

Anne Reid Ober, Friend of Authors, Dies at 85

Anne Reid Ober, 85, widow of Harold Ober, founder of the New York literary agency that bears his name, died Wednesday at the Sleepy Hollow Manor Nursing Home here after a long illness.

Born in New York City, Mrs. Ober was one of the first editors of the magazine, *Suburban Life*, which she left to join the American

Red Cross in World War I.

She met her husband in Paris, where he was directing a Red Cross project, and they were married after the war in New York City. He died in 1959.

For many years, they lived in a converted farmhouse in Scarsdale, N.Y., which became a mecca for such au-

thors as Catherine Drinker Bowen, William Faulkner, Walter Edmonds and Philip Wylie.

When the late F. Scott Fitzgerald left the East Coast to work in Hollywood in the late 1930s, Mrs. Ober "adopted" his daughter, now Scottie Smith, who remained on the East Coast.

Mrs. Ober also kept up a close friendship with his

wife, the late Zelda Fitzgerald. She preserved the correspondence between Fitzgerald and Ober, which was edited by Matthew Brucco and published in 1972 under the title, "As Ever, Scott Fitz."

For many years, Mrs. Ober raised Briards, a variety of a French sheep dog, and was frequently a judge at dog shows.

She had been active in the Westchester County Red Cross in New York, Democratic Party affairs and with the USO in World War II.

She is survived by two sons, Richard, of Washington, and Nathaniel, of Amityville, N.Y.; a sister, Helen Good, and a brother, Graham Reid, both of Denver, and seven grandchildren.