



Flowering of Nicodemus

From the Superintendent

A "Facelift" for the Roadside Park... If you are wondering where the Nicodemus Roadside Park recently got its major facelift, we want you to know that this is part of a continuing partnership between the Nicodemus Township Board and Nicodemus National Historic Site. Park maintenance staff Robert Brogden and Josh Sharon worked tirelessly with the paint, lumber and hardware purchased by the Nicodemus Township Board to complete the repairs just in time for the arrival of our friends attending Homecoming. We look forward to many more such joint projects.

The Flowers that almost weren't... Not long before Homecoming, Ranger Phyllis Howard and Acting Superintendent Felix Revello were searching the surrounding towns in vain for the bright yellow and orange marigolds now highlighting the planters at the Township Hall. Luckily, Felix stopped by the Larned Greenhouse on one of his weekends back home and found just what Phyllis needed, lots of thriving marigolds ready for planting. But, the proprietor of the Larned Greenhouse refused to sell the flowers. Unknown to Felix, Ron Scranton, owner of the Larned Greenhouse, just happens to be a Hill City "Hometown Boy". Instead, Ron insisted that Felix take the flowers for free, explaining that he wanted to give the flowers for the project to express his fond memories of the people of Nicodemus. Phyllis planted the flowers and continues to nurture them through the summer and fall. Thank you Phyllis and Ron!

We Moved! (but not very far)... Park offices moved from Apartment 4B in the Villas to Apartment 1B. The new office is larger, reflecting the anticipated addition of an Administrative Technician to the on-Site staff and related need for increasing our office space.

*Felix Revello,
Acting Superintendent*

Nicodemus National Historic Site is recruiting for an Administrative Technician

Nicodemus National Historic Site is recruiting for the position of **Administrative Technician, GS-0303-0**. This is a **full-time permanent position which includes health and life insurance, retirement, and other benefits**. If you are interested in applying for this position, go to www.usajobs.opm.gov and search for vacancy announcement MWRO-08-OC-0100 which is open to all US Citizens. If you are currently a permanent Federal employee or an applicant eligible under Special Employment Programs, search for vacancy announcement MWRO-08-MP-0101. Complete information about the position, benefits available, how to apply and what documents to submit are described in the vacancy announcement along with whom to contact if you have any questions. The opening and closing dates of the vacancy announcements are: 09/10/2008 through 10/01/2008.

Flowering of Nicodemus around the Township Hall



Bright orange marigolds in front of the Township Hall

Nicodemus National Historic Site Welcomes Acting Superintendent

Felix Revello has been detailed as Acting Superintendent for Nicodemus National Historic Site to temporarily fill the vacant Superintendent position. Superintendents provide the overall supervision of national parks.

Revello also currently serves as Chief Ranger of Fort Larned National Historic Site in Larned, Kansas. He has served with the National Park Service for 25 + years. His experience in the Park Service includes parks in the United States and its territories. Such parks as U.S. Virgin Islands National Park (Virgin Islands), Christiansted National Historic Site (Virgin Islands), Buck Island Reef National Monument (Virgin Islands), Cape Lookout National Seashore (North Carolina), Colorado National Monument (Colorado), Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (Montana), and Castillo de San Marcos National Monument (Florida), and Theodore Roosevelt National Park (North Dakota).

Superintendent Revello was asked about his vision for the Park. Superintendent Revello said, "Today, the town of Nicodemus is one of the few surviving physical expressions of African American contributions to our Nation's western settlement. Nicodemus is particularly significant in American history for its distinction as the last surviving town developed and settled west of the Mississippi by African Americans during the Reconstruction era. Its story is of a people overcoming oppression to participate in one of our country's greatest adventures. Nicodemus symbolizes the pioneering spirit of all African Americans coming "Out West" as farmers, soldiers, cowboys, entrepreneurs and all of the other roles we commonly think of as uniquely western. I see Nicodemus National Historic Site keeping this exciting story fresh and alive as an inspiration for all people."

Nicodemus National Historic Site is located in Nicodemus, Kansas off Highway 24, 13 miles east of Hill City and 16 miles west of Stockton. The visitor center is housed in Nicodemus Township Hall. Park Rangers are available to relate site history and present audio-visual programs. Depending upon staff availability, the park is usually open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. For additional information, contact us at 785-839-4233. Visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/nico.

A Brief Biography of Acting Superintendent Felix Revello

Ranger Felix Revello has 30 years of service in a wide variety of national parks throughout our nation. His latest assignment is at Fort Larned NHS, where he serves as Chief Ranger since August 1993. Revello has been responsible directing ranger activities encompassing interpretation, law enforcement, fee collection, park safety officer and natural and cultural resource management. Revello was also heavily involved with initiating operations and planning for Nicodemus National Historic Site, which is administratively supported by Fort Larned National Historic Site. In particular, he was an active participant on the General Management Plan team, Historic Structures Report and Cultural Landscape Report. He also served as Acting Superintendent for Nicodemus National Historic Site for a total of several months. Previous assignments include:

Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina (1986 to 1993) - Revello was Supervisory Park Ranger for a Ranger division that was responsible for general law enforcement patrol, concessions management compliance activities and resource management.

Buck Island National Monument & Christiansted National Historic Site, U.S. Virgin Islands (1982 to 1986)- Responsibilities included supervising protection/law enforcement, concessions management and natural/cultural resource management for both sites and maintenance and interpretation at Buck Island.

Colorado National Monument, Colorado (1980 to 1982) - Revello performed law enforcement patrol, interpretation and fee collection in this desert canyon park.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Montana (1979 to 1980) - Ranger Revello provided law enforcement protection.

Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Florida (1977 to 1979) - As a generalist ranger, he performed living history interpretation and law enforcement duties.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota (1972 to 1975) - As a seasonal ranger, Revello performed law enforcement patrols, interpretation (campfire

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programs, guided nature walks and history talks) fee collection and maintenance.

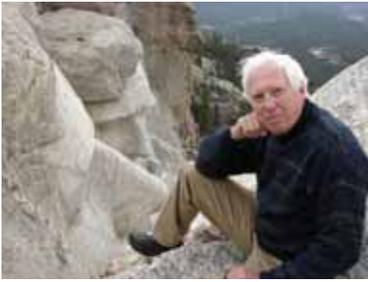


Photo of Felix Revello taken during the Chief Rangers' hike to the top of Mt. Rushmore this spring during the Chief Rangers Conference.

Flowering of Nicodemus around the Township Hall



Bright orange marigolds in front of the Township Hall



Marigolds along with mums on the west side of the Township Hall

Be a Junior Ranger at Nicodemus National Historic Site



Junior Ranger Badge

Kids ages 4 – 15 are welcome to participate in our Junior Ranger program while learning about Nicodemus National Historic Site. Upon completion, kids will receive a Certificate and a Junior Ranger Badge.

Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous 2008

The Santa Fe Trail Center, Fort Larned National Historic Site and the Santa Fe Trail Association would like to invite you to the 2008 Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous, September 18-20. Events will be at the Santa Fe Trail Center, the Larned Community Center and Fort Larned National Historic Site.

This year's focus will be on the "The Evolution of Freighting on the Santa Fe Trail" and will examine how freighting developed during the 60 years that trade goods flowed along this historic route. It will also focus on the economic, social and cultural backgrounds of those who participated in the trade between Missouri and Santa Fe.

You can learn more about this event and find registration form as well as local area information by visiting Fort Larned National Historic Site website at <http://www.nps.gov/fols>.

Fort Larned National Historic Site is a free admission park and is open seven days a week from 8:30AM to 4:30PM except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day. Reservations can be made for guided tours all year, advance notice required. Call 620-285-6911.



View from hospital porch

“SHARE THE EXPERIENCE™ 2008” OFFICIAL FEDERAL RECREATION LANDS PHOTO CONTEST

Your Photo Could Win!

America’s Federal Recreation Lands are special places that bring people together and leave visitors enriched. From scenic vistas to diverse wildlife to historic landmarks, these lands offer a myriad of picture perfect moments to capture.

Whether you’re an amateur shutter bug, a history buff, a wildlife lover or an outdoor enthusiast, share up to three photos from your experience capturing the scenic, natural, and historical wonders in America’s Federal Recreation Lands! Your photo could adorn the next Federal Recreation Lands Pass! Plus, other great prizes include an Olympus E-3 DSLR Camera Kit, trips to Federal Recreation Lands and more!

The contest is open only to legal residents of the fifty United States and DC, 18 years of age or older as of August 18, 2008. All employees of the National Park Foundation and Olympus Imaging America Inc. (collectively, the “Sponsors”); ePrize, LLC (the “Administrator”); National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service (collectively the “Federal Agencies”); and their respective parent companies or organizations, subsidiaries, affiliates, sales representatives, distributors, manufacturers, licensees and agents, advertising and Contest agencies, and their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and their respective spouses) and persons living in the same household of each, are not eligible to participate in this Contest. Photographers who derive 5% or more of their income from taking photographs are also ineligible. All applicable federal, state, municipal, and local laws and regulations apply.

There are two (2) ways to enter the Contest. You may enter online during the Contest Period by visiting <http://www.sharetheexperience.org>

and following the links and instructions to register for the Contest. You may enter via mail during the Contest Period by printing your name, address, day and evening phone numbers, email address (if any), and age on a 3" x 5" piece of paper. You must indicate to which Federal Recreation Agency Land the photograph corresponds and the date on which the photograph was taken. Mail it in a hand-addressed, stamped envelope with your

photograph(s) to: “Share the Experience™ 2008 Official Federal Recreation Lands Photo Contest” c/o ePrize, LLC, PO Box 8070 Royal Oak, MI, 48068.

No purchase necessary. A purchase will not increase your chances of winning. For a complete list of the official contest rules and more information about the contest visit <http://www.sharetheexperience.org> or stop by the Visitor Center in the Township Hall at 304 Washington Avenue in Nicodemus, Kansas.

The Kids Zone

Kids of all ages can visit The Kids Zone at <http://www.nps.gov/kidszone/> to learn about becoming Web Rangers and learn what the Web Rangers are up to. Learn how to become a Junior Rangers and that it is cool to be a Junior Ranger. There is always something to do at ParkFun & Activities. Kids can learn about Kids of the National Park Service, Working Dogs of the National Park Service, and Fun Activities that are available at a variety of Parks from Oregon Caves, Joshua Tree National Park California, and more. Working dogs like Python Pete: Hero Hound, Ridley and Kempie, and others. Learn about the Bats of the Oregon Caves and join the activities built by kids at Joshua Tree National Park.



Python Pete



Ridley and Kempie



This happy face of a bat in crayon drawing from the Children’s Gallery on the Oregon Caves website.



Child’s drawing of a map of Joshua Tree National Park California

Mark Weaver Selected As Superintendent Of Nicodemus National Historic Site



Mark Weaver

By Patty Rooney InsideNPS

August 01, 2008

Mark Weaver, currently a community planner in Midwest Region's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, duty stationed in Milwaukee, has been selected as the new superintendent of Nicodemus National Historic Site in Nicodemus, Kansas. He will assume this new assignment on August 31st, replacing Sherda Williams, who transferred in April to James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Ohio.

"Mark's proven ability to engage partners and communities will serve him well in this new assignment," said regional director Ernest Quintana. "We're very pleased to welcome him as part of our Midwest management team."

Weaver began his National Park Service career in 1993, serving as a park landscape architect at Ozark National Scenic Riverways before assuming his current position in 1998. Prior to his federal service, Weaver was a landscape architect in Arizona, California, and Michigan, and an assistant professor in the landscape architecture program at Auburn University.

From April to June of 2008, Weaver had served as acting superintendent at Nicodemus National Historic Site.

"In my short time at Nicodemus I fell in love with the people, the place, the story and the surroundings," said Weaver of his springtime tenure at Nicodemus. "Now, with this permanent role I am even more energized to work with the community to protect and preserve this important piece of American history."

An Oscoda, Michigan, native, Weaver earned his bachelor's of landscape architecture from Michigan State University, and completed his master's of landscape architecture through Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). Mark's

wife, Stephanie (Marshall) Weaver, is a retired pastry chef from the Detroit area and is currently working on her bachelor's degree in information resources online through the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. They have two sons, Sam, 17, and Ben, 13. In their spare time, the Weavers enjoy bicycling, travel, gardening and their dogs.

Greeting From Mark Weaver

Hello everyone – again! After returning to my home in Wisconsin after spending over two months as Acting Superintendent this past spring, I was thrilled to be offered an interview for the permanent position as Superintendent. When they called me to let me know I was selected, there was no need to take time and think about it – I accepted immediately (then I whooped and hollered a lot!)

My family and I are so proud and excited about this new chapter in our lives. We now make our home in Hill City. My wife Stephanie is continuing her on-line studies through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Sam (17) is a senior and Ben (13) is in 7th grade. Both are already on the football teams and thoroughly enjoying small town life.

I write this the morning of my first day on the job, overwhelmed, inspired and energized. There is so much to learn and so much to do. But with the great on-site staff of Phyllis, Robert and Michelle, I know we'll be able to make great strides forward with the needed and desired projects and tasks on our plate.

Our office has moved to apartment 1B at the Villas – just across the lawn from our previous office. The phone number remains the same. Our door is always open. Stop by, email or call. I'm looking forward to renewing friendships with those of you I met last spring and building new ones as well

Mark Weaver

Did You Know?

Nicodemus characterizes the pioneer spirit of African Americans who left the only region that they were familiar with in search of personal freedom, personal achievement and ownership.

New Seasonal Park Guide at Nicodemus National Historic Site

By Jamie Alexander

I have been very fortunate to be able to serve as a Seasonal Park Guide here at Nicodemus National Historic Site. I have learned numerous things by working here, not only about the park service but Nicodemus and its history. Also, being a descendent of Nicodemus I have learned and connected more than ever with my ancestry.

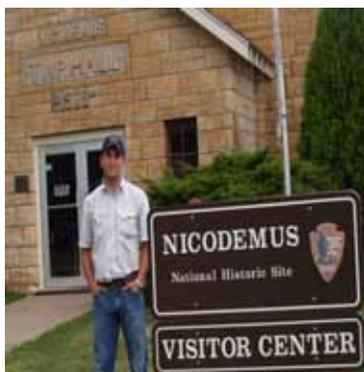
I am a 2007 graduate of Hill City High School. I am currently a sophomore at Colby Community College, majoring in Physical Education. I am on the women's basketball and track teams. I am currently a residential assistant. After Colby I plan on attending a university. When not playing sports I love to watch movies, listen to music, dance, travel and shop.



Jamie Alexander

New Seasonal Maintenance Worker at Nicodemus National Historic Site

Josh Sharon is the Seasonal Maintenance Worker at Nicodemus National Historic Site. He is currently attending Fort Hays State University and is in his final year there. He is majoring in Agriculture with an emphasis in Animal Sciences. Josh is originally from Fowler, Colorado and has worked for his family's construction business his entire life. In his free time, Josh enjoys watching athletics, rodeoing, riding horses, camping, and spending time at the lake with friends according to Josh.



Josh Sharon

Preserve Voted One of 8 Kansas Wonders

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve was honored with being selected as one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas.

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius announced the results on January 29, 2008, Kansas Day, at the State Capitol. The winners were selected from 24 finalists; eight attractions were chosen because the Kansas Sampler Foundation, organizer of the project, bases its criteria on eight rural culture elements.

The winners are (in alphabetical order): the Big Well, Greensburg; Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Barton and Stafford counties; Eisenhower Presidential Library & Museum, Abilene; Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center, Hutchinson; Kansas Underground Salt Museum, Hutchinson; Monument Rocks & Castle Rock, Gove County; St. Fidelis Church (Cathedral of the Plains), Victoria; and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Chase County.

To read the press release and to learn more about the seven other Wonders of Kansas, the contest, and ceremony visit Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve website at <http://www.nps.gov/tapr>.



Entrance sign to Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve



Tallgrass Prairie one of 8 Kansas Wonders

News From Our Park Partners

Nicodemus Historical Society

The Society continues to celebrate their 20th Anniversary. Pioneer Day is planned for October 11th noon to 5pm. Continuous work is being done to maintain the exhibits at the Historical Society. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Historical Society at 611 S. 5th Street, 785-839-4280, or e-mail nichis@ruraltel.net.

Nicodemus Flour Co-op

The breakfast event during homecoming was a hit again this year. We fed approximately 250 people a meal of pancakes, sausage and orange juice. We send our appreciation to our trusty volunteers who make this event possible. If you haven't tried our pancake mix yet, you are truly missing out on a culinary delight.

Nicodemus Township Board

Everyone seemed to enjoy the Homecoming event this year. We had an above average turnout which was unexpected with the price of gas being so high! The new event, the pass/punt/kick competition was well attended and enjoyed by all. Next year we need to make sure that more girls are encouraged to compete. The food stand in the Pricilla Arts Building was operated by Esther Clark to raise funds for the township. We really appreciate her efforts on our behalf.

The playground continues to be the unending project. The National Park Service has been helpful in contributing to this project. We now have the end in sight!

With the county valuation going up so much in the past year, the township budget looks much healthier. We are open to suggestions on what improvements we might consider.



Roadside Park;
Nicodemus, Kansas

New visitor center sign in the northwest corner of the Roadside Park



View entering Nicodemus



View exiting Nicodemus

Central High School NHS staff lauded by Arkansas FEA

By Patty Rooney (InsideNPS)
June 23, 2008

At its annual awards luncheon on June 12, the Federal Executive Association of Arkansas formally recognized the staff of Central High School National Historic Site in Little Rock as "Federal Team of the Year" for 2008.

Superintendent Mike Madell, who nominated the park team for the award, stated "This is a hard-working group of individuals who continually demonstrate the amazing accomplishments that are possible through commitment, teamwork, and a shared vision. It has been, and continues to be, my honor to work with every one of them."

The NPS team, only 7.7 FTE in size, served as participants, organizers, and leaders in the planning and implementation of 50th Anniversary of the Desegregation of Little Rock Central High School special events and programming. This included the dedication of the park's new visitor center, which serves as a place to educate current and future generations about the Little Rock desegregation crisis, the Little Rock Nine, and civil rights in America. The facility also serves as an anchor in a neighborhood that has suffered from years of disinvestment. Through its work, the NPS team supported the vision of the Little Rock mayor's 50th Anniversary Commission to "...reflect on the past, examine the present, and promote future reconciliation and growth."

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In addition to opening the visitor center and supporting the 50th Anniversary commemoration, the NPS team maintained a high quality of service in fulfillment of the agency mission and park purpose. During 2007, NPS team members conducted 50 outreach programs throughout the Little Rock community, presented 349 formal interpretive programs, and hosted 42 onsite special events.

Park staff developed a “Junior Ranger” program for patients at Arkansas Children’s Hospital; worked in partnership with Coca-Cola and youth from Inter City Futurenet (ICFN) to sell anniversary memorabilia to benefit both the site and ICFN programs; and collaborated with the Center High Alert Center and Little Rock Museum Consortium respectively to cosponsor National Night Out and Big Boo!seum (an alternative Halloween night experience).

The NPS team partnered with NAACP to sponsor events supporting the Daisy Bates Education Summit; partnered with both two local radio stations to produce and broadcast a series of more than 100 educational vignettes; worked with the Museum of Discovery to arrange a grant to develop an exhibit on black education in Arkansas; partnered with the Little Rock School District to obtain a grant to fund the first phase of a landscape restoration project at Central High School; collaborated to support World Fest by developing programs to highlight human rights issues around the world; and worked with Ball State University and others to sponsor an “electronic field trip” – two live education programs that broadcast the story of Central High School via satellite to more than 50,000 students in classrooms in 47 states and 4 foreign countries.



“Federal Team of the Year” members (l-r) Crystal Mercer, Spirit Trickey, Taronna Armstrong, Jan Lee, Rob McKelvey, Alyssa Warrick, Christian Davis, and Quantia Fletcher. Not shown are Julie Jackson and Laura Miller.

The Crisis at Central High

On the morning of September 23, 1957, nine African American teenagers stood up to an angry crowd protesting integration in front of Little Rock’s Central High as they entered the school for the first time. This event, broadcast around the world, made Little Rock the site of the first important test of the United State Supreme Court’s historic *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision. The nine African American teenagers faced great obstacles and angry mobs in September 1957 to desegregate Little Rock Central High School. Ranging in ages from 15 to 17, these teenagers showed an enormous amount of courage and are considered civil rights activists - meaning that they fought for the right for children all over the country to attend the school of their choice regardless of their race. Today, history remembers these students as the “Little Rock Nine.” Their actions showed the world that individuals who act upon their beliefs can change the course of history. You can learn more about the Little Rock Nine by visiting Central High School National Historic Site website at <http://www.nps.gov/chsc/>.

Stabilize St. Francis Hotel FY2007

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

The is project provided an opportunity for the property owner and the National Park Service to join together in a partnership to preserve one of the five legislatively identified structures which make up the National Historic Site. Through a contract administered by the National Park Service, the St. Francis Hotel was stabilized, focusing on the exterior envelope of the structure. Components of the contract included removing and replacing loose stucco, installing roof flashing where missing, covering exposed wood sheeting with weather tight material and painting the exterior surfaces. The property owner made and installed windows and doors coverings. And the contract was completed on time beginning October 1, 2007 and finished in March 2008.

The Contractor

Vehicle of Kansas and sub contractors provided labor and material to stabilize the St. Francis Hotel structure. This included removing loose and failed stucco, and filling masonry voids where stones were deteriorated

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and missing. Stone to fill these voids were furnished by Nicodemus National Historic Site. New stucco finish was applied in areas where stucco was removed and smaller cracks were cleaned then filled with silicone medium. Roof flashing was installed on the south gable wall and the lean-to. Roofing felt was installed on the dormer wall as a temporary weather barrier. This will need to be monitored annually. Exterior wall surfaces were cleaned/prepared then primed with a water base exterior primer. Then two additional coats of finish were applied.

STAFFING & ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

The primary Contractor was Vehicle of Kansas with Fred Rodriguez of the Fred Rodriguez Company hired as the project manager. Garcia construction was hired to perform the construction element of the contract and Scott Garcia was identified as point of contact. The project had 2 skilled masonry staff working and 2 unskilled labors performing the work. Fort Larned National Historic Site (FOLS) and Midwest Archeological (MWAC) Center staff provided assistance to Nicodemus National Historic Site with accounting, contracting and partner agreement representation.



Northwest corner of the St. Frances Hotoel



Removal of stucco on the west site of the St. Francis Hotel



St. Francis Hotel - before



St. Francis Hotel after work completed



View of the St. Francis Hotel before



St. Francis Hotel - Today



National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Nicodemus National Historic Site
304 Washington Avenue
Nicodemus, KS 67625

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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E-mail

NICO_Ranger_Activities@nps.gov

Federal Job Announcements (USAJOBS)

www.usajobs.opm.gov

The **Flowering of Nicodemus** is a
quarterly publication of Nicodemus
National Historic Site

“What Do You Think?”

In the “Legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*” gallery is a permanent exhibit titled “What Do You Think?” The topic changes several times of year to reflect current events in society.

This exhibit is currently featuring “School Boards, Busing and *Brown: A History of Desegregation in Political Cartoons 1954-2006.*”

Cartoons have long provided an outlet in society for political commentary.

Even the ancient Roman catacombs contain political cartoons in the form of graffiti. Twentieth-century American newspapers became a forum for comment on the *Brown v. Board of Education* case and subsequent issues involving desegregation of public schools. Editorial cartooning reflects social, racial, economic, religious, as well as political issues surrounding the artist and his or her community.

You can learn more about the case of *Brown v. Board of Education* and the display “What do you Think” by visiting *Brown V. Board of Education National Historic Site* website at <http://www.nps.gov/brvb/>.