

Nicodemus
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News
Review

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Aug./Sept. 1990



Edward P. McCabe
Nicodemus Town Company Secretary 1879
Portrait to be hung in Kansas State Capitol

"For Her Home Town, Nicodemus"

By

Earlice Switzer-Rupp

As Co-editor of the Nicodemus Historical News Review, a monthly Newsletter, I extend great appreciation to everyone that participated and attended the 114th Emancipation Celebration held annually in Nicodemus. Such fellowship made and makes it possible for those who are dreamers to fulfill their dreams for the only black community west of the Mississippi to stay alive. Like the dream, Angela Bates and four other fourth generation children of Nicodemus shared over a year ago.

With little doubt these hand full of "youths" discussed and agreed that it was their responsibility to keep Nicodemus alive and on the map. Although, Gil Alexander, Vickie (Sayers) Jones, Phillip Switzer and Twilla (Moore) Wilson held the same dreams about their home town, (I'm sure they would agree) it has been Angela's persistence in keeping the ambition in their dream from going to the way side. She is always willing to make a sacrifice to complete the job, which keeps the innovation and inspiration flowing in all of our endeavors.

When she called me in the spring of 1989 about the five man project, I willingly jumped on the band wagon and became one of the first Board of Directors in creating the first Nicodemus Historical Society. Since that time, fourteen months later, we now have over 60 members and a monthly mailing list of 225 for the Nicodemus Historical News Review, established in that same year, in the month of June.

On several occasions, in the past when Angela and I talked and made plans for each issue of the Newsletter, I would try to thank her for a job well done, and always she was quick to reply.

"I'm not the one doing this, it's not just me, it's US!"

Reluctantly, I would agree with her. However, she encouraged me to see her unselfish desires and that the sum recognition was not her's alone. Because of this, I too have become apart of a dream. With both of us in agreement that it will take everyone who cares and who has already played a part to continue to making such dreams come true, now and in the future. But so often we don't take the time to tell those we love, thank you, as I would like to take this opportunity now to thank Angela for having such a profound appreciation for the town I grew up in and also for wanting to preserve it for other generations to come.

As a youth growing up in Nicodemus, most times, the grass looked greener on the other side of the fence. Now, as an adult and removed from my home town, I clearly see the beauty that Angela saw when she made it a point to spend her summer vacations in Nicodemus as a young girl, as oppose to Pasadena, California. Summer's end always voiced her thoughts that one day she would live where her roots began.

Eventhough, her hopes to live in Nicodemus, a place she's always considered home, were stored away in her heart she never let them vanish. This became evident the day I heard the enthusiasm in her voice when she called me in Houston to share her news and dream, twenty-five years later. The sound of her voice still remains stead fast in my thoughts.

"Guess what? I'm moving to Demus!"

Without a doubt, I knew she would. Her actions of quitting her job with U.S. West in Denver, has not only furthered her dreams but has also increased a greater appreciation by past and present residents of Nicodemus. This was also made evident by the large number which attended our past 1990 Home Coming Celebration held in July. Faces I haven't seen in many years came back to rekindle family roots and to meet once again a relative and friend, Angela Bates, Editor of the Historical Society Newsletter and to learn more about the dreams she and others hold for our home town of Nicodemus.

I want to thank you Angela and to let you know that I'm on your side 100%. With love to my cousin and friend, "O'fee".

SOCIETY'S BRIEF

Home Coming 1990 - A Total Success - The Nicodemus Historical Society's 2nd Annual Bar-B-Q was so successful, that after serving over 200 bar-b-que beef sandwiches only beer, soda, and chips could be served.

New Members - During the celebration we sold over 12 new memberships. **Welcome New Members.** We also sold books, posters, Vol. 1 of the Historic News Review, raffle tickets on the quilt drawing, and took orders for stationary.

Quilt Winner - Valeria Thomas of Plainville won the homemade quilt donated by Charlesetta Bates. Thanks you Charlesetta and congratulations Valeria. Some people bought over twenty tickets trying to secure a good chance at winning the quilt.

1990 Homecoming Video - TWill be made available as soon as it is edited and copies made. We promise to keep you abreast.

250 Plus Registered - Over two hundred and fifty people visited us in our new offices in the Priscilla Arts Club building adjacent to the township Hall. We encouraged all to come in and sign the register, however we know that many did not. We appreciated all who did. We estimated over 700 people attended this years celebration throughout the week end.

Open House - Thursday evening we held our Open House, serving home made cookies by Pearlana Moore and punch donated by Charlesetta Bates. We registered over 50 people during the coarse of the evening. We appreciated all who came out to support our Open House.

Planning for 1991 - We want to secure the success of next year's Home Coming Celebration so we are encouraging all with suggestions, comments, or constructive criticism to pass it on to us, so that we can begin planning for next year.

Year Round Events Planned - We are trying to resurrect some of the old traditional events that were celebrated in years past. Help us by participating, donating your time, monetary items, or suggestions. We want all to come out and have a good time. Be sure to tell your friends and relatives of our upcoming events and plan to attend. We will be planning a special event for the upcoming Holiday seasons, so if you think that you might want to come home for it, then keep yourself posted to our calendar of events that we hope to maintain throughout the upcoming issues.

Edward P. McCabe Portrait - Through the continuing efforts of Sonny Scroggins of Topeka and a letter of recommendation to Governor Hayden from the Nicodemus Historical Society, we successfully encouraged the State to include a portrait of Edward P. McCabe - MacCabe was Kansas State Auditor 1883 and first Black elected state office. Most importantly McCabe holds significance to us as being a founding father of Nicodemus, Kansas. An upcoming ceremony to induct his portrait into the gallery in Governor Hayden's office will signify an important mild stone in recent history for not only Kansans, but for Blacks of Kansas and Nicodemus descendents.

Elections - We will be sending election ballots to all members over the next month. Be sure to respond promptly so we can announce the new board members in our next newsletter.

SPECIAL THANKS FOR ALL DONATIONS

The 113th Emancipation Celebration for 1990 was a great success. People are still talking about the number of people came. One thing I am sure we can attribute it's success, to the fact that the Newsletter help to publicize it far in advance. I also took the liberty of contacting all the daily newspapers in the state of Kansas a week before homecoming and several people who thought that Nicodemus' celebrations had stopped, were surprised to see that we were having one, and came to participate.

There were many donations from the homemade quilt, by Charlesetta Bates to cakes for the cake walk, donated by various people. On behalf of the Nicodemus Historical Society we would like to say THANK YOU and MUCH APPRECIATION. The following is a partial list of organizations or individuals who donated food, drink, or cakes to the bar-b-que. If I have over looked anyone please forgive me, but we have not forgotten you.

Coors Beer - Hays, Kansas	Beer
Pepsi Cola - Hays, Kansas	Drinks
Frito-Lay - Hays, Kansas	Chips
Logan Lockers - Logan Kansas	Meat
IGA - Hill City, Kansas	Buns & Paper Goods
Clarence Spencer - Stockton, Kansas	2 Cases of RC Cola
Johnella Holmes, Johnnie Powell	Cakes
Pearlena Moore	Cakes

A special thanks to Alvina Alexander, Charlesetta Bates, and Ernestine VanDuVall for their time and energy for preparing and cooking the roast for the Bar-b-que.

A special thanks to James R. Bates, William Henry Napue, Gil Alexander, and all others who manned the Bar-b-que, and Tresa Switer, Earlice Switzer, Johnella Holmes, and other who manned the Historical Society.

A special thanks to Johnella Holmes for creating and manning the activities for the children.

A special thanks to Gary and Robert Alexander and Skip Wellington for their fine taping of activities throughout Homecoming. A special thanks to Ernestine and Friends who put on a fine performance for the afternoon program.

To the Homecoming committee of Nicodemus we want to say a job well done to you. The fashion/talent show, and parade were a definite success. We all enjoyed them tremendously. Thanks.

"A Trip to the Past" - Deserves special attention and a special thanks. This performance exemplifying the founding fathers and characters from Nicodemus' past proved to be one of the most inspirational events of the day. People commented on the educational benefits of this performance. We want to say Thank You to the following participants. Although some were reluctant to participate all felt like celebrities after the performance.

James Chinn	W.R. Hill
Roger Swanson Jr.	Simon P. Roundtree
Reggie Jones	W.H. Smith
Bryan Rupp	Z.T. Fletcher
Chitteria Bates	Jenny Fletcher
Diamond Alexander	Rev. Silas Lee
Troy Chapman	Rev. Daniel Hickman
Terry Jukes	Rev. Jerry Myers
Gil Alexander	A.T. Hall
Thomas Clark	Edward McCabe

**THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE DONATIONS AND PARTICIPATED
IN THE 1990 EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION**

Sunday Clean-Up Bash - There was a large crowd that refused to go home on Sunday, so they turned all their left over energy into cleaning up the Hall and surrounding grounds. Watermelon, Pepsi, and chips were provided to all who helped. After the clean up, people still refused to go home, so the music was turned on, and everyone did the "Electric Slide", a group dance. Skip Wellington with his cam quarter in hand, managed to capture the group dancing. Lessons were given to those lookers who wanted to participate, and shortly there after all were dancing.

This event proved to be such a success we decided that next year's Emancipation Celebration should extend until Sunday evening, to include the 2nd Annual Clean-Up Bash. The only requirement is that you bring a plastic bag for trash. Looking forward to seeing you there next year.

The tape featuring the clean up crew in action (dancing) will be made available in the near future. We promise to keep you posted.

The following is a list of the 1st Annual Clean-Up Bash participants. Thanks to all of you for staying and helping to restore the townsite from the emense load of trash that was created.

Mark Moore	Anthony Jackson
Skip Wellington	Fern Switzer
Veryl Switzer	Sharon Wellington-Harrison
Monica Walton (Wellington)	Tyre Bell
Angela Bates	Terry Jukes
Juanita Robinson & Grandchildren	Alvina Alexander
Earlice (Switzer Rupp)	Bryen (Switzer)
Normagene Jackson	Terry Switzer
Johnny Powell and daughters	Lawrence Clark
Orlo Van DuVall	Mercede VanDuVall
Serrville (VanDuVall)	Tommy Switzer

Sunday Clean-Up Bash participants - Continued

Lee Switzer
Ivalee Switzer
Phil and Lester Switzer
Audra (Gray)
B.B. (From California)
Paul Jackson
Chester Williams Jr.
Khari Jones
Pearlena Moore

Freddie Switzer
Eva VanDuVall
Marilyn Gray
Vickie (Sayers) Jones
Priscilla Bates
Leonard Jones
Vernon Lewis
Greg Gray
and Others

BIRTHDAYS

August Birthdays

8/5 - Irvin Sayers
8/4 - Leroy VanDuVall
8/18 - Lucille Sayers
8/5 Juan Aleander
8/6 - Veryl Switzer

September Birthdays

9/1 - Carlton Finley
9/4 - Orlo O. VanDuVall
9/6 - Leonard Jones
9/12 - Monique Moore
9/14 - Sharon Wellington-Harris
9/18 - Loise Alexander
9/23 - Versella Bates
9/24 - Ruth Wynn

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September

9/15 Founders Day Picnic/Dance
Nicodemus Township Hall

9/17 Founders Day (1877 - 1990 / 113 years)

9/18 "The Exodusters" film - Graham County Library
Hill City

October

10/5 Veryl Switzer Induction in to the K-State's Hall of Fame
Reception and Dinner - K-State Information call: (913) 532-6986

10/10 Ceremony for Induction of Edward McCabe's
(Nicodemus Town Co. Secretary 1879) Portrait into Kansas
State Governor's Gallery - State Capitol Building Topeka, Kansas

10/13 A Tribute to Edward McCabe
*** A Black Tie Affair ***

Nicodemus Township Hall - \$5.00 Donation All Are Invited

THE NICODEMUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
R. R. 2 BOX 131 NICODEMUS, KANSAS 67625
913 - 839-4488

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____ (Ms.Mr.Mrs)
Please provide us with spouse, names of children, and birthdates if Family
Membership.

Date of Birth _____

TELEPHONE () _____

ADDRESS _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Please Check One) ONE TIME FEE (REVISED 7/89)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior Citizens (62-Up)	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Honorary (70 and UP)	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organizations	\$75

Newsletter Only - \$12.00/year

DUES

Annual Dues - \$12.50 - Due on or before 5/30
Annual Dues for Organizations - \$25.00 - Due on or before 5/30

Annual Dues - Covers cost of printing and postage. Membership Cards - Will
be sent out with your first copy of the Nicodemus Historical Society News
Review.

Your membership entitles you to 12 monthly issues of the Nicodemus Historical
Society News Review, discounts to all sponsored activities and promotional
items.

THE NICODEMUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
R.R. #2 BOX 131
NICODEMUS, KANSAS 67625

THE NICODEMUS HISTORICAL NEWS REVIEW



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Nicodemus Historical News Review

The Master Has Already Written the Script

Angela Bates/Editor
Earlice Switzer Rupp/Co-Editor

Vol 3 No 1

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June 1993

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, FRIDAY JULY 26 7:00PM TOWNSHIP HALL



JOHN AND LEE ANNA SAMUELS

Subscribe Now

\$12.00 for 12 Issues of the Nicodemus Historical News Review

SOCIETY'S BRIEF

HOME COMING - It's that time of year again. Homecoming is just around the corner and we are all getting ready on the townsite for the annual guests. On Saturday June 22 a group organized by the Homecoming Committee were on the townsite cleaning and cutting weeds. Thanks to all who donated their time, energy, mowers, etc. Demus is really looking good.

PAINTED BENCHES - Terry and JohnElla Petrie coordinated efforts to add a new coat of paint to the park benches. They really look good. Thank You. This is the kind of cooperation and assistance that is needed to get a job done and get Demus looking great. Let us continue to work together.

FINAL PREPARATIONS - Are being worked out. The schedule is enclosed. Please make sure you register on Thursday, Friday or Saturday at the registration table in front of the Hall. He will be providing name tags to all who attend, friends, family and visitors included.

GROUP PHOTO - There will be lots of publicity this summer so don't be camera shy. For those of you who don't mind getting your picture taken we appreciate your cooperation and assistance. We are hoping to get a group shot of everyone on Saturday morning around 9:00. So if you're on the townsite and want to be included in the photo then show up in front of the Township Hall. (last minute news).

FILMING - Kansas University and John Mann will be filming all of the activities for a documentary. There will be camera crews around throughout the week-end activities. Please be cooperative if asked for your assistance. WE are hoping to help them produce a quality documentary with our most important interest in mind.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES/TALENT & FASHION SHOW - We encourage all of you young and old who wish to participate in these activities to sign up ahead of time at the registration table.

T-SHIRTS AND HATS - will be available for Historical Society Members. Please plan on purchasing yours at the homecoming. For those of you who will not be attending T-shirts are \$10.00 and Hats \$10.00.

COMMEMORATIVE PLATES - We will be sponsoring our first commemorative plate, and this year the First Baptist Church will be on the 10" plate. Plates can be ordered from the registration table. Plates can also be ordered by sending \$25.00 to the Nicodemus Historical Society.

RAINBOW OF PARTICIPANTS - We are expecting and wide range of people and are hoping we will all have a great time. People that have no roots in Nicodemus are urged to come and participate. Nicodemus is an all black town but is made of a many inter-racial families.

GUEST SPEAKERS - Linda Brown from the famous desegregation case (Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education) will be one of the guest speakers. She will give a short talk on the importance of historical contributions made by black Americans and the need to share this information with our youth.

Jerry Shaw is our other guest speaker. Jerry is a professor at Wichita State University and also an Osage Indian. We have invited him to provide us with information on the Osage Indians, their tribal customs and the role that they played in assisting the early settlers of Nicodemus. There will also be an Osage Indian exhibit on display, traditional dancing, and Indian meat pies. We want to share this part of Nicodemus' rich history.

WOMEN OF NICODEMUS PHOTO EXHIBIT - 10 photo enlargements will be on display during the Homecoming weekend. These photos were provided by Gil Alexander. Grant money was obtained from the Hansen Foundation to enlarge, matt and frame them. They are beautiful prints and hope that you will enjoy them. There are plans to expand this collection, and if anyone has photos they would like to donate for reproduction in the collection please let Angela know.

HISTORICAL TRIVIA

o When Nicodemus was being settled most families lived outside the townsite. We encourage you to go to the three cemeteries (Samuels, Mt. Olive, and Nicodemus Cementaries) it will give you an idea of how far out from the townsite the early pioneers settled.

o The 1879 group of settlers that came from Kentucky, by way of Levenworth which were led by Reverend John Samuels, included Sam Garland, Meridee Sadler, Amaniel Napue and family, Clark Samuels, Henry Hall, and Hiram Travis to mention a few. Most of these people settle in what was known then as "Kebar country" just south of where Bogue is today.

o Reverend John Samuels donated the land where the Samuels Cemetery is located. The cemetery was named after him.

The Nicodemus Historical Society
P.O. Box 139, Bogue, Kansas 67625

THANK YOU

1991

NICODEMUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL BAR-B-QUE

SPONSORS

PEPSI COLA BOTTLING COMPANY - HAYS

(Pop)

COORS - HAYS

(Beer)

FRITO-LAY - HAYS

(Chips)

LOGAN LOCKERS - LOGAN

(Beef)

THANK YOU DANE HANSEN FOUNDATION FOR YOUR GRACIOUS DONATION FOR
THE WOMEN OF NICODEMUS EXHIBIT

THANK YOU DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EEO AND UNITED SCHOOL DISTRICT
#281 FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

LINDA BROWN AND JERRY SHAW

THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE HELPED TO MAKE
THIS YEARS HOMECOMING A SUCCESS