

PHOTO: ORPHANAGE.

Conditions in orphanages, jails, and asylums were not suited for the caring and raising of children. And there was growing demand on the very limited resources of the cities to care for an ever increasing number of orphans. In 1854, Charles Loring Brace, Secretary of the Children's Aid Society of New York City, recognized something had to be done to help these orphans:

PHOTO: CHARLES L. BRACE.

BRACE: "The best of all asylums for the outcast child is the farmer's home. In every American community - especially a Western one, there are many spare places at the table of life. On the farms of America there is always room for one more pair of hands to help with the chores, and with the prevalence of Christian charity, the addition of another child to a farm is a blessing."

PHOTO: FARMS.

NARRATOR: And so the farmers of middle America were to be the solution to the problem of orphans in Eastern cities. They were to parent, educate and employ this seemingly endless stream of homeless waifs, many of whom had never known any life but that of the streets or the orphanage.

PHOTO: WEILER\ORPHAN CHILD.

NARRATOR: Toni Weiler lived in an orphanage in New York City from the time she was 10 days old until she was put on a train west at the age of three.