

ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION



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2005 Alaska Railroad Commemorative Print to be Released in January

Anchorage-The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) will release its annual print in January 2005. The "Goodbye Caboose," by Anchorage artist Betty Atkinson, continues the tradition of artwork featuring the Alaska Railroad.

This year's print features an Alaska Railroad caboose, riding along the shores of Cook Inlet, as the sun fades into the afternoon sky. Inspired by a scene the artist witnessed some years ago at Elderberry Park, the wintry image captures a small child waving at the caboose and trainman as it passes.

"It was an early spring afternoon and the snow was still on the ground, but this young child was determined to use the swing," Betty remembers. "As the train went by, he waved at the caboose and I was reminded of my own childhood desire to wave at the train as it passed. For many of us that tradition goes on into adulthood."

Betty's formal art training began at the University of Iowa, continued at the Banff School of Fine Arts in Alberta, Canada and most recently at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She continued her training in Europe on an art study tour. Betty's artwork has earned a number of awards and been in Juried Exhibitions throughout Alaska, the United States and England. Local galleries in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Seward display a number of her pieces.

Betty will sign prints and posters in the Anchorage Depot on Saturday, January 8 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and in the Fairbanks Depot the following Saturday, January 15, also from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Prints cost \$50, posters cost \$25, and pins cost \$5.

An electronic image of the painting is available on the Railroad's web site at:

www.AlaskaRailroad.com/community/photo_annual_prints.htm

John Van Zyle produced the first official Alaska Railroad painting in 1979. Since then, the annual tradition (excepting 1984, when no painting was released) has evolved into a favored collectors item. The posters, prints and pins will remain on sale at the Anchorage and Fairbanks depots following the signing events.