

FOR BOOKSELLERS

When the Railroad Leaves Town

*American Communities in the Age of
Rail Line Abandonment*

Western United States, vol. 2

368 pp / 128 b&w photos / 61 maps



- **Schwieterman has spent more than a decade collecting information** for this book while traveling—with map, pen, and camera in hand—to all 50 states to explore the legacy of bygone railroads.
- **Few books about the changing transportation scene published in recent years include such extensive field research.** He has analyzed information on more than 2,000 of the estimated 15,000 communities throughout the country that have lost rail service. Half of the rail mileage in place in 1916 when the U.S. rail system was at its peak is now abandoned.
- **Unlike other major railroad books now available, this book is organized by community,** which makes it more accessible to the casual reader than the plethora of books organized by railroad company, time period, or topical area. Described as a coffee table book by some, it is well suited for browsing.
- **Schwieterman draws on his extensive media experience to promote this book.** As the director of a prominent institute devoted to metropolitan planning at DePaul University (and a former marketing specialist for United Airlines), Schwierterman has keen insight into public perceptions about transportation and travel destinations. He is a nationally known transportation expert who comments regularly about the transportation industry on CNBC, *Nightly Business Report*, and most recently, the *Jim Lehrer News Hour*. He has also testified before the U.S. Congress and offered commentary about railroads in *U.S. News & World Report*.

- **Schwieterman's book tour** will include presentations to the Los Angeles Geographic Society, Prescott Book Festival (Arizona), National Railway Historical Society (California), SP&S Historical Society (Astoria, Oregon), and the Southern Pacific Historical Society (Arizona) this autumn. His flexible schedule as a university professor will allow him to spend more than four weeks on the road to attend promotional events at bookstores, make presentations, and conduct radio (PBS) interviews.
- **This book has excellent sales potential** among collectors and those interested in railroads, heritage tourism, recreational trails, preservation, geography, and Americana.

FOR MEDIA

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- **Current transportation issues such as airport security and highway congestion have caused some Americans to look to a rail transportation renaissance for their community.** Schwieterman says the opportunity to turn to railroads to relieve the burden on the air and highway system has mostly been lost. However, a dozen towns featured in the book could see railroads return in the next decade. One community featured in his book, Astoria, Wash., has already succeeded.

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