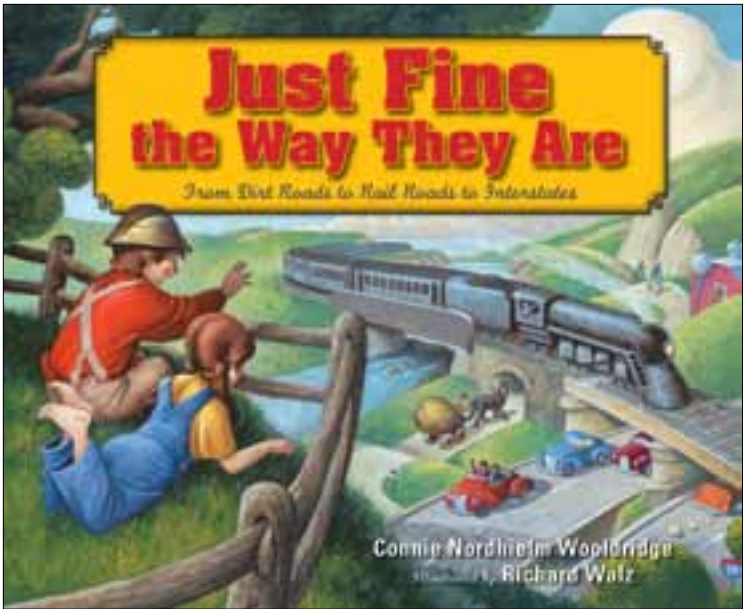


Just Fine the Way They Are

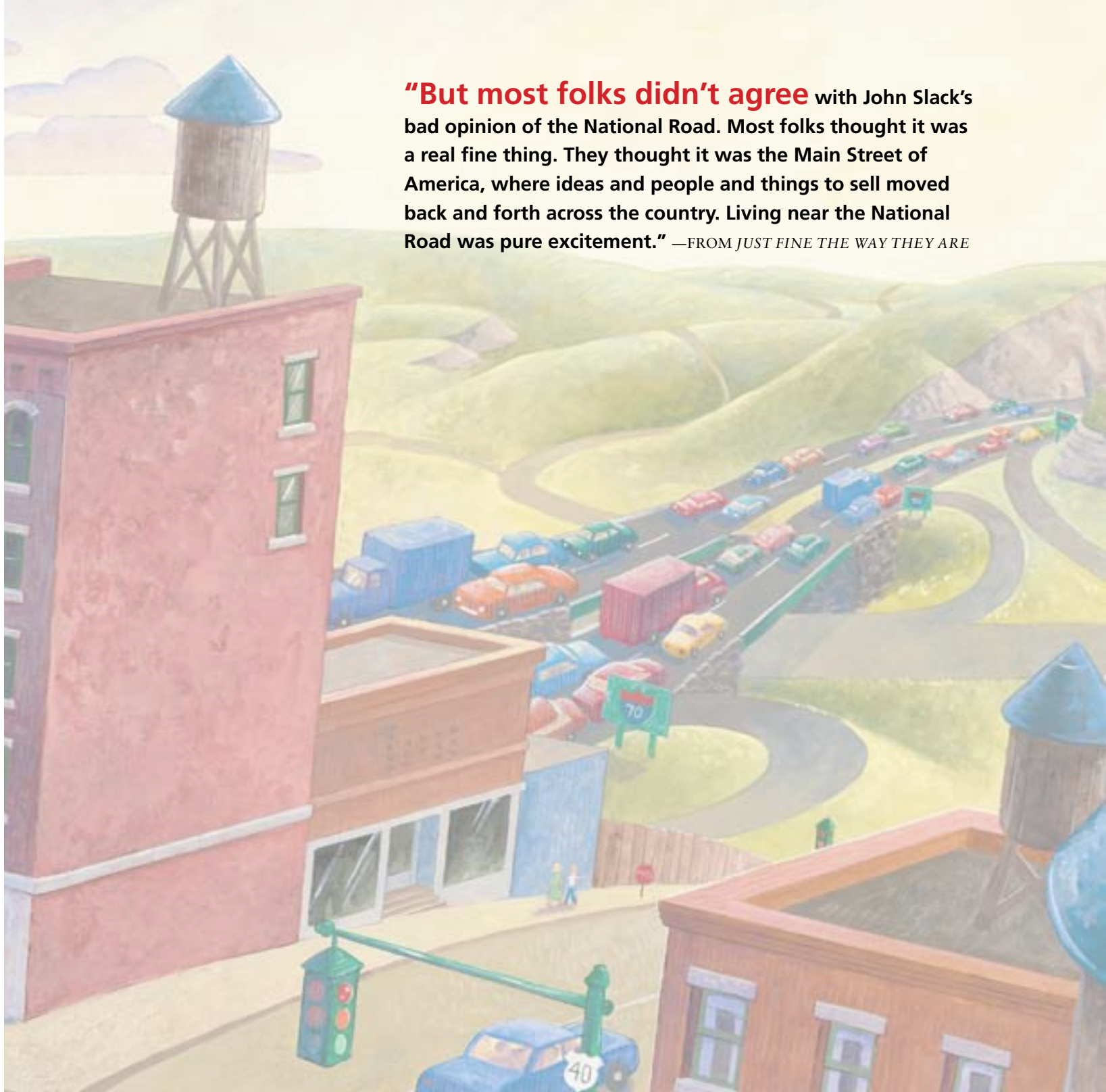
by *Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge*



JUST FINE THE WAY THEY ARE
FROM DIRT ROADS TO RAIL ROADS TO INTERSTATES
Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge
ILLUSTRATED BY Richard Walz

Calkins Creek
Nonfiction
32 pages
Full-color illustrations
11 x 9 inches
Ages 8 and up
Hardcover with jacket
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Change. Who needs it? We do!
Mr. John Slack, the keeper of a tavern beside a rutted dirt road in the early 1800s, thought things were just fine the way they were. So did Lucius Stockton, who ran the National Road Stage Company in the mid 1800s. So too, did the owners of the railroads when the first Model T appeared in 1908. Yet with each new innovation, Americans were able to move around the country more quickly, efficiently, and comfortably. Connie Wooldridge offers an informative, yet light-hearted look at how the dirt roads of the early 1800s evolved into the present-day U.S. highway system. Richard Walz's gorgeous paintings capture both the broad sweep and the individual impact of change and progress.



“But most folks didn’t agree with John Slack’s bad opinion of the National Road. Most folks thought it was a real fine thing. They thought it was the Main Street of America, where ideas and people and things to sell moved back and forth across the country. Living near the National Road was pure excitement.” —FROM *JUST FINE THE WAY THEY ARE*

CONNIE NORDHIELM WOOLDRIDGE



is the author of four picture books and a biography for young adults. A former teacher and librarian, she has four grown children and lives with her husband in Richmond, Indiana.

RICHARD WALZ



graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design. He has illustrated sixty-three books and has contributed to many others. He has often drawn licensed characters. Recently he’s contributed several books to Random House’s Step Into Reading series. Dick has always had an affection for railroads, so he enjoyed painting several trains for *Just Fine the Way They Are*.