

CEW

Lafayette, Kansas

9-4-1994

The Nicodemus Historical Society

We appreciate the cards, but Catherine is  
ill, and under no circumstances can we  
be with you, although we'd love to  
Have a good time

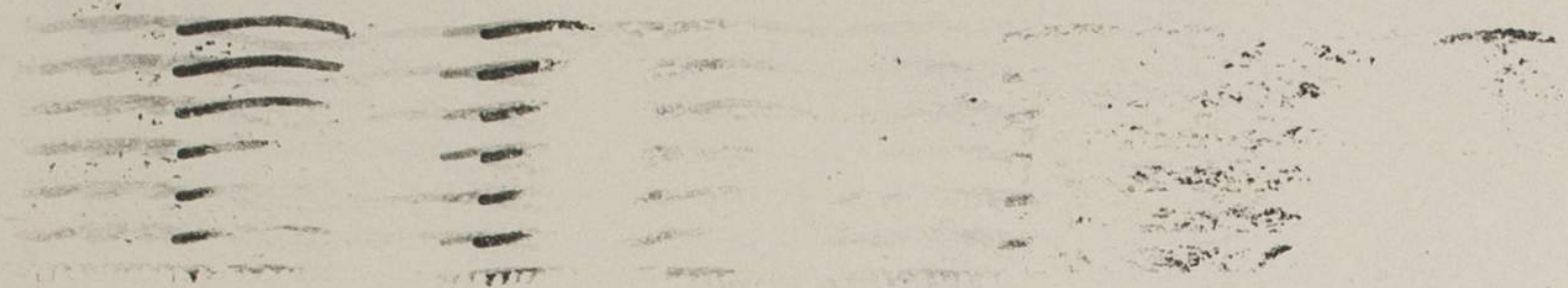
Marko Agan  
Lanette Agan



Mr Carroll E Wainwright  
607 Co Urt Pl #308  
Lakin, KS. 67860

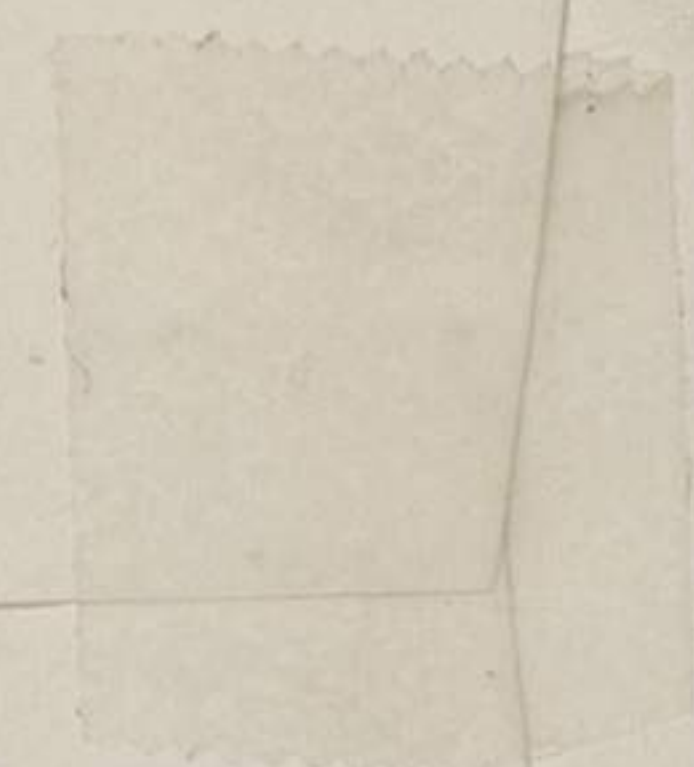


The Nicodemus Historical Society  
RR 2 - Box 131  
Nicodemus, Kansas  
67625



607 COURT PLACE #308

LAKIN, KANSAS 67860



The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 674-3311

September 19, 1994

J.F. Stover  
415 W. Walnut  
Hill City, KS 67625

Dear J.F.:

Enclosed is the information about our Pioneer Days. We would like for you to start at 11:00 and go until 5:00, taking a break when you feel the need. We will keep to the same format as last year with gospel singing, buffalo soldier dramatization and history briefs and periodic announcements throughout the day.

We look forward to having you do the music hope we have a big crowd like we did last year. We are sending our advertisements this week. We really think it will be a major success!

Any questions, just call me. (674-2084)

Thanks,

Angela Bates  
President

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 674-3311

September 19, 1994

Gary Newell  
HC01 box 38  
Damar, KS 67632

Dear Gary:

Enclosed is the information about our Pioneer Days. We would like for you to start with the ride about 11:00 and continue every 15 minutes until 5:00, taking a brake at 12:15-1:00 or as the crowd dictates. Last year we paid split the proceeds with Berland, and will be willing to do the same, unless you want a flat donation. What ever is going to work for you.

We look forward to having you do the rides and hope we have a big crowd like we did last year. We are sending our advertisements this week. We really think it will be a major success!

Any questions, just call me. (674-2084)

Thanks,

Angela Bates  
President

The Nicodemus Historical Society  
R.R. 2, Box 139  
Nicodemus, Kansas 67625



BOGUE,  
SEP  
23  
PM  
1994  
67625



ATTEMPTED - NOT KNOWN

KFRM Radio  
106 W. 43rd  
Dutchman, KS 67501

KFRM106 675022222 IN 09/24/94  
RETURN TO SENDER  
NO FORWARD ORDER ON FILE  
UNABLE TO FORWARD  
RETURN TO SENDER

NO  
RES



Howard Vogal<sup>e</sup>  
47 Eighth St.  
Phillipsburg, KS 67661

*Make corrections*

BOGUE, KY  
SEP  
24  
PM  
1994  
67625



RETURN TO SENDER  
ALL  
AUTHORIZED TIME FOR  
FORWARDING HAS EXPIRED

Cheryl Franklin  
5612 W. Brooklyn Place  
Milwaukee, WI 53216

Handwritten signature





1110 W 99 St  
L.A. CA, 90044

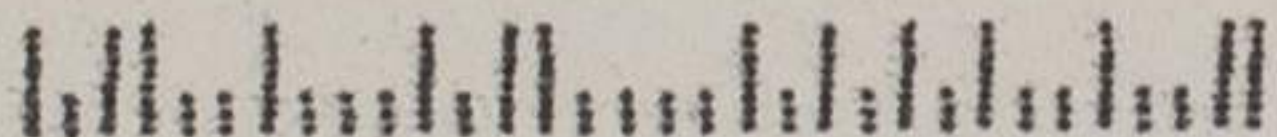
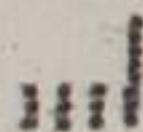
Orlo VanDyke



THANKS

Nicodemus Historical Society  
P.O. 2 Box 131  
Nicodemus KANSAS

676 25



The Nicodemus Historical Society

Pioneer Days October 8-9

request the pleasure of your company

at a

Special Reception in Honor of  
Nicodemus Pioneers

to be held at the

Nicodemus Township Hall

on the evening of Saturday, October 8, 1994

at 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Tickets \$5.00 Donation

to benefit of our new offices and museum

*Attire*

*Pioneer Dress or Semi Formal*

RSVP (913) 674-3311

# 10. FOR Ticket

# 15. DWE

RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO

**THE STOCKTON NATIONAL BANK**

**STOCKTON, KANSAS 67669**



*Academy Historical Society  
c/o Conch Bates  
Boyer, # 67625*

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*Pioneer Dress or Semi Formal*

RSVP (913) 674-3311

*sorry cannot attend.*  
*Jack B Berkley*

Sept. 28, 1994

Dear friends -

I sincerely regret I will be unable to attend the reception in honor of Nicodemus Pioneer Saturday Oct. 8. I will be leaving tomorrow for an extended stay in North Carolina. I truly appreciate your remembering me. I had read of your accomplishments and praise you for them. Your people are to be congratulated on your efforts to preserve your history and make our country aware of them - your ancestors -

We were so impressed with your homecoming we attended in 1993 and planned to attend again this year, but events prevented it.

Angela, your story in Kansas magazine was outstanding. Thanks for your efforts.

Am enclosing a check for your use in the new office and museum

May your reception be a  
complete success, as well  
as all future endeavor -

As ever -

Lucille Mikeselle

405 NE 15

Abilene

Kansas 67410

Thank  
you's

465 NE 15

Abilene

Ks 67410



Nicodemus Historical Society

RR 2 - Box 131

Nicodemus

Kansas - 67625



The Nicodemus Historical Society  
Pioneer Days October 8-9

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*Pioneer Dress or Semi Formal*

RSVP (913) 674-3311

*"OVER"*

I'M SORRY I  
COULDN'T BE THERE TO  
ENJOY ALL THE FRIENDS  
AND FAMILY. HOWEVER,  
THOUGHTS ARE WITH  
ALL OF YOU AND ESPECIALLY  
THE FINE JOB YOU'RE DOING.  
I'M SO Proud OF THE  
EFFORT SHOWN BY ALL.

Love  
Tommy Savage

ALD  
D. M. T. V.

Marlys Rees  
P.O. Box 147  
Delhi, Iowa 52223



Ms. Angela Bates  
The Nicodemus Historical Society  
R R 2 - Box 131  
Nicodemus, KS 67625

MARLYS REES



10-3-94

Dear Mrs. Bates,

Thank you so much for the invitation to the Special Reception. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend - it is the same day as my daughter's wedding (and my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday) in California.

Please accept my donation and may God Bless you in your continuing work -

Sincerely,  
Marlys Rees

MEMBER:

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMPENSATION,  
PENSION, AND INSURANCE



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**JIM SLATTERY**  
SECOND DISTRICT, KANSAS

October 3, 1994

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2243 RAYBURN HOUSE  
OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1602  
(202) 225-6601

KANSAS OFFICES:  
700 SW JACKSON  
SUITE 803  
TOPEKA, KS 66603  
(913) 233-2503  
1001 NORTH BROADWAY  
SUITE C  
P.O. Box 1306  
PITTSBURG, KS 66762  
(316) 231-6040

The Nicodemus Historical Society  
R.R. 2 - Box 131  
Nicodemus, Kansas 67625

Dear Friends:

Thank you for inviting Congressman Jim Slattery to attend the Special Reception honoring the Nicodemus Pioneers to be held the evening of October 8, 1994.

The Congressman very much regrets that his schedule prevents him from accepting your generous invitation. Please know that he would be grateful to be invited to join you on another occasion.

We welcome your thoughts on legislation before Congress, and urge you to contact our office if we may be of service to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Stillings".

Joyce Stillings  
Executive Assistant

cc: Congressman Slattery

BOB DOLE  
KANSAS  
141 SENATE HART BUILDING  
(202) 224-6521

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
RULES

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1601

October 3, 1994

The Nicodemus Historical Society  
Route #2, Box 131  
Nicodemus, Kansas 67625

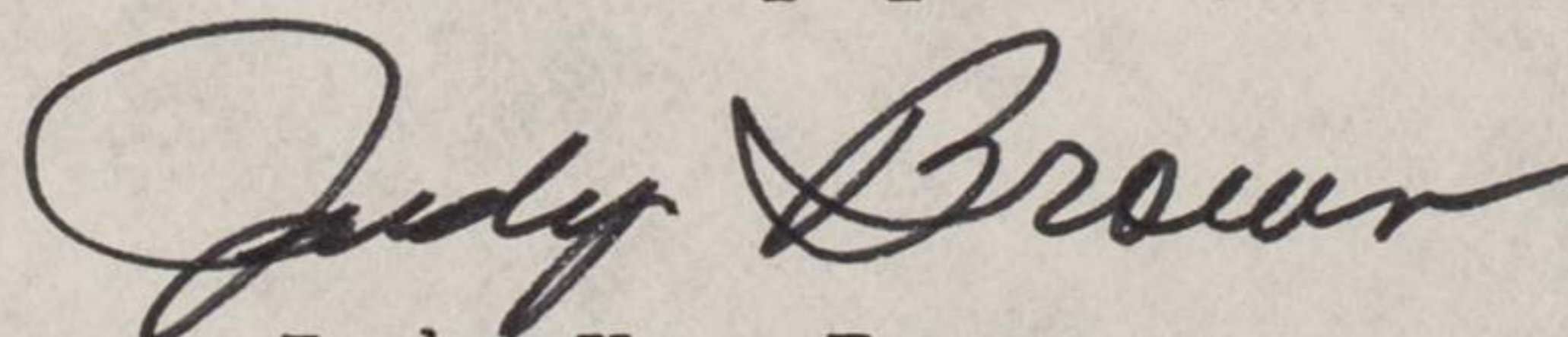
Dear Friends:

Thank you for inviting Senator Dole to your Special Reception in Honor of Nicodemus Pioneers, on Saturday, October 8.

Unfortunately, Senator Dole will be unable to join you due to conflicts in scheduling. However, he does send his warm regards and best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Again, Senator Dole appreciates the invitation and regrets he can't be with you.

Sincerely yours,



Judy Kay Brown  
Regional Administrator  
Topeka Senate office

/jkb

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Pioneer Days October 8-9

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*Pioneer Dress or Semi Formal*

RSVP (913) 674-3311

*(over)*



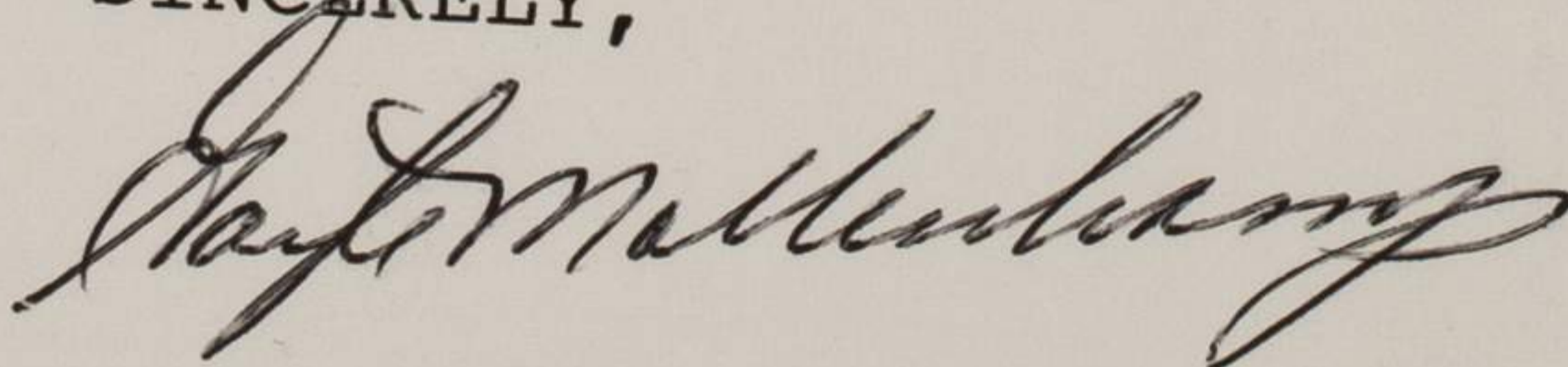
Oct 4, 1994

Dear Friends,

I Surely APPRECIATE YOUR  
THINKING OF ME AND INVITING  
ME TO YOUR CELEBRATION, BUT  
DO TO PRIOR COMMITMENTS I  
WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND.  
THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION,  
AND I DO HAVE TO DECLINE WITH  
REGRETS.

AN ENCLOSING \$5.00 CONTRIBU-  
TION .

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gayle Mollenkamp".

GAYLE MOLLENKAMP  
STATE Representative  
118TH DISTRICT

GM:mm

P.O. Box 351  
Tribune, Kansas 67879  
October 4, 1994

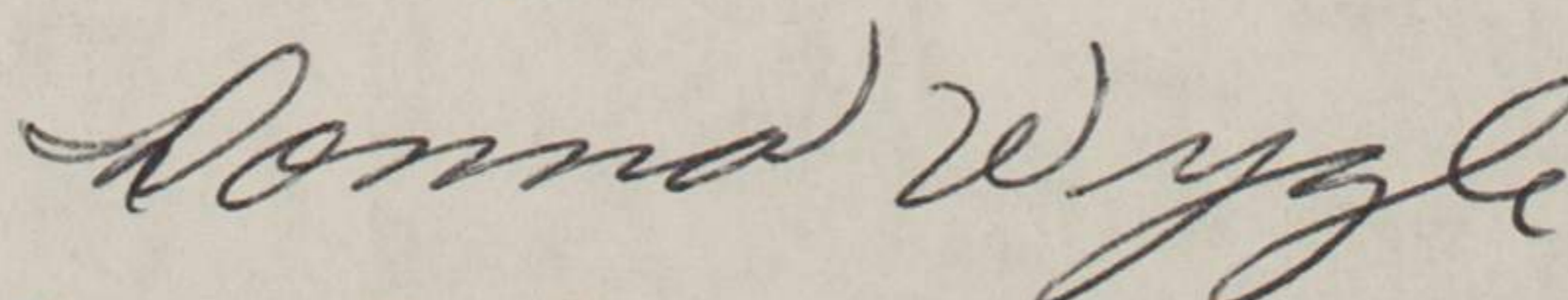
Dear Angela Bates:

Thank you for your gracious invitation to Nicodemus Pioneer Days Reception. I will be unable to attend due to illness in the family but please accept this donation toward the benefit of your new offices and museum. Ever since I learned about Nicodemus, it has been my pleasure to attend the Emancipation Day celebrations, and to play host to the presentation of "Buffalo Soldiers" in Tribune. You have made an admirable effort of bring the positive news of your town to the public. Your recent article, "The Kansas African American History Trail", in the Kansas magazine comes to mind.

In the same issue of KANSAS!, and following your article, is the page of Tours, Museums and Events. Dr. Fred Whitehead's name is listed under the Quindaro Underground Railroad site in Kansas City, KS. He, along with Kansas legislators, launched a successful campaign to save the historical site down by the river, from becoming a land-fill. Millions of dollars were at stake from the corporation which hoped to profit from the land deal. There were law suites and a protracted battle over the ownership of the land. But at last enough pressure from Civil-Rights groups and from the environmentalists who were concerned that the land-fill would pollute the river that the commercial use of the area was halted and the site was turned over to the Quindaro Historical Society.

Dr. Whitehead also publishes a newsletter known as the PEOPLE'S CULTURE. I have taken the liberty of enclosing an issue. As you will see from your reading, the newsletter is in need of a more broadly based support. The letter is a voice for social issues that the membership feels need to be addressed and so work for constructive change in our society as a whole. It is often that by linking up with other groups that we help our cause as well. Would you consider writing an article for publication in the PC newsletter? Your support would be most appreciated. Since Dr. Whitehead's appeal to the membership has gone out, he has heard from people all over the world, including Germany and Britian. Those letters will be published in the next issue. He also accepted my letter. I suppose the most exciting thing about activist group is that even little people who stir themselves and work together can effect big change. That's certainly entergizing for all involved.

Sincerely,



Donna Wygle

# PEOPLE'S CULTURE

New Series #22—July/August 1994—\$15 per year by Subscription Only  
Editor: Fred Whitehead Address: Box 5224, Kansas City, Kansas 66119

## DOES THIS NEWSLETTER HAVE A FUTURE?

As this project approaches the completion of its 4th year of publication in the new series, it seems like a good time to visit with readers about its standing and prospects. Between 1978 and 1983, I published a literary magazine called *Quindaro*, which had in the neighborhood of 100-120 subscribers. I have to report that after 4 years, this newsletter has about 140 subscribers, with about 50 exchanges with other publications.

All of us daily receive appeals for money; this is not one of them. What I am appealing for is your insight, your perspective, your strategic thought. To carry out this project with the kind of care I have taken requires an incredible amount of time and energy. I have some advantage in historical perspective; for instance, when Thoreau was editing *The Dial*, it had a subscription list of only 100 names. Through heroic effort, Margaret Fuller was able to build it up to 200. Yet, *The Dial* helped create and sustain the great Transcendentalist movement in philosophy and culture.

What troubles me about *People's Culture* is simply that it has no connection with a cultural movement; I have the decidedly uneasy feeling that it goes Out Into The Void to an atomized aggregate of rugged individualists. I rarely receive any feedback from readers, even those whose books are reviewed. I realize that we are living through a period of collapse for the "Left"; that in a situation where almost all organizations we had are in disarray, it is difficult, and probably impossible to speak of doing anything more than starting over from scratch. It has been especially painful to experience the failure of almost all cultural publications in the socialist countries; few if any of these survive.

I was struck to read the comments of the noted German artist Jörg Immendorff, in an interview with *Le Monde* [reprinted in the box to the left here]. I don't agree with him that close contact with workers "is not the best method," but I do concur that we all badly need something like "a congress of druids," or means by which artists, writers and other people in culture can talk, argue, think, and create in a fertilizing exchange of ideas and concepts. Workers surely deserve to be a part of this process too. But the problem is, how can this happen? Fragmentation and alienation are so severe that people are almost unable to socialize.

This is a process that has affected entire societies. As C. Wright Mills noted almost 40 years ago, we have devolved from being citizens, to consumers; from participating in a living folk culture, we have been reduced to being passive television voyeurs, who haplessly "channel surf" trying to find something, anything stimulating. I have written in these pages about how empires move inexorably into phases of decadence. Can anyone deny that this is happening to us? It has been a strange experience to produce a newsletter issue

"It's a fact that for a long time I was a Maoist. It's not something I really want to go over again. But I did learn something from that episode in my life: that meeting the people the way Sartre did, in the streets, selling *La Cause du Peuple*, leaving his study in time to meet workers as they came out of factories, is not the best method.

"There's another line of action which entails reforging the union of writers, musicians and painters in such a way as to prevent standardisation and confusion. In Germany there are no ties between painters and writers. There are only specialists in one or other of the genres, without any connection between them, whereas the essential should be shared by everyone.

"In one of the *Astérix* albums—I can't remember which one—a congress of druids is organized. What we need is something like that, and I'm not joking; a meeting of artists so we can put back together what has been separated, so we can find a way forward, even if it means failing totally and not getting the slightest plaudit.

"If the view that art is a luxury, something like a superior form of design, prevails, it means it's something we can do without: all is lost. Art isn't the icing on the cake, and the cake is much too hard to be eaten."

—Jörg Immendorff, *Guardian Weekly*, August 14

with a large section on Labor Culture, then to send it out to contacts in the labor movement, and to receive no response. Similarly with issues on Race; no African-Americans would subscribe; on Women, no women would subscribe. I think it is a fact that we have many "interest groups" along gender and ethnic lines, but little interest in what anyone else is doing. That is, there are journals, newsletters, professional organizations in each of these fields, but no one wants to consider the Big Picture. We have no shared goals or strategies; it's every woman or man for themselves.

We have had phases like this in American history. When the Populist movement collapsed in the late 1890s, the Republicans appeared totally victorious; yet the Socialist movement soon developed. In the 1920s, the Socialists were imprisoned and exiled, yet the Thirties produced a tremendous surge of radicalism. However, what bothers me about our present situation is that we really haven't faced massive repressions now; the problem is systemic and much deeper: people are too bored to stir themselves. Too thoroughly pacified, too dependent and impaired. For all our knowledge of Hegemony, surely the world's greatest example is right before our eyes, and it ain't us.

All that said, let's go back and assess who we are. The typical reader/subscriber of this newsletter is a 40 to 50 year old teacher or other cultural professional. Most of you have

a background of some political activism; you cut your ideological teeth in the 1960s, and haven't given up the struggle, as so many have. So I guess in that sense most of us have some significant shared experiences, opposing the war in Vietnam, working for civil rights, justice and peace. A lot of you are writers: historians, poets, a few small press publishers. I expect that you are fairly sophisticated, and appreciate complex ideas; otherwise you wouldn't keep subscribing.

I need a clearer sense from you what our common situation is, how you see it, what you think we can do. Are we just a formless collection of individuals, however radical we may be? At present I often feel as if I am producing the Fred Whitehead Newsletter, odd and interesting, somewhat like Izzy Stone of old (again, the Sixties model). Stone, by the way, started with a solid list of several thousand subscribers, from the *PM* newspaper in New York City; no such basis has been available for *PC*. I suppose I could be content with that, but to be honest, I have little interest in what is known as "niche" publishing, where we have newsletters and journals devoted to everything from 50s pulp romances to barbed wire or golf tees. My question to you is: can *PC* serve as the voice of an emergent cultural movement? Will it ever connect with larger organizations, such as labor unions, the historic core of social progress? Maybe someday it can become the tribune of a revolutionary movement, but for the moment, the issue is survival and a reason to keep going.

From a financial standpoint, *PC* is paying its way (though the editor and contributors, of course, are unpaid). Money, again, is not the issue. What I need is for you to write me and give me your ideas about the condition of our movement, and even if we have a movement at all. Can you help obtain subscribers from contacts in your local community, from colleagues, from your correspondents? Can you take subscription flyers to professional or political meetings? Are you able to use copies of articles in your classes (feel free to photocopy these, within reason)? Above all, what do you think about getting young subscribers, who are the future?

If you think you might be able to write for *PC*, even on an occasional basis, please advise of your interests; we can generally obtain review copies of books, music, etc.

In the past, cultural people used to have big national meetings, where we could get to know one another. Certainly the large, dynamic artists and writers conventions of the Thirties were a great morale boost for all who participated. International writers, from Spain or Germany, were greeted with great emotion and enthusiasm. In the late 1970s, and again in 1985, we in Kansas City reinstated these gatherings, where many of us met Meridel LeSueur, Jack Conroy, Tom McGrath, and Truman Nelson for the first time. Can anyone come forth with a commitment to organizing some such "congress of druids"?

In general, we need to ally our political beliefs with the pleasure principle, discarding the stubborn heritage of puritanism for an open and happy form of paganism—to live the good life as best we can under conditions of oppression. The journalist Molly Ivins was just in Kansas City to give a lecture, and proposed that "we should have fun while we're fightin' for freedom, since it might be the only fun we'll have." Furthermore, she said, "I am here to encourage a spirit of creative mischief." The answer to fragmentation is surely integration and synthesis: we will have to forge our own new culture, and no one else will do it for us.

It would be a shame for any of us to live in communities without regular poetry readings, art shows, film and video series—all or any of these with parties, discussions, and an atmosphere of solidarity and imaginative momentum. When I was in Germany in 1983, it was wonderful to see the cultural posters everywhere: why don't our artists supply the needs of the various activist movements: the defenders of the women's clinics, unions, political campaigns, etc.

We need, always, to remember our heroines and heroes: almost every locality in this country has some person who has contributed to our lives. Have a reading or festival to commemorate them. Sometimes we won't have to organize our own festivals: so join one that already exists. Where we live should be adorned with statues of our great creators. In days past, schools were named for poets; now, I fear that the students rarely have any idea who these people were. Whittier, for instance, was a household name in the 19th century, but who knows he was a staunch abolitionist who was mobbed for his beliefs?

In K.C. we have had a successful Labor History Tour, taken by scores of people; we got a bus, and visited all the historic sites associated with the stock yards, the Great Southwest Strike of 1886, the organization of the Pullman porters union, etc. Every city in America should have such expeditions, and then labor history should be fully integrated into the curriculum of the schools and colleges. While some of the leaders of these tours were academics, others were rank and file workers; we shouldn't underestimate what people will be willing to do if the challenge arises.

Finally, save some of your time, every day, for your utopian imagination: what would the USA look like if we had a just and beautiful, artistic society? What would schools teach if they taught the truth, if they had a positive and constructive environment? How can we make public television public, instead of a vehicle for British upper class melodramas? Ask your own questions, but supply some answers too. For the next issue, I would like to run a special section of responses to this column, so please indicate when you reply if I may publish it there. I'll give a prize of a copy of a magnificent coffee table book, *America in 1492* (value: \$50), to the best letter. If I don't get any letters, then I'll have no choice but to proceed with plans to close this project down at the end of 1994.

## THE CASE OF EARL THOMPSON

by Tom Page

Shunned by academic critics, the populist novelist from Wichita, Kansas, Earl Thompson, who published four novels between 1970 and 1981 (three before his death in 1978, the last posthumously), is still in print and continues to be read. Thompson was a novelist in the tradition of American naturalism who attempted to understand his world and times. In his trilogy of autobiographical novels, *A Garden of Sand*, *Tattoo*, and *The Devil to Pay*, Thompson analyzes his people and experiences from the point of view of Cat, Jack, or Jari—the various names given his central character: a thinly disguised Earl. In these novels Thompson relates the story of an incestuous relationship with his mother and his disgust of racism, homophobia, militarism, and imperialism. While *A Garden of Sand* has some rough spots, in *Tattoo*, *The Devil to Pay*, and *Caldo Largo*—the story of an alienated veteran who becomes a gun runner in the Caribbean—his novelistic skills are fully developed.

Who are Thompson's people? In an interview published in *Esquire* in 1970, Thompson said: "My persisting values are those of that class which is trapped between poverty that is a personal moral failure and the lure of material reward for citizenship they can never achieve. A class that is a persistent pain in the ass to all representative societies, whatever theirism. People who are so early frightened by violence anything short of death is a personal victory. And all have been wounded."

Jack, the protagonist of *A Garden of Sand*, is raised by his maternal grandparents in Wichita after his father's death. His grandfather is a proud, populist farmer on the outskirts of Wichita, who loses his farm in the depression of the 1930s and moves into the city. The grandfather, fiercely independent in the spirit of the old west that once prevailed in the city and the region, rails against all politicians and establishments. Not willing to humble himself by working on WPA projects, his family sinks ever lower on the social scale, to live in a plywood trailer off an alley in north Wichita, where the old man dies in the early 1950s. The grandmother takes in sewing and works odd jobs to keep the family together.

Jack's mother becomes a prostitute, and for a time, Jack, precocious and old beyond his years, enters into a sexual relationship with her. Although relatively young, she dies of leukemia during Jack's youth. He is emotionally marked by the image of his mother and himself having sex, and the women that Jack loves find him cold and insensitive. In the third novel of the trilogy, he remarks on his inability to experience love, as opposed to lust. When *A Garden of Sand* and *Tattoo* were published in 1970 and 1974 respectively, denial that incest ever occurred was the norm. Mother-son sexual relationships, if and when they happened, were strongly repressed, but Earl Thompson had the guts and the nerve to publish his account of sexual abuse at a time when discussion of such relationships was taboo.

At the age of fourteen, in the last months of WWII, Jack lies to a recruiting officer and joins the navy. He sees duty in China; the misery and violence he witnesses there will influence his later attitudes concerning racism, militarism, and imperialism. His sexual education continues in China. While a crewman on a hospital ship, he is involved in an orgy with a drunken nurse; on shore he visits prostitutes. At home again a few years later, Jack fails in marriage and work. He is involved with another woman, and his wife leaves him. He doesn't seem to fit in, although he works hard, is the judgment of one of his bosses. Unable to stand life in Wichita, Jack goes to California where he joins the Army. He falls in love with an American woman in Germany, but the affair ends when he is ordered to Korea. *Tattoo* ends with a scene from the retreat from the Yalu during the Korean War. Jack survives and is home on leave when his grandfather dies. He stays in the army and is promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant. As the youngest top sergeant in the army, Jack is courted by journalists and politicians. He realizes that it is his class, the poor, who are recruited to fight the cold war, and that America has come to depend on a military economy for its apparent prosperity. Deciding he wants an education and to become a journalist, Jack resigns from the army.

---

"He realizes that it is his class, the poor, who are recruited to fight the cold war...."

---

*The Devil to Pay* finds Jack as a student journalist at the University of Missouri; he writes a story about the campus police watching for "queers" behind two-way mirrors in the men's rooms. Censured by the administration, Jack leaves the university in disgust. He pursues journalism and becomes a military analyst for a Chicago area newspaper. There he learns the cold war is taken for a patriotic given and the military-industrial complex is a sacred cow. He opens a small business in Brooklyn and writes part-time. After forty rejections, Jack's first novel is accepted for publication, mainly because his girlfriend is the wife of an editor. He is against the war in Vietnam and admires the youth who take a stand against it, but feels strangely left out of events and powerless to influence them.

According to the entry for him in *Contemporary Authors*, Earl Thompson's first novel was widely praised by critics and earned a National Book Award nomination. *Caldo Largo* received favorable reviews. Christopher Lehman-Haupt wrote that "he makes his Gulf waters seethe with wildlife, about which he has interesting lore to impart that even Melville forgot to mention." Thompson's social concerns are also noted by the same reviewer: "What saves *Caldo Largo* from being merely an exciting yarn—assuming that it has to be rescued from such a state at all—is Mr. Thompson's refreshingly skeptical view of the American system, which serves to make entirely plausible the desperate pitch of his character's behavior. It is by no means propagandistic social realism that Mr. Thompson serves up."

In the *Hudson Review* in 1975, William H. Pritchard, in a review essay of some fourteen novels, upholds Jamesian high art and pans *Tattoo*, although he admits it is "searingly honest." A reviewer of *The Devil to Pay*, in the *Wichita Eagle-Beacon*, writing in 1982, fails in any meaningful sense to understand the novel: "It is like the fictionalized diary of a writer who appears to have had as much trouble dealing with success as with failure." Actually, this review says more about the reviewer than it does about Thompson, but suggests certain conclusions about the novelist's ability as a writer: "When you realize that Cat is white, the novel makes less sense, although it makes more sense if you read *A Garden of Sand*, an earlier Thompson novel."

Meridel LeSueur places Thompson in the tradition of Dreiser and the midwestern realists. His depiction of sex, violence, and the hypocrisy of American society as he experienced it, contribute to this view. Thompson's depiction of his coming of age in a family in Wichita, Kansas, during the 1930s and 40s speaks to the experience of the generation of GIs who struggled for an education and piece of the American Dream. His realistic treatment of his times is unrelieved by the usual epiphanies that would be understood by middle-class critics. The high points of Thompson's work, as it were, are the scenes in which his grandfather rants against the government and politicians, and where Thompson himself questions post-WWII, Madison-Avenue driven America.

Several weeks ago I bought a compendium entitled *399 Kansas Characters*. It is an interesting work, but in the section, "Authors, Artists, and Composers," there is no mention of Earl Thompson. Meanwhile, it would appear that the projected *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature*, planned by the Society for the Study of Midwest Literature, will omit any mention of Earl Thompson. What accounts for this neglect? Was Thompson a Kansan? Was he an important writer? Was he a national writer? The answer to these questions has to be a "yes, but."

As a Kansas writer, Thompson represents the underclass of urban, industrial Kansas. The factories and rail yards of Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita, and smaller cities such as Pittsburg and Salina, are the Kansas places of his trilogy. The popular image of a bucolic Kansas of kindly farmers (there are very few left), small towns, and quilting bees is totally foreign to Thompson. He never experienced the small town world of a William Allen White and never bought into its mythology. But he does write, and write well, about his Kansas.

Was Thompson an important writer? Certainly he was, but a difficult one for readers with conventional attitudes. He makes them think! Nominated for a National Book Award and selected by the Book of the Month Club, he was difficult, recognized, and popular. Was Thompson a national writer? Yes, but an American writer with an international perspective. *Tattoo* deals in large part with Asia as seen through the eyes of young Jack. As he attempts to understand its problems, he

also learns about imperialism and militarism. For example, when in Korea, Jack "watched an old woman put a dog in a sack and methodically beat it to death to make it tender enough to eat...Jack thought she could have been his grandmother, if she had been Korean."

Earl Thompson died in 1978 at the age of forty-six after publishing three distinguished novels in eight years. He was a very promising writer who died at the peak of his career. His roots were his grandfather, a Kansas populist; his experience that of contemporary urban America; his vision that of a better life for the dispossessed. Three of his novels are still in print.

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#### "PEACE IN OUR SOULS" by David Shevin

Kim and Reggie Harris. *In the Heat of the Summer* (cassette). \$10 from Folk Era, 6 South 230 Cohasset Road, Naperville, IL 60540). "Wait," you think when that music title comes up. It's a distant bell that's ringing. "Didn't Phil Ochs write a song about race issues and the Newark riot back in the sixties called 'In the Heat of the Summer'?" Sure, you're right, and here it is dramatically rendered, updated, with verses added to apply the anger in Los Angeles after the first Rodney King decision in Simi Valley.

The song was a great song back then. It still is. Kim and Reggie Harris have found a contemporary folk style rooted in the best interpretive traditions of folk music's renaissance a generation ago. Phil's sharp analysis and poignant social commentary still rings true, and the rest of the compositions—all originals by this gifted and emotive Philadelphia couple—recall sounds heard a generation ago and made new for a new history. "After the Rain," for example, works with the bright, poetic discovery of Len Chandler's lyrics. "Travellers" is an anthem worthy of Tom Paxton's best writing.

"Come Closer" is musically complex and tense, with both music and metaphor about reconciling relationships. It's the sort of tune that asks to be played repeatedly; it's both moving and fascinating in its "how do they make that change work?" beauty.

A stirring interpretation of "Wade in the Water" places the spiritual in its movement context, and harkens to the artists' first album of songs interpreting African-American history. "Kim's Song," a meditation about intimacy, is as memorable a love song as you could ask for. The album's closing tune "All My Relations," completing this engaging mix of public and personal statement, is a driving appreciation of cultures and generations. "If we pray for peace in Jerusalem, we must work for peace in our souls," the song reminds us. "Grandfathers of the four directions, we are grateful for our lives and for all our directions," says the Lakota prayer framing the song.

Folk Era distributes fairly successfully through their catalog and independent distribution systems. This is one worth tracking down.

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## THE LIFE & TIMES OF GEORGE

WASHINGTON (1840-1931) by James S. Johnson

On September 30, 1993, I traveled to Platte City, Missouri to meet a relative of my great-grandfather's slave owner, Gordon Miller, a retired insurance executive. The next week, Miller and his brother Jack took me to the site where my great-grandfather George Washington was a slave from the 1840s to the early 1860s. The site, now in ruins, was predominately a hemp farm, and is now within view of the Kansas City airport. The ruins consist of "the big house," out-buildings, and the remnant foundations of "slave quarters." This was an emotional tour, and culminated in a vow to preserve the memories of those buried, for posterity.

George Washington was born in "Old Virginia" in 1840, and was given as a wedding gift by his slave master to his daughter, who along with her husband, migrated by wagon and steamboat to Platte County, to farm hemp, corn and other cash crops. As was the custom of that era, George Washington was never permitted to learn to read or write, but he was undoubtedly influenced by rumors that Lincoln was about to free the slaves.

Pro and anti slavery advocates had been fighting in Kansas and Missouri since 1854. The abolitionist John Brown had saved Kansas for freedom by late 1858, before returning east to raid Harper's Ferry, and thence to become the martyred symbol of the North's cause.

In the winter of 1862, George Washington escaped by way of Parkville, Missouri, across the river and into the river-front abolitionist town of Quindaro, Kansas. There he found temporary sanctuary from slave bounty-hunters. Eventually he made his way to Leavenworth, where General Jim Lane, the "Grim Chieftain," was recruiting troops among free Blacks, especially from the swelling numbers of fugitive slaves. George enlisted in the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment in August, 1862, under the command of Col. James M. Williams. By the end of that month, some five hundred Black men were in camp; only months and sometimes days before, they had been fugitive slaves and considered property like farm animals. Now they were in uniform, under military discipline, marching in step, and impressing everyone with their "fine" appearance" and their superb precision on the drill field.

In early October, 1862, a detachment of 225 men from the 1st Kansas moved one hundred miles southeast of Leavenworth, to near Butler, Missouri. On the 28th, a group of about 500 Confederates surprised and attacked them. After a sharp skirmish, the 1st Kansas drove off the enemy. Ten of their regiment died, with 12 wounded. This was the first time in the war that Black troops had been in combat!! George Washington was part of that detachment.

Other battles in which the 1st Kansas took part included Cabin Creek and Honey Springs. In these engagements, they acquitted themselves "most gallantly, like veterans." General James Blunt declared: "I never saw such fight-



ing as was done by that Negro regiment...they make better soldiers in every respect than any troops I have ever had under my command."

President Lincoln's attitude had also changed as a result of the actions of Black troops in 1863. To a group of visitors and reporters complaining about the arming of Blacks, Lincoln said: "You say you will not fight to free Negroes. Some of them seem willing enough to fight for you." He went on to say, "You are dissatisfied with me about the Negro (but) some of the commanders of our armies in the field who have given us some of our most important successes, believe...the use of colored troops constitutes the heaviest blow yet dealt to the rebellion...When this war is won, there will be some black men who can remember that, with silent tongue, and clenched teeth, and steady eye, and well poised bayonet, they have helped mankind; while I fear there will be some white ones, unable to forget that with malignant heart, and deceitful speech, they strove to hinder it."

Nine months after Cabin Creek, the 1st Kansas was virtually decimated at the battle of Poison Springs, Arkansas. While again escorting another supply wagon train, the regiment suffered almost half of its men killed by their revenge-minded Confederate adversaries. Those Black soldiers who were able to escape were obliged to watch triumphant Confederates taunting the wounded men lying on the ground, before bayoneting or shooting them. For the rest of the war, the battle cry for Black soldiers in the West became "Remember Poison Springs!"

The 1st Kansas was formally mustered out of service in October, 1865. With modest money saved from his military service, and the promise of forty acres and a mule, George Washington purchased farm property in the integrated Bloomington/Clinton area of Douglas County, Kansas, married and raised five children. He proudly spoke of his exploits as an escaped slave, and his adventures as a soldier in the "Black Phalanx."

On the 13th of August, the Douglas County Historical Society formally dedicated a "George Washington Day," with a potluck supper and program attended by some 200 people. We also had radio interviews, and a feature article in the Lawrence *Journal-World* on August 7th.

## HOTLINES

by Lyle Daggett

*José Martí: Major Poems*, ed. Philip S. Foner, translated by Elinor Randall (Holmes & Meier, 30 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003, \$15.95) presents a solid basic selection of work by one of the seminal poets of modern Spanish language literature. Martí wrote in a lyrical, sweetly passionate voice, infusing traditional poem forms with intense charges of feeling: "My poems are palest green/And flaming scarlet;/ A wounded deer that searches for/A refuge in the forest." And: "I want to cast my lot/With the humble of this world;/A mountain brook means more to me/Than does the sea" (stanzas from two different poems in the sequence *Versos Sencillos* or "Simple Poetry"). Randall's translations, while using many choices different from what I would have done were I translating the poems, are uniformly effective. Book includes the original Spanish. "Yo soy un hombre sincero/De donde crece la palma...."

*The Chattering Wagtails of Mikuyu Prison* by Jack Mapanje (Heinemann: Division of Reed Publishing, 361 Hanover Street, Portsmouth, NH 03081, \$9.95) is a recent collection of poems by a powerful poet of Malawi, dealing in part with the author's imprisonment in Malawi for some three and a half years without charges. Poems controlled and resonant, full of detail, a tone approaching high oratory, as in the poem "The Streak-Tease at Mikuyu Prison, 25 September 1987": "The streak-tease at Mikuyu Prison is an affair/More sportive. First, the ceremony of handcuff//Disposal, with the warder's glib remarks about how/Modern handcuffs really dug in when you tried to//Fidget; then the instructions: take off your glasses,/Your sweater, your shirt. Shove these with your//Jacket into their shroud-white bag or your handbag/Until your release, which could be tomorrow, if you//Are lucky, and he seriously means release anyday/(Haven't I heard about the four parliamentarians//Who stayed one night here, then got 'released'/The next day?)" ...

*Arguments with America* by Prairie Miller (Pemmican Press, P.O. Box 16374, St. Paul, MN 55116, \$4.00) brings us poems by a fiery and lively poet, a true treasure of our culture. Poems throbbing with the rhythms of modern life, massing great globes of energy that release into long ecstatic incantational lines bearing the flavor of Blake's "Prophecy" poems, of Whitman and the early Ginsberg, of Kenneth Fearing and some of Muriel Rukeyser. Miller's poems carry a more immediate personal undertone than much of Blake or Whitman, a quality that adds depth to her already powerful work. "I am trying to love you despite the contamination of our spirits, being held prisoner inside the commercial fairyland of a brand X nation./I am trying to touch you through a hopeless blockage of seductive consumer merchandise that tantalizes you endlessly./I am trying to reach you across the impenetrable jungles of advertising slogans and promises, where my words are overshadowed by the ostentatious verbal illusions of madison avenue (causing my messages to pale and wither because they are merely composed of the delicate fabrics of

reality" (from the poem "The Industrialization of Love under Capitalism").

Also currently available from Pemmican Press is issue #3 of *Pemmican* magazine, edited by Robert Edwards (same address; annual, single issue is \$3.50), featuring poetry by Dale Jacobson, Louis Ryan, Leonard Cirino, Allison Kress, Floyce Alexander, Adrian C. Louis, Sherman Alexie, Shadd Piehl, Margaret Randall, Prairie Miller, Patrick Stanhope, and yours truly, among others. It's a great one.

*The Country of Dreams and Dust* by Russell Leong (West End Press, Box 27334, Albuquerque, NM 87125, \$8.95) is a collection of richly interwoven poems growing out of (but not limited to) the author's life and experience in Chinese American culture, and larger collective experience of Asian American culture generally. Speaking in a careful, quiet voice, Leong's poems read like a diary in which he traces the fabric of memory and observation, thread by thread. From the long poem bearing the same title as the book: "Boarding decrepit ships/of foreign name and dubious claim,/we scrape, beg, or borrow/silver coins, sacks of rice,/steel knives and oranges./Back to belly/we swear, belch and snore,/blanket steerage with stiff bodies... Warm rain whitens into fog/yielding to Yerba Buena./Our tongues unloosen/when we find ourselves floating/in the country of dreams and dust—/meng chen.//Some scatter to sift gold dust/in the Mother Lode./ Others, who linger too long/in the shifty shantytown/of tents and timbers,/are prey for missionaries/under church mandate to open dusky/souls to the holy spirit.//Stricken by faith and a November wind,/the Reverend William Speer/follows goldseekers to Calafia,/casts blue eyes on the muddy bay,/anchors his faith/at the thumb of San Francisco,/thus coming the first church for Chinamen in the new world."

One other this time: *Desert Soldiers* by Julia Stein (California Classics Books, Box 29756, Los Angeles, CA 90029, \$6.95), second book of poems by an energetic working class poet. Tough spare poems hot with sparks, warm and glowing. "I come from downtown women,/not uptown ladies...I come from sewing on coats in the sweatshop/piecework rates at the factory,/complained to the boss, black-listed,/when the uptown ladies came downtown with their charity baskets/I threw their baskets at them, said,/"Go to hell," got another shit job,/I came back under a phony name./ /I come from they cut my piecework rates again,/petitioning the boss, got ignored,/I walked out of Shop No. 5 of Hart, Schaffner, and Marx,/8,000 sweated there in Chicago,/I got a band of thirteen immigrant girls/to picket three weeks,/I came back to storm the fort" (from the poem "Downtown Women").

That's all for now. Keep going.—Salud.

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## PERSPECTIVES

A recent commercial newspaper review of Oliver Stone's new film about killers on the loose uses the word "controversial" no less than three times; this seems to be one of the most popular buzz-words, and connotes a tendency toward dangerously independent thinking, attitudes, etc. As if the USA had not been founded by "controversial" types like Jefferson and Paine...

If anyone has illusions about the Clinton administration, they have surely been stripped away by their Cuba policy, worse than that of the Republicans. Clinton blatantly insists that Cuba knuckle under to the "free market" system, the nature of which is surely obvious to all. Someone asked what I thought of the Cuban refugees, and if they should be allowed to come here, and I responded: "Of course, but how about U.S. citizens being allowed to visit Cuba without immigration harassment, seizure of passports, etc., not to mention allowing Cuba to buy medicine, etc.!" In a long life of observing politics, I have rarely seen more gross examples of hypocrisy and deceit.

Concerning Haiti, a *Washington Post* article by Hugh DeSantis and Kenneth J. Dillon, reprinted in the *K.C. Star* on July 17, reviews the history of U.S. involvement. The U.S. marines went in and "established order" in 1915. "In 1918, a major rebellion—the Second Cacos War—broke out, leading to the deaths of some 1,500 insurgents and 15 Marines. The U.S. soldiers put on blackface, and hunted down Charlemagne Peralte, the leader of the rebellion. They then strung up his corpse on a post, took a photograph and distributed copies throughout the country in an effort to break the spirit of resistance. This bit of psychological warfare backfired when many Haitians compared their slain leader's posture to that of Jesus Christ on the cross."

Ivan Bachur has a newsletter underway, called *The New Socialist*, which is "a forum wherein private citizens who hold opinions outside the 'mainstream' can discuss public issues. You can join this discussion by sending your comments, drawings, cartoons, photographs—or any other item of interest...Each and every item sent to this newsletter will be published." I've seen three issues, and find the approach refreshingly open. Among topics discussed and reported are current conditions in China, the possibilities of fascism in Russia, and competing definitions of socialism. "We have turned socialism into a religion," writes Bachur. "I don't believe that any one group or party has exclusive possession of the truth, so that any other party calling itself socialist must therefore be misguided or 'heretical.' I believe that Marx intended socialism to be a science, and not a dogma or catechism that must be repeated word for word." Single issues are \$1.00 each, but an annual subscription for six issues is only \$5.00—a real bargain. If you want to participate in a truly democratic discussion, contact *The New Socialist* at 8132 Farnum, Warren, Michigan 48093.



## NEWS & NOTES

From Florida, Charles Willett publishes *Librarians at Liberty*, "an interactive newsletter" presently appearing semi-annually. Vol. 1, #2, January 1994 featured a long essay by Chris Atton, on "Censorship and Social Responsibility in Britain," which among other things, notes that "The Library Association may have condemned attempts to ban *The Satanic Verses*, though it did not investigate claims that its own members had banned the book from their libraries." Vol. 2, #1, June 1994 features Margaret Downey on her successful campaign to overcome censorship of *Freethought Today* in Philadelphia, Gordon Stein on "Preserving Our Freethought Heritage," and my essay on the Kansas City rare books disaster. Willett accurately defines his newsletter as aiming "to give people working in libraries and related fields an unconstrained opportunity to express professional concerns." Subscriptions are \$10 per year to CRISES Press, 1716 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32608. Willett also publishes guides to alternative publishers of books in North America, exhibits at American Library Association meetings, etc. It's encouraging to see progressive folks in the library field starting to publicize issues, and serving as an open forum.

In mid-July, some 500 people gathered for the founding convention of the Committee of Correspondence at the Bismarck Hotel in Chicago. Longtime radical entrepreneur Scott Cramer attended, selling T-shirts stating: "Lobotomies for Republicans: It's the Law." According to the *Chicago Tribune*, "there were Marxist-Leninists, Marxists, Leninists and Trotskyites," quite a heady mixture, I'd say from this distance.... We anxiously await word on how much emphasis this group will develop on "cultural questions," as we rather quaintly used to put it.

## NEWS & NOTES

A traditional Memorial Prayer Ceremony will take place at 12 noon on September 17, to honor 121 Native people buried at the Hiawatha Insane Asylum Cemetery in Canton, South Dakota. The cemetery is located in the Hiawatha golf course. According to organizers of the Ceremony, the asylum was established by the federal government in 1902, and "acquired a 30-year history of misery for those Indian patients who suffered even more while at the Insane Asylum...A 150 page report stated that "patients were beaten, women were raped by male workers in the Asylum, bed sheets were blackened because of a lack of change," etc. One elderly woman from the Santee Sioux recalled: "I was in school then at Pipestone Indian School at Pipestone, Minnesota. That's where I heard of the insane asylum. When we students didn't behave in school, the teachers threatened to send us to Canton." Preceding the Ceremony, there will be a Run beginning on September 11 at Bear Butte, near Sturgis, South Dakota, and culminating at the cemetery site on the 17th.

According to the Late August issue of *News from Indian Country*, "6,000 Native, African-American, Latino and Asian journalists felt compelled to convene in Atlanta July 26-31 for the first joint convention of its kind. Under the banner of Unity '94, the delegates found their individual struggles to survive in a discipline dominated by Anglo-Saxon males were by no means unique. Almost without exception, they had encountered resistance, sometimes bordering on hostility, when they began to challenge the established order by their presence in the newsroom." There's a full-page report on this important event, as well as "A Brief History of the American Indian Movement," and the latest information on treaty rights struggles, etc. This newspaper appears twice each month; single issues are \$1, and subscriptions are \$28 per year. Write to Route 2, Box 2900-A, Hayward, WI 54843.

In South Dakota, Tim Giago publishes *Indian Country Today*; the August 24 issue recalls how 14 years ago, when he was starting the paper, store managers were often hostile, though it is now widely available in that territory. Giago is starting a "Southwest" edition, and is encountering some of the same attitudes there. This is a weekly paper, so rates are higher: \$48 per year outside South Dakota; write Box 2180, Rapid City, SD 57709.

The correspondence columns of both these Indian newspapers are lively and interesting. It's heartening to see this energy surviving and developing, after such an appalling history of genocide. The Atlanta meeting included a pilgrimage to New Echota, Georgia, "former capital of the Cherokee Nation, where a special ceremony was held to honor the birthplace of the first Native newspaper. Started in 1828, the *Cherokee Phoenix* presented national and local news in both English and Cherokee for six years before it was destroyed by the Georgia State Militia in 1834." When people thus remember and cherish such memories, I believe that their movement simultaneously has a more promising future.

Carlos Cumpián writes from Chicago to advise that we misspelled his name in #19; our apologies! Cumpián has MARCH, Inc. which "sponsors frequent cultural/literary events where Latino (Chicano, Puerto Rican, etc.) and/or Native North American poets, storytellers, musicians, or visual artists are central to the event's presentation." For information on these events and their publishing program, write Box 2890, Chicago, IL 60690. Cumpián's new book *Latino Rainbow* will be available in mid-September.

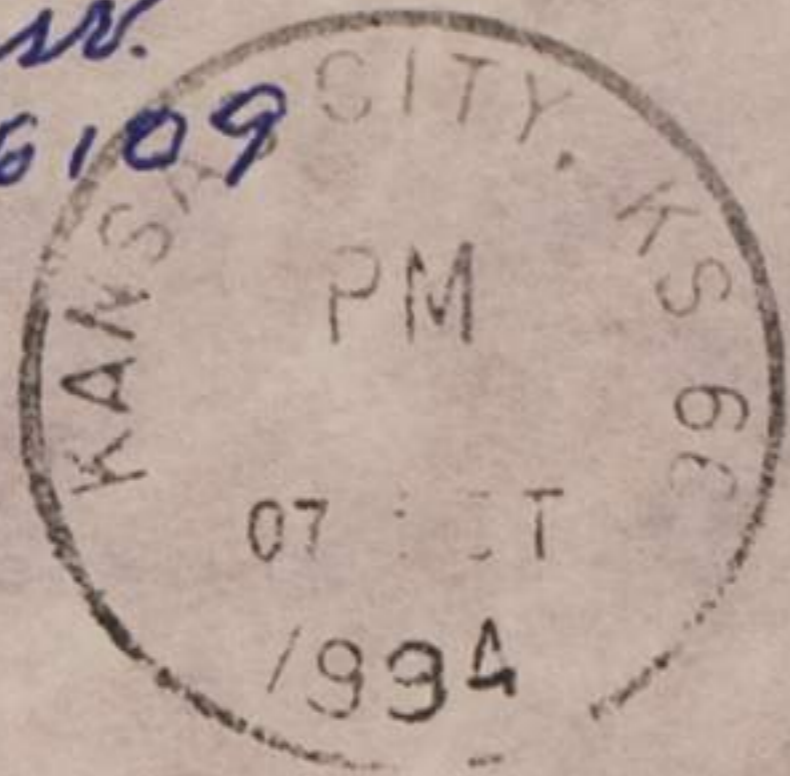
For the last five years, the Center for the Study of Political Graphics has gathered an archive of 15,000 items, and sponsored 35 exhibitions which have toured nationally. Two important United Farm Workers poster collections were recently donated, and will be part of a new exhibition on the graphic heritage of that union, opening at California State University, Northridge in February 1995. "The Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department," reports the Center, "has supported our exhibitions and projects annually since 1990." For more information, contact the Center at 8124 West Third Street, Suite 211, Los Angeles, CA 90048-4309.

The May-June issue of *NACLA: Report on the Americas* concentrates on "The Hazards of Growing up Poor in Latin America," with several articles on that theme, plus Phillip Berryman's "The Coming of Age of Evangelical Protestantism." Child prostitution is widespread in many countries of the region; "by age 18, a prostitute is a finished woman, eaten away by illnesses." There's also a short report of a new novel by Gabriel García Márquez, *Of Love and Other Demons*, "which recreates the dark world of the Spanish Inquisition as it comes to the Caribbean town of Macondo in the eighteenth century." This journal remains essential reading for all who wish to get in-depth reporting on current problems and hopes of Latin America. Write them at 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 454, New York, NY 10115.

Nigeria is aflame with strikes against the military dictatorship. Novelist Wole Soyinka has an impassioned condemnation in the *N.Y. Times* of August 22: "When General Abacha took over in November, I warned that he would prove more ruthless than any dictator we have endured in the nation till now. At the beginning, it appeared that I was being proved an alarmist. Now, of course, we are seeing what matter he is made of, and the worst, I regret to say, is yet to come."

The Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library for Social Research, now eight years old, has recently added to its holdings by acquiring a collection of books on the Middle East, mostly by Israeli and Palestinian authors. Says donor Leon Lefson, "prior to learning of the existence of the Library, I probably would not have made the contribution that I did and my collection would probably have been dissipated or otherwise disposed of. It is a source, therefore, of great satisfaction to me that I was able, through this donation, to add to this excellent resource for present and future generations." For more information on the Library, write 1819 Tenth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710.

H. Sarogginio  
2911-N. 17<sup>th</sup> St. S.W.  
Lawrence, Mo. 66109



The Nicodemus Historical  
Society  
R.R. 2 - Box 131  
Nicodemus, Mo. 67625



Kansas City, Mo.  
Oct. 6 - 1994

Sorry I am not able  
to attend the Reception  
for the Nicodemus  
Pioneers, but I am  
sending my donation  
of \$5.00.

Wishing you lots of  
success.

Love  
Helen Scroggen

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 674-3311

October 11, 1994

Mr. Hyman  
Graham Co. Schools  
Hill City, Kansas

Dear Mr. Hyman:

Thank you for allowing the Nicodemus Historical Society the use of the tables and chairs from the Bogue Grade School for our 2nd Annual Pioneer Days. It was a success and we appreciate your assistance and support.

We want to thank you also for supporting us through the coloring contest for the Nicodemus Pioneer Family. The winners are: Jamie Schmitze, Larry Kerby, and Celeana(?). We had their colorings displayed in are hall during the festivities.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates  
President

cc: Mr. Hamal

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 674-3311

October 11, 1994

Consolidated State Bank  
Hill City, Kansas

Dear Folks:

Our 2nd Annual Pioneer Days in Nicodemus was a success. Consolidated State Bank helped to make it happen again. We appreciate your support and gift.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates  
President

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625  
(913) 674-3311

October 11, 1994

Dillions  
Vine St.  
Hays, Kansas

Our 2nd Annual Pioneer Days in Nicodemus was a success. Dillons helped to make it happen again. We appreciate your support and gift certificate for some of the food.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates  
President



The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R. #2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 674-3311

October 13, 1994

J F Stover  
415 W. Walnut  
Hill City, Kansas 6742

Dear JF:

Thank you so much for your participation and excellent music at our Pioneer Days. You know that you and Lynn were the hit!!!! We had a ball. Everyone is still talking about the reel and the waltz. We didn't have the crowd we had last year, but hopefully next year it will be bigger than last year. Thanks again. Lets think about something during the holidays. What do you think. Thanks again JF.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates  
President

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 674-3311

October 13, 1994

Lynn Boitano  
1020 Ohio St.  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Lynn:

Thank you so much for your support, participation and teaching during our reception and dance. I think you were the highlight of the Pioneer Days. We had a ball!!!!!! Everyone is still talking about the reel and the waltz. We really had a ball.

Thank you so much. I hope that we can call on you again some time. Maybe during the Holidays we can sponsor a Xmas dance. We'll see.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates  
President

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 674-3311

October 17, 1994

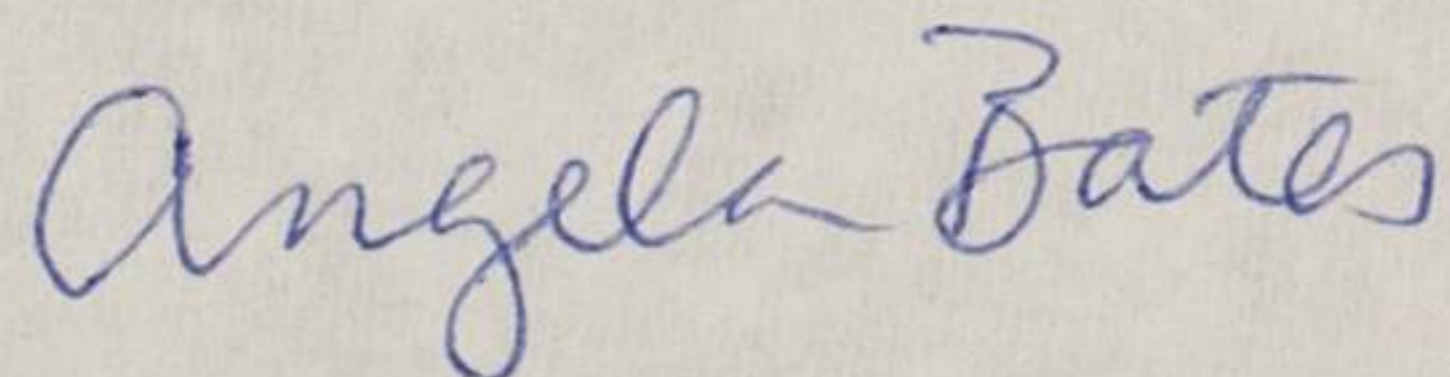
Dear :

Thank you so much for your help, support and participation in our 2nd Annual Pioneer Days. We could not have made it without your help.

We didn't have the crowd we had last year, but hopefully next year it will be bigger than last year. However, we were successful in raising over \$687.00 towards the renovation of our offices at the Ola Wilson House.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,



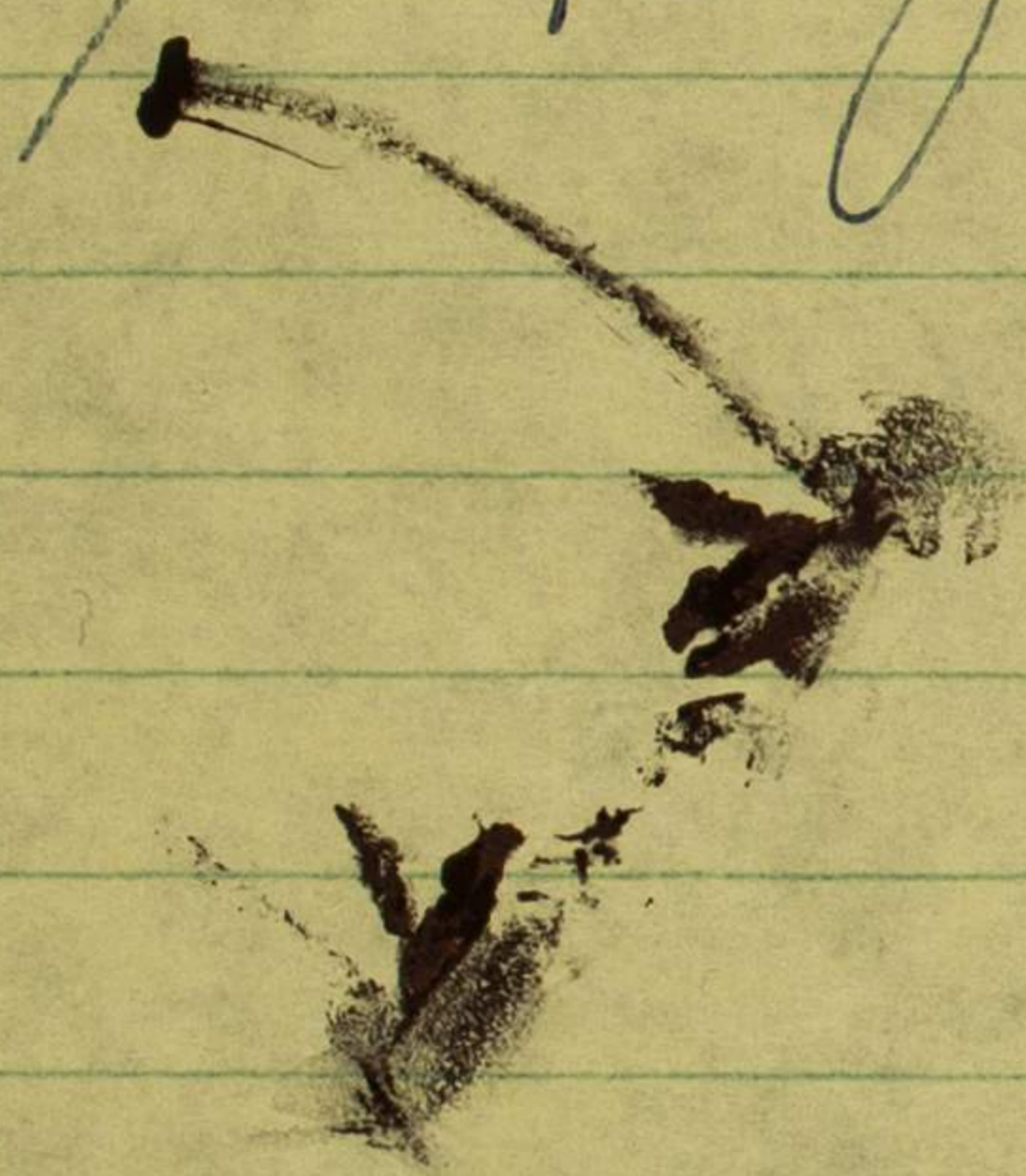
Angela Bates  
President

x insurance

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Albert Mocktonic<br>2010 Patio St. #2<br>Hays 625-4626 | } | Potomac<br>Jordan<br>assembly at home<br>by 4:00 |
|--|---|--|

Request for Review

Dog



|             |
|-------------|
| 3000        |
| <u>1251</u> |
| 1749        |

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

August 1, 1996

Al Nocktonic  
20-10 Patio St. #2  
Hays, Kansas 67601

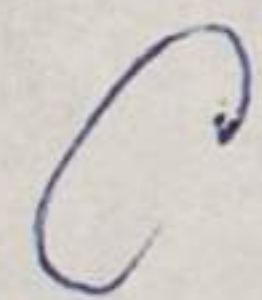
Dear Al:

I write to request your presence at our 4th Annual Nicodemus Pioneer Days. We would love to have you come over and speak, dance and set up tee-pee if you have one. We really want to share our rich history during this event, unlike what we do during our annual Emancipation Celebration (last week end) where we don't get into the history at all. I am going to be requesting representatives from the Osage tribe to come also. I hope that you can attend.

If you want an honorarium or a fee please let us know and we can make arrangements for you. We do hope that you can come and share the history of your tribe and their assistance provided here in Nicodemus to the early settlers.

Please let me know if you can attend as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Angela Bates-Tompkins  
Executive Director/President

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

August 1, 1996

Jerry Shaw  
WSU Minority Studies  
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Jerry:

I write to request your presence at our 4th Annual Nicodemus Pioneer Days. We would love to have you come over and speak, dance, cook fry bread and set up teepee if you have one on Saturday, October 12. We really want to share our rich history during this event, unlike what we do during our annual Emancipation Celebration (last week end) where we don't get into the history at all. I am going to be requesting representatives from the Pottowatomi tribe to come also. I hope that you can attend.

If you want an honorarium or a fee please let us know and we can make arrangements for you, or you can off set your cost by selling fry bread. We do hope that you can come and share the history of your tribe and their assistance provided here in Nicodemus to the early settlers.

We have entertainment coming from Denver for the evening and they will be country western (Black group) and will be teaching line dancing that evening. It should be a great day!!

Please let me know if you can attend as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
Executive Director/President

Contact  
\* Barbara  
Christina  
Denver 303  
322-9528  
\* Lester for  
Meeting

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

Manager  
Dillions  
1902 Vine St.  
Hays, Kansas 676001

Dear Manager:

It is that time again for our 4th Annual Pioneer Days in Historic Nicodemus Kansas. As you might already know the Nicodemus Bill for National Park designation passed in the Senate on May 2, 1996, and now we are waiting to hear from Congressman Pat Roberts office for passage in the House. If this happens all of northwest Kansas will have something to celebrate - an increase in tourism.

We will be celebrating our 4th Annual Pioneer Days on October 12 and 13 and will need your kind support once again. We will be hosting a bar-b-que and will need to have pork and beans (4 LARGE cans), canned peaches (4 LARGE cans), lemonade (3 large cans), and fresh corn (100 ears) if you have any. Over the last few years you all have been a wonderful supportor by donating these items.

Please let us know if you will support us again by these donations. We are struggling to make a difference in northwest Kansas with all our efforts to sharing our history and becoming a National Park. We need your support in this fund raising festival of our history.

Please call me and let me know as soon as possible when we can expect your support.

Thank you, again.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

**The Only Remaining All African American Pioneer Town**

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

Stockton Bank  
Stockton, Kansas

Dear Sir:

I write to request your support once again in assisting us with our 4th Annual Pioneer Days. We are requesting financial support in any amount that you would like to donate, to assist us in purchasing food meat for our Bar-b-que. Ernestine has volunteered to cook ribs and prepare the beef for Bar-b-que beef sandwiches. We have estimated that the meat will cost \$200.00 we would appreciate any financial support that you can give us. Please let us know immediately.

Kim Thomas of Stockton is coordinating our Bike Tour which will be from Nicodemus, to Webster, and then to Stockton and back on Saturday, October 12, at 8:00 a.m. to kick off our Pioneer Days. We are encouraging all riders to stop and see the 'dug out' just west of Stockton, where settlers from Nicodemus would spend the night when going to Stockton to shop.

We are asking all of Rooks county to come out and support us by participating in our pioneer days. We need your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director



The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

Rooks Country Sherrif Dept.  
Stockton, Kansas

I write to inform you that on October 12 starting a 8:00 a.m. there will be bicylist traveling on Highway 24 from Nicodemus to Stockton and back, with a stop at Webster road side park. This bike ride is in conjunction with our Nicodemus Pioneer Days of October 12-13. The ride will only take place only on Saturday. I am not sure how many riders there will be, however I will let you know two-three days in advance. If there is anything that we need to do or know in particular please contact me immediately.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

\$159 — ribs

\$169 (?) Roasts

\$99<sup>00</sup> Hamburgers

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

Graham County Schools  
Hill City, Kansas 67625

Dear Superintendent:

It is time to celebrate our 4th Annual Pioneer Days in Nicodemus on October 12-13 and want the students in Graham County to participate. This year we are requesting that the teachers encourage their students to interview someone in their family that has a story to tell about Nicodemus, whether it be from participating in our emancipation celebrations in the past, baseball games, or specific experiences that they might have had.

Enclosed is the form to copy and distribute to teachers. Please have them return them to me no later than October 9th. We appreciate your cooperation and support.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

## The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

Rooks Co. Historical Society  
Stockton, KS 67669

Dear Members:

We are inviting you to come out and support us during our 4th Annual Pioneer Days on October 12-13th. We need the support of all of our neighbors and hope that you might be able to find some history in your archives as it relates to Nicodemus and put on display. We would also like to have someone speak (5 minutes) during our Saturday activities about the 'dug out' just west of town that the settlers of Nicodemus used for so many years (as they were not allowed to spend the night in Stockton). Or talk about Niles who was in court there on charges of fraud - using non existing corn as collateral for a note he took out with the bank, or any related history that you might have in your files.

We want to show case our history and connections with other surrounding towns and neighbors, and this is a great way to begin. We also are working with Kim Thomas of Stockton to coordinate fruit, juice, and cookies at Webster and Stockton on the bike tour we are also hosting October 12. If you want to assist let her know, her number is 425-7004.

We need all the support that we can get to make this a success and hope that you and your organization can come out and support us. Please let me know as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

**The Only Remaining All African American Pioneer Town**

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

City of Bogue  
Bogue Council  
Bogue, Kansas 67625

Dear Council Members:

We write to request your support and participation in our 4th Annual Pioneer Days on October 12-13. We want to make an effort to work together in celebrating and show casing our history and cannot do it without the support of Bogue. Our history is intimately tied together and we would like to have someone from the community speak (5 minutes) on the history of Bogue and us being neighbors during our activities on Saturday. We would like to also (if possible) have someone put together an exhibit that deals with the history of Bogue.

We also need for you to support us by hosting a booth/table to sell pop corn, candied apples, 'cheese' sticks (?), or anything that you might come up with. We are also requesting assistance on the bar-b-que (ribs and beef sandwiches). All proceeds will be donated to our Historical Society. We also need man/woman support/volunteers.

We would appreciate all the support that we can get from Bogue, our closest neighbor and friend.

Please let me know as soon as possible how you might support us.

If there are any bike riders - we want you too. See the information on the bike tour from Nicodemus to Webster to Stockton.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

**The Only Remaining All African American Pioneer Town**

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

Graham Co. Chamber of Commerce  
Hill City, Kansas 67642

Dear Members:

We are asking the support of the Graham Co. Chamber of Commerce by requesting t you and your members to set up a booth/table to sell corn on the cob during our bar-b-que, candied apples or pop corn. We need all the support that we can get and we need to show all that we can work together and make a success of this event. This is the only event that show cases our history here in the county. We need to make this an effort for all of Graham County to participate in and be proud of. We can't celebrate our history without talking about Hill City and Bogue, who are both integral parts of our own history here in Nicodemus.

We are also requesting that you bring your families out and come celebrate with us in all the festivities and the dance on Saturday night. That is sure to be fun with all who are learning to 'line' dance. We expect a record crowd this year and hope that it is a great success - BUT we need your support!

If there are any bike riders - we want you too. See the information on the bike tour from Nicodemus to Webster to Stockton.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

Consolidated State Bank  
Hill City, Kansas 67642

Dear Sir:

As the official banking institution for the Nicodemus Historical Society we are requesting that you take an active role in supporting us this year at our 4th Annual Nicodemus Pioneer Days, by participating as a sponsor of our Bar-b-que. We need all the support that we can get to make this a success and are asking all who have interest in our organization and our efforts to show support by coming out and participating in our annual Pioneer Days (October 12/13).

We are soliciting funding for the purchase of ribs and bar-b-que beef that will be smoked for the food sampler. We estimate the cost for the meat to be about \$200.00 We appreciate any support that you can give us. *If you want to take more of an active roll you can bring your cooker down and really be present.*

We are also asking all of your staff to come out and support us.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

*Graham Co. Hist. Society*  
~~Damar City Council~~  
~~Damar, Kansas~~

Dear Neighbor:

I write to request the support and presence of you and your members at our 4th Annual Pioneer Days here in Nicodemus. We want it to be a success and need all the support we can get. I would like for your organization to put together some type of exhibit for display as it might relate to Nicodemus. Please get in contact with me as soon as possible.

We would also like to put you or someone from your members, on the list of speakers (5 minutes) during the Saturday activities. We want the support of Graham county and specifically the Historical Society. We need to work together and this is a great beginning!

Please call me as soon as you can.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

Damar City Council  
Damar, Kansas

Dear Neighbor:

I write to request the support and presence of you and your residents at our 4th Annual Pioneer Days here in Nicodemus. We want it to be a success and need all the support we can get. Many of you know and are friends with most of us here in Nicodemus and we want to make sure that you are personally invited to attend and participate in our Pioneer Days.

If there is anyone who is interested in some of the history that relates to Damar or vice versa, please get in contact with me so that you can include that in our history presentation.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director



The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

(New Number)

September 11, 1996

Sun Flower Bank  
Hill City, Kansas

Dear Sir:

I write to request your support in assisting us with our 4th Annual Pioneer Days. We are requesting financial support in any amount that you would like to donate, to assist us in purchasing meat for our Bar-b-que. Ernestine has volunteered to cook ribs and prepare the beef for Bar-b-que beef sandwiches. We have estimated that the meat will cost \$200.00 we would appreciate any financial support that you can give us. Please let us know immediately.

We are asking all merchants in Graham County to assist us by participating and coming out and enjoying our rich history. Please do so on October 12 and 13.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

Non-Proft Tax ID #: 93-1012167

September 16, 1996

Stockton Bank  
Stockton, KS 67669

Dear President:

Thank you for your prompt reply and financial support of \$50.00 toward making our annual Pioneer Days a success. We will be using the funds to purchase meat for the festival. We appreciate your support and hope that you and your staff can come out and enjoy your selves during Saturday activities and Sunday.

Thank you again for your financial assistance.

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

CITY OF BOGUE  
PO Box 82  
Bogue, Kansas 67625

September 18, 1996

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
The Nicodemus Historical Society  
RR 2 Box 139  
Bogue, Ks 67625

Dear Angela:

I am writing to you unofficially for the City Council as they met before your letter arrived and are not scheduled to meet again until October 14 which is after Pioneer Days.

Also, the City does not maintain historical items other than of official nature.

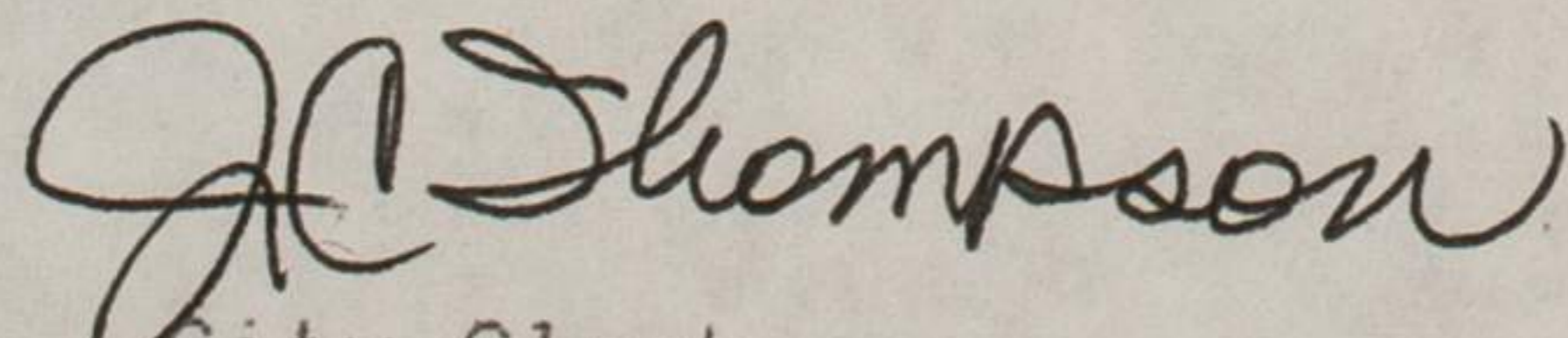
The history work for our Centennial was done mostly by individual contributions and was put together by the TPM Club. You might contact Agnes Stephen on this as TPM does not meet again until October 10.

The Bogue Service Club and Builders Class are two organizations that participate in Community events but they do not meet until the 3rd and 10th of October.

I will present your letter at Service Club, but a few days may not be enough to make plans.

Thank you for including us in your plans.

Sincerely,

  
City Clerk

**City Of Bogue**  
Bogue, Kansas 67625



Angela Bates-Tompkins  
The Niodemus Historical Society  
RR 2 Box 139  
Bogueville 67625

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

Nonprofit Tax ID #: 93-1012167

September 19, 1996

Plainville Bank  
Plainville, KS 67663

Dear President:

I write to request your support in assisting us with our 4th Annual Pioneer Days. We are requesting financial support in any amount that you would like to donate, to assist us in purchasing meat for our Bar-b-que. Ernestine has volunteered to cook ribs and prepare the beef for sandwiches. We have estimated that the meat will cost \$200.00. We would appreciate any financial support that you can give us. Please let us know immediately.

Kim Thomas of Stockton is coordinating our Bike Tour which will run between Nicodemus and Stockton and her mother Valeria Thomas of Plainville is assisting us with baking and cooking for our celebration.

We would like to welcome and invite all of your town and county residents to come over and participate during our festivities. We will be hosting a number of activities and hope that there is something for all. Music all day and a country western dance Saturday evening with a professional dance instructor for teaching all to 'line' dance. We will have several historical characters and especially looking forward to "Calamity Jane" whom we just confirmed today! There will be plenty of food and fun for all please come out and join us!

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

The Only Remaining All African American Pioneer Town

**The Nicodemus Historical Society**

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

Nonprofit Tax ID #: 93-1012167

September 19, 1996

Plainville State Bank  
201 S. Main  
Plainville, KS 67663

Dear President:

Thank you for your quick response to our request for financial assistance with sponsoring our 4th Annual Pioneer Days. We will be using the money (\$25.00) that you sent us to purchase meat for the bar-b-que.

We greatly appreciate the support that you have shown us, and hope that you and your staff will make it a point to come over on Saturday - October 12 and join in our celebration!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

**The Nicodemus Historical Society**

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

Nonprofit Tax ID #: 93-1012167

September 19, 1996

Farmers and Merchant Bank  
Hill City, Kansas 67625

Dear President:

Thank you for your quick response to our request for financial assistance with sponsoring our 4th Annual Pioneer Days. We will be using the money (\$25.00) that you sent us to purchase meat for the bar-b-que.

We greatly appreciate the support that you have shown us, and hope that you and your staff will make it a point to come over on Saturday - October 12 and join in our celebration!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

The Only Remaining All African American Pioneer Town

The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

Nonprofit Tax ID #: 93-1012167

September 19, 1996

Farmers and Merchant Bank  
Hill City, Kansas 67625

Dear President:

Its that time of year again, and I write to request your support in assisting us with our 4th Annual Pioneer Days. We are requesting financial support in any amount that you would like to donate, to assist us in purchasing meat for our Bar-b-que. Ernestine has volunteered to cook ribs and prepare the beef for sandwiches. We have estimated that the meat will cost \$200.00. We would appreciate any financial support that you can give us. Please let us know immediately.

We would like to welcome and invite all Graham County residents to come over and participate during our festivities. We will be hosting a number of activities and hope that there is something for all. Music all day and a country western dance Saturday evening with a professional dance instructor for teaching all to 'line' dance. We will have several historical characters and especially looking forward to "Calamity Jane" whom we just confirmed today! There will be plenty of food and fun for all please come out and join us!

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director



The Nicodemus Historical Society

R.R.#2 Box 139 Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

Nonprofit Tax ID #: 93-1012167

September 19, 1996

Farmers and Merchant Bank  
Hill City, Kansas 67625

Dear President:

Thank you for your quick response to our request for financial assistance with sponsoring our 4th Annual Pioneer Days. We will be using the money (\$~~25.00~~<sup>50.00</sup>) that you sent us to purchase meat for the bar-b-que.

We greatly appreciate the support that you have shown us, and hope that you and your staff will make it a point to come over on Saturday - October 12 and join in our celebration!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Angela Bates-Tompkins  
President/Executive Director

**NICODEMUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

“The Master Has Already Written the Script”

611 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Historic Nicodemus, Kansas 67625

785-839-4280 [nichis@ruraltel.net](mailto:nichis@ruraltel.net)

September 7, 2007

Store Manager  
Wal-Mart  
Hays, Kansas

Dear Store Manager:

We write to request your consideration in providing support to our annual Pioneer Day here at Nicodemus, October 13, 2007. We are hosting our annual free ‘Chili Feed’ as part of the event, and hope that you can assist us by providing hamburger and chili beans and seasonings for the event. We hope to feed around 150 people.

We will list you as one of our sponsors for this event on our promotional information and during the event. Please let us know as soon as you can, as we are finalizing our plans.

We appreciate your support.

Thank you,

Angela Bates,  
Executive Director

**BOARD of DIRECTORS**

|                   |                |                |                |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Thomas Wellington | Kim Thomas     | Twillia Wilson | Teresa Switzer |
| President         | Vice President | Treasurer      | Secretary      |
| Veryl Switzer     | Gil Alexander  | Johnine Powell | Marilyn Gray   |

*Angela Bates, Executive Director*

# Wal-Mart Good. Works.

Date:

9/21

Wal-Mart believes that each of our locations has a responsibility to contribute to the well being of the local community. The philosophy is to operate globally and give back locally. In our experience, our support of issues and causes that are important to our customers, have the greatest benefit. Wherever you find a Wal-Mart store you will find dedicated associates who give generously of their time and efforts to support their local community. Our community programs encourage associates to be involved with their local communities and to support the programs that make a difference. Last year, associates of our 3,000+ locations raised and donated more than \$400 million. We recognize that our associates know which organizations are important in their hometowns, consequently 98% of our funding initiatives are channeled directly into the local communities. The donation committee at the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Hays has reviewed your recent request and is enclosing a gift card / money order in the amount of 30 to use toward: *Pioneer Days*

We're happy to serve our community, because we live here, too. And we believe Good, Works.

Wal-Mart Supercenter 0664

Wal-Mart Store #01-0664  
4301 Vine St.  
Hays, KS 67601



Nicodemus Historical Society  
% Angela Bates  
611 S. 5th St.  
Nicodemus Ks. 67625

NICODEMUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

COPY

"The Master Has Already Written the Script"

611 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Historic Nicodemus, Kansas 67625

785-839-4280 [nichis@ruraltel.net](mailto:nichis@ruraltel.net)

October 9, 2007

Wal-Mart Store #01-0664  
4301 Vine St.  
Hays, KS 67601

Dear Store Manager:

We want to thank you for the donation of the \$30 gift card to assist us in our free chili feed during our annual Pioneer Day at Nicodemus. I'm sure it will be a success and want to thank you ahead of time for your support.

Again, thank you!

Sincerely,

Angela Bates  
Executive Director

BOARD of DIRECTORS

|                   |                |                |                |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Thomas Wellington | Kim Thomas     | Twillia Wilson | Teresa Switzer |
| President         | Vice President | Treasurer      | Secretary      |
| Veryl Switzer     | Gil Alexander  | Johnine Powell | Marilyn Gray   |

*Angela Bates, Executive Director*