers, Sham-rock, McClure, Lake. District six: Cleveland, Stu-art, Green Valley, Holt Creek,

The Kurtzes were returning from spending the winter at Mesa, Ariz., where they had



Crosby Convincing in 'Honesty' Talk

erations Honesty" talk at the American Legion auditorium. Governor Crosby reviewed the nowfamous Johnson county case, which resulted in a ruling from the supreme court that forced state tax officials to follow the law. "The law," Crosby said, "had been violated for years as a matter of custom." Crosby, who had praise for O'Neill's State Sen. Frank Nelson and O'Neill's Former State Sen. Tony Asimus, said the last legislature couldn't change matters and neither could the state board of equalization. "We have pursued the only honorable course," he declared.

over 150 persons Tuesday afternoon in an "Op-

was convincing in his appeal for taxpayers' honesty in filing their personal property schedules this month. Members of the O'Neill high school senior class sat in the front row and the governor was asked by The Frontier's cameraman to pose with them. Front row (left-toright): Lois Sargent, Evalyn Jean Asher, Patricia DeBolt, Governor Crosby, Margery Norman, Esther Kaiser; back row - Bernice Kallhoff, Katherine Summers, Marian Nickolite, Marilyn Fetrow, Lyle Davis, Larry McConnell, Lavonne Thorin, Nels Schultz .- The Frontier Photo.

Nebraska's Gov. Robert Crosby addressed and that's 'Operation Honesty'." The governor

Mr. Gribble supervised a civilian staff which included British nobility who were volunteer Wentworth of Mills, which workers.

Before World War II he was an automobile dealer in Omaha and after the war established Dodge - Plymouth agency at Fontana.

Survivors include Widow -Blanche, formerly of Sioux City; brothers-Mark of O'Neill, Bernard B. of Omaha, Warren of Chambers and Ralph of Port Angelins, Wash.; sisters- Mrs. Dewey Schaffer of O'Neill and Mrs. George Rector of Everett, Wash.

When Mr. Gribble's illness begrave, three of his brothers went to Fontana to be near him.

## Man Hospitalized

Lowell Humphrey, 22, was released Wednesday from St. will be held in the sale pavilhighway 20, about four miles The sale will start at noon. west of O'Neill. Bethany Ladies Aid will serve.

Humphrey was the only oc- "Several top herd bull pros-upant in an eastbound car pects and top range bulls are which collided with a west- in the offering, also top females agricultural events. which collided with a west-bound truck driven by a Gor-don man. Humphrey suffeted from shock and a fractured rib. FFA and purebred herds," ac-

Fronties for printing!

Top selling bull was Pioneer which sold for \$1,100. The grand champion was showed by Bernard Van Vleck of Clearwater,

bringing \$850. The Frontier's trophy for the best pen of three went to H. A. and R. E. Van Horn of Page. The

an Horns won the trophy last year and need only to win it one more year for permanent pos-SESSION Six bull calves were included

\$405.

in the offering. The top 20 head of bulls averaged \$550; top 40,

100 Herefords in

would be a monthly feature following the "Voice of The Frontier" program, WJAG, 30 k.c. Wednesday's initial program was a 10-minute tape - recorded presentation. Dates for airing of subsequent programs will be announced.

programs, his own series of lo cal broadcasts on station WMAQ. and telecasts on station WNBQ. Chicago, and has been seen in NBC telecasts from the Interna-

since their inception in 1946.

In his quarter century in agricultural radio, Mitchell's contacts with rural America have C Bar M's Spring Sale not been restricted to his micro-

phone appearances. In his own Following Accident Forty bulls and 60 females midwest he knows hundreds of farmers, county agents and other anch's second annual registeragricultural folks by their first ed Hereford spring sale which names through having worked Anthony's hosiptal here. He was admitted Monday following a 2:15 a.m., accident on U.S. why 281, on Monday, March 8. He hes traveled with the on radio projects and through his many speaking en-gagements.

meet and talk with farm men and northwest of O'Neill, to con-"Several top herd bull proswomen and, to cover scores of gratulate the pair during their

Mr. Mitchell's appearance at O'Neill has been arranged through the Marcellus Implement Co. cording to Mgr. Claire McVay.

March 3. C. R. Hill, unit conservationist, said the event star, directors. tional Live Stock Exposition redistricting.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Parker . . their home has been center of community activity for many years \* \* \*

# 300 Sign Parkers' Guestbook

golden wedding open house ob- in educational work since 1921.

servance. Two granddaughters, the ing in Holt county schools, hav-Misses Iona and June Ernst, ing been educated at the Uniwere in charge of the guest- versity of Nebraska and Wayne book throughout the afternoon college. In 1928, she became and evening affair.

In 1951 he made his first trip The day's festivities got unoutside the U.S., a six-week flyderway when Mr. and Mrs. ing tour of 16 European and Parker, with Mr. Parker's brothhe talked with government of- er, Ben Parker, and his brothmiddle eastern countries where er-in-law and sister, Mr. and ficials, international farm youth Mrs. R. Middlekauf, Mrs. Park- year. exchange delegates, and peasants er's sister, Mrs. Lillie Scott, and pecially interested in soil and a brother-in-law, James Shumate, were served dinner at the water conservation, a cause

Town House in O'Neill. which he champions vigorously. Mrs. John Davidson and Mrs. Early in 1952 he toured four-Frank Searles acted as hostessteen Central and South Ameris. Mrs. William Buxton, Miss can countries, again observing Esther Dick and Mrs. Melvin agriculture, talking with govern-Grosenbach were in charge of ment officials, and recording inthe gifts. Mrs. A. L. Fritton was terviews with International Farm hostess. Mrs. R. C. Middlekauf, Youth Exchange delegates. Mrs. Clarence Tieszen, a grand-daughter, and Miss Alice French Besides Mr. Mitchell, other eatures of the all-day program poured.

will include entertainment, pictures, and reports of the year's activities. Board members and guests will be introduced, two exten-

sion board members will be elected, there will be a panel discussion of soil conservation activities, luncheon, and music by the Friendly Neighbors club.

FIFTH ANNUAL SOIL CONSERVATION ISSUE

This is The Frontier's fifth annual soil conservation issue, timed for the 10th anniversary of the Holt County Soil Conservation District. Considerable regular newsmatter is omitted because of the large volume of conservation feature material. Additional conservation stories and pictures also will appear in the next issue and omitted routine news will be carried over until next week.

bridge Monday evening in hon-

through his many speaking en-gagements. He has traveled well over a million miles in this country to

high school at Chambers. Thirteen of her students at that time called in a group Sunday to extend their congratulations.

\* \* \*

First persons on the scene Mr. and Mrs. Parker are the were Mrs. J. P. Brown and Mrs parents of two daughters—Mrs. L. A. Burgess, both of O'Neill. Homer (Gail) Ernst of O'Neill Mrs. Brown, a registered nurse, and Mrs. Orville (Ruth) Kemp- helped revive Sanne and reliner of Page. Their son, James, guished when Norfolk firemen lost his life in a motorboat ac- and ambulances arrived. Sanne was subject to faintof 18. He was employed at the time by a telephone company. might have fainted while driv-

(Continued on page 6) ing the 1938 model car.

ter.

Ray Kurtz . . . burial here Wednesday.

Burial was in Prospect Hill sixty attended the meeting. L. D. Putnam of O'Neill was cemetery. Rev. Wayne A. Hall, elected president to succeed church pastor, officiated at the Frank Brady of Atkinson. Har- graveside rites.

vey Tompkins of Inman was named vice-president; Guy Cole The body lay in state throughout Tuesday and early Wednesof Emmet, treasurer; Charles day at Biglin's. Fox of O'Neill, James Allyn of

Ray Melvin Kurtz was born Stuart and Elmer Juracek of at Iowa Center, Ia., June 8, 1883, the son of Andrew and Federal sharing of cost in sec-ondary road building was the children.

chief topic of discussion, also He was married to Rilla Johnson on March 19, 1902, in Story county, Iowa. All of their children were born in Iowa, the family moving to the O'Neill vi-

O'Neill Nurse Aids as cinity in 1928. Mother, Son Drown Mr. Kurtz farmed for one year

Their westbound auto went

off the highway into a ditch,

struck a bridge abutment and

iell on its top in six feet of wa-

near the Niobrara river, moved Mrs. Charles Sanne, 72, and her son, George, 48, both of Til-den, lost their lives Monday as onto another farm for a few years, and resided for many years 20 miles north of O'Neill the result of a car accident about near Eagle creek. 4 p.m., 8½ miles west of Nor-folk on U.S. highway 275.

The Kurtzes became the parents of nine children-two of whom are deceased, Curtis died in infancy and Melvin died February 25, 1951. The late Mr. Kurtz also was pre-ceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include: Widow -Rilla; sons - Andrew of Pasadena, Calif., and Clifton of Bethel, Kans.; daughters-Mrs. Hal (Marie) Bucher of Pasa-

dena; Mrs. Fred (Doris) Harvey og spells and it is theorized he of Mission, Kans.; Mrs. Robert (Charlotte) Larson of O'Neill; Mrs. Don (LaDonna) Snyder of Atkinson, and Mrs. Charles (Bonnie) Cooper of West Covina, Calif.; brother — Ernest of Los Angeles, Calif.; sister—Mrs. Eva Grist of Glendale, Calif.; 15 randchildren.

Pallbearers were Ray Margritz, Francis Curran, Henry Walters, Walter Wells, Dave Moler and Blake Benson. Honorary pallbearers were Edward M. Campbell, H. E. Coyne, Leo Mullen, Tony Asimus, R. G. Shelhamer, John Lansworth and Mark Schelkopf.

The late Mr. Kurtz was wellknown throughout northern Holt county. He was noted for his friendliness and buoyant laughter. The mainfloor and church basement could not accommodate the large crowd at the funeral rites.

Mr. and Mrs. Kurtz celebrated tl:eir golden wedding anniversary in 1952.

## Vehicle Homicide

**Charges Are Filed** 

STUART- Daniel Flannigan, 18. Stuart serviceman home on emergency leave from Austria. was held this week in a Grand Island hospital in connection with an accident Tuesday, February 23, in which Mrs. A. H. Andersen, 60, of Grand Island, was killed.

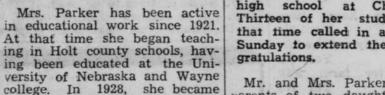
The accident occurred at Grand Island street intersection.

Flannigan was the driver of a car which crashed into the

of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Parker, was born in Lincoln. Six years of his boyhood were spent in Tennessee, the family then returning to Nebraska.

Mrs. Parker, the former Luella Pirner, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Pirner, was also born in Lincoln

The Parkers were married in Lincoln on March 2, 1904. After living on several farms in Lancaster county, they moved to Holt county in March, 1919. They lived on several farms Mrs. W. H. Bowker entertained north of O'Neill for several years before moving in 1935 to their





#### The Frontier's Trophy Goes to Wood

DeBacker, O'Neill Chamber of Commerce ford Breeders' association. Wood also showed president, The Frontier's traveling trophy for the grand champion and reserve champion

Henry Wood (left) receives from G. C. and sale sponsored by the Holt County Here-

to the beauty of the table.

James Crawford Parker, son

The lace-covered serving table was centered by a four-tier cake, the layers of which were separated by white columns and swans. It was topped by the traditional gold 50-year orna-

and decorated by a daughter, Mrs. Homer Ernst. Gold and white tapers in gold candle-sticks, and yellow roses added

ment. The cake had been baked

tinued teaching until the past cident in July, 1930, at the age

In her educational work she

center work in O'Neill for six years. From that time she con-

county superintendent of schools and held that office for two terms. She then conducted study

#### Everett Mitchell . . . "It's a beautiful day in Chicago." having exhibited the best pen of three bulls pictured in last week's issue. The event was or of the Misses Mary and Kath- | present home. charged with motor vehicle (Story at right) in connection with the annual spring show held Wednesday, February 25, at O'Neill. Mr. Parker has spent the erine Grady. homicide.