

CAMP GENTER: COLORADO GHOST TOWN MAIL

ORIGINS AND OPERATIONS
OF A 4TH CLASS POST OFFICE

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BY
JOHN H. WILLARD & SERGIO LUGO

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Here is the story of David vs. Goliath, and a 1920s mining camp owner who struggles to obtain and operate a 4th Class Post Office high in the Colorado Rockies.

Edward Genter's original correspondence with Post Office and Railway Mail Service officials doesn't pull any punches as he tells about his problems, often with wit and sarcasm.

It's fun, it's interesting, and it belongs on every postal history collector's bookshelf.



A few of the Camp Genter Post Office papers discovered in the basement of an old building by Jack Willard 30 years after the office closed.



Photo by Morrison A. Smith, John W. Maxwell collection

The Carbondale to Marble, Colo. train was still running in 1941 when this photo was taken as it rumbled across the road into an abandoned Camp Genter. The train had a Railway Mail Service contract in the 1920s, and Edward Genter found the service to be so bad he referred to the train sarcastically as "The Marble Flyer." It was a far cry from the "Fast Mail" image Americans had of railroad mail, shown in a 1901 stamp, upper right.

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