

"Nicodemus Past, Present and Future"  
First Baptist Church and Annex

Program Schedule

Friday, July 27, 1979

3:00-6:00 p.m.            GALLERY - Pictorial Essays (First Baptist Church Annex)

Gordon Parks Collection  
Roots of Nicodemus

FILMS - 8:30-10:00 p.m.    "Exodusters"  
(First Baptist Church)

"Nicodemus: Black Heritage Revisited"

3:00-9:00 p.m.            Family Tree - A Pictorial History of Nicodemus

Saturday, July 28, 1979

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.    GALLERY (First Baptist Church Annex)  
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

\*FILMS - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (First Baptist Church)  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.    Family Tree - A Pictorial History of Nicodemus

\*Repeat from Friday.

Nicodemus and Homecoming in Review

Nicodemus, established on homestead land in Graham County, Kansas by Black Freedmen with assistance from a white Tennessee Minister, Rev. W. T. Hill, and named after a legendary slave, was officially founded on September 17, 1877. Nicodemus is endowed with a rich history. It is also evident of the great human phenomena of a mass migration of Blacks from the South to the Midwest under the Benjamin "Pap" Singleton influence.

Nicodemus is of national historical significance because it is the only remaining town established by Blacks of the "Exoduster" movement. It is the site of the oldest reported Post Office supervised by Blacks in the United States. On January 7, 1976, The Secretary of the United States Department of Interior designated Nicodemus as a National Historic Landmark District, and selected seven (7) buildings and sites as historic landmarks.

The Nicodemus Annual Celebration began in 1887 on the Townsite. In 1895, the location of this annual affair was moved to a place commonly known as the "Scruggs Grove", 1½ miles southwest of the Nicodemus Townsite. It remained there for 55 years or until 1950. Its initial purpose was to provide a picnic and entertainment for residents of the community. It later became a symbolic affair in celebration of the emancipation proclamation. Since 1946, the annual program has been known as the Nicodemus Annual Homecoming Celebration. This first annual Nicodemus Black History Symposium held in conjunction with the 1979 Homecoming Celebration is dedicated to the inspiration, the will to survive, and the courageous efforts of our forefathers in the settling of the Nicodemus Township on the extreme western edge of a frontier society in "The Land of the Free".