

STEEL RAILS IN THE NORTH

© 1989 Alaska Council on Economic Education
Written by Steve Jackstadt & Lee Huskey
Art by John Dawson

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 VII:

OUR BIGGEST PROBLEMS WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE EVERY BUSINESS PERSON FACES

HOW DO WE GET THE RESOURCES WE NEED? HOW DO WE KEEP COSTS LOW?

ALL OUR SUPPLIES WERE SHIPPED FROM SEATTLE AND SAN FRANCISCO AND GETTING SUPPLIES TO CONSTRUCTION SITES WAS A PROBLEM SINCE THERE WERE NO ROADS.

WE HAD LABOR TROUBLES SINCE OUR WAGES WERE LOW AND THERE WERE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKERS IN ALASKA.

THE ROAD COMMISSION PAYS \$1.00 PER DAY MORE. I QUIT.

AT THESE WAGES IT DOESN'T PAY TO STAY. I'M GOING PROSPECTING.

ONE DAY LOOKING AT A MAP, I REALIZED I HAD MADE A FOOL'S BET WITH VALDEZ, MY PORTION WAS NEARLY TWICE AS LONG AS HIS

I HAD TO SPEED UP OUR WORK.

HOW?

WHILE STROLLING DOWN 4TH AVE. IN THE NEW TOWN OF ANCHORAGE...

I CAME UPON AN IDEA.

WE PAY TAILORS BY THE SUIT AND BUY MEAT BY THE POUND... WHY NOT PAY OUR WORKERS BY THE JOB THEY DO - INSTEAD OF BY THE HOUR. THIS WOULD GIVE THEM THE INCENTIVE TO WORK AS FAST AS THEY COULD.

BUTCHER SHOP
HAMBURGER 30¢ lb.

Tailor
Custom Made Suits \$5.00 a piece

HOTEL
ANCHORAGE HOME COOKING

The space for this series has been provided by

BP EXPLORATION

