

## SOCIETY'S BRIEF

o The Study Team for the Department of Interior was on the townsite January 13, 1992 for their initial site visit. The overall project and its objectives were discussed.

o The Community Task Group for the Nicodemus Site Project met February 18, 1992, to discuss historical interpretive programs and activities for each historical structure and the townsite as a whole, if site status is achieved.

o A Community meeting was held on February 29, 1992, for the purposes of obtaining input from the community at large regarding possible historical interpretive programs for Nicodemus.

o John Mann, producer for the Nicodemus Documentary met with Angela Bates for initial review of the first edited version. He was at Kansas University to select archival photographs and materials for use in the documentary. He hopes to have the documentary finished by June.

o Homecoming is in a few months and we are beginning to plan some of the activities that promise to be fun. The 2nd Annual Bike Tour is scheduled for Sunday, August 2. For all those who want to brave this tour or part of it for fun, please fill out the attached registration form and send it in.

o A Nicodemus Telephone Directory is currently underway. It will include names of relatives and friends who have visited Demus over the last several years. It will also include Historical Society members and others who we have on record. We will be publishing it sometime in the fall and will be selling family and business ads. If you want to make sure your name, address, and phone number are included in the directory, please send it to us. Please indicate your mother's maiden name.

o JohnElla Holmes-Petrie provided a tour of Nicodemus to about 60 elementary students on Friday April 3. Angela Bates has hosted and given tours to a number of people over the last several year. She gave a tour to 6 Rotary exchange visitors from Norway on Monday, April 13. Efforts are underway with state and local tourist organizations to plan and organize tours. The Historical Society is working on an informational packet that will be given to tourist when they arrive.

o April 11 the community of Nicodemus was invited to a special tour of the Spencer Research Library at Kansas University in Lawrence and to see the Nicodemus Exhibit. They attended a special luncheon in their honor. Five members from the community attended. The exhibit will be

on display through the month of May. It is open to the general public and all are encouraged to see it.

o Plans are underway to begin a clean up in and around historical structures. Signage for these structures is also being considered as a temporary measure until site status is obtained.

o April 25 - 30, 1992, Angela Bates and Kansas University geography graduate student Helen Scheumaker will be in Georgetown, Kentucky to conduct research. Helen is documenting the cultural difference in grave sites and tombstones of Nicodemus versus Hill City and Stockton and other white communities. Her research will be invaluable to Nicodemus. Angela will be visiting with the Georgetown and Lexington Historical Societies and individual families of those Kentuckians who returned after seeing the promise land of Kansas, in 1877.

## BIRTHDAYS

### January

1/2	Helen Scroggins
1/3	JohnElla Holmes-Petrie
1/7	Erwin Dabney
1/18	Johnnie Powell
1/21	Gwen Smith
1/22	Karla Legere

### February

2/2	Marci Penner
2/13	Robert Brogden Jr.
2/16	Ernestine VanDuVall
2/22	George Wellington
2/24	Ora Switzer
2/24	Rene Clark
2/25	James Creighton
2/26	Teresa Switzer

### March

3/1	Thomas Wellington
3/14	Howard Webster
3/16	Quilik Walton
3/22	Mark Taylor
3/23	Leo Williams Jr.

## 1992 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not paid your dues please do so as soon as possible. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

1992 DUES \$15.00

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

## CHAT BACK

BOB DOLE  
KANSAS  
161 SENATE HART BUILDING  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

COMMITTEE  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
RAILS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 13, 1992

Dear Friends,

I regret that I am unable to be with you today in Nicodemus, but would like to take this opportunity to thank all interested citizens and the National Park Service Study Team for their help in making this important meeting possible. As you may know, I have long taken a keen interest in preserving our key historical sites in the state of Kansas. The Fort Larned National Historical Site and the Fort Scott National Historical Site are two excellent examples of our government properly preserving the history of our great state for many generations to come.

The town of Nicodemus has a long and important history as a home to black pioneers, and is a unique chapter in the settling of the West. Not only is it's designation as an Historical Site crucial in preserving our past, but it would provide for future generations an accurate historical account of the brave Americans who made this town their home.

Last year, in the Department of Interior appropriations bill, I asked that funds left over from the Wilson Lake study be used to examine the feasibility of adding Nicodemus to the park system as a National Historic Site. I strongly support this study, and eagerly await it's findings.

Finally, I would like to send my special regards to Angela Bates of the Nicodemus Historical Society. Only through Angela's hard work and persistence have we come this far. I look forward to working with her, the National Park Service, and all supporters of Nicodemus as the study develops.

Again, thanks for coming. I will closely monitor the work of the study team as we map the future of Nicodemus.

Sincerely,

*Bob*

BOB DOLE  
United States Senate

## BULLETIN BOARD

**April 29** The Nicodemus Historical Society will be providing a community tour to 15 tour bus companies. These tour bus companies are touring the northwestern part of the state to determine places to visit for the scheduled tours.

**May 12 - June 3** There will be a Nicodemus exhibit at the Hansen Museum in Logan, Kansas. The exhibit is on display in conjunction with "The Long Road Up the Hill, Blacks in Congress from the 1880's through 1990", a Smithsonian sites exhibit. All are welcome and encouraged to see the exhibit.

**July 31 - August 2** 1992 Nicodemus Homecoming (Emancipation Celebration)

**August 3** Nicodemus Historic Site Study Team Public Meeting

## DEATHS

**Lloyd L. Wellington**  
January 13, 1909 - February 24, 1992  
Services held at Nicodemus  
February 29, 1992  
Interment - Mt Olive Cemetery  
Nicodemus

**Bobby Lacy**  
September 12, 1907 - April 8, 1992  
Services held at Nicodemus  
April 11, 1992  
Interment - Nicodemus Cemetery  
Nicodemus