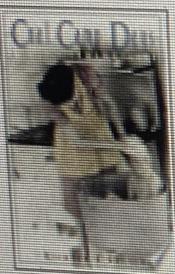


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Coal Camp Days: A Boy's Remembrance

By Ricardo L. Garcia

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Most events in *Coal Camp Days* really happened in one of the mining camps located in the Colfax County coal fields of northeastern New Mexico: Blossburg, Brilliant, Dawson, Gardiner, Koehler, Swastika, Sugarite, Van Houten, Yankee. Each camp thrived and later died between 1880 and 1955. Because people literally lived in tents when some of the coal towns were first established, they were called "coal camps."

There is little written about the people who worked, played, married, raised families, or died in the coal camps. This book tells about some coal camp people. The fictitious coal camp name "Chicorico" was

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Later in the week, Dr. Matthew Montgomery came to the house to check on Mom and me. People affectionately called him "Dr. Monty," a name he also preferred. He lived in a regular Company house, using the front room and a bedroom for an office. His wife, Etta, helped as a nurse. They had no children. Dr. Monty served all the Company camps: Chicorico, Brilliant, Dawson, Gardiner, Koehler, Sugarite, Swastika, Van Houten, and Yankee.

All was well with Mom. As he examined me, he made small talk with Mom:

"Say, who helped you with the boy?"

"La vecina, Mary."



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