

THE ORPHAN TRAIN IN MICHIGAN

PROGRAM SOURCE INTERNATIONAL LECTURE SERIES

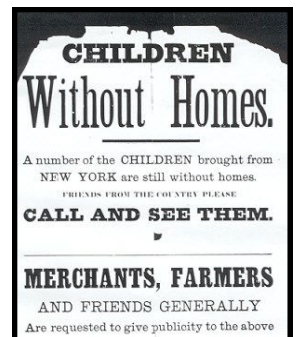
“The Orphan Train in Michigan”

Did you know 12,500 orphans from New York City and the Boston area were placed in Michigan from 1854 to 1927? Al and David Eicher, research historians and television producers, spent a year and a half in research and gathering photographs about the Orphan Train Riders in Michigan. They have produced a lecture and a video documentary about this event in Michigan’s history, depicting in great detail the selection process and being an Orphan Train Rider.



The first Orphan Train Riders (14 boys), arrived in Dowagiac, Michigan on a Sunday morning in late September 1854, traveling on the Michigan Central Railroad. By 1927, forty-three Michigan towns received orphans from the “Baby Train”, as it was sometimes called. Most of the children and teenagers came from the New York Children’s Aid Society and the New England Home for Little Wanderers. Thirty nine percent were girls...most children were never adopted.

The Eichers’ television production company, Program Source International, has produced 20 Michigan town video histories since 1994. The motivation for producing “The Orphan Train in Michigan” was first discovered at the Oxford Historical Society while working on that town’s history. The Eicher’s want to help Orphan Train Riders in Michigan and their relatives with information on dates of placement, the orphanage location and other background sources.



“The Orphan Train in Michigan” lecture combined with several visual segments from their documentary and new research about the Orphan Train Agents make this 50 minute presentation a very interesting topic for continuing education groups, Historical Societies and Social Studies for elementary and high school sessions. For more information about the Orphan Train in Michigan lecture or other lecture presentations

such as “Michigan’s Lumbering Days and Camp Life” and the “Indian History of Michigan’s Thumb Region”, call Al or David Eicher at 248-333-2010 or visit us on the web at www.program-source.com.

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