

PHOTO: CIRCULAR.

The advertisements for Nicodemus led potential settlers to believe that the soil was rich and black. In reality it was hard and yielded to vegetation only reluctantly. The country had been sold to be "rolling and pleasing to the eye." Yet it was flat and barren as far as the eye could see. An abundance of water had been promised from the south fork of the Solomon River. However, the river was quite a distance from the townsite.

PHOTO: POOR SETTLERS OF NICODEMUS.

Many of the settlers were ill equipped, being unable to afford farm implements. Beside the fact that the first year the settlers arrived too late in the season to begin planting. These would-be farmers found they had to travel great distances to find work to tide them through the winter.

PHOTO: WILLIANA.
WILLIANA ON HOMESTEAD.

WILLIANA: "Days, weeks, months, and years passed, and I became reconciled to my home. We saw it grow, it was our fondest hope."

PHOTO: NICODEMUS.

NARRATOR: That first winter the 350 residents of the town would probably have starved to death except for the generosity of the local Osage and Pottawatomie Indians who shared their game and government provisions with them. However, the settlers of Nicodemus were proud to be free in a land of their own. This attitude combined with a strong religious faith kept them going that first hard year.

PHOTO: OSAGE\POTTAWATOMIE.