

IN ARCTIC GRAVEYARD

PART 8

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Over the next year, we will be printing the book *Adventures in the Alaska Economy* as a serial. Every week we will present approximately one and a half pages. The book, an economics text presented in comic book form, is the result of a collaboration between economics professors Steve Jackstadt, Lee Huskey and artist John Dawson.

The book will be available after February 1990 and may be obtained by calling the Alaska Council on Economic Education at 786-1901.

Episode III

ARCTIC GRAVEYARD

Commercial whaling had a profound effect on the Eskimos who lived along Alaska's western and northern coastlines. Eskimos traded warm clothing, food, and ivory to the whalers in return for manufactured goods such as tools, cloth, needles and guns. Some Eskimos worked on whaling ships as harpooners or seamstresses and others sold whalebone to the Yankees.



THUS IT WAS THAT IN THE SUMMER OF 1871 WE FOUND OURSELVES PART OF A LARGE FLEET OF OVER FORTY WHALING SHIPS IN VERY HIGH LATITUDES BETWEEN ICY CAPE AND POINT BARROW. AT FIRST THE HUNTING WAS GOOD. WE WERE HAPPY. MORE WHALE OIL AND WHALE BONE MEANT MORE MONEY FOR US ALL.

WE STAYED THROUGH AUGUST AND NEARLY HAD A FULL LOAD OF OIL WHEN DISASTER STRUCK. TWO GIGANTIC ICE FLOES, ONE BLOWN SOUTH, THE OTHER PUSHED NORTH BY THE CURRENT, MOVED IN TO TRAP OUR SHIP AND THE OTHERS IN THE FLEET.



SOON A GALE BLEW UP. THE WIND SHRIEKED AND THE ICE MOVED AND PITCHED VIOLENTLY.



FROM INSIDE OUR SHIP WE HEARD THE SICKENING NOISE OF SHATTERING TIMBERS. THE ICE WAS CRUSHING THE JEZEBEL LIKE AN EGG.



UZIAH GAVE THE ORDER TO ABANDON SHIP.

SHE'S DOOMED! ABANDON SHIP.



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