

Abilene Daily Reflector, Wed. 20 March 1912

HOMELESS CHILDREN TO BE BROUGHT HERE FOR HOMES.

On Friday, March 29th, a party of homeless boys and girls from New York will arrive in Abilene in charge of an agent of the Children's Aid Society, who will endeavor to find homes for them here.

These children are not from the streets but are bright well trained children from the best orphanages of the east.

Parties taking them will be expected to treat them in all respects like a member of the family. They are to be kept until 18 years of age but may be returned at any time by notifying the agent, who will call for the child, should they prove unsatisfactory. The society reserves the right to remove a child at any time should the home prove to be unsuited to the needs of the child.

Dr. C.C. Jones, mayor of Marion was in the city and made arrangements for the distribution. He says there are 42 of these children in Marion county and that they are all doing well. He also vouches for the society and its methods and the fact that they bring only bright healthy children. The public is asked to see the children and hear the address by Miss Anna L. Hill, who will be in charge of the party. They will be at the Seelye Theatre at 10:30 and 2 o'clock on Friday, March 29. The following well known citizens have kindly consented to act as a local committee to assist Miss Hill; J.B. Case, J.M. Walters, E.B. Maiott, Judge W.S. Anderson, I.B. Martin and Dr. P.B. Witmer.

Abilene Daily Reflector, Fri. 29 March 1912

HOMELESS NEW YORKERS HERE

Twenty-Five Applications Were Received This Morning

IS FINE BUNCH OF CHILDREN

Fifteen Youngsters to be Located in Pleasant Homes – Miss Hill is in Charge – Ages Range From Two to Fourteen Years

Fifteen of them, all healthy and bright youngsters, ranging in age from two to fourteen years, are here from New York to find pleasant homes. The party is in charge of Miss Anna Laura Hill, assisted by Miss Alice Bogardus. They left New York City Tuesday noon and arrived in Abilene at 4:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon. Their longest stop was in Kansas City where they took breakfast yesterday morning.

In the prime of health the youngsters got off the train not in the least bit tired from they long journey. They romped and played until 8:30 o'clock last evening when they were tucked in bed by the Misses Hill and Bogardus. They are all obedient and well disciplined.

They did not come in rags and tattered clothing as the westerner would picture a homeless child of New York, but they were dressed in neat, clean, up-to-date clothing. Yes, the little girls did look queer with their hair cut short like the boys, but that was done when they were inmates of orphan homes in New York. Their hair is cut short for sanitary purposes.

These homeless children attracted much attention. The Central hotel lobby was jammed full all last evening with people who came to see the youngsters. The large number of the spectators did not embarrass these little New Yorkers. They stayed and chatted as though no outsider was near.

Their Names and History

First there is little Miss Fanny Schooler, aged two years, bright-eyed, plump and happy. She was the favorite of all. Everybody wanted her. Miss Fanny will make some home brighter and happier with her presence. Fanny had a mother up to one year ago. She has two brothers who are also here to find pleasant homes. Harry, seven years old, and James, five years old. Their mother deserted them one year ago. They were living as one happy family in a boarding house in New York when their mother left them.

Then there are the four Erbrecht children, two brothers and two sisters. Robert, 11 years old is the oldest; Virginia, aged 10, and Helen aged 9. Roosevelt is the youngest is seven years old. Roosevelt was named after "Teddy" and he calls himself president. These four children have a papa and mamma but their parents are too poor to support them. Their father is German, their mother is English.

Three happy young Swedes are Harry Ostrom, aged 13; Ebba Ostrom, aged 10, and Edith Ostrom aged 8. Their mother died four years ago, their father died one year later. Harry was born in Sweden.

Their father died three years ago and because their mother was too poor to support three children, Gregory Hawson, aged 10, and Ethel Hawson, aged 6, were given to the Children's Aid Society to find them homes. They are healthy and bright youngsters. The mother kept the youngest child.

Leslie Race, aged 11, comes from an orphan's home in northern New York. He is a dandy, and will bring cheer to some one's home. He has a brother at Wamego.

Little Theresa Guthrey, a very pretty girl of four years, was taken in charge by the Children's Aid society four months ago. Her mother is dead and she was badly neglected by her father.

John Valentine Keats, a strapping lad of 14 years, will be a prime package for some one. He is an Englishman. His father and mother are both dead. His father, John Alfred Keats, was a famous English actor, having played before King Edward. John has lived on a farm and knows what farm life is.

Eleanor and Wilma Gridley, two pretty little New Yorkers, leave the party here and go to Sterling where they have a pleasant home waiting for them. Their mother is dead and their father is too poor to support them.

Many Came to See Them

When the curtain was raised at the Seelye Theatre this morning the homeless children saw the parquet filled with people anxious to see them. Rev. Dr. Blayney opened the meeting with a prayer. He then introduced Miss Anna Laura Hill who told of the work being done by the society and of its origin. She said Charles L. Brace founded what is now the Children's Aid Society of New York. After he had finished his work at Yale and Union Theological seminary, he went abroad to study the lives of the peasantry of Austria and Hungary. While there he was arrested as a spy. He was later released and returned to New York. He then started to work in the New York prisons doing missionary work among the prisoners too hard hearted for him to be of much help. He then decided to present the younger generation or street urchins from becoming inmates of prisons. He started a boys' home first. He took the homeless waifs off the streets of New York and gave them food and shelter. At that time there were thousands of little street beggars, but today New York has them no more. Mr. Brace is dead, but his two sons, Charles and Robert now have charge of the

work. What has resulted from Mr. Brace's work follows: 14 industrial schools for poor children. Poor children whose parents can not send them to school are enrolled in the schools and given an education.

The Brace school farm, 28 miles from New York has 200 acres. It has a school, five cottages, gymnasium and everything a boy needs. Orphan boys are sent to this farm before they are located in homes. From 100 to 150 boys are kept at the farm school all the time.

A sanitarium at Chappaqua, N.Y. up in the mountains takes in poor children who have been discharged from city hospitals.

A camp at Denville, N.J. is held every summer and boys from the industrial schools are sent there and it is under military discipline.

A girls home at Bath Beach covering 10 acres of ground is used by the girls from the industrial schools.

Health home on Coney Island for mothers and their sick babies. Mothers are taken there and under the instruction of a trained nurse and physician they are shown how to care for their children.

"The landlords of New York are terribly cruel," said Miss Hill. "Besides all these other charitable institutions we have a shelter home for mothers and their children who are turned out into the street by their landlord. There are many of them."

Many Applications Received.

After her talk Miss Hill called for applications which were received by I.B. Martin, E.B. Malott, J.B. Case, Judge Anderson, Dr. P.B. Witmer and J.M. Walters, a committee to help Miss Hill in locating the children. Twenty-five applications were received. Many people turned out to see the youngsters this afternoon.

Were Given Good Dinner.

Probably the first dinner at a private home, were the dinner these poor little homeless children received today. They were taken to different homes in Abilene and given their noon day meal. It pleased the youngsters, too, and they heartily enjoyed their outing.

Locate Them Today.

"By tonight, I hope to have all the children placed in kind homes," said Miss Hill. I take special care in seeing that these children are placed in Christian homes. They must be treated as a member of the family, must be sent to school and they must be allowed to attend church and Sunday school. All these children are well disciplined and orderly. We will take any children back, but we insist that they are treated right."

Abilene Daily Chronicle, Fr 29 Mar 1912

ORPHAN CHILDREN HERE.

Large Crowd Present To Hear Miss Hill Tell About Them.

Fully three hundred people attended the gathering at the Seelye theatre this morning to hear Miss Laura Hill tell about the work of the Children Aid Society of New York. She had with her sixteen children which she will put in homes here and in the vicinity.

Miss Hill left New York last Tuesday with these children and brought them to Abilene. These children will be put in homes here and unless they are legally adopted will be looked after by the society. The society reserves the right to remove the children when it is convinced

that they are not receiving proper care. If they are not adopted the society holds this right until they are 18 years of age.

The children are a bright looking bunch and are well disciplined and the society asks that this discipline be continued, and compels those who adopt these children to treat them as they would their own children.

This morning those desiring to take some of the children made applications and they were taken up this afternoon. Miss Hill makes all of the assignments and the local committee which consists of J.B. Case, I.B. Martin, P.B. Witmer, W.S. Anderson, J.M. Walters and E.B. Malott merely recommend what families are considered reliable.

Each applicant was requested to make a second choice, partly from the fact that the first choice might be gone and second Miss Hill might feel that conditions might arise and it would not be wise to assign the first choice to the one requesting it. A contract is signed and the interests of the child well looked after. The society prefers to put the children in families where there are no children.

Abilene Daily Reflector, Sat 30 Mar 1912

MANY HOUSEHOLDS HAPPY WITH CHILDREN'S PRESENCE.

Nearly All the Homeless New Yorkers Have Found Homes.

Many little hearts throbbed with sorrow and many tears were shed yesterday when the little brothers and sisters from New York were separated. But they will be able to see each other often for they are all being placed in pleasant homes in Dickinson County.

The children that have been placed are:

Fannie Schotter, aged two years to Mr. and Mrs. C.S. Brewer, Abilene.

Harry Schotter, aged 7 years to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Middleton, 2 ½ miles northwest of Abilene.

James Schotter, aged five years to Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Meahl, 7 miles east of Abilene.

Ebba Ostrom, aged 10 years to Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Haptonstall, Abilene.

Helen Erbrecht, aged nine years to Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Kready, nine miles north of Abilene.

Ethel Hawson, six years old to Mr. and Mrs. James Soden.

Leslie Race, 11 years old, to Mr. and Mrs. F.B. Thompson, southwest of Abilene.

Theresa Guthrey, four years old, to Mr. and Mrs. Erskine Miller, Abilene.

John Alford Keats, 14 years old, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gruber, Hope.

Still there remain a few of the poor little homeless tots without homes. A few applications have been received by Miss Hill for the girls, but the boys that are left are not spoken for and persons wanting a bright little fellow to bring cheer to their home may call at the Central hotel and see the agent.

People were down from Salina yesterday and landed their application in for some of the children but none has come out of the county.

Abilene Daily Chronicle, Sat 30 Mar 1912

ORPHAN CHILDREN PLACED.

Most of the Sixteen Little Ones Now Have Homes

The sixteen little orphans who were brought here from New York by the Children's Aid Society have nearly all been placed. Miss Laura Hill who has had the children in charge is well pleased with the reception she has received in Abilene, and has nearly all of the children placed. Five children have not been placed but she has two or three applications and said there was no doubt but what they would be placed in the homes near here.

Miss Hill will remain here for several days, looking after the children and seeing that they are all well settled in the homes where they have been placed. The society sends someone to visit them frequently and she will stay to get the little ones started correctly. They cannot adopt them until they have been here six months.

The following is a list of the children and where they have been placed:

Ethel Hawson, aged 6, James Sodon.

Harry Ostrom, aged 6, not placed.

Gregory Hawson, aged 10, not placed.

Ebba Ostrom, aged 10, J.W. Haptonstall.

Edith Ostrom, aged 8, Henry Suider.

Harry Schooter, aged 7, J.E. Middleton.

James Schooter, aged 5, F.E. Meahl, Detroit.

Fanny Schooter, aged 2, Mrs. Clyde Brewer.

Robert Erbrecht, aged 11, not placed.

Virginia Erbrecht, aged 10, not placed.

Helen Erbrecht, aged 8, Mrs. H.M. Kready.

Roosevelt Erbrecht, aged 7, not placed.

Leslie Race, aged 7, not placed.

Theressa Guthrie, aged 4, Mrs. E. Miller.

John A. Keats, aged 13, Fred Gruber, Hope.