

A steam locomotive pulling a train through a desert landscape with mountains in the background. The locomotive is emitting a large plume of white steam. The train consists of several dark-colored freight cars. The background features rugged, snow-capped mountains under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The foreground is a flat, arid desert floor.

WHEN  
THE  
**Railroad**  
LEAVES TOWN

AMERICAN COMMUNITIES  
IN THE AGE OF RAIL LINE  
ABANDONMENT

WESTERN UNITED STATES

JOSEPH P. SCHWIETERMAN

*Foreword by John R. Stilgoe*