

PHOTO: TRAIN.

PHOTO: TRAIN TRAVELLING  
THROUGH MIDWEST.

PHOTO: WEILER WITH FOSTER  
PARENTS.

PHOTO: AID SOCIETY AD.

PHOTO: CHILD ARRIVING IN  
WESTERN TOWN.

PHOTO: ORPHANS BEING GREETED  
BY NEW FAMILIES. (TONI)

TONI: "I was a small child and the first thing I remember the most is when we went down to board the train and it's big shot of steam happened to come out right then and it was really scary...and every time that we went through a town there was this clang, clang, clang kind of noise, a bell ringing, and then the whistle on the train. You were just so awestruck with all these new things you were seeing, these different things that were happening to you.

It was fine to tell us that we were going to a home where there would be a new mom and a papa to get along with, well what was a mom and a papa, we didn't know those things.

WEILER: Now the New York Foundling home tried to place you ahead of time, so that when you got there, there would be someone for you.

[When we] arrived in McCook, Nebraska, we rode three days and two nights to get there, this strange man comes and takes me off the train and this woman. They were an old couple. They wanted me to take care of them in their old age.

Here are these strange people come to pick you up and take you to their house and you'd never seen a house before. So here was this strange place, and these strange people, and it was scary. It was just so different and you didn't know what to expect. There aren't words to describe the lost, lonely, feeling that you had.