

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, mat 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 Leavenworth 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.