PHOTO: OCHOA.

PHOTO: SANTA FE TRAIL.

PHOTO: FREIGHT TRAIN.

PHOTO: RAILROAD.

PHOTO: OCHOA.

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NARRATOR: One of the progressive, hospitable merchants of Tucson was a fellow by the name of Don Estevan Ochoa.

Ochoa was born in Chihuahua, Mexico in 1831. As a young man he made his way north via the Santa Fe Trail. Eventually he arrived in Tucson where he started his own freighting business in 1868.

There was a need to be filled and money to be made, as Americans enthusiastically pioneered the west, and overland freighting by wagon train was the only effective means to transport supplies to the remote outposts of this new western civilization.

Although completion of the first trans-continental railroad was only one year away, in 1869, the railroad would not make serious inroads to the Southwest until the 1880's.

Ochoa quickly became legendary for his bravery, integrity, and business acumen.

BOURKE: "This gentleman is a man with a history. He is Don Estevan Ochoa, one of the most enterprising merchants, as he is admitted to be one of the coolest and bravest men in all the southwestern country."