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THE FRONTIER, O'NEILL, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1946.

'A Guy Named Gribble'

(Editor's note: The following article entitled "A Guy Named Gribble" appeared in a recent issue of The Nebraska Farmer magazine. It was written by Carroll W. (Cal) Stew-art, editor of The Frontier. It is reproduced here because Mr. Gribble is a former Holt countyan.)

Harry LeRoy Gribble "of Nebraska," with his five feet 11 inches, 180 pounds, and twinkling blue-green eyes, is back again after four years abroad. When asked by his friends where he has been, he shrugs his shoulders and accounts for his absence simply enough: "War work."

Civilian Gribble, who had gone to Britain in early 1942 as a representative of an American aircraft manufacturer, was making his initial visit to London in May, 1943. The city was grim with its "blitz" dam-age, its blackout, and its fog. Furthermore, the war seemed perfectly capable of going on forever.

In his hand were the necessary papers for a passport back to the United States, but in his mind grew an idea that perhaps, as a veteran of World War I, he might be of some use around the old town, and it was plain to see that London would become increasingly important to the Americans in a fight against the Axis that had barely begun.

Harry Gribble, a man who had been born in Dakota coun-ty, reared in Holt county, and in the prewar days peddled hundreds of automobiles from Omaha and Lincoln to Timbuctoo, walked into the American Red Cross headquarters in Grosvenor Square and edged up to a desk where a distinguished-looking gentleman was buried in paper work. The man raised his grey-tufted eye-brows, gave the intruder a quick once-over, and asked hopefully, "Are you an American?'

"What do you think?" replied Gribble. 'You're hired!" snapped the

voice. Thus, Harry Gribble was ap-

pointed to the ARC's welfare

We said YES! when everybody else said NO! During the depression and farmers and ranchers "No, we aren't making loans." But the Land Bank Cooperative Credit System said "YES! WE ARE READY TO SERVE YOU IN BAD TIMES AS WELL AS IN GOOD TIMES."



larly.

The American soldiers

British girls there in super-

vised recreation. Occasionally

a GI would marry the girl.

The Columbia, formerly the swank Connaught club for businessmen, staged dances regu-



war.

Mr. Gribble managed the American Red Cross Columbia club in London where several thousand GI guests were enter-

staff and he was "commissioned" to help make "a home away from home" for the thousands of American troops that were massing for the big push. The step ulfimately led to the di-rectorship of the largest troop hostel in the world—the ARC's Columbia Club near the Marble Arch in London. The Columbia had been the Connaught Club, a smart men's retreat in the Mayfair district. It was the second of its kind to be taken over by the American Red Cross and transformed into a giant dormitory to house and feed American troops on pass or furlough in London. During its peak period, be-fore D-Day in 1944, the Colum-bia's 2,635 bunks and beds (with fresh linen, a treat in itself) were filled nightly. Besides the main building, the soldier-guests overflowed into 34 neighboring buildings in the Marble Arch vicinty. Gribble supervised 780 British civilian employees of which 30 percent were unpaid volunteer workers, and some of whom were titled women representing fashionable London society. Fifteen thousand snacks and meals were served daily in the large dining room where sedate business and professional men wined and dined not many months before. Procurement of food was a big and thorny problem, because the ARC had to comply with the strict British rationing system. Jam and peanut butter, for example, were purchased by the ton (when stocks were available) and stored in the larder. The diet was long on vegetables and short on meat and dairy products. The Army insisted that the ARC charge the GIs for both food and lodging, but

"though the Lord only knows how-many returnees he sent us to take care of."

When Harry Gribble helped open the Columbia, he was the first to sign in the State Book, in which GIs scrawled their names, home addresses, and the dates on which they had visited the club. This information was dr recorded according to states. me By consulting the book, a sol-Ed dier could quickly discover if El any friends from the home AI town had been around, and, if so, when. The Nebraska sec-tion of the Columbia's book col-Le lected upwards of 500 names, La and many of these visitors con-tacted Gribble because he was A "of Nebraska." Comparing Ca notes with him the Nebraska Ja GIs invariably discovered that G there were persons, at least Ja places, in the state that they knew in common.

With several thousand soldier-guests in the club daily, situations frequently arose when soldiers needed financial help badly, and extenuating circumstances sometimes made Co it impossible for the GIs to obtain cash through normal ARC facilities. "Uncle Harry" often loaned money from his own pocket, though this practice was expressly forbidden by ARC. "Never lost a sixpence," he says, "in helping the kids out. They were fine bunch." B.

The Columbia went into a Is slump during V-bomb season, Int but when the launching sites on the opposite side of the English Channel were finally "neutral-ized," as Harry terms it, borrowing from the British military vernacular, the club filled right up again.

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Nine of the Columbia's 35 buildings were damaged by V-bombs. Harry's closest call came one night while he was in his private room in the club. A V-2 rocket screamed down and exploded 200 yards away, scoring a direct hit on a pub (public house, or tavern) ad-joining the big Selfridge de-partment store. Hails of shrap-nel and debris filled the air, and chunks of window glass plunked into Harry's lap, but he was uninjured.

In the eyes of the military, Gribble held the "assimilated" rank of an Army officer, but with the GIs it was simply "Harry" or "Uncle Harry" and seldom "Mr. Gribble," which the protocol called for.

the protocol called for. This Nebraskan's experiences with the American Red Cross reveal artially the magnitude of a single phase of the ARC's wartime operations in only one of many foreign countries. Cit-izen Gribble could talk volubly of his unique experiences as a Co Elr Mis of his unique experiences as a key man in the recreational program for GIs in Euorpe. But Gribble is now confronted with Gu Con D. "reconversion" problems of his own, having recently entered the trailer-manufacturing business at Fremont. During the recent American Red Cross drive, Gribble was induced to appear on a radio program and be interviewed by Omaha's Mayor Charles Leehman. Said Gribble, in one of his rare cat-egorical statements: "Without the American Red Cross, the plight of the American soldier on pass or furlough in the European theater would have been deplorable. I believe that most GIs will agree."

fred Kazda	123.20	1946. 5:00 P.M. On motion the Board	members, Marilyn Walter,
nos. Slattery	10.73	adjourned until November 29,	Saturday afternoon. Games were played and a
C. Stein	25.00	1946, at 10:00 A. M.	were exchanged.
E. Wulf	74.40	ED J. MATOUSEK.	The leader, Mrs. Lloyd Gl
Motion by Collins, secon	ded by	Chairman.	presented the smaller girls v
ulf that the following	Claims	RUTH HOFFMAN,	bracelets and the older ones v
allowed and warrants of	ordered	County Clerk.	pencils. Refreshments of
awn on the Road Fund	in pay-	Silver Star A.H Club	rolls, chocolate, jello in the sh of Christmas trees, and wal
		Silver Star 4-H Club in Christmas Party —	cake were served.
Alder mer Allyn	\$ 17.00	CHAMBERS — The Silver Star	and the second second second second
cher Petroleum Co.	38.85	4-H club enjoyed a Christmas	Have you read THE FRO
lph Bauman	156.00	party at the home of one of the	TIER classified ads:
on Beckwith	25.00		
W. Brady Vern Gadwallader	5.25	1 0 .1	α.
lin Caster	12.00	Intlan	v Stores
ntral Supply Co.	53.06		
l Allyn	12.00	1 United A	NULUU
orge Barta	6.00		
mes Beck	9.30	ASIMU	C RDAC
mes Beck ise Service Station	33.65	ASIMU	5 DAUS.
oyd Burgess nil Carlson	27.00	O'NEILL	
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idy Clark	20.00		
R. Cobb	16.00	NA WA	
ntinental Oil Co.	144.00	VIONOU KO	ising Sale!
A. Lubricant Co.	37.62	I IMMULTAND	DINE DAIC
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Engler	12.00	BARGAINS OF	ALL KINDS ! •
H. Fundus	8.00	We are invoicing and fi	ind that we are long on
m. H. Fundus	28.00		
G. Hanna W. Hubbard	129.59		oney (as usual). So we
land Construction Co.	41.65	are selling a lot of goo	ds way below cost!
and Supply Co.	78.08	Come and get your sha	
and Supply Co terstate Oil Co	35.38		
vis Oil Co.	9.83	Canned Goods	PORK & BEANS 290
on L. Kaiser ating Imlement Co.	49.89	B-A-R-GA-L-N-S	2 No. 2 Cans 270
W. Kirkland	29.10	A CONTRACTOR OF A CONTRACTOR O	
l Krysl	30 00	PINEAPPLE	GOOD -
mason's Garage	9.50	SWEET, Gal. Cans	ODANCES
rcellus Implement Co.	71.90		URANGES 9r
n. Meusch L. Mitchell	38.00	Red CHERRIES 1 50	Dozen /C
A. Mitchell	18.00	Gal. Cans	
hort Mlinar	11 70	PINEAPPLE 1.39 SWEET, Gal. Cans 1.59 Gal. Cans 1.59 APRICOTS 79c	FANCY -
ore-Noble Lbr. & Coal Co. le McKim n. Krotter Co.	100	APRICOTS 70	DILL PICKLES
le McKim	4.30	Gal. Cans IIC	Ot. Glass Jars 290
n. Krotter Co.	50.79	21/4 SIZE	
ink Noffke, Jr.	9.50	2½ SIZE — PEACHES Qt. Cans 29c	2.000 POUNDS OF
ville Orr	51 00	PEACHES 70	
M. Pease	32 75	Qt. Cans LIC	FANCY CANDIES
lter Puckett	135.00	MUSTARD	AND
drew Ramold	11.00	MUSTARD — SARDINES Large Oval Cans 19C	AND
ellhamer Service	32.50	SARDINES 10	FANCY COOKIES
n G. Slaymaker d Stracke	31.00	Large Oval Cans 17L	* Chocolates
os. Thompson	62.50	OPANOE & CREEKING	Chocolates - Caramels
W. Tibbetts	93 95	ORANGE & GRAPEFRUIT	Creams Etc.
E Wintermete	38.35	JUICE 20	PER LB. 20-
E. Wintermote E. Wulf ntinental Oil Co	46.95	JUICE 29c	Un from 57C
ntinental Oil Co.	34.65	MAGUNDA	op 110m
ore-Noble Lbr. &		MACKEREL 10	CAMPBELL'S -
Ioal Co.	9.46	MACKEREL Large, Tall Cans 19C LARGE FANCY – DRY PRUNES 35C 2 Lbs. for 35C	Tomata COTTO
Veill Auto Supply C. Stein	5.75	LARCE FLOOR	Tomato SUUP 10
ner Krueger	10.00	DANGE FANCY -	Large Cans IVC
souri Valley Mach	A Second Second	DRY PRUNES 26	sucoda
y Cole	21.07	2 Lbs. for	CHINESE FOODS
ntinental Oil Co	74 50	FANCY -	ALL RIVER
tinental Oil Co E. Crandall	104 65	FANCY -	or All Kinds I

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When you need a farm or ranch oan, get it from the organization that has PROVED its ability to "stand by" you ALL THE TIME. Get your

LAND BANK LOAN from your

ELKHORN VALLEY National Farm Loan Assolation LYLE P. DIERKS Secretary-Treasurer

O'Neill



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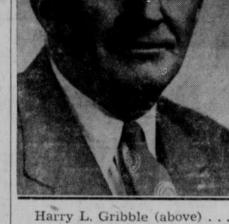
225 Head of High-Grade **Hereford Breeding Cows** SELL AT AUCTION

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Tuesday, January 7th

ALL NATIVE SANDHILLS COWS OF EXCELLENT QUALITY, A COMPLETE DISPERSAL, ALL ONE BRAND, AGES GOOD, EVERY COW HAD A CALF LAST YEAR AND ALL ARE BRED TO REGISTERED BULLS. WILL ALSO SELL 1000 HEAD OF OTHER CATTTE AT THIS SALE. IF YOU ARE WANTING BREEDING COWS. YOU WILL LIKE THESE.

ATKINSON LIVESTOCK MARKET ERNIE WELLER, Manager Phone 89, Atkinson.



(such as the one pictured above) helped relieve the grimness of

reared in Holt county . . turned in a unique war job.

the fee was nominal. You could live "first-class" with the ARC for the equivalent of \$1.50 per day, but to have patronized the London hotels (a feat which bordered on the impossible) would cost at least \$10 per day. Harry's responsibilities var ied. One morning he helped with the reception of the King and Queen, who had dropped in for a chat with the Yanks. Before day's end he had personally engaged two chimney sweeps, with their traditional stove-pipe hats and formal coats. Both items were special on that day's agenda.

English girls, 350 of them, were designated as hostesses for dances that were conducted four nights per week in the ballroom. These were comparable with the USO-sponsored dances in the United States. Two tours of London originated daily at the Columbia's front door. One of the best guides was Grant Forbes, the circula-tion manager of The Daily Telegraph, who volunteered his services. Forbes was also one of Harry's closest friends. After each tour Forbes would write a personal letter to the parents of the GIs whom he had escorted from Buckingham Palace to the Tower of London. So ambitious was the Colum-

entertainment departbia's ment. headed by a specially tained staff of American young women, that a sign-painting staff did nothing but prepare attractive displays.

The Air Force used the Columbia club for receiving airmen who were being returned to duty after having been forced down over Europe and successful in reaching England via the underground system. A captain at headquarters, issuing such terse statements as, "We have 17 coming in today," or "There'll be 32 arriving to-

morrow. "Never did meet that captain personally," Gribble recounts, Harold Blain

Proceedings of the Holt County Supervisors -

(Continued from an earlier issue.)

A. B. Hubbard	150.00
A. B. Hubbard	
Dorothy Kratochvil	133.33
Ira H. Moss	183.41
Nora A. Mullen	133.33
Elja McCullough	8.20
Elja McCullough	40.00
Louis W. Reimer	
Luella D. Rohe	38.13
Leonard A. Thomazin	23.20
Mary Wettlaufer	116.66
12:00 Noon. On mo	tion the
Board adjourned until 1	:00 P.M.

O'Neill, Neb., November 26, 1946

Holt County Board of Superisors met as per adjournment. All members present.

Meeting called to order by the Chairman.

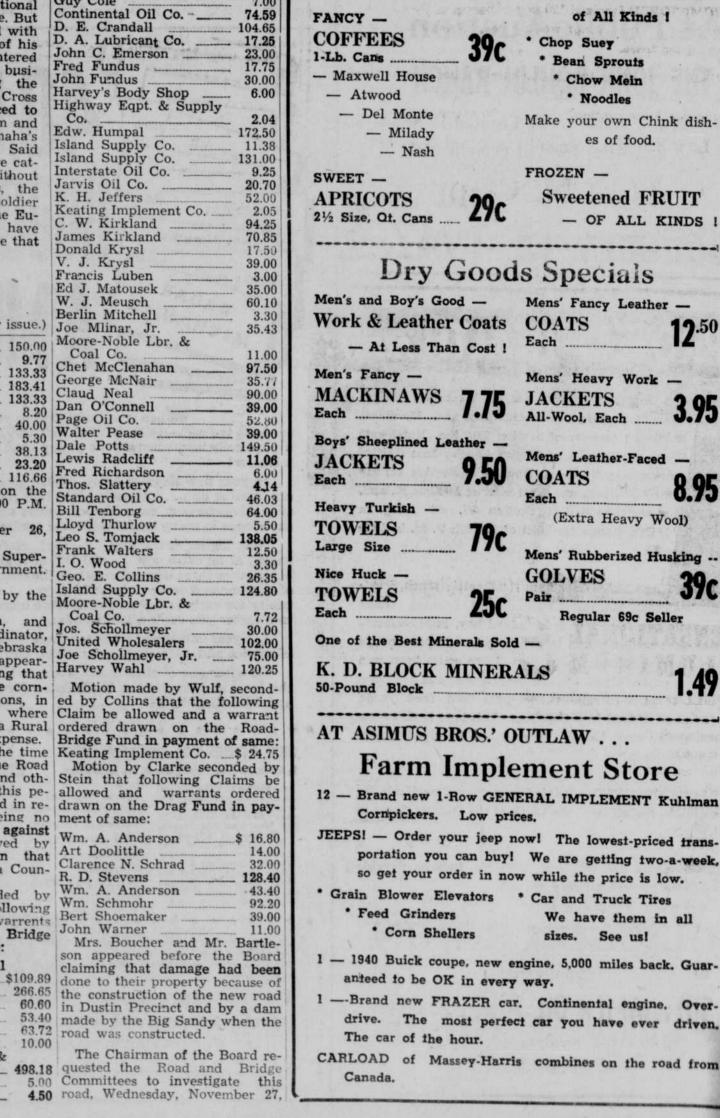
Fritz Rokahr, Chairman, and Peter Thomassen, Co-ordinator, Jos. Schollmeyer of the North Central Nebraska Joe Schollmeyer J Rural Power Association appeared before the Board asking that Holt County establish the corners of the different sections, in ed by Collins that the following the parts of the County where Claim be allowed and a warrant they are going to put in a Rural ordered drawn on the Road-Power Line, at County expense. 2:00 P.M. This being the time Keating Implement Co. \$24.75 set for the Hearing on the Road Motion by Clarke seconded by Petition of Ralph Ernst and oth- Stein that following Claims be ers, the Board discussed this pe-tition. As no one appeared in re-drawn on the Drag Fund in paygard to it, and there being no ment of same:

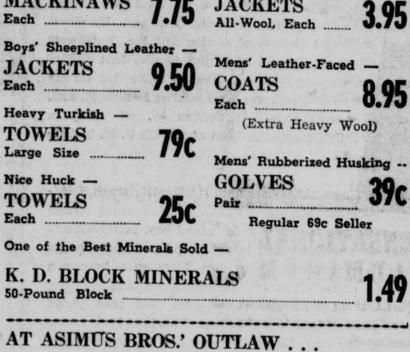
the petition, it was moved by Clark, seconded by Stein that this road be designated a County Road. Carried.

Motion by Wulf, seconded by Hubbard that the following Claims be allowed and warrents ordered drawn on the Bridge Fund in payment of same:

Armco Drainage & Metal Products Island Supply Company Oscar Keithley Jerry O'Connell Standard Oil Co. Thornton Wheeler Lumber Bridge & Supply Co. Jos. Schollmever 5.00

protests or remonstrances against Art Doolittle R. D. Stevens __ Wm. Schmohr Bert Shoemaker John Warner 266.65 60.60 53.40 63.72 10.00 498.18





* Chow Mein

* Noodles

es of food.

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12.50

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12 - Brand new 1-Row GENERAL IMPLEMENT Kuhlman

JEEPS! - Order your jeep now! The lowest-priced transportation you can buy! We are getting two-a-week, so get your order in now while the price is low. Grain Blower Elevators * Car and Truck Tires We have them in all

- sizes. See us!
- 1 1940 Buick coupe, new engine, 5,000 miles back. Guaranteed to be OK in every way.
- 1 --- Brand new FRAZER car. Continental engine. Overdrive. The most perfect car you have ever driven.

CARLOAD of Massey-Harris combines on the road from