

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:

In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson created the Alaska Engineering Commission to over see the construction of the railroad. The Commission chose a route from Seward to Fairbanks through the Matanuska Valley. The Commission established a number of new towns, including Anchorage in the south and Nenana in the north, to serve as construction supply centers. The Commission laid out townsites and sold off the land at these two towns and provided the towns with utilities, schools, and other public services.

FAIRBANKS BECAME THE SUPPLY CENTER FOR ALL OF THE SMALL MINING CAMPS IN THE VALLEY. THE RAILROAD TOOK GOODS AND SUPPLIES TO THE CAMPS.



FAIRBANKS GREW WITH GOLD PRODUCTION, BUT STILL DEPENDED FOR SUPPLIES ON BOATS AND THE YUKON RIVER. NO GOODS WERE SHIPPED IN THE WINTER BECAUSE THE RIVER ICED UP.

ARCTIC OCEAN

FAIRBANKS NEEDS A RAILROAD TO THE SOUTH, A SHORTER ROUTE TO THE OCEAN.

FAIRBANKS NEEDS TO BE CONNECTED WITH AN ICE FREE PORT.



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