

PHOTO: SOUTHERN PACIFIC.

As the town of Nicodemus, Kansas struggled to survive without the railroad, Tucson, Arizona prospered as a result of the railroads arrival there six years earlier on March 25, 1880; when the Southern Pacific Railroad officially arrived in Tucson. Don Estevan Ochoa was a prominent member of the committee that welcomed the railroad and its dignitaries that day.

PHOTO: FREIGHT TRAIN.

Ironically, the railroad's arrival in Tucson marked the end of an era of prosperity for Ochoa. The freight company of Tully, Ochoa, and Co. could not compete with the lower freight rates offered by the railroad; and the company's fortunes declined steadily from this point.

PHOTO: ORPHANS.

NARRATOR: In 1854, the same year the Republican Party was formed in the United States, the railroad began to have a major impact on the lives of some other Americans, orphaned American children. This was the year the Children's Aid Society of New York City began sending orphaned children out west by rail. Later known as the "orphan trains," these trains carried hundreds of thousands of orphaned children to "the west" over the next seven decades.

PHOTO: EASTERN CITIES.

Eastern cities were suffering from pollution, overcrowding and severe poverty. Many children were left homeless due to the death of one or both parents. Many times parents simply could not afford a child and the child was left with the local orphanage.