



THE WOMEN OF NICODEMUS

The Women of Nicodemus exhibit features photos of the early pioneer women of Nicodemus and the generations that followed. The photographs depict groups of women, who over the years gathered for various social club meetings or entertainment. Many of the photos capture the feelings and emotions that they must have shared for one another.

These black women exhibit a spirit of togetherness, friendship and love towards one another. In various pictures it is quite obvious that they knew how to have a good time, in spite of the hard times that they must have lived through during troubled times in western Kansas.

The exhibit was first put together by Angela Bates for a presentation to an audience at Wichita State University. Slides were made from the photographs and used as a part of a women's program sponsored by the Women's Studies Department at Wichita State University, on March 2, 1991.

The exhibit is planned to include photos of individual women, from the early settlers to the present residents, from key community figures to housewives and mothers.

We want to thank Gil Alexander of Nicodemus for the use of these fine photos. Most of these photos were from Bernice Bates' personal collection. Thank God for her interest in taking photos and recording the names and dates on the photographs. Unfortunately she is not seen in most of the photos.

We want to thank the Dane Hansen Foundation in Logan, Kansas for their monetary gift that assisted in enlarging and framing the photos. Also a special thanks goes out to Pioneer Studio in Hays, Kansas for the fine reproduction and sepia tone prints. A special thanks to the Madd Matter of Hays, Kansas for their fine matting and framing work.

The exhibit will be scheduled for libraries and museums around the state, and if interest is generated then around the nation. When the exhibit is completed, the photos will be compiled into a book and made available for purchase.