star-news lland The Goodland Star-News / Tuesday, March 1, 2005 Former register of deeds left her mark

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News In her 22 years in the Sherman County register of deeds office, Dorothea Graybill put her stamp on the iob.

At the courthouse, she is remembered for her teaching skills, historical knowledge and for enjoying the job. And she's the one who decided to have the office offer free notary public services to the public.

Graybill, 88, died Jan. 12 at the Smoky Hill Rehabilitation Center, a nursing home in Salina.

She became register of deeds in August 1983 and retired in May 1994, but was the deputy register for 11 years before that.

In 1989, she was president of the Kansas Register of Deeds Associa-

Carol Armstrong, current register of deeds and Graybill's deputy for 11 years, said her boss was a good teacher.

"She knew the job well," Armstrong said, "and I think she passed everything on she knew."

Graybill was a nice person, Armstrong said, and it was important to her to make visiting the office pleasant for the public. She started putting out a candy jar and peanut jar, Armstrong said. "And she got us designated as

notary publics," Armstrong said. "We still do that free for the public."

County Clerk Janet Rumpel remembers Graybill coming to her office to talk.

"She'd come down and talk with me when she had problems," Rumpel said. "She always seemed the county well and the people."

Woman eighth child out of 10

later, the family moved to Goodland.

The family of 10 children included two sets of twins, said Graybill's daughter-in-law, Carol Graybill. Dorothea's dad called her "Gyp" for many years, Carol said, because he expected twins and only got one.

Her dad would say he had four sons, Carol said, and each son had six sisters.

Dorothea married Conrad

before the regular church services in the Sheland Catherine were born in 1942 and 1950.

The couple moved to Conrad's grandparents' farm 14 miles north and a mile east of Kanorado. Going from a large, active city family to the isolation of the farm was a big adjustment for Dorothea, family members say; ken farm equipment and tornado damage, but Dorothea" the homesickness took years to dissipate.

to have a smile on her face."

Armstrong and Rumpel both said interesting campaign when she ran Graybill seemed to enjoy the for office in 1992, which showed register's job. Armstrong said herinterest in educating the public. Graybill tried to teach everyone who came by.

"She wanted to be educational for everyone who came in,"Armstrong said. "She was a historian; she knew

Dorothea Melissa Hazel (Ingram) Graybill and dealt with a lot of adversity on the farm. Af-nado, the eye of which was about 200 feet away was the eighth child of Harvie and Gertie ter eight straight years of crop failure due to (Sexson) Ingram. She was born at the family drought, hail and wheat streak mosaic, the cow farm north of Ruleton June 2, 1916; a few years herd was sold, and Conrad expanded into custom harvesting.



Graybill

The cows were later replaced with a

large flock of laying chickens, pigs, milk cows and sheep. Dorothea and young Catherine were in charge of 1,000 ewes and many sows, while Conrad and Myron would be custom cutting wheat. Dorothea worked hard feeding, watering and caring for livestock for many years. Nearly all of her time was spent outside doing farm work with Conrad.

During those years, she wrote post-Graybill on Sunday morning, April 9, 1939, cards to her mother-in-law, Mrs. J.R. Graybill, who lived three miles away on the mail route. ter House in Goodland. Their children, Myron The mail man would pick up her cards and postmark them by drawing a black "X" through the two-cent postage stamp.

He would then deliver them to Dorothea's mother-in-law within minutes. Dorothea would write about daily goings-on, sick children, broshe did not mention the anxiety she and But her family says she was a strong person Catherine experienced living through the tor- couple moved into Goodland.

Armstrong said Graybill had an your support to win the post!"

from their house. Here is a sample, a handwritten postcard to

her mother-in-law. The date is not known, but appears to be about the end of June, 1958. Her daughter, Catherine, would have been nearly

"Wednesday Morning. Dear Mother,

"A combine went past here the other morning and broke two telephone poles down so we are off the line. Thought he would be back to fix it but he hasn't showed up yet. We'll try to get them up when Myron gets home today.

"Rash on Catherine's face, quite listless, tires very easily, so we will not be over tomorrow for the social. Eye's red, coughs, sneezes, etc. Measles??

Had an inch of rain yesterday, small twister. Barn went down. Grain elevator over, feed grinder down; large underground storage tank (on top of ground) blown apart; panels on the trailer blown off. Hail about ruined garden, hail and wind. Are you leaving Saturday or Sunday? Will try to call when the line is fixed.

The Graybills sold the farm in 1974, and the

"Did you know ... There are 13 items to check for on a deed: 1. Name and marital status; 2. how *The Goodland Daily News* that year grantor signed; 3. name of grantee; with tidbits about filing deeds and 4. nature of the instrument; 5. date other legal paperwork and finished of the instrument; 6. acknowledgwith the reminder: "Vote for ment; 7. considerations; 8. description; 9. granting clause; 10. warranty clause; 11. habendum clause;

The ad in the Oct. 17 paper said, 12, exceptions, reservations; 13.

Graybill focused on education.

She ran ads in the October issues of

certificate value.'

Her ad in the Oct. 21 paper said, "Did you know ... Names of parties on a legal instrument should always be written in full and very legibly?"

In the Oct. 22 paper, she said, "Did you know ... A Warranty deed will not correct a bad title nor cure mistakes in former deeds?"

In the Oct. 24 paper, she asked, "Did you know ... Forms for "Application for a Certified Copy" for birth records and for death records that are recorded in Topeka are available in the Register of Deeds office?'

Graybill won the election with 1,920 votes to Showalter's 1,297.

She married Conrad Graybill in Goodland on April 9, 1939, and was a farm wife.

Her first job was working for Martin Felzien in Kanorado. She also worked at Boogaarts Supermarket, drove a school bus and worked at J.C. Penney's.

She was active in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, now known as the Community of Christ.

After the death of her husband on Nov. 3, 2001, she moved to Salina to live with a niece, Rogene (Graybill) Moreno.

Survivors include a son, Myron (Carol) Graybill of Sterling, Colo.; a daughter, Catherine Williams, a missionary in Vishakhopotnam, India; three sisters, Marian Phillips of Richfield, Utah, Jean Sammons of Hays and Esther Middleton of Independence, Mo.; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Students need 1,542 boxtops for grand prize

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News One thousand, five hundred and forty-two Box Tops for Education are all that separate students at West Elementary from adjacent to the school. their grand prize — a birthday

money, almost \$1,500, was spent on soccer goals and playground balls. She said this year, the money raised will go towards fixing up the Topside playground

"This could help with some exparty for "Grizzly," a stuffed box- tras," she said, adding the school has always spent the money directly on the students. Throughout the year, the chilily. dren at West have been rewarded for reaching collection landmarks. At 5,000 box tops, the students had a popcorn party with Clifford the Big Red Dog and his "owner," Emily Elizabeth, who read Clifford books to the students. At 10,000, the school held a "wacky week," where students celebrated backwards day, hat day, silly sock day, Cowboys colors day and western cowboy day. The students get excited about the box top program, Pianalto said, because they really enjoy the rewards. She said they get candy when they turn them in and the class that brings the most tops gets to have Grizzly in its room for a week. The bear comes with surprise tucked away in his backpack. "They are really motivated to get box tops," Pianalto said, adding they enlist the help of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to

Easter bunny, egg hunt need sponsor as Lions Club takes this year off

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News The Easter Bunny, with his floppy ears and cotton tail, might not appear this year as the Goodland Lions Club, regular sponsors of the town's Easter Egg Hunt, takes the year off.

Connie Grieve, a Lions member who usually organizes the hunt, said she will be visiting family this year and can't do it. She said without her help, the club decided to skip the

hunt this year.

by the Lions, she said, for the past eight to 10 years on the Saturday before Easter at the Gulick Park. This year the event would have been on Saturday, March 26.

Last year, the hunt was brought inside the Goodland Activities Center due to rain, she said, but kids still had a good time.

The club normally hides small plastic eggs that contain a prize, trinket or candy.

When they first started the hunt, she said, the Alco and Gibson stores "I hate not doing it," she said, here would donate prizes to give to

age groups and spread out for the hunt.

There is hope for some kind of celebration this year, Grieve said, since she alerted Courtney Warden, manager of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, early.

Warden sent out an e-mail asking for help finding a replacement organization to put on the event. She asked community members if they thought businesses could get involved and put on the egg hunt.

Although she hasn't received any

Grieve said the kids split up into ally sad," she said, adding that for some kids, the Lions egg hunt is the only one they have.

Grieve said they normally have a good crowd for the event, but it varies from year to year.

Before the Lions took over the hunt as a service project, she said, the Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary or wives of Elks Club members put together the event.

She said she is willing to help any group organize the event, and the club has supplies she can pass on.

"I'll help them out with some

Graybill was opposed by Ardith Showalter, who used the poetic slogan, "Register of Deeds needs somebody new, with energy, educa-Dorothea M.H. Graybill, Republition and view! Vote for the one ofcan, for Register of Deeds." fering you the most; I'll appreciate

top mascot bear.

The school set a goal of 15,000 box tops or coupons clipped from General Mills products by Tuesday, March 15, said Denise Floyd, organizer of the program and a parent of two students in Goodland schools. Each top is worth 10 cents for playground equipment or special treats for students.

If the students meet their goal, Floyd said, they get a party to celebrate Grizzly's first birthday.

Roberta Pianalto, secretary at West, said each class will bring a birthday cake for the party that will be joined with others to create a gigantic cake.

Floyd said students will be asked to bring food gifts for the bear, like box top products, and donate them to Genesis, the Goodland food pantry.

Because students started out the year with a record 6,200 tops in the first few weeks of school, Floyd said, they upped their goal from 12,400 collected last year to the 15,000 this year.

Pianalto said last year's meet their goals.

Mike Miller March 1st **City Commission Primary** Paid for by Mike Miller Get out and Vote March 1st

Joshua Dechant

wants to be your City Commissioner

Paid for by the committee to elect Joshua Dechant

adding that she just needed the year the kids. off to spend the holiday with fam-

The annual event has been put on for eggs.

correction

A story on the Farm-City Banquet in the Friday, Feb. 25, issue of The Goodland Star-News reported that after a performance, the Right Combination Dance studio run by Jessica Kennedy will provide correct any mistake or misunder-

babysitting. The babysitting will be provided only for dance performers. This was a reporting error.

The Goodland Star-News will

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standing in a news story. Please call to keep an accurate record and apour office at (785) 899-2338 to re- preciate you calling to our attention port errors. We believe that news any failure to live up to this stanshould be fair and factual. We want dard.



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response yet, she said the Chamber tips," she said adding she hopes might look into helping out this year someone takes over and keeps the or next.

"I think anything we lose ... is re- ward to it every year."

egg hunt going. "It is sad. I look for-



Dr. Mark Wahlmeier, **Optometrist**, **Opens Office in Goodland!**

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