

style dinner table. She made us feel very welcome and gave freely also of interesting events of their little town. She also boards the school teacher and was caring for an old colored gentleman.

Her husband, a retired farmer, cares for the roadside park along U.S. 24 just north of the town. A "strapping" big son, and very attractive, has employment at a packing plant in Hill City. There is absolutely no work here for young people. Another son, Veryl Switzer, is a former All-American football player at Kansas State University. He has a family now and has taught school in Chicago. He attended school in Nicodemus through the grades and started his football career at Bogue, a small town close by, on a six-man team. And so it is proven time and time again that one doesn't have to live in a city to go places, and the coloring of the skin shouldn't make any difference.

Mrs. Switzer, although very busy, introduced us to her dinner guests at the cafe and never will you find more polite people anywhere.

Nicodemus has the dial telephone and they have electricity and natural gas. No running water. Homes very plain but very livable. No post office for about 10 years. The Rev. Wilson was postmaster as well as minister. Most of the time, he told us, he sits outside his small store building and passes away the time of day. Most every family had chickens, a goat, a cow or a pig back of the homes.

The town started to decline when the Missouri Railroad failed to come through the town. But at least they have a keen interest in one another and in their small community, and the highway goes by now to carry the things they need. As Rev. Wilson, who never expects to leave here, says, who can tell, someday maybe they'll strike oil here and the town will boom again.

LETTERBOX

House Agriculture Sub-committee

Dear Sir:

I'm grateful for the opportunity to submit the following testimony as an individual, at the Agriculture hearing on equipment, supplies and man power at Sioux City, Iowa, April 22, 1961.

This testimony is relative to the cost-price squeeze that the Farmer and Rancher of the mid-west finds himself in today.

From our records of 1947, I and my family received a net income of 15.6% figured on our net worth of that year. In 1960 our records show that we received 3.2% net for our labor and management on our net worth of last year. These figures are very typical of the Farmers and Ranchers I have interviewed recently.

What has brought this on? I would say no one thing in particular, but a combination of things, more and higher taxes, higher cost of farm machinery, higher cost of living, higher labor, and the participation of government in farm programs. In other words everything the farmer buys costs him more, and everything he sells nets him less.

Quotas, acreage controls, allotments and subsidies, solves none of the Farmers problems. They only complicate them. The only farm products in serious trouble today in the mid-west are, wheat and corn. These surpluses would not have been brought on by the farmers, if they had not been encouraged

through high subsidies or guaranteed prices by the government. Milo, barley, oats and cattle are faced with the same fate if the present trend in government controls continues.

In conclusion I would say that you as Congressman should give serious consideration to a soil conservation program which would be attractive enough to farmers to encourage them to retire their farms from production, thus eliminating surpluses. This program would give the Government a means of gradual and orderly withdrawal from all agriculture. I say this because I feel the present problems have been caused largely by government controls on agriculture, and for government to get out of the Agriculture business as soon as possible. Then and only then can agriculture be built on a strong economy, instead of an economy built on artificial Government props.

Sincerely yours,
Leo Robinson

A ROVING REPORTER

—Mrs. Darus Henningsen, Jewell County Record, Manhattan.

You can go long distances or short distances to see things, but you never see all there is to see in your own state. So we chose Sunday to drive out and see if the little town, Nicodemus, located 8 miles east of Hill City, was still a town at all.

Once a thriving Negro city of approximately 600 persons, Nicodemus now has dwindled to a small community of about 60 persons, all colored folks and friendly folks, one of the few Negro communities in the mid-west.

It was a pleasure to meet Rev. Joseph Wilson, 75 years of age and still pastor of the Methodist Church in Nicodemus for 59 years. He still runs his own little candy bar and gum store, the only place in town where there was anything to buy. I tried my best to find a pencil from Nicodemus for my collection, just no souvenirs. But this is being planned, wherein visitors can buy souvenirs.

Mr. Wilson mentioned that we were from Hays B. White's home town. He spoke highly of his old friend, Mr. White. He added that Mr. White never failed to stop in Nicodemus for a visit with him.

Next, we met Mrs. Homer White, a farmer's wife who was present at the little store. A very friendly person and free with any information we cared to ask about the history of the town. She had been President of the Ladies Farm Bureau Unit and then of the HDU. Nothing backward about these colored people, who have strived to hold their community together. Mrs. White carried the petition to get signers to get a township hall for this little town. With the help of the government, a wonderful building was built in 1939.

Several native stone buildings which once housed prosperous businesses, stand as ghost buildings with boards fastened over the windows. The women have a nice little club house and there's an American Legion and Auxiliary building, two churches and a good school building with six pupils, of course, all colored, and a most pleasing teacher we were happy to meet. This colored girl worked her way through school.

We wouldn't miss Mrs. Fred Switzer, whom we had heard of. She runs a small eating place at the back of her store, and seemed to be busy and everyone happy at her long, family