

*in Nicodemus*

THE EARLY YEARS WERE VERY DIFFICULT. SUPPLIES QUICKLY RAN OUT AND THE NEAREST TOWN WAS ELLIS 35 MILES TO THE SOUTH. REMINISCENT OF VIRGINIA PIONEERS, THE KANSAS SETTLERS WERE AIDED BY THE INDIANS. THE OSAGE AND POTOWATOMI SHARED GAME AND GOVERNMENT PROVISIONS THEY HAD RECEIVED. BY 1880 THE TOWN HAD ESTABLISHED A BUSINESS DISTRICT WITH HOTELS, LIERY STABLE, A MERCATILE STORE, REAL ESTATE OFFICES, AND A POST OFFICE. SEVERAL CHURCHES WERE ESTABLISHED IMEDIATELY AND A SCHOOL WAS ~~HEED~~ IN A DUG OUT.

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IN 1885, THE PROMISE OF A RAILROAD SPURRED THE TOWN'S GROWTH. IN ANTICIPATION OF PROSPERITY THE POPULATION GREW TO ALMOST 700. WHAT PROMISED A BOOM, HOWEVER, PROVED A BUST FOR NICODEMUS. THE UNION PACIFIC LAID TRACKS SOUTH OF THE SOLOMON RIVER BYPASSING NICODEMUS AND ITS CITIZENS BEGAN TO LEAVE. SOME BUSINESSES MOVED TO THE NEWLY ORGANIZED RAILROAD TOWN OF BOGUE, JUST 5 MILES SOUTHWEST OF NICODEMUS. THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE DUST BOWL ALSO TOOK A TOLL. SINCE THE 1930'S THE POPULATION HAS CONTINUED TO DWINDLE, THE YOUTH, PARTICULARLY, LEAVING FOR LARGER URBAN CENTERS. SINCE 1978, HOWEVER, THE EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION BRINGS FORMER RESIDENTS BACK HOME THE LAST WEEKEND IN JULY--TO NICODEMUS--WHERE AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEERS LAID DOWN DEEP ROOTS.

*anastasia annual*

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