

Frithjof Meidell

Immigrant worker from Norway

Dear Mother:

...[You asked] How is the railroad getting along? Here in America it is the railroads that build up the whole country. Because of them the farmers get wider markets and higher prices for their products. They seem to put new life into everything. Even the old apply woman sets off at a dogtrot when she hears that whistle to sell her apples to the passengers. Every ten miles along the railways there are stations, which soon grow up into towns. "Soon," did I say? I should have said "immediately," because it is really remarkable how rapidly the stations are transformed into little towns...

Source: Frithjof Meidell, 1855. *Archives of America*, vol. 8, pp. 349-53.