

(photo.)

(photo.) That's Simon P. Roundtree. Ordained minister and wonderful orator. He has a brand on him, you know. Put on him while he was a slave because he got his master's son to teach him to read and write. Anyway, Reverend Roundtree is the secretary of the Town Company.

(Z.T. Fletcher appears.)

ESTHER

Morning, Z.T. Mr. Prentis, this is Z.T. Fletcher, our postmaster.

(Fletcher actually "poses" for Prentis.)

FLETCHER

My wife, Mrs. Fletcher. (she enters and waves to Esther.) Nicodemus wouldn't be complete without Mrs. Fletcher.

MRS. FLETCHER

Well, it hasn't always been easy being the first woman to settle here. Sure glad when you came along, Esther.

FLETCHER

I'd say you've done just fine for yourself. And for the other good citizens.

MRS. FLETCHER

I'll be opening the school soon.

ESTHER

How many pupils you expecting?

MRS. FLETCHER

45, I believe. I hope to be giving lessons by this coming winter. But i do hate to have those children down in out dugout all day, not getting enough of the sunlight.

FLETCHER

The schooling's more important.

MRS. FLETCHER

Will you work on establishing an official school district with the other men, like you promised you would?